



Workers install the “barn door” entrance to the wellness center’s Community Gathering Room.

**Photos courtesy of S&B James Construction**

## A place to gather

Workers are putting final touches on the Ko-Kwel Wellness Center’s Community Gathering Room.

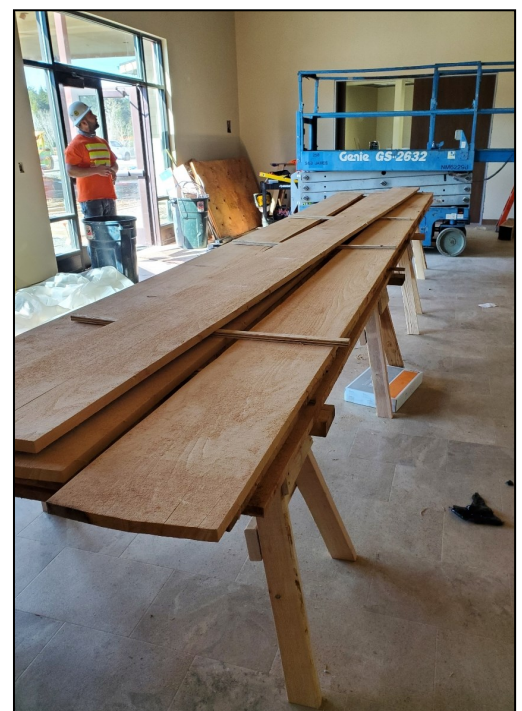
Barn-style doors were installed this week where the room connects with the rest of the building. With the doors locked shut, the room can be available for after-hours events.

Space for community events was a key priority in conversations about the wellness center two years ago. The room also will feature beams

clad in cedar planks that were milled from the tribe’s own trees.

Other milestones:

- The concrete slab will be poured Thursday for the *porte cochiere* (the covered drive-up).
- The last of the dental equipment will be installed this week.
- Glass for the round entryway is due next week.
- April 28 is the target date for the center’s final inspection.



Cedar planks await installation. They’ll cover beams in the Community Gathering Room.

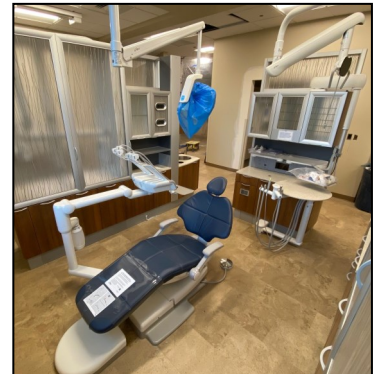
# Winding down

Details on the inside, blacktop on the outside.

That's pretty much what's left for the last remaining weeks of the Ko-Kwel Wellness Center project. Here's what's happening now:

- Workers have been pouring concrete bases for the parking lot's light posts.
- Rebar is in place for the concrete pad outside the front door.
- Speaking of the front door, installation of the plankhouse-style round doorway is finished.
- Neighbors can expect persistent noise and vibration for a while. Rock is being spread and compacted in preparation for pouring asphalt.
- Members of the tribe's cultural staff have transplanted native tule to the property. Tule was a common textile material for Coquille ancestors, and it will be a featured element of the wellness center's landscaping.
- Inside, the main corridor is being prepared for flooring.
- Desks, chairs and office dividers are being assembled for the medical clinic.
- Cabinets and counters are being built in the reception area. They'll be faced with cedar planks from the tribe's own forest.
- Window blinds have been installed.

It won't be long now!



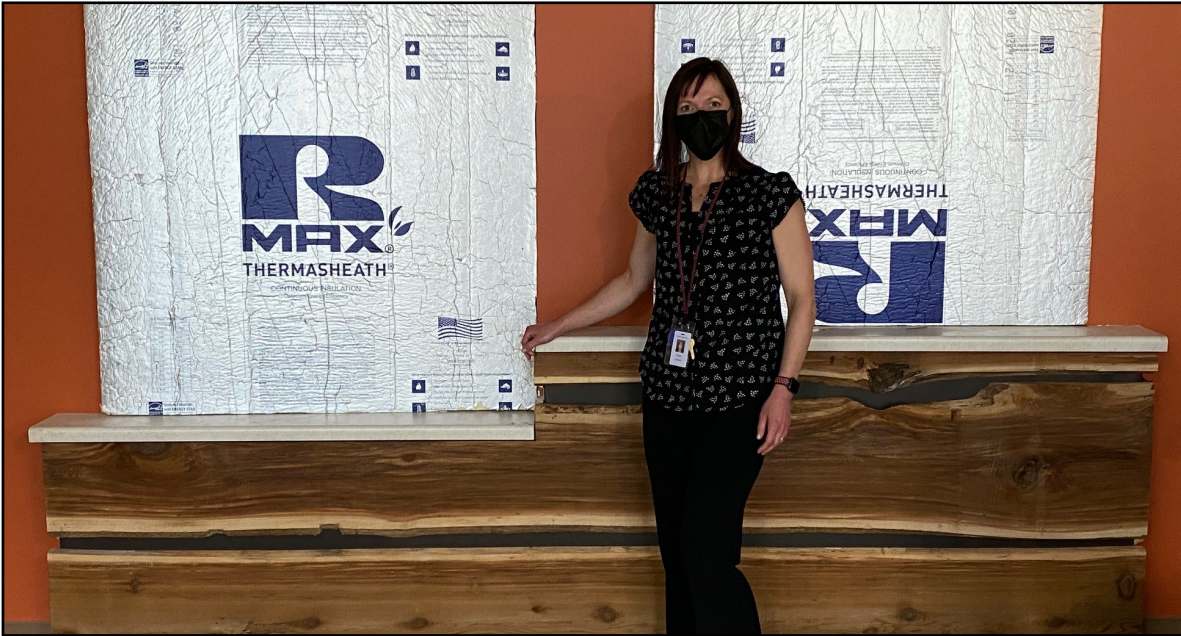
**Top:** Glass doors and sidelights have been installed to complete the traditional round entrance. Out front, rebar awaits concrete.

**Above left:** Facilities Maintenance Superintendent Duke Summers displays the office dividers recently installed in the medical clinic. They're fabric on the bottom, dry-erase board in the middle, and frosted glass on top.

**Above right:** The dental clinic is nearly ready.

**Photos by Lon Matheny**





Pharmacist Caryn Mickelson displays the cedar-faced service counter in the corridor outside her new domain. Silvery “R MAX” panels temporarily cover the windows to block out construction noise.

**Photos by  
Lon Matheny**

# Counter culture

The Coquille people’s heritage will infuse the reception areas of the Ko-Kwel Wellness Center.

Cedar planks, milled by tribal workers from logs harvested in the tribal forest, will greet visitors at the medical, dental, pharmacy and community services reception desks. Cedar accents will trim other parts of the wellness center as well.

Throughout the facility, crews of workers

are pushing for an early completion of the building — potentially as soon as next week.

Flooring is almost finished in the corridors, and furniture is being moved into the dental clinic.

Concrete is being poured this week for the *porte cochiere*, the covered drive-up at the main entrance. Next week, the parking area should start getting its asphalt.



**Top:** A painter puts finishing touches on the central courtyard’s inward-facing exterior walls.

**Above:** A pint-sized road grader smooths a layer of rock in preparation for applying asphalt on the parking area next week.



# Darned near done!

Just a few days remain before an inspector comes by to declare the Ko-Kwel Wellness Center “substantially complete.”

That visit is expected early next week. If all goes well, the tribe will receive a temporary occupancy permit — leaving only minor details to tidy up.

Operations Director Fauna Larkin told the Tribal Council this week that all furniture should be in place by May 21, so the staff can move in May 24.

Meanwhile:

- Furniture for administrative and information technology offices will be in place by next week.
- But the tech guys won't be lounging in their new chairs. They're busy testing systems and wifi signal strength.
- More sidewalks are being framed and poured.
- Asphalt will arrive Monday for the parking lot.



## Photos

**Above:** A concrete crew pours the patio at the center of the wellness center's interior courtyard. Planted areas will fill the spaces along the walls.

**Top left:** An excavator moves rock and fill dirt in preparation for pouring a maintenance path on the north end of the site.

**Bottom left:** A crane moves into position to lift the wellness center's emergency power generator. The generator will occupy a pad between the new wellness center and the old health clinic, where the temporary pharmacy trailer previously stood.

**Photos by  
Lon Matheny**



## Finishing touches

### For now, watch for parking lot detour

The Ko-Kwel Wellness Center is just a few weeks away from welcoming patients. For now, though, patients need to navigate around the paving project in the parking lot.

To park at the existing Community Health Center, please use the newly opened north entrance.

Meanwhile, workers are applying a variety of finishing touches inside and outside the building:

- Painters and electricians are completing their work.
- Concrete pouring will continue next week.
- The tribe's Operations staff is installing furniture.
- The tribe's Information Technology team is setting up computers and phones.

It won't be long now!



Workers attach decorative triangles to the underside of the porte cochere's cover at the main entrance. The triangles mimic a traditional basketry design element.



A Knife River crew began laying asphalt in the parking lot this morning (May 7).



A timer and motion sensors control the wellness center's exterior lights. The outside lights come on 8 p.m., then reduce to half-strength in a few minutes. After that, detected motion triggers full power.

**Photos by  
Lon Matheny**





## Photos

**Above:** Fresh asphalt stretches seamlessly across the newly paved parking lot. It needs curing time, then stripes.

**Top right:** A geometric pattern of walkways connects the new wellness center's west side to the old health center building.

**Middle right:** Boxes surround tech wizards Russell Crochetiere and Nick Lovell as they set up new computer gear.

**Bottom right:** Beams milled from the tribe's own cedar trees adorn the Community Gathering Room's ceiling. (The hanging rings are light fixtures.)

**Photos by  
Lon Matheny**



## Winding down

The list of unfinished tasks at the Ko-Kwel Wellness Center dwindles by the day.

- This week's most visible accomplishment is the parking lot, where asphalt was applied Tuesday night. But don't try to park there. It needs to cure for a week, and it needs to stay clean for striping.
- Elsewhere on the site, painters should be finished (or nearly so) by the end of the week.
- Electricians are wrapping up details for the tribe's technical team.
- The tribe's Operations Department is setting up furniture in the Community Services section of the building.

### Still to come:

Watch for more curbs, gutters, sidewalks and asphalt in front of the old health center building. The old clinic will be repurposed.



# Ready to MOVE

With a temporary occupancy permit in hand, the Coquille Tribe's new wellness center is all but finished. The tribe's Community Services staff (formerly Family Services) is set to move in Tuesday.

The new arrivals will provide company for the pharmacy team, whose quarters were completed in early March. Other departments will follow.

The tribe's Safety Committee walked through today, eyeballing evacuation routes and fire extinguishers.

Some final details remain before the center is pronounced complete, including:

- Curbing around the old health center
- Awnings and rain gutters
- Parking lot stripes
- Soap and towel dispensers
- And possibly a new paint color to replace the unpopular mustard on the exterior trim



## Photos

**Top:** A worker embellishes a reception desk with Coquille River rock.

**Above:** Matt Brown from the tribe's Operations Department shows off a newly furnished work station.

**Right:** Pharmacist Caryn Mickelson surveys reception areas for the pharmacy (orange) and the medical clinic (berry).

**Photos by Lon Matheny**