

# Ko-Kwel Wellness Center Preliminary Site



## A Work In Progress

Day by day, architect Samuel Uccello and the Coquille Tribe's design team are working to fill in the details of the Ko-Kwel Wellness Center. This preliminary drawing provides a general layout. More specific information will be provided at the Oct. 10 community meeting.

The meeting starts about 5 p.m. in the Community Plankhouse. (See more meeting details on the reverse side.)



## Iconic fishing spear inspires building's unique shape

A building with no back.

Hallways shaped like a forked fishing spear.

A central courtyard, with windows inviting daylight into the building's innermost spaces.

These are among the innovations planned for the Coquille Tribe's new wellness center on the Kilkich reservation. Samuel Uccello, architect for lead contractor S+B James Construction, gave this explanation:

"We're always looking to make things a little different than people might expect."

The design is not complete, but Uccello's preliminary sketches will be on display Thursday, Oct. 10, at the Community Plankhouse. Tribal families from near and far are invited to attend, enjoy a complimentary meal, and comment on the project's progress.

Tentative plans call for a building of about 20,000 square feet, more than twice the size of the Tribe's existing health center. It will house medical and dental clinics, health and human services offices, and expanded wellness services. An unconventional financing plan will fund the \$12 million facility while spending a

mere \$1 million of Coquille money.

Uccello's design borrows ideas from the much larger Yellowhawk Tribal Health Center in Eastern Oregon. Unveiled in 2018, that facility surrounds a circular courtyard, evoking the tepees of the Umatilla Tribes. Coquille Tribal staff members who visited Yellowhawk encouraged Uccello to take a comparable approach.

Tepees are foreign to Coquille people. So Uccello looked to coastal culture and chose the leister, a three-pointed spear that adorns the Tribal seal. In his design, corridors form a spear's shaft and forks. The space between the barbs becomes the central courtyard, where visitors can meditate or simply catch some sun.

The courtyard is one of several features requested by Tribal families and Kilkich residents at previous planning meetings. Other attractive aspects include:

- A single-story design, requested by residents.
- An outward-facing arrangement, so that no side looks like a back wall
- Relocating the parking entrance to accommodate a realigned traffic pattern (The realignment is a separate

Tribal project to move traffic away from the Learning Center.)

- Plans to use native and culturally familiar materials
- Interior signs incorporating plants and animals of both land and water
- A fitness center and community meeting space that will be available 24 hours a day, even when the clinics are closed

Uccello noted that plans include no parking on the building's north side. Nearby residents inspired that decision.

"We didn't want this building to be in a sea of parking, so we included more landscaping than would normally be required," he said. "So if you're looking down on this building from the hill, it won't look like some big parking lot."

Another forward-looking feature: The plan designates some sections of the surrounding landscape as future expansion sites.

S+B James representatives and Tribal leaders will make a presentation, field questions and solicit feedback the evening of Oct. 10, at Kilkich's Community Plankhouse. All Tribal families and Kilkich residents are invited.

### Have your say

Tribal leaders and representatives of contractor S+B James Construction will meet with Tribal families and Kilkich residents Thursday, Oct. 10, at the Community Plankhouse. Doors open at 4:45, and the presentation starts at 5:10 p.m. (But arriving later is OK.)

Community members will be asked to weigh in on topics including:

- Native plants for landscaping
- Appealing, culturally appropriate colors
- Plants and wildlife whose images could enliven signs and other design features
- Roof design and materials

**A free buffet supper and child care will be provided.**

### Can't attend?

If you can't make the meeting, you can answer a survey in the Health Center lobby during clinic hours throughout October. Or call Anna Chavez at (541) 888-9494. She can mail you one.