

At right, a worker uses a long-handled 'bull float' to smooth a strip of fresh concrete. Mechanical versions are used for larger areas.



SMOOTH operators

Wielding tools large and small, workers laid down a sleek sheet of concrete today at Kilkich. In a long day of exacting work, they poured and finished the foundation slab that will lie beneath the Ko-Kwel Wellness Center's medical clinic and pharmacy.

A second concrete-finishing marathon will start at 6 a.m. Monday, as workers pour the slab for the build-

ing's administrative and family services sections. A third big pour (date uncertain) will provide a base for the future dental clinic.

The concrete will need seven days to cure. Meanwhile, crews will dig trenches for water and sewer lines, while trucks deliver additional sand and gravel.



Upper left: A high-tech 'laser screed' backs across the site, leaving behind a tidy slab.

Upper right: No, that's not a Zamboni. It's a ride-on power trowel, used to smooth large slabs.



Lower left: This walk-behind power trowel looks like a rugged cousin of a floor polisher.

Lower right: Tribal Council member Don Garrett (yellow hard hat) observes the work with Project Superintendent Butch Popp.

Photos by Lon Matheny

Beam us up!

Building's steel skeleton begins to rise

Today: Construction workers have been bolting together the steel columns and beams that will support the Ko-Kwel Wellness Center's 22,000 square feet of walls and roof. Today, the crew from One Way Builders of Glendale, Ore., was framing the building's future pharmacy area.

Meanwhile, other crews have been putting in the sewer lines that will connect the wellness center to the city wastewater system.

Thursday: Kilkich residents can expect another early-morning wakeup call from the cement mixers. The last big section of foundation slab will be poured starting at 6 a.m. Thursday. The workers will put in a long day of smoothing and finishing the concrete.

Next week: Trucks will begin delivering loads of steel studs to frame the center's walls. Wooden roof joists and rafters will arrive as well.



Top, a machine called a 'telehandler' or 'reach forklift' moves a steel beam into place. The horizontal beam will be bolted to the vertical columns.

Bottom, a water truck wets down the construction site to protect nearby homes from excessive dust.

Photos by Lon Matheny

Pharm labor

The tribal pharmacy, a current and future revenue generator for the Coquille Tribe, is the first section of the wellness center to get walls. Framed with steel studs, the first wall rose today.

So far: The concrete subcontractor poured the last big foundation slab on Friday. The good news for neighbors: No more early-morning cement-mixer serenades.

This week: While some workers are framing the pharmacy's walls, others are laying the main utility lines to the building.

To come: More of the same — much more. Once the pharmacy is framed, workers will move on to the building's other sections, including the medical and dental clinics, administrative offices and the family services area.



Above: Workers use a vacuum truck and a water jet to drill a vertical hole. They're pinpointing the location of a pre-existing utility line, so that excavation won't disturb it. The man on the left uses water to loosen the dirt. The man on the right directs a vacuum nozzle that sucks up the resulting mud. The rig can drill as deep as 16 feet.



Top: A crew raises and braces the wellness center's first stud wall.

Middle: Subcontractors gather for a safety meeting.

Bottom: Pairs of chalk lines mark future walls within the pharmacy area.

**Photos by
Lon Matheny**

Begining

to look like

a building

The wellness center is taking shape, as construction workers erect steel stud walls and hang plywood sheathing.

Recently: Interior and exterior stud walls have been going up. Horizontal beams to support the roof have been lifted into place as well. Many of the beams are steel, but some of the wooden ones will be left exposed as part of the interior design.

Meanwhile, the fire lane entrance on Miluk Drive is being moved a little farther uphill.

Next: More stud walls and plywood sheathing will go up, including shear walls. Shear walls are structural supports that will stabilize the building in high winds or an earthquake.

Long-term: The center should be caring for patients a little less than a year from now.



Photos

Above: This corridor, being built next to the future pharmacy area, will lead to an outside door facing the old health center. The green machines are 'man lifts.'

Below left: Walls rise in the medical area.

Below right: Duke Summers, the tribe's property and facilities superintendent, uses a backhoe to replace an irrigation pipe that was removed during excavation.





Right on schedule

Building should be ‘dried in’ before coastal rainy season

This week: Construction of the Ko-Kwel Wellness Center is on pace to a timely completion. The past week has seen continued work by framers putting up studs and sheathing for the building’s interior and exterior walls.

Next: Roof trusses have arrived on the site, and the first of them should be lifted into place next week.

Looking ahead: The contractor is on pace to have the building “dried in” — with the roof and exterior sheathing in place — before the autumn rains.



Photos

Top of page: A triangular gap in the foundation slab marks the site of the rising building’s central courtyard.

Above right: Four-year-old Fauna Beth Larkin takes a tour with Project Superintendent Butch Popp, left; Project Manager Chris Edge; and her mom, tribal Operations Director Fauna Larkin. Like every visitor, Fauna Beth underwent a safety orientation.

Right: A wide shot of the busy construction site.



Photos by Lon Matheny

Shaping UP

Roof trusses and joists are beginning to appear atop the Ko-Kwel Wellness Center, as workers push to enclose the building before the autumn rains.

What's happening now

Workers continue framing walls with steel studs and attaching plywood sheathing.

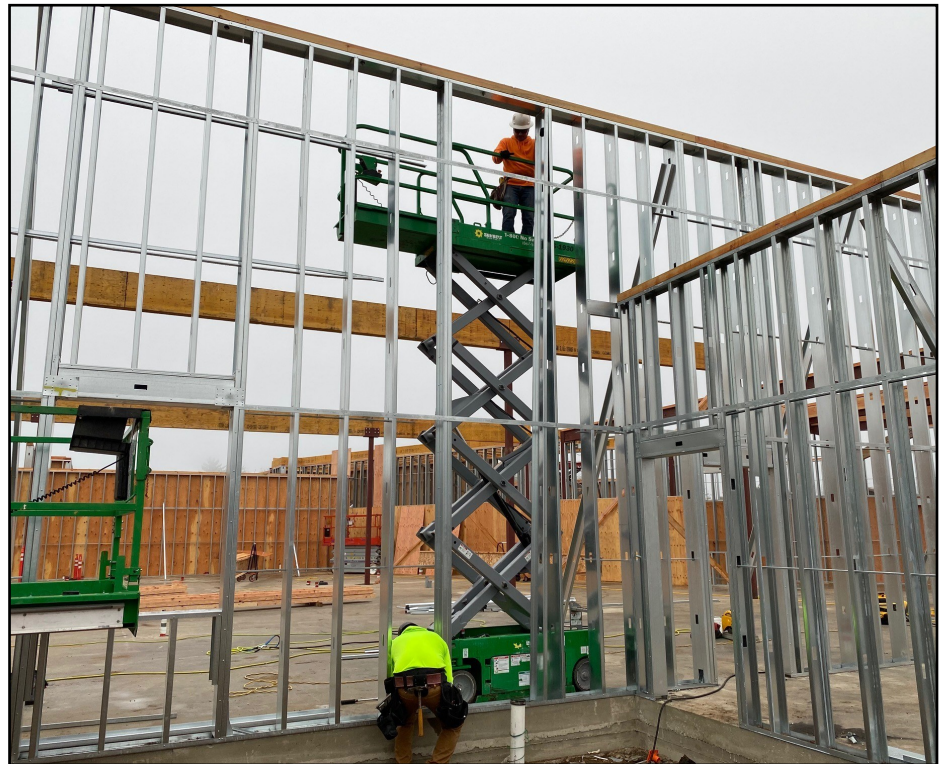
Another crew is backfilling the area that was excavated for the fire lane connecting the site to Miluk Drive.

Electrical workers have started pulling wire through the building's buried conduits, to bring power to the future offices and exam rooms.

Coming next

Work will begin in the next few days on a storm drain system for the bioswales around the building. Bioswales are gently sloped channels designed to gather and move stormwater. They help remove debris and pollution.

The sidewalk outside the existing pharmacy building will be cut to make way for the storm sewer.



Photos

Above, workers assemble studs to erect the last exterior wall of the future medical clinic.

Upper left, walls rise around the area that will become the dental clinic. The plywood boxes on the photo's right side shield the stubs of piping for air, suction and medical gas. Each box marks the future location of a dental chair.

Lower left, Brady Metcalf, the tribe's property clerk, surveys his future domain — the shipping and receiving area.

Photos by
Lon Matheny

Whole lotta plywood goin' on

At right, the building's medical clinic area is nearly enclosed in plywood. Having the whole building "dried in" before the autumn rains is a key goal.



Sheathing wraps first section of building



Construction is proceeding on schedule at the Kilkich Wellness Center. Right now that means attaching plywood sheathing on the walls and roof of the building's first section.

Zone 1 of the project includes the future medical clinic and pharmacy. Sheathing for that area is expected to be finished by the end of next week. Workers already have begun laying out the interior walls.

Dust control update

Last week's heavy winds have settled down for the time being, and dust is no longer a crisis for Kilkich residents. Even so, the water truck continues its rounds, moistening the disturbed ground. Irrigation sprinklers stand atop two dirt piles, ready to wet down the dust if a need arises.



Above, roof joists support plywood sheathing above the medical clinic. Bottom, steel sill plates show locations of interior walls.

Holiday schedule

Construction crews normally work on the wellness center Monday through Thursday. For Labor Day week, they'll work Tuesday through Friday, Sept. 8-11.

Photos by Lon Matheny