



J.J. Jackson mops the floor in a fitness room on Friday at the Yellowhawk Tribal Health Center in Mission. Staff photo by E.J. Harris

CLINIC: Improving the quality of care

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Care “is built upon the simple, yet revolutionary belief that the relationship between the primary care team and the patient is the single most important tool in managing chronic disease, controlling health care costs, and improving the overall wellness of a population.”

It serves to improve communication between health care providers and allow more integration of services, such as medical and dental.

“Putting it into practice is the more challenging side,” said interim community wellness director Carrie Sampson. She said Yellowhawk is starting to move away from calling it the Nuka System of Care and is implementing its own integrative practices.

The new facility is another aspect of the tribe becoming autonomous in its own health care. According to the Yellowhawk website, the CTUIR took ownership of its tribal health care in 1996 from Indian Health Service, an agency within the United States Department of Health and Human Services, whereas previously it was overseen by the federal government.

Yellowhawk is also in the process of becoming accredited through the Public Health Accreditation Board, which takes years to accomplish. At this time, only one tribe in the United States is accredited by the board — Cherokee Nation Health Services in Oklahoma.

The ultimate purpose of a health care facility becoming accredited is to improve the quality of care provided to patients, said Sampson, and it will hopefully reduce the range of health disparities prevalent among the Native American population.



There are ten exam rooms in the dental clinic at the new Yellowhawk Tribal Health Center in Mission. Six more than were onsite at the old Yellowhawk facility. Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Data from the Indian Health Service shows that American Indians and Alaska Natives have a life expectancy 5.5 years less than the rest of the U.S. population. And they die at higher rates among categories such as diabetes, suicide and assault and homicide.

“I feel like going through this process of public health accreditation is — ultimately the end result is to reduce those health disparities that we see,” said Sampson. “That’s why they ask you to do this community health assessment in the beginning. Because after we’ve been accredited for 10 years we want to see a really huge improvement because we’re acting as a better functioning public health organization.”

Sampson said a 2015 community health assessment conducted by Yellowhawk highlighted areas that could be improved, such as obesity and diabetes. She said the assessment showed that over 80 percent of the population was overweight or obese. The health assessment didn’t present any new information, but it gave them a baseline to work with, she said. “It’s kind of exciting in a way that we’ll

be able to follow that and see if the work that we’re doing is improving and impacting the community.”

Public health accreditation was initially structured towards county health departments, which makes it easier for them, said Sampson.

“Tribal health centers are different. Other than Cherokee Nation, they are mostly centered under one system,” she said referring to the array of services available under Yellowhawk’s roof.

“So when we are trying to meet the standards and measures that PHAB requires, it’s challenging. Public county health departments are not structured like that. It’s pretty cut and dry for them and we have to find those fine lines.”

According to Sampson, the exploration of the accreditation process began in 2011 when Yellowhawk received funding to conduct a community health assessment, the first step in the accreditation process.

“And then they did a draft community health improvement plan after that — a sort of light strategic plan — it was sort of a test run of the three requirements you have

to do to even apply,” she said.

Yellowhawk conducted another community health assessment in 2015 and received the results from that assessment in 2016.

Sampson said, “And it was kind of asking ourselves: ‘Well, where are we going now?’”

The health center started seriously pursuing the accreditation process in the latter half of 2016. Sampson applied for an accreditation coordinator through the Center for Disease Control’s Public Health Associate Program and was landed with Courtney Stover, who is assisting with the process.

“So we’re very fortunate to have her because as you know in our rural areas it is very difficult to find individuals with a public health background. When she arrived here in October I feel like that’s when we really got to get the ball rolling again,” said Sampson.

The cost to apply for the accreditation process cost \$11,800, said Stover. However, in recent years more funding has become available to pursue this avenue, she said. Yellowhawk received two \$10,500 grants from the National Indian Health Board to assist with the accreditation process.

“I think more tribes are becoming interested as more funding becomes available to do some of these things,” she said.

In fact, many tribes in the U.S. are almost finished with the accreditation process. “We’re not trying to be the second tribe to become accredited in the United States,” said Sampson. “But we are thinking we might be the first tribe in the Northwest.”

SCHOOLS: Sandstone roof repairs complete

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for the flow of folks passing through.”

Wayland said both those buildings are open-campus plans, and security upgrades for them were prioritized on the bond.

Facilities supervisor Martie McQuain said those schools may staff the gates during busy times to monitor who was coming through.

Last summer the district made some safety upgrades to West Park and Sunset elementary schools, setting up a system that allows doors to be closed with the push of a button any time the school goes into lockdown. The district also built entrance areas with windows, where a front office worker could observe people coming in and let them in by pushing a button.

While the hallways door project has been completed, the front entrance project has not.

“Right now, the overall system doesn’t work with that,” Wayland said. “We’re looking at trying to upgrade that.”

Sandstone Middle School’s roof repairs are complete, a project Wayland said was high on the priority list from the bond. He said the roof cost about \$850,000.

Though capacity was one of the main concerns for the district, Wayland said they did not add any modular classrooms this year.

“We will look at that over the course of the fall,” he said.

McQuain said they rearranged some classes to make better use of space.

“Sandstone had a smaller class in a bigger room,”

he said. “We moved that around, and tried to fill in all the gaps we have.”

Wayland noted there were also a few empty classrooms that were used for testing and other purposes, but did not have a class in them full-time.

The district is renovating the two remaining buildings on the old Umatilla County Fairgrounds, Thompson and Hoeft halls. Hoeft Hall will be used for storage and equipment, and Thompson Hall will be used for special education classes. They made upgrades to the kitchen, made the bathroom handicap-accessible, and built a wall inside the building to separate the area where students will be from a recycling area.

In addition to special projects this summer, McQuain said his staff works throughout the year to maintain grounds.

“I have about 30 custodians, six groundsmen, three maintenance staff and two warehousemen,” McQuain said.

He said the staff deals with almost all maintenance, but Oregon law requires that certain jobs be completed by specific technicians.

“Our tradesmen will assist with electrical, HVAC and plumbing work,” he said. “We have a lot of skilled technicians, but they’re not allowed to do (certain tasks) per Oregon code.”

Throughout the summer, custodians at the middle and high schools stay in their own buildings, and a team of custodians will move between each of the elementary schools and do deep cleaning, which includes the windows and floors.

FAIR: ‘Know your lane!’

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are not handicapped-accessible but the Kayak bus is. Both buses are air-conditioned.

If people choose to pay for parking by bringing their vehicle to the Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center, McNalley and EOTEC general manager Al Davis said the things will go much faster if everyone has the correct change — \$5 — ready to hand out their window as soon as they pull up.

As they approach the fairgrounds, vehicles with paid general admission need to get in the left lanes, prepaid parking passes are in the center lane, and rodeo and handicapped parking should stick to the right.

“Know your lane!” McNalley said. “Be ready. That’s our motto for the fair — Stirrup Some Fun

and know your lane.”

After traffic jams on the first-ever day of the fair at EOTEC last year, organizers switched up the parking and traffic to help with the flow. At a recent city council meeting Davis said they have learned from last year and believe they have a good system planned for this year that will keep things flowing.

Temperatures are expected to be well over 100 degrees mid-week, but McNalley said there will plenty of places to sit down and eat under canopies and people can stop inside the air-conditioned event center to check out the exhibits and booths there any time they’re feeling hot. Cold beverages and ice cream will also be on sale throughout the venue, and McNalley said a new zip-line this year should help “put some wind through your hair.”

SETZER: Career has taken him to more than a dozen African countries

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nation’s government create electronic information systems for its government-run clinics.

Setzer’s career has taken him around the world, to more than a dozen African countries, as well as others — Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, El Salvador and Vietnam are just a small sampling.

A Philadelphia native, Setzer served in the Peace Corps, worked as a science teacher, and eventually became interested in public health, earning his master’s degree. He has since worked in the U.S. and abroad, in all aspects of public health.

Murdock said he had enjoyed working with Setzer, and appreciated his breadth of knowledge.

“He’s a fascinating individual, and he certainly has a lot of skills,” Murdock said, citing his variety of experiences in the medical field.

He said he appreciated Setzer’s work with the Year of Wellness, an effort that started in April, where county health employees would do events to promote health education and better lifestyle habits, focusing on a different health topic each month.

He said Setzer was also able to secure several grants for the county, and improved the county’s health metrics.

“Metrics are essentially a variety of benchmarks,” he said. “Such as the percentage of the population that smokes, teen pregnancy, immunization. Under his leadership, we’ve made tremendous progress.”

He said the county has not yet decided when and how they will fill Setzer’s role.

“We don’t have any kind of a plan yet as to when we’ll look, or if we’ll have another director, or reorganize the department,” he said.

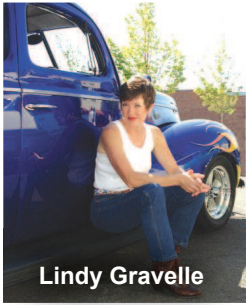


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Wednesday 15th OMSI - Bounce Houses - Arcades Lindy Gravelle 4-H Food Contest 4-H/FFA Small Animal Showmanship 4-H/FFA Livestock Judging 4-H Fashion Revue RDO Tractor Pull Trevor Tagle Dinner by Paradise Rose Chuckwagon	Thursday 16th OMSI - Bounce Houses - Arcades Talent Show Tillamook Ice Cream Social FFA Floral Design 4-H/FFA Conformation Judging Murray’s Wine Tasting Featuring: Joe Lindsay Nate Botsford	Friday 17th OMSI - Bounce Houses - Arcades 4-H/FFA Showmanship Pee-Wee Showmanship Master Showmanship Frappes & Flowers w/ Murray’s Country Rose Greased Pig Contest Chili Cook-Off Contest OTPR/Ranch Rodeo Music after rodeo by: Dan Burns 3D Productions	Saturday 18th OMSI - Bounce Houses - Arcades Parade FFA Awards Buyers Luncheon Livestock Auction OTPR/Ranch Rodeo Music after rodeo by: Dan Burns 3D Productions
Sunday 19th All Exhibits Released Morrow County Rodeo			



Lindy Gravelle



Trevor Tagle



Nate Botsford



Paradise Rose Chuckwagon



Dan Burns 3D Productions

Fair Admission:
Ages 8 & Up \$4 Daily or \$10 Week • 7 & Under FREE (must be with Adult)

Rodeo Admission:
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