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## News Release: For Immediate Release

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MISSION – Yellowhawk Tribal Health Center welcomed the community in house on October 4, 2024, to tour the new expansion. The much-anticipated expansion project ends as we make the final touches aimed at improving health services for our community members. This expansion includes the addition of a dedicated Elder entrance, an updated laboratory, storage area, and an enhanced medical wing, all designed to meet the growing needs of our community and clinic. Overall, the expansion added 9,200 square feet.

The expansion features an accessible entrance specifically for Elders, ensuring they have a safe and convenient way to access services. We recognize the importance of catering to the needs of our elder community, and this entrance will provide a warm and welcoming space tailored to their needs.

In addition to the Elder entrance, the laboratory/radiology area underwent comprehensive upgrades in 2024. This will improve efficiency and enhance the accuracy and range of diagnostic services available. Our commitment to providing high-quality healthcare means that patients receive quick test results and improved care based on the latest technology. Four instruments were updated in the last year which allow for high-capacity testing. The laboratory doubled in size and now features a private restroom area, enclosed draw rooms that are easily accessible for wheelchair users and is close in proximity to the medical department. The mammography room will soon be completed to offer those services in-house, expected in 2025.

The medical department expanded by 5,300 square feet and now includes six additional exam rooms, including an isolation room and bariatric room, two procedure rooms, four offices, and additional restrooms. This allows our healthcare professionals to accommodate patients and staff as patient numbers increase. "Our goal is to provide high quality patient care that includes preventative care, chronic disease management, and wellness programs. We care about our community and plan to excel at providing a patient-centered approach to healthcare," said Shana Alexander, Medical Administrator.

"The team is thrilled to finalize this expansion project, thank you to everyone for being patient as we made these changes," said Aaron Hines, CEO. "By enhancing our facilities and services, we are ensuring that our community has access to the quality care they deserve. Being able to build on and make a better clinic for our people is a highlight of my career here at Yellowhawk. The expansion reflects our ongoing commitment to our community and honoring the needs of our patients, especially our Elders."

Yellowhawk wishes to thank the community, staff, Health Commission and contractors for the long hours and patience. The expansion would not have been possible without the aid of COVID-19 relief funding. In honor of our CTUIR members we lost during COVID-19, we have a dedicated plaque in their honor, always remembering them.

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Yellowhawk Tribal Health Center is owned and operated by the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation. It provides primary healthcare and additional services to more than 3,000 American Indian/Alaska Native patients. Yellowhawk Vision: Our Tribal community achieves optimal health through a culture of wellness. Yellowhawk Mission: It is our mission to empower our Tribal community with opportunities to learn and experience healthy lifestyle.