

# Three Warriors' Market: A community base

Story and photos  
by Shannon Keaveny

Welcome to downtown Simnasho, jokes "Captain" Raymond Moody as customers enter the Three Warriors Market.

Surrounded by rolling hills and a big sky, the market may not be much of a downtown, but it's a lot more than the Simnasho folk are used to.

Until the market opened 4 years ago, Simnasho residents had to drive 13 miles just to reach the nearest store.

"If you drove home and realized that you forgot to buy milk than it was tough luck," said Moody, the assistant manager of the store.

Now the lone building serves as a community base.

Inside food and supplies line the shelves—pilot bread, milk, frozen dinners, juices, color books, medicines, cleaning supplies, car oil and more.

In the corner is Chester Fried, a fast-food chicken franchise offering fried chicken, pizza sticks, potatoes and other foods.

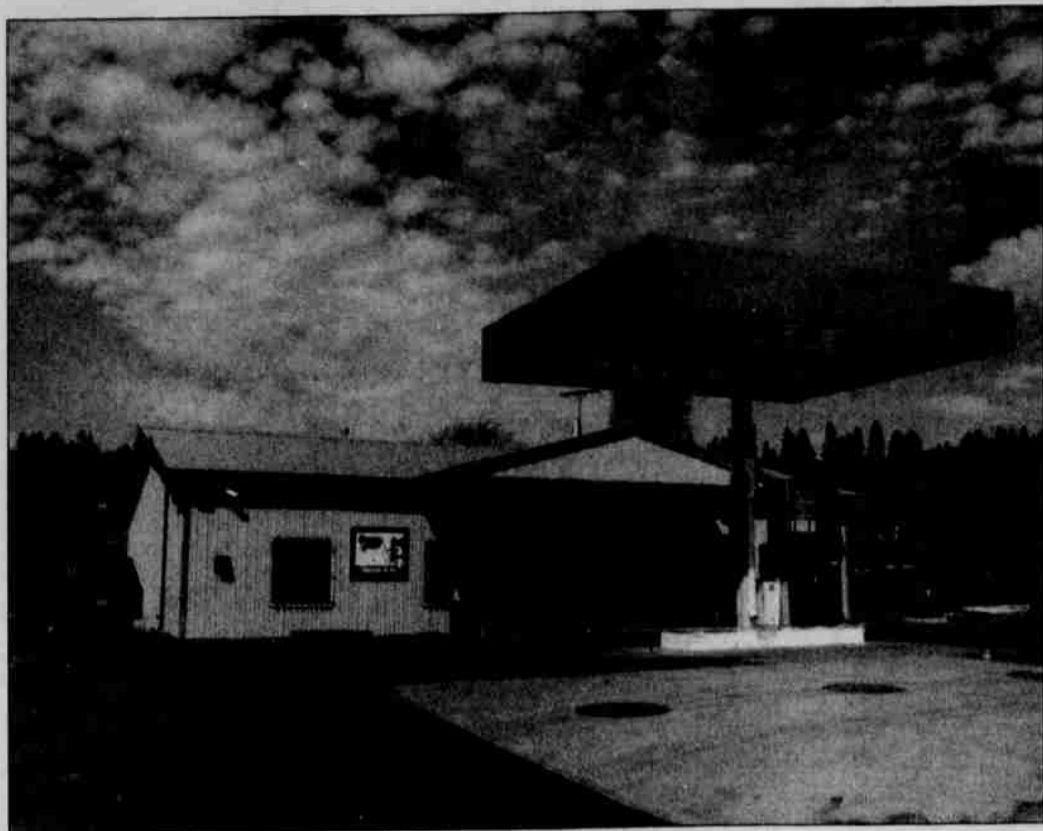
An assortment of fountain drinks and a cappuccino machine line the wall.

Two tables are available for those who want to stay for a coffee or a meal. In addition, out front, the market offers some of the cheapest gas around.

"It used to be a big deal for Simnasho people to go to the store because they had to drive so far but now people have become accustomed to the convenience of the store," says Moody.

Three Warriors Market employs 10 community members, three of which are full-time.

Millie Smith, a market em-



ABOVE: Three Warriors' Market in the afternoon.  
LEFT: Millie Smith at work in the Chester Fried deli at the Three Warriors' Market. Chester Fried has been a part of the market for the last 14 months and, upon request, will cater tribal events. Smith says, if it weren't for the market, she would have to drive to Madras for work.

ployee, would have to drive to Madras to work, if it weren't for the market. The market provides local economy, says Moody.

"People aren't getting rich by working here," says Moody, "but they are earning enough to stay happy."

Also, since the market opened on Jan. 24, 2000, Moody has noticed a change in his community.

In the last six months, three homes have been built.

"People are wanting to come home," says Moody of their expanding community.

## Not the first store

This isn't the first time Simnasho has had a store.

Back in the 1940s, Simnasho was the location of a post-WWII work camp for American soldiers. In the center of the camp was a store. It was the same location as Three Warriors' Mar-

ket today.

"We're just replacing what was here back in the 40s," says Moody.

Later, in the 1970s, the film "Three Warriors," the inspiration for the market's name, was shot on the reservation. Hollywood filmmakers set up a makeshift storefront with fake gas pumps in Simnasho.

"I remember people driving up to the gas pump, thinking they could get some gas," reminisces Moody of the making of the film.

## What the future holds

A Simnasho planning group worked hard and held many community meetings to be granted the current store.

Over the last four years, the management has steadily expanded the store's services. Chester Fried is just over a year old.

The store has also acquired new accounts and big namebrand companies, like Franz Bread and Frito Lay.

"They have been real cooperative and willing to come out anytime we need something," says Moody of the companies.

"Word has gotten around that the tribes' pay their bills," says Moody about the ease of acquiring credit with vendors for the store.

The store also would like to get a post office. Moody and employee Millie Smith talk about the convenience a post office would bring to the community.

Smith remembers when Simnasho had a postal drop box. Moody feels a post office would bring Simnasho closer to self-sufficiency.

"That's what the tribes' are always striving for," he says.

Also, it would benefit the store. Folks might buy something after they drop off their mail.

"It would be another draw for the store," says Moody.

For the most part, the store offers comparable prices to off-reservation stores and Moody would like to eventually offer tribal members discounts on gas.

Clientele at the market has surpassed just being for tribal members. It assists tribal enterprises, like Kah-Nee-Ta, by offering a nearby convenience store for daily outings. Visitors can come buy ice, pop, and other necessities without driving clear to town.

Farmers have realized the market is a cheaper option for diesel gas. Wandering Maupin locals might also take advantage of the low gas prices.

Natural resources work groups, like forestry crews or firefighters, use it to fill up their trucks. Some tribal members, says employee Yahteen Frank, drive all the way up from Warm Springs to shop, get gas, and show their financial support for the tribal enterprise.

But, like many businesses, 9/11 had its impact on the store. With tourism dwindling due to economic fears, the market saw less traffic last summer. The store is dependent on tourism and the extra summer traffic to make ends meet.

"We lost some of the outsiders, but the locals kept coming," says Moody of the 9/11 impact.

Yet, the Three Warriors' still cleared its first million in January of 2002 and with the weak economy slowly easing, the future holds promise. Moody still hopes someday the market will become more than a tribal community asset and make some money.

Overall, he feels it has been a success and a worthy investment for the tribes'.

"I hope the tribes' use this as an example for other small business ventures on the reservation. There's other places that could use a store like this," says Moody.

# Warm Springs prepared for terrorism attack, natural disaster

In the event of a major disaster Warm Springs Public Safety has a plan.

By Shannon Keaveny  
Spilyay Tymoo

These days the risk of terrorism is gauged like wildfire risk in the hot summer.

Risk escalates with the political climate change.

The nation currently stands at "orange" — one level below red, the highest risk for a terrorist attack on U.S. soil.

Although terrorism is more likely to hit a highly populated area, Don B. Courtney, chief of Warm Springs Police and director of Public Safety, and staff

are working hard to be prepared for anything.

"We're low-risk but we still aren't responding any less," said Courtney.

In this area, potential risk lies in the power lines, the Pelton-Round Butte hydroelectric project, Kah-Nee-Ta and other areas where large groups of people gather.

But, on the reservation, a natural disaster poses a higher threat.

After 1996, the year Warm Springs Reservation endured a major flood and catastrophic wildfire, Warm Springs public safety learned a valuable lesson. A detailed emergency plan for the reservation was necessary.

In response, a manuscript was developed outlining a plan

of action for every type of disaster — natural or manmade.

Up to 25 of these plans have been distributed throughout the area — the Warm Springs Police Department, the water treatment plant, Fire and Safety, tribal council, Jefferson County, the state police, and more.

Every faction that receives one is required to become familiar with the course of action necessary to take in case of a major disaster on the reservation. They also have their own internal disaster plan.

The plans include community shelter options, medical aid, legal ramifications, public information, resident management, and transportation. They cover specific plans for earthquakes, floods, fires, and a terrorist at-

tack. In Warm Springs, up to 100 displaced residents can find a temporary home at a Red Cross disaster shelter. Others can find shelter at the longhouses. If the phone lines go down, hand held operators will be in place. In case of a dam breach, residents near the river will be notified.

"Today, we think, we are more prepared than most communities because we have been through it before," said Courtney.

Courtney explains, whether terrorism or a natural disaster, the course of action is often the same.

Police chiefs throughout Central Oregon work together to ensure they have a cohesive plan on the occasion of a disaster and

meet monthly. Fire and Safety meets every three months to discuss changes in disaster plans.

"A disaster plan is a constant updating process, especially if there is employee turnover and new people need to be trained," said Courtney.

And there is always room to make it more efficient.

Courtney and Fire Chief Danny Martinez want to start having community focus groups. The group would provide community members with an opportunity to become familiar with the Warm Springs disaster plan. It would also educate the community on how to become aware of signals, what to do when there is a warning, and how to prepare your home unit. Courtney recommends fol-

lowing the traditions of the elders and always keeping an ample supply of food on hand.

Recently Public Safety received a \$38,000 Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grant to use for a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training at Kah-Nee-Ta on April 28-May 1. The workshop will teach trainers from reservations throughout the country. Trainers will return to their community and teach other communities to organize and be prepared for disaster.

A website is also being developed that will include procedures for emergencies in Warm Springs.

For more information on focus groups, call Don Courtney at 553-3272.

## Young: "The tribes are the customer."

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He worked for a large health organization in Alaska, his job being director of administration.

"I polished my management skills there," said Young.

Most recently, Young was working as the superintendent of the Nevada Agency of the BIA. He's looking forward to working with the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs.

"One of the things the tribes have expressed," he

said, "is they want to work closely with the superintendent and the BIA."

In response, he said, "I want to work closely with the tribes, and ensure that our programs our carried out."

Young explained his view of the relationship between the tribes and the BIA:

"The tribes are the customer. When they come into the office, we say, how can we help you? And then we try our best to meet those needs."

## Recreation, Kah-Nee-Ta host marathon



The Warm Springs Recreation Department and Kah-Nee-Ta recently hosted a mini marathon.

The races included a 14.5 mile half-

marathon, 10K run, 3-mile run, and the 1-mile fun run/walk.

The race this year saw a good turnout of participants.

Next Spilyay deadline is Friday, April 25.