

Encouraging first harvest for tribal farm

The tribal farm had its first harvest in July. The first crop was grain hay.

This is a good crop to start with, as the ground is being reclaimed for farming, said Zane Wilson, farm manager. Wilson and the farm crew of about six work under the Branch of Natural Resources.

The start-up funding for the tribal farm came from restoration money. The immediate goal of the farm is to become a self-sustaining operation, said Jason Smith, Range and Ag manager with the Branch of Natural Resources.

There are two areas that will be farmed: the Moody farm and the middle Warm Springs farm.

The farm team began its initial work at the Moody farm, but then switched to the middle Warm Springs farm, located by the Warm Springs River near the Kah-Nee-Ta golf course.

The middle Warm Springs property was closer to being ready for a crop, Wilson explained during an update at Tribal Council last week. The middle Warm Springs site already had irrigation and a power system, and had been more recently farmed, he said.



Photos courtesy of Zane Wilson

Earlier this month the middle Warm Springs farm saw a harvest of several tons of grain hay.

The Moody farm will require installation of four water pivots. The middle Warm Springs required just one center pivot.

The farm team has been acquiring various pieces of farm equipment, such as tractors, land-levelling equipment, a seed drill, pumps, the pivots, etc. They made the first



plant this spring and harvested in early July.

The grain hay harvest yielded several tons. This crop helps to restore the land

and eliminate weeds, Wilson said. Potential future crops include vegetable seed, grass seed, flower seed, and grain seed.

During the Council update, Councilman Kahseuss Jackson asked whether there is more acreage on the reservation, besides the Moody and

middle Warm Springs farms, that could become productive farm land.

Natural Resources general manager Bobby Brunoe said the amount of farm land on the reservation is very limited. The soil is different from that of the Agency and Little Agency plains, for instance.

Councilman Carlos Smith said the tribes should look at entering the winery business, as the soil on the reservation could be suited for growing grape vines. Other tribes are entering this business, he said.

Councilwoman Evaline Patt asked about tribal employment at the farms. Wilson said this year at times there were up to 30 people working on the farms. This would include the fencing work. Next year there should be at least two additional full-time employees in positions lasting about eight months of the year.

Schoenberg property

Councilman Carlos Smith suggested that Natural Resources develop some potential uses for the Schoenberg property, tribally-owned acreage located at the Pelton turn-off by Highway 26. There must be some way to put the property to productive use, he said.

New to Warm Springs – the Txtaimat Pama Outdoor Market

By Chris Watson
Warm Springs
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Have you ever wanted to find a regular and easy outlet to sell the fish that you catch, the berries you pick, or the vegetables you grow?

Do you have bee hives that are making more honey than you know what to do with, or chickens that are laying more eggs than you can use?

Are you skilled at painting, beadwork, weaving, or knitting, and want a venue where you can sell the items you make?

If you've answered yes to any of these questions, there is a place in the Warm Springs community where you can sell the things you are producing. It's called the Warm Springs Txtaimat Pama Outdoor Market, and it happens in Warm Springs every Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Or, perhaps you are interested in *buying* the types of products mentioned above, in supporting local entrepreneurs, in keeping your dollars working at home, investing in your community, boosting community pride, and helping to preserve the unique character of the place you live.

If any of these are true, consider visiting the Txtaimat Pama, building relationships with the merchants at the market, and purchasing the items you need and want. You may even save a few dollars on travel costs.

In 1994, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, there were 1,755 farmers markets in the United States. By 2012, that number had more than quadrupled, to 7,864 farmers markets nationwide.

On hundreds of Indian reservations, tribal communities have discovered the

benefits of farmers markets.

On the Isabella Reservation in Central Michigan, the Saginaw Chippewa Tribe's Native Farmers Market now provides fresh seasonal and locally grown produce to the community, as well as honey, maple syrup, wild rice, and fresh fish.

In Green Bay, Wisconsin, the Oneida Nation's Farmers Market brings together 49 vendors every Thursday, serving as a gathering place for community members to buy fresh food, earn vital income, and meet with friends, family members, and other acquaintances.

From Alaskan villages and Native Hawaiian communities to the 39 tribes of Oklahoma, from Wind River to Pine Ridge to Santa Fe, Native people are becoming more involved in farmers markets, selling produce, value-added foods, native crafts, and other products that people need and want in their communities.

In many studies, farmers markets have been shown to increase tribal communities' access to healthy, affordable produce while providing economic development opportunities for tribal community members (often farmers and artists) and intergenerational entrepreneurial lessons for tribal youth.

Moreover, they have been shown to give people a social setting in which to exchange goods, services, ideas, and social capital. In this spirit, the Warm Springs Community Action Team (WSCAT) began the Warm Springs Txtaimat Pama Outdoor Market.

On June 21, the Txtaimat Pama opened for the first time, with a celebratory barbecue, attended by over 200 community members, under the trees and on the lawn of the Warm Springs campus.

In the first five weeks of the market, five vendors have sold products, though only two have been regular vendors.

In the early stages of the market, according to Val Squiemphen, the Txtaimat Pama Outdoor Market Manager, the Community Action Team "is expecting three to five vendors per week, but we think that number will grow as more people learn about the market."

According to Lonnie James, WSCAT's Executive Director, the organization "is committed to the growth and long-term sustainability of the market, and to working with vendors, community members, and organizations to expand the market; bring together a cohort of food

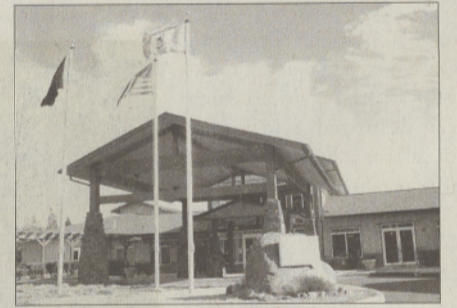
growers, value-added producers, and craftspeople interested in participating; and create the kind of weekly event that tribal members and others in nearby area will attend regularly."

In time, WSCAT staff believe, the market will serve as a place where people and vendors from the community can come, relax, spend time together, support one another's businesses, and purchase an array of useful, quality products.

They believe that the market's location, right off of Highway 26, will also attract tourists and passers-by, and are excited about the immediate and long-term potential benefit to the Warm Springs community.

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for the month ahead

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July 23

August 6, 20

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1:00 p.m. in room 120

July 24

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In advance of College events, persons needing accommodation or transportation because of a physical or mobility disability, contact Joe Viola: 541.383.7775. For accommodation because of other disability such as hearing impairment, contact Annie Walker: 541.383.7743.