



Joanna Kaiserman looks on as Hannah Ladwig mixes smoothies in a bike-powered blender at the White Salmon Farmers Market.

## White Salmon Farmers Market in Full Swing

*Local vendors sell a variety of produce, goods and meats at the weekly market*

By Jeanie Senior

The White Salmon Farmers Market, held in Rheingarten Park every Tuesday from 4 to 7 p.m., features rows of brightly colored canopies on green grass under big shade trees.

East and south through the park trees are views of the Columbia River Gorge. Vendors sell a cornucopia of foodstuffs, from fresh local fruits and vegetables to honey, naturally raised meat and jewelry.

Local residents can sell extra produce at a community table. The number of vendors fluctuates from 10 to 20, depending on the harvest season, according to Megan Winn, health educator for the Klickitat County Health Department.

On June 19, the market's opening day,

the selection included fresh sweet cherries from Dallesport; strawberries, blueberries and asparagus from Parkdale; salad greens, radishes and salad turnips from the Snowdon area; and honey from the Gorge.

"Next week, cucumbers and summer squash," Sarah Lange of Stonework Farm promised.

Hannah Ladwig of Gorge Grown Food Network pedaled a bicycle-powered smoothie blender. She and Joanna Kaiserman gave away samples of smoothies made from strawberries provided by Izzy Rodriguez of Pheasant's Eye Farm.

Kelly & Friends Natural Meat—a company that raises natural beef, chicken and pork—offers weekly specials.

Hot food vendors rotate from week



**Clockwise from top left, rows of booths provide shade for local farmers and artisans to sell their goods. Adrienne Rubio sells cherries. Children get a reprieve from the early summer heat playing in a sprinkler.**



to week. Big Man Rotisserie was up first, followed by Focolare Wood Fired Pizza. Live musicians also rotate: Samba Hood Rio, Alonzo Gorbonzo and Blue Monday.

On hot days, kids can cool off in a sprinkler. Shoppers bring blankets and stretch out on the lawn to eat and listen to live music.

Founded less than a decade ago, the market remains a genuine community effort. For the first few years, it was held at a few locations in downtown White Salmon. It has been at Rheingarten Park since 2015.

Market season starts in mid-June and continues to autumn. It moves to the White Salmon Grange in mid-September, and changes hours from 3 to 6 p.m. The market ran until October 24 last year.

Debi Budnick, community health and wellness director at Skyline Hospital, says the city has been amazing in its support for the market.

The hospital is one of several organizations that contribute to the market, including the White Salmon-Bingen Rotary Club, Everybody's Brewing, Chambers Family Chiropractic, Kula

Chiropractic, Riverview Community Bank and the Klickitat County Health Department.

Contributions help pay for a market manager and fund an incentive for people to use their EBT card at the market by giving them an extra \$5 to spend on fruit and vegetables.

An alliance with Community Enrichment for Klickitat and Skamania County allows the market to operate under Community Enrichment's 501(c)(3) nonprofit status, Megan says.

Money raised by a fun run during SpringFest and sales of farmers market-branded shopping bags and apparel goes to the Power of Produce program, which gives a \$2 token to the first 20 people younger than 18 who show up at the market booth, redeemable toward the purchase of fruit and veggies. People 55 and older can get two tokens.

Last year, the market gave away almost \$1,400 in tokens.

"It's been wildly successful," Megan says. ■