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classes, mini workshops and more than two dozen vendors. It was dreamed up by Ragan Myers, events coordinator for the city of Long Beach, in collaboration with Colleen Smith, owner of Tapestry Rose, a yarn supply store at the back of her Adelaide's Coffee Shop in Ocean Park.

Puzzles

Smith has had 25 years in the yarn business and ran a restaurant for 40. She expounds on why fiber artists love to create. "Well, it's this camaraderie," she waves a hand at nine industrious women seated around her knitting table, "and the connection that you make when you are carrying on something that's a legacy for someone

Patrick Webb

LEFT Diane Seifert of Long Beach enjoys crochet, but never knitting. Her wool pumpkin was a much-admired novelty creation when a group of crafters gathered to work and chat. **BELOW** Wendy Emo, left, and Suzi Ragsdale demonstrate spinning techniques during an informal gathering in Ilwaco ahead of the new Columbia Pacific Fiber Arts Festival. The event will be held at the Chautauqua Lodge in Long Beach Saturday-Sunday. Another spinner-weaver-knitter, Cheri Diehl, who will teach a make-and-take mini workshop, uses wool from her daughter's alpacas that reside in Carson.



that you love."

Her particular pleasure is helping others solve knitting and crochet puzzles. This sometimes means investigating how people learn mathematics in different ways.

"You can never be expert at it all, but if I get the challenge, I learn it and I can teach them," she says. "Even if it's a problem that I have never seen before, I can figure out the best way to work it."

Sharing

Smith recalls helping Will while factor-ing in that she's left handed.

Will, a 30-year resident of the Long Beach Peninsula, knits and loves making quilts to donate to hospitals or hospice. Kids at Head Start benefit from her crafts. "It's fun to go there and see them," she

If You Go

Columbia Pacific Fiber Arts Festival

10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday-Sunday

Chautauqua Lodge, 304 14th St. NW, Long Beach.

To sign up for classes, colpacfiberassociation.com

Sign up for mini workshops when the event begins

says.

Giving away their creations is common among the nine crafters around the table.

"I hardly ever keeping anything for myself," Seifert says.



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