

MUSIC AND MOLLUSKS ON THE MENU

Jazz & Oysters festival returns on Saturday

BY PATRICK WEBB

For jazz fans, four bands will be on offer. For oyster fans, there are thousands being brought in. Jazz & Oysters is ready with both at the Port of Peninsula on Saturday.

And that's pure pleasure for organizer Diana Thompson, getting back to event planning after two years of cancellations and postponements. "We are absolutely excited," she said.

Ilwaco High School's jazz band will kick off festivities at noon, followed by Ranger and the Re-Arrangers at 1 p.m. The Ellen Whyte Ensemble will play at 3 p.m., and to top off the evening, the Mel Brown B3 Quartet will play at 5 p.m.

Taylor Shellfish Farms, of Shelton, Washington, which also has an operation in Ocean Park, will provide the seafood. "Most will be grilled, but some can be served raw," Thompson said. Mid-August, she added, isn't the best time for oysters, but the festival is still a beloved event.

Support

Held at the Port of Peninsula in Nahcotta, Jazz & Oysters is organized by the Water Music Society, whose annual rotation of events began with activities and home concerts in 1984.

The group, whose co-presidents are Thompson and Susan Spence, exists to bring musicians to the Long Beach Peninsula while supporting Ocean Beach and Naselle school music programs.

Its main slate of classical concerts is in October; the group also added an annual Christmas show in 2001. It funds artist appearances, in part, through summer garden tours.

Thrilled

Jazz & Oysters began in 1986. Thompson recalled attending after her move from Portland in 1999. She watched Ellen Whyte perform at the Oysterville Schoolhouse in

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Submitted photo

The Water Music Festival's Jazz & Oysters event serves up Willapa Bay oysters as well as fruit and cheese plates and desserts.

Jazz & Oysters

Jazz & Oysters

Port of Peninsula, 3311 275th St.,
Nahcotta, Wash.

11 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Saturday

Admission is \$25

www.watermusicfestival.com



Seattle-based jazz band Ranger and the Re-Arrangers will perform at Jazz & Oysters.