

MANZANITA MUSIC FESTIVAL

THIS FIRST ANNUAL MULTI-GENRE MUSIC FEST OFFERS FAMILY-FRIENDLY FUN JULY 23 AND 24 IN DOWNTOWN MANZANITA

By DAN HAAG

Summer and music festivals go hand-and-hand, but how does one choose? Glastonbury? Too far. Lollapalooza? Too expensive. Woodstock? Over and done.

Luckily, a new music festival is debuting on the North Coast in 2016. The first annual Manzanita Music Festival — in partnership with North County Recreation District, Hoffman Center for the Arts, and Los-trom Company Real Estate — brings together some of the area's best musical talent and kicks off at the conclusion of the 26th annual Manzanita Beach Walk and Run on Saturday, July 23.

With multiple stages and nearly 20 bands, it promises to be one epically sonic weekend.

'MAGNETIC QUALITY'

Beth Carter-Boyer and two Manzanita friends — Marci Russo and Dawn Lind — were looking to stage a music festival. With all their kids grown, they decided there was no time like the present.

"We kind of said, 'What are we waiting for? Let's do this,'" Carter-Boyer says. "We're all music lovers, and we wanted to give something to the community."



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Jenny Don't and the Spurs performs regularly at the San Dune Pub in Manzanita and will provide the festival's roots country sound.

Planning got underway last summer.

While the intentions were pure, putting together any festival with multiple moving parts isn't something that just happens with a snap of the fingers.

Luckily, each of the trio has local ties and a wealth of experience to bring to the table. Russo owned and operated the Big Wave Cafe and the Garlic Company for many years, while Lind is a yoga instructor at NCRD

and Yoga Roots.

Carter-Boyer was able to draw upon her experiences after college when she went to work for a small company that staged a large show combining music, fashion and art. "It was pretty overwhelming, and I just loved it," she says.

Her focus turned to the music side after working in a docent program for Seattle schools that brought artists into classrooms, something that gave students a different

AMERICANA, BLUES, JAZZ, FUNK, COUNTRY, INDIE, FOLK, POP AND REGGAE ALL COLLIDE TO MAKE THIS A BEACH FESTIVAL FOR THE AGES.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Sextones will offer a lively performance of West Coast funk and soul.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Jaime Leopold & the Short Stories will perform country, folk and acid memory.



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Kate and the Crocodiles will bring a diverse show, full of obscure old jazz and pop tunes, to the Manzanita Music Festival. The group includes trumpeter Gavin Bondy, keyboardist Craig Bidondo, vocalist Kate Morrison and guests.

perspective on music.

Carter-Boyer is certain that festival goers will see that organizers have put an emphasis on being an educational, family-friendly event.

"Music goes towards emotional, physical and mental health," she says. "It's a great way for kids to find a way to express themselves."

There's lots of North Coast expertise involved in ensuring the festival will be a professionally staged event. Bill Phillips of

Nehalem — who has worked with Portland Waterfront Blues Festival as first-tech stage production manager — is working in the same capacity for this festival, and Astoria's Full Spectrum Multimedia is providing staging.

As with any music festival, setting might be just as vital a performer as any of the bands. With the backdrop of the ocean and Neahkahnie Mountain, Carter-Boyer feels that musicians and attendees —

young and old — will have no problem when it comes to artistic expression.

"There's just something really special about Manzanita," she says. "It's got a real magnetic quality to it, and I love the way the light diffuses in the afternoons."

'INCREDIBLE MUSICIANS'

And this is no one-trick pony music festival highlighting a single genre. Americana, blues, jazz, funk, country, indie, folk, pop and reggae all collide to