

# HRAP gets funding for a new part-time 'education coordinator'

**Position will need budget committee OK to continue into summer and beyond**

By Erick Bengel  
Cannon Beach Gazette

As the Haystack Rock Awareness Program prepares to enter its 30th season, Samantha Ferber, the program coordinator, is hiring for a new part-time education coordinator's position.

The education coordinator, who must have at least a bachelor's degree in a related field, will be responsible for much of the education portion of the program — mostly scheduling and coordinating the field trips that schools and other visiting groups take to the rock. He or she will also prepare presentations for local classrooms and visit the students in anticipation of their field trips.

In addition, the education coordinator will serve on the beach as a Rocky Shore interpreter, and off the beach with HRAP events and education.

The position, which is supervised by the program coordinator, pays \$13 per hour and will average 25 hours per week, not to exceed 1,000 hours per year. Applications are due Jan. 5.

The City Council decided to fund the position from February through June 30 (the end of the fiscal year) out of HRAP's current employee budget, amounting to \$7,150. If the City Council approves it in next year's budget, the position will be extended through October.

For fiscal year 2015-16, "I will have to get the full amount for that position approved by the budget committee, so, really, that's when the real battle will be," Ferber said. She will request that the



ERICK BENDEL PHOTO

Haystack Rock Awareness Program Coordinator Samantha Ferber hopes to add another part-time education coordinator's position to the program.

education coordinator's position be funded at \$14,300 annually. "I'm really hoping they'll approve it."

HRAP's team will still include a full-time program coordinator, a part-time intern to coordinate the volunteers during beach season, eight to 10 part-time seasonal staff interpreters and 80 to 100 community volunteers.

and enhance the program, HRAP needs another position to cover the school scheduling duties, she said.

Pencil in school groups and summer camp visits to the rock during beach season has historically been the intern's job, though Ferber chose to do it herself last year.

"You're trying to fit in all of these teachers who want

"It's so time-consuming," said Ferber, who worked as the volunteer coordinator and education intern for two straight years before stepping up as program coordinator in November 2013. "The reality is, I don't have time to do it. I learned my limitations this year."

Making sure the education of school children runs smoothly — so that the students learn the lessons properly, have their questions answered and leave thinking about their experience at Haystack Rock — takes a lot of work, said Maryann Sinkler, a former Friends of Haystack Rock board member.

To separate the education part from the volunteer coordination part into two staff positions is "really ideal in my opinion," Sinkler said.

Ferber said that having the new stand-alone position can help the program evolve on the education front.

"We should continue to ask ourselves, 'Is this the best way that we should be teaching the kids? Is there another activity that may engage the kids more?'"

**'I will have to get the full amount for that position approved by the budget committee, so, really, that's when the real battle will be'**

Samantha Ferber, HRAP program coordinator

The department is accepting applications for its 2015 internship, due Jan. 5 as well.

**A 'crazy puzzle'**

In 2014, the HRAP team spoke with 88,794 visitors, including 62 school and adult groups who brought 2,331 participants, Ferber wrote in a staff report.

To continue HRAP's current capacity, and to expand

the same low tide," she said. "They're coming from different locations. They're arriving at different times. It's a crazy puzzle ... I think the majority of my spring was spent on that."

But, often, neither the intern nor the program coordinator has enough time to focus on scheduling school groups, which can take "hours and hours" on top of everything else, she said.

# School board seeking new member to replace Hauger

The Seaside School District 10 Board of Directors is accepting letters of interest to fill a seat recently vacated by Nancy Hauger.

At the board's December meeting, Hauger announced her resignation from the board to move to Seattle.

Any registered voter who has been a district resident and who lives south or east of the U.S. Highway 101 and U.S. Highway 26 junction can submit a letter.

Letters of interest must include the applicant's name, residential address

and mailing address, if different. Letters to the board must arrive by 4 p.m. Jan. 9 at the district office, 1801 S. Franklin St., Seaside.

The board's Building and Grounds Committee will meet with each candidate from Jan. 12 to 16. It will recommend an appointment to the board during its regular meeting Jan. 20.

Upon appointment, the board member will be sworn in and seated immediately and will serve the remainder of Hauger's current term until June 30, 2015.

THE NATIONAL AWARD-WINNING  
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