

# Fishermen finish off Gulls

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# THE DAILY ASTORIAN

# Coast Guard runs for awareness

NORTH COAST • 3A

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ONE DOLLAR

## Protecting Haystack through education



Haystack Rock Awareness Program volunteer Michael Loftus, foreground, of Portland, gathers up HRAP's equipment with volunteers Nadine Nordquist, background left, and lead interpreter Lisa Habecker, background right, of Portland, after a morning shift on the beach.

## On 30th anniversary, mission carries on

By ERICK BENGEL  
EO Media Group

CANNON BEACH — Haystack Rock, that towering 235-foot monolith of the Cannon Beach coastline and Oregon's signature sea stack, is a locus of biodiversity, a subject of scientific research, a catalyst for community involvement and a source of shared wonderment.

While the iconic formation is a nesting, breeding, and hunting ground for sundry bird species, the rocks and tide pools at its base support mussels, chitons, sea stars, barnacles and other creatures of the rocky intertidal zone.

The site, which is both a national wildlife refuge and a state-protected marine garden, draws about 200,000 visitors annually, mostly during the summer months, according to the city.

And, between February and September, when the tides are low (aka "beach season"), tens of thousands of these visitors interact with a team of interpreters distinguishable by their red jackets and eagerness to educate.

These are the staff and volunteers of the Haystack Rock Awareness Program (HRAP), which this year celebrates its 30th anniversary as a full-scale city program.

A new photo exhibit, on display through June 18 at the Cannon Beach History Center and Museum, commemorates the milestone and tells the story of the program, whose mission is to teach locals and visitors about the ecosystem of Haystack Rock as a means of protecting it.

"You can put in conservation laws and regulations, and try to protect cer-

tain areas," Program Coordinator Samantha Ferber said, but "they're just not effective if you don't have the public education and awareness of these things."

In 2014, over the course of 193 days on the beach, the HRAP team made contact with 88,794 people at Haystack Rock — averaging about 95 contacts per hour — and 98 volunteers dedicated a total of 3,872 hours to the program, according to Ferber.

In addition, the program hosted — for free — 62 school and adult groups at Haystack Rock with a total of 2,331 participants, a figure that Melissa Keyser, the HRAP education coordinator, said she hopes will continue to grow.

"Some of the students, they would never get to have an experience like that unless it was facilitated through a school, especially the Portland schools we work with," Ferber said. "It's a good opportunity — and a unique one — for them to come out and not only learn about the marine environment but actually experience it."

### Humble origins

The program began informally in 1983 as a personal project of Neal

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Even on windy, drizzly days, the Haystack Rock Awareness Program deploys its volunteers and staff interpreters down to the sea stack to educate the public and monitor the activity of visitors, who may not know they're stepping on animal life while traipsing across the rocks.



Lead interpreter Alan Quimby, left, answers questions posed by Charles Wirtz, of Tualatin, about the animal life at Haystack Rock. Quimby, a research management biologist, joined the Haystack Rock Awareness Program in February.

## A neighborhood nook for books

Little Free Library invites neighbors to browse, share

By DERRICK DePLEDGE  
The Daily Astorian

Up the steep winding path to the crest of 12th and Grand in Astoria, there is a small, brightly painted lavender and yellow box with a surprise inside.

On Friday afternoon, it was "One Fish Two Fish Red Fish Blue Fish" by Dr. Seuss or "The Bluest Eye" by Toni Morrison.

By Tuesday, it was "The Call of the Wild" by Jack London or "A Thousand Splendid Suns" by Khaled Hosseini.

Inspired by the Little Free Library movement she had seen on Pinterest, Melissa Keyser and her family placed a

book exchange and a bench last week not far from their home on Grand Avenue.

"It's a really sweet idea, a really neat idea," said Keyser, the education coordinator for the Haystack Rock Awareness Program in Cannon Beach. "Most people have books that they've read that they like to tell their friends about but they're not carrying the books with them."

"Or a neighbor will come by, especially in this area, maybe you talk about a book, but you're not going to necessarily follow through."

"This is a really good way to say, 'Hey, look in there. I left a book in there,' or 'I'm going to.'"

### Start of a trend

Todd Bol, of Hudson, Wis., sparked the Little Free Library movement in 2009 after he made a model schoolhouse to honor his mother, a former

teacher. His original goal was to surpass Andrew Carnegie, the steel magnate and philanthropist, who founded 2,509 public libraries in the United States and abroad in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

There are now more than 25,000 Little Free Libraries in 80 countries.

"It's such a simple fundamental," Bol said by telephone from Wisconsin. "I mean it was like people approached the Little Free Library like they just discovered a puppy."

Not all cities have welcomed the communal book bins with heartwarming spirit.

Several cities have stumbled into disputes over whether the tiny libraries comply with zoning or private property or the lawful use of public property. Typically, the dustups end badly for

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## Feds set target date for Oregon LNG review

FERC's final environmental study expected next February

By DERRICK DePLEDGE  
The Daily Astorian

WARRENTON — The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission could complete its final environmental review of the Oregon LNG project by next February.

The commission's environmental impact statement is a key document in the federal government's consideration of the \$6 billion project. A draft study has yet to be released, but when it does become public this year, it will be heavily scrutinized by the firm and the project's vocal opponents in the Columbia-Pacific region.

Oregon LNG wants to build an 87-mile pipeline between Washington state and Oregon and a liquefied natural gas export terminal on the Skipanon Peninsula in Warrenton.

The firm said in a statement

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## Port to fence off sea lions

By EDWARD STRATTON  
The Daily Astorian

The Port of Astoria will begin fencing off the docks at the East End Mooring Basin this week to keep sea lions off, Executive Director Jim Knight announced at the Port of Astoria Commission meeting Tuesday night.

The obligation of the Port is to protect the publicly owned docks, he said, and other possible solutions, such as lightly electrified pads, didn't work out.

"I'm also curious to see where the sea lions go," Knight said, adding jokingly he hopes they won't make their way to the Port's West End Mooring Basin.

Commissioner Stephen Fulton asked about an offer he'd heard in the community to build a sea lion-specific dock.

Mike Weston, the Port's director of business development and operations, said sometime last year, the Port had been approached by Sea Shepherd with an offer to pay for a sea lion dock. But the offer would have stipulated that the Port expel the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife from the East End Mooring Basin, Weston added, and the Port can't control what the state does.

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coast weekend



THURSDAY

Crabs!

