

SCRATCHPAD

Islands of sand

By **LISSA BREWER**
COAST WEEKEND EDITOR



The Columbia River has historically been home to many a Sand Island, from the mouth of Baker Bay to the dunes of Rooster Rock State Park. Near St. Helens, more than 50 campsites mark the 32-acre Sand Island Marine Park, a popular getaway with trails, a volleyball court and marina store.

Despite the name, however, none of these islands are fully composed of sand. Near the mouth of the Columbia, Baker Bay's Sand Island houses a mature forest and network of shrubs. However, many low-lying islands within the Columbia River estuary, includ-

ing East Sand Island, rise and fall with the tides. Other large sandbars, sometimes large enough to be considered islands, can be seen at low tide from the Astoria Bridge.

Despite its close proximity to Chinook, Washington, the 62-acre East Sand Island is a part of Oregon. It's a notable spot for bird-watchers, supporting some of the world's largest nesting colonies of both Caspian terns and double-crested cormorants.

These migrating seabirds spend time across the estuary's islands of sand, feasting on smolt, salmon and steelhead. They're visible from a distance and, aside from the few adventurous boaters who make the trip, are most often seen through binoculars, as are the curious islands themselves.



Lissa Brewer

A flock of cormorants fly above a group of ships. The Columbia River estuary contains many wetlands and islands of sand, which host many species of birds.

our coast weekend

ON THE COVER

Children study items under a microscope in front of the Seaside Aquarium.



STAFF AND CONTRIBUTORS

COAST WEEKEND EDITOR

LISSA BREWER

CALENDAR COORDINATOR

SARAH SMITH

CONTRIBUTORS

DAVID CAMPICHE
M.J. CODY
ALYSSA EVANS
KATHERINE LACAZE
NANCY MCCARTHY
BARBARA LLOYD MCMICHAEL
LAURI KRAMER SERAFIN

To advertise in Coast Weekend, call 503-325-3211 or contact your local sales representative.

© 2022 COAST WEEKEND



Find it all online!

DiscoverOurCoast.com

find our event calendar,
search for articles, share on
social media and more

Coast Weekend is published every Thursday by the EO Media Group, all rights reserved. No part of this publication can be reproduced without consent of the publisher. Coast Weekend appears weekly in The Astorian and the Chinook Observer.

TO SUBMIT AN ITEM

Phone: 503.325.3211 Ext. 217 or 800.781.3211

Fax: 503.325.6573

E-mail: editor@discoverourcoast.com

Address: P.O.Box 210 • 949 Exchange St. Astoria, OR 97103

PAPA PRESENTS

Letters to

Anne of Green Gables

Based on the books by L.M. Montgomery | Adapted by Lydia Lonquist & Benji Inniger

July 8th - July 31st
Fri. & Sat. 7pm | Sun. 2pm
Fort Columbia Theater Chinook, WA
NO DISCOVER PASS NEEDED

 
@papatheater


Scan Me!

 PENINSULA ASSOCIATION OF PERFORMING ARTISTS

Tickets & Info @ papatheater.com
Also at Okie's Thriftway or by phone 360-836-4488