

SCRATCHPAD

THE MONTHLY STACK

Castle Rock, Arch Cape

By **LISSA BREWER**
COAST WEEKEND EDITOR



For some shorebird colonies nesting among the North Coast's churning seas, home is a castle in the Pacific. It's one admired by beachcombers, gardeners and travelers, named so for its turret-like outline as viewed from the shore.

Sitting just over a half mile offshore from Arch Cape, Castle Rock is home to flocks of brown pelicans, common murrelets, western gulls and many other migratory

birds. Like more than 1,800 of its sister monoliths up and down the Oregon Coast, the sea stack is part of the Oregon Islands National Wildlife Refuge, a series of rocks, reefs and headlands stretching from Tillamook Head to the Oregon-California border.

This castle of the sea was formed by a lava flow known as the Columbia River flood basalts, a finding that dates the rock to an age of about 15 million years. Its presence indicates a series of prehistoric eruptions and ancient shorelines. Formed by soft sediments spread to the coast by the Columbia River, it remains a beacon among today's coastal castles.



Castle Rock sits offshore from an Arch Cape garden.

Lissa Brewer

our coast weekend

ON THE COVER



Maypole dancers at a previous Finnish American Folk Festival.

STAFF AND CONTRIBUTORS

COAST WEEKEND EDITOR

LISSA BREWER

CALENDAR COORDINATOR

SARAH SMITH

CONTRIBUTORS

ZOE BUCHLI
DAVID CAMPICHE
M.J. CODY
PETER KORCHNAK
BARBARA LLOYD McMICHAEL
CHANCE SOLEM-PFEIFER

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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

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