

# SCRATCHPAD

## THE MONTHLY STACK

# The Needles, Cannon Beach

By **LISSA BREWER**  
COAST WEEKEND EDITOR



Home to a labyrinth of intertidal waters containing ochre stars, green anemones, nudibranchs and mussels, the Needles rest in the southern shadow of Cannon Beach's best-known monolith, the 235-foot Haystack Rock.

A close look at the set of towering sea stacks, popular with photographers looking to capture cascading sun rays and layers of mist, reveals a colony of nesting cormorants and the resting silhouettes of resident gulls.

During summer's lowest tides, the closest of these shoreline towers is accessible by foot – but not without careful crossing. The seafloor near these rocks is a vast network teeming with marine life. The lower the tide falls, the more layers of the Needles are revealed, with layers of kelp, shellfish and other tidepool creatures.

As one sign, placed by the Haystack Rock Awareness Program, puts it: "I'm not just a rock, I'm a home." They're referring to these rocks' larger cousin, but everything here is connected.

Lissa Brewer/The Astorian

**The Needles are a set of sea stacks sitting just south of Haystack Rock in Cannon Beach.**



# our coast weekend

## ON THE COVER

A squadron of pelicans, a sight growing more common in recent years in wetlands and rivers across the Columbia-Pacific region.



PHOTO BY  
PAT WELLE

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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

### STAFF AND CONTRIBUTORS

#### COAST WEEKEND EDITOR

LISSA BREWER

#### CALENDAR COORDINATOR

SARAH SMITH

#### CONTRIBUTORS

ZOE BUCHLI

DAVID CAMPICHE

REBECCA LEXA

BARBARA LLOYD McMICHAEL

PATRICK WEBB

GREGORY ZSCHOMLER

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