

'Haunted Astoria' short story contest back from the dead

ASTORIA — The Haunted Astoria Short Story Writing Contest returns after an eight-year sabbatical.

The deadline for entries is Saturday, Oct. 6. There is a \$6 entry fee for the first story and \$4 for additional story submissions by the same author. An author may submit up to three entries.

The 2018 theme is Graveyard of the Pacific. "We give artistic reign for authors to interpret the theme," coordinator Cyndi Mudge said.

Scoring includes how writers incorporate the history, landscape or historic buildings and landmarks of the area — including those that no longer exist — into their story. "However, this is intended to be fiction, so let the imaginations flourish!" Mudge said.

The contest includes a writer's showcase where a sampling of submissions will be read and winners announced at Inferno Lounge 6 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 24.

There are cash prizes for the top three winners: \$125 for first place; \$85 for second place and \$50 for third place.

Inferno Lounge is located on Pier 11 overlooking the Columbia River.



COURTESY CYNDI MUDGE

The 'Graveyard of the Pacific'

Three judges have been selected to review all submissions: Mac Burns, executive director of the Clatsop County Historical Society; Ryan Hume, Clatsop Community College writing instructor and faculty advisor for Rain magazine; and Dinah Urell, publisher of Hipfish and organizer of KALA events.

Stories must be submitted electronically via email at ExploreHauntedAstoria@gmail.com and will be verified once fees are submitted.

The contest was originally part of a collaborative Haunted Astoria weekend of self-guided tours, movies and paranormal studies put together by the Astoria-Warrenton Area Chamber of Commerce, Astoria Sunday Market, the Clatsop County Historical Society and the Liberty Theatre in 2008. Mudge coordinated the writing contest as the market's contribution and is now bringing the event back under Mudge Media, the name under which Mudge conducts freelance work

and is guaranteeing the cash prizes.

Additional sponsors are being sought for promotion and adding to the prize packages that can include in-kind contributions. Sponsors will be acknowledged in the promotional program guide being printed in conjunction with the contest and distributed in October.

For more information about the contest or sponsorship, visit HauntedAstoria.com or email ExploreHauntedAstoria@gmail.com.

Sign up early for fall youth sports

ASTORIA — With fall just around the corner, the Astoria Parks and Recreation Department is bringing back the Youth Sports programs.

Registration is open for the following programs:

- **Brazilian Jiu Jitsu:** an introductory class for children ages 7 and up. Classes run for seven weeks and are held Monday evenings at the Astoria Recreation Center.

- **Flag Football:** The popular flag football program is open for children in first and second grade. Games and practices will be played at Evergreen Fields and CMH Field.

- **Boys' and Girls' Basketball:** Registration is open for grades first, second, fifth and sixth. Games are played at Astoria Middle School.

For more information, check out the department's seasonal guide for everything they have planned for the rest of the year. Visit astoriaparks.com.

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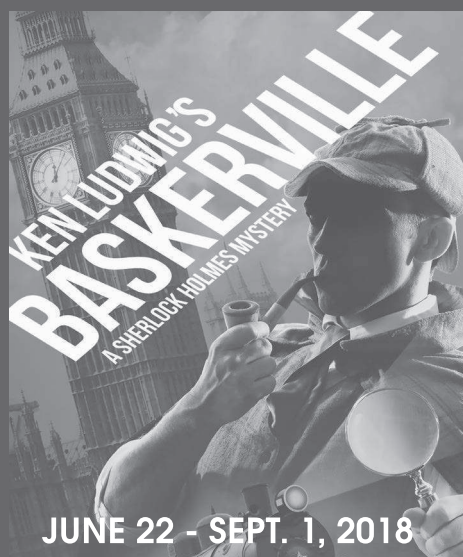
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MILITARY & KIDS 6-12: \$5,
KIDS 5 & UNDER: FREE. PARKING \$5

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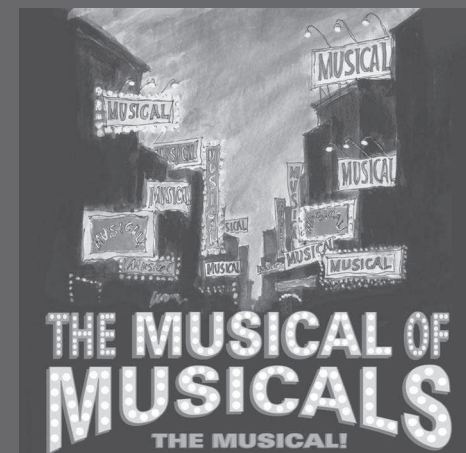
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