

'Whimsical' art contest taking entries for Round 2

Spruce Up Warrenton is sponsoring Round 2 of its Whimsical Warrenton Art Contest. The contest theme is "Unity in Our Community."

Resident Tricia Tamcke won Round 1 with her colorful watercolor of a lighthouse and the many things for which the city is known: storm clouds, great sunsets, the surf, the forest, seafood, the Peter Iredale shipwreck and its Native American history.

She won a \$25 gift certificate for groceries at Main Street Market.

Round 2 is for artwork that's three-dimensional, such as sculpture, textiles, pottery and jewelry.

The contest is open to residents of Warrenton and Hammond. Entries are due by 6 p.m. Sunday, June 21.



Tricia Tamcke's winning entry.

Participants should email photos of their creations to spruceupwarrenton@gmail.com.

The photos will be posted on the group's Facebook page, where the public can vote on them.

The winner will get a \$25 gift certificate.

UO research could resolve otter problem

By JIM BARLOW
University of Oregon

Scientists are probing archaeological evidence to learn how indigenous people used sea otters, and their findings could help Oregonians who want to reintroduce them on the coast as well as Alaskans dealing with growing numbers of the mammals.

Before fur traders decimated sea otter populations from Alaska to Oregon, ancestors of at least one Alaskan indigenous population, the Tlingit, hunted the mammals for their pelts but probably not for food, according to a study by University of Oregon anthropologist Madonna Moss.

Her research, published in April in *American Antiquity*, took on questions about traditional use by native populations amid calls to expand harvesting.

Since their reintroduction in the 1960s, the population of sea otters has spiraled

Only Alaska Natives living along the coast are permitted under federal law to hunt sea otters for subsistence. Pelts are used for clothing, bedding, hats and other regalia.

Some environmentalists have challenged the right of Alaska Natives to hunt sea



Ryan Wolf/University of Oregon

Two otters cavort off the coast of Alaska.

otters without eating their meat. Conservationists want to show that native populations regularly did so as part of their case for allowing larger-scale harvesting for consumption.

The idea comes amid rising tensions. Sea otters have altered ecosystems, making it more difficult for commercial fisherman to catch abalone, clams, Dungeness crabs, red sea urchins and other invertebrates the otters consume.

From 1996 to 2005, the industry was reported to have experienced an economic loss of \$11.2 million.

Populations from Alaska to California hunted sea otters for thousands of years, Moss said. As sea otters

recolonize their historic range, finding out whether other native populations ate sea otter meat is worthy of attention, she said.

"Hunting sea otters and using sea otter skins has been a Tlingit and Haida cultural tradition for thousands of years," said Moss, a professor in the Department of Anthropology and curator of zooarchaeology at the Museum of Natural and Cultural History.

Moss examined 461 sea otter and 195 seal specimens found among 940 bones previously collected at two of 16 southeast Alaska sites. Moss examined them for telltale signatures of human modifications that result from using sea otters for different purposes.

Moss excavated the two sites in the 1980s when she was studying fish and shellfish remains as part of her research on subsistence economies of the Anagoon Tlingit.

Efforts to reintroduce sea otters to the Oregon coast failed in the 1970s, but amid fresh calls to try again, a current UO project could prove to be helpful.

Sea otter sightings on the coast are rare and are thought to reflect temporary visits.

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