

Nemlowill: Zetty has been in immersion mode

Continued from Page 1A



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City Councilor Zetty Nemlowill hopes to engage with young parents and families on issues such as the Astoria library renovation and a better trail system.

is still unsure about the city's plan to renovate the library.

Like Price, she was interested in the one-time talk of a

land swap with the American Legion that could bring the library to Heritage Square. Nemlowill tentatively sup-

ports expanding the library into the old Waldorf Hotel, also known as the Merwyn — the plan new Mayor Arline LaMear favors — but wants to see a structural assessment of the Waldorf and hear from the public before making up her mind.

She has heard from preservationists who are pleading with the city not to tear down the Waldorf, a long vacant, yet authentic, slice of the city's past.

"I have heard feedback from the public concerned with demolishing the former Merwyn Hotel, so I need more information," she said.

Perspective

Matt Van Ess, a habitat restoration coordinator for

the Columbia River Estuary Study Taskforce, who supported Nemlowill's election campaign, said she brings a valuable perspective to the City Council.

Many younger people, Van Ess said, have taken a "watch, but not participate" approach to the city's policy debates.

"So it's great to see someone step up and be willing to serve who has a young family and is active in the community," he said.

Nemlowill, who said she has been in immersion mode getting familiar with city issues and council procedures since taking office earlier this month, can sometimes struggle to find the right balance.

After watching LaMear and Price hold public meet-

and-greet events this month, she hastily arranged a "Coffee with Zetty" Thursday morning at the Blue Scorchers Bakery & Cafe.

"We're busy business people and really dedicated to our family as well," she said. "It's important to me to cook dinner and make healthy foods for my family. It's important that the kids get to go to activities such as dance class and swimming lessons and soccer.

"And I get all that done and then I — after the kids go to bed or during nap time or on weekends — I get caught up on talking to constituents or doing my reading for City Council.

"I just squeeze it in wherever I can."

Trial: 'This case is not much of a whodunnit'

Continued from Page 1A

'There are not a lot of red herrings. It is what it is.'

— **Josh Marquis**
Clatsop County District Attorney

decided whether or not to pursue the death penalty, mostly due to the fact that he has received zero evidence from the defense.

The defense's deadline for discovery, or evidence, is April 7 and the prosecution's deadline is Jan. 30.

Marquis told the court moving the trial back six or seven months would be acceptable, but two years is ridiculous.

"This case is not much of a whodunnit," Marquis said. "There are not a lot of red herrings. It is what it is."

The defense said it suggested a summer 2016 date, in part, as a courtesy to Alana Smith, who will be on summer break from school. The defense did compromise by saying an earlier trial date around April 2016 would be possible.

Greg Smith, who spoke over the phone at the hearing Thursday, said he would rather have the trial in summer 2016 than the spring when Alana is in school.

Alana Smith never attended school in her life until en-



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Jessica Smith, appears with her attorneys William Falls, back, and Lynne Morgan, foreground at the Clatsop County Courthouse for a status hearing. Smith is accused of drugging and murdering her 2-year-old daughter and attempting to kill her 13-year-old daughter in a Cannon Beach hotel last summer.

rolling this year. She remains in the custody of her father in Washington.

"I think it would be preferable to wait," he said.

Before setting the trial date, Judge Cindee Matyas asked Jessica Smith if she was OK with waiting two years from the time of her arrest for trial.

"Yes, I am your honor,"

Jessica Smith said.

Jessica Smith then waived her right to a speedy trial. She appeared in court Thursday wearing makeup, a yellow jumpsuit and her hair in a loose bun. She remains in Tillamook County Jail without the possibility of posting bail.

The next scheduled court hearing is set for May 12.



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Clatsop County District Attorney Josh Marquis speaks with prosecuting attorney Dawn Buzzard after the Jessica Smith status hearing at the Clatsop County Courthouse.



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Clatsop County District Attorney Josh Marquis rubs his forehead during the Jessica Smith status hearing at the Clatsop County Courthouse.



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Defense attorney William Falls makes a statement during a status hearing for Jessica Smith at the Clatsop County Courthouse Thursday.

Wreck: Ship remnants likely to remain buried in the sand

Continued from Page 1A

The tests being performed will not account for age, though Christopher Dewey, a volunteer at the Columbia River Maritime Museum, examined the site and estimated that the ship was built in the 20th century.

"It's really a process of elimination," Griffin said. "You look at reported wrecks in the area and try to determine would this size of an ar-

tifact be from one ship rather than another? Trying to nail that down to one particular wreck, that can be very difficult."

That is, in part, because where a ship was known to sink and where it may wash up can be vastly different.

"We've known boats to hit a sandbar off the Columbia but found the wrecks had floated down 20-some miles or so to Arch Cape," Griffin said. Historically, lost ships

are more likely not to be found, he said.

"Over 3,000 wrecks are known to be off the coast of Oregon," he said. "We have the locations of a little over 300 in our database."

Regardless of whether or not the wreck beneath the dunes in Seaside is identified, it's likely to remain where it is — buried in the sand.

"Once a piece of a ship that's been in a water-logged state leaves the beach, or

leaves that environment, it will dry and fall apart," Griffin said. "It would need to be placed in a tank — in a plastic solution — that protects it. I don't know of any place on the West Coast that has a tank large enough to hold that piece. This piece of wood is huge. It would cost tens-upon-tens-of-thousands of dollars to protect that wood."

"The best environment it could be in is right where it is

now," he said. "It's being preserved right there."

The worth of the find, he added, is purely informational.

"We place the value, archaeologywise, on the historical value," he said. "What those sites have is our potential to tell us more about our past."

"Shipwrecks tie us more into the land that we now live in," he added. "Whether it's the logging industry, whether it's commercial trade or fish-

ing trade, whatever it was, it's all important."

"The wreck itself might be important because, perhaps, it was a fishing trawler that sunk in a storm in the 1930s," Griffin said. "If so, it tells us more about the expanse of people going out there to harvest fish to feed the growing cities."

"So it's about historical value," he said. "We don't place monetary value on these sites."



Photos by JEFF TER HAR — For The Daily Astorian

Part of a ship's keel was discovered last November by



The wood found two months ago by two Seaside residents comes from a ship, according to the state archaeol-



The best environment to preserve a ship recently discovered buried in sand on the Seaside beach is under the sand, says the state's archaeologist.