



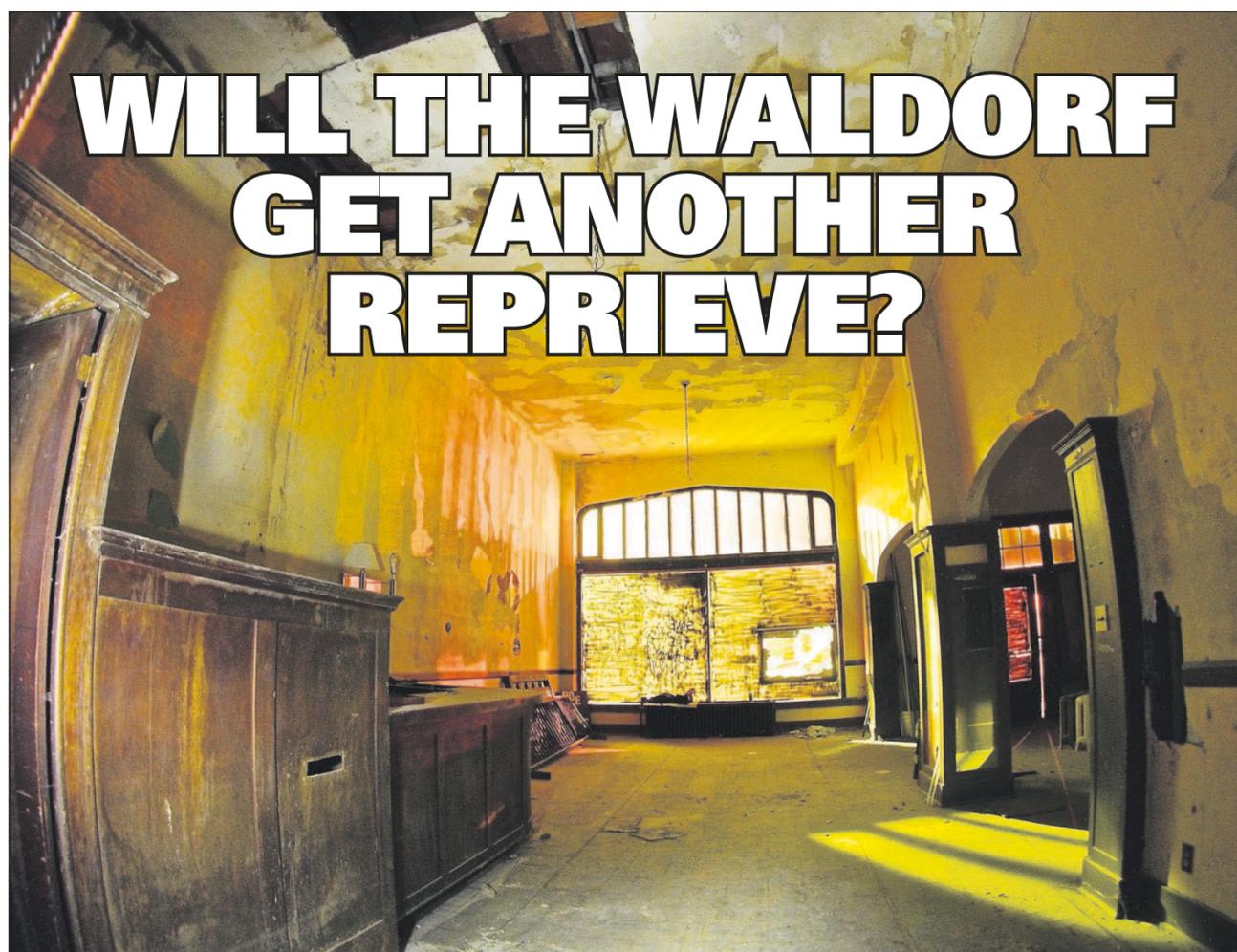
THE DAILY ASTORIAN



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ONE DOLLAR



WILL THE WALDORF GET ANOTHER REPRIEVE?

Photo by Jeff Daly

This photo is part of an exhibit at Toni's Boutique, 1130 Commercial St., during the Saturday Art Walk. Shot at night with a 3-minute exposure, this is the Waldorf Hotel lobby with the registration desk in the foreground. Someone scraped some of the paint off the front window to give passers-by a glimpse into this building, which has been shuttered for more than two decades. In its day, the entrance was impressive with 14-foot ceilings.

Astoria library expansion into the venerable, but vacant, hotel in doubt

By DERRICK DePLEDGE
The Daily Astorian

Community Action Team Inc., a St. Helens nonprofit that helps combat poverty, conducted a two-year study on the potential redevelopment of the old Waldorf Hotel and came to some unavoidable conclusions: the historic hotel appears to have little, if any, value in its current condition. And it is clear that demolition is not yet an acceptable answer to many in Astoria.

That was in 2004. A decade later, Astoria appears to be in exactly the same place.

The Astoria City Council might undo a decision made last year to expand the Astoria Public Library into the Waldorf, sparing the vacant hotel between the library and City Hall from a wrecking ball that has hovered since the building was closed for health and safety code violations in 1989.

Mayor Arline LaMear, who supports the estimated \$4.6 million library renovation into the Waldorf, has called a work session Tuesday to hear where the council stands. Three councilors — Drew Herzig and the newly elected Zetty Nemlowill and Cindy Price — have misgivings about the library renovation plan, suggesting that the council might change direction.

"I want to make sure that this is a council decision, not a personal

one," said LaMear, a retired librarian, who hopes the council will instruct city staff how to proceed after the work session.

Price would prefer the focus be back on the library, which has structural and accessibility challenges, and not the fate of the Waldorf. She would also like to put the library into the broader context of urban renewal, such as the redevelopment of Heritage Square.

"I just really want us to look outside the box," she told residents Thursday afternoon at a "salonical," or meet-and-greet, at the library.

Exploring other options for the library would take the City Council off the track it had committed to last year — a track endorsed by the city's Library Board — and provide another unlikely reprieve for the Waldorf.

Politics, preservation

The latest spark to spare the Waldorf, formerly known as the Merwyn, was triggered by politics and historic preservation.

Larry Taylor, the Intel technology manager who lost to LaMear in the November election, opposed the demolition of the Waldorf during the campaign. A Save the Historic Merwyn Hotel Facebook page — which shares a similar

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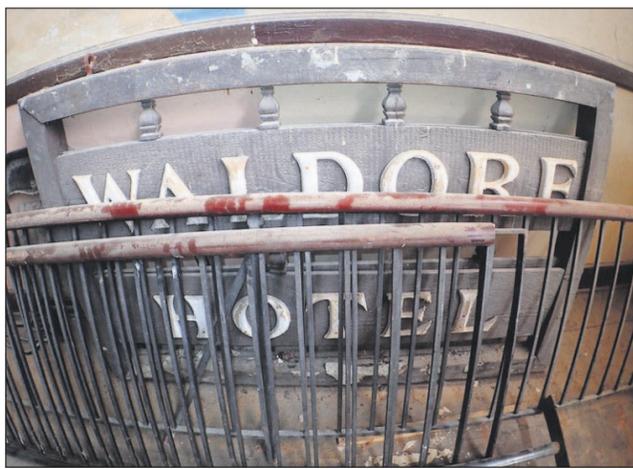


Photo by Jeff Daly

The Waldorf Hotel sign behind some railings inside the Merwyn Building.

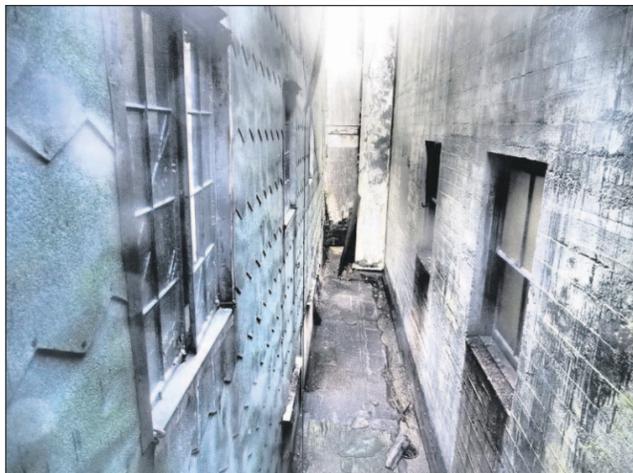


Photo by Jeff Daly

The east wall of the hotel is almost attached to the remodeled Astoria City Hall. This the light well between the two buildings.

Seaside couple's trial set in toddler murder

Judge denies defense request to bar cameras

By KYLE SPURR
The Daily Astorian

A trial date has been scheduled for the mother and her live-in boyfriend accused of murdering the woman's 2-year-old daughter at their Seaside home Dec. 20.

Dorothy Ann Wing, 24, and Randy Lee Roden, 26, are tentatively scheduled for trial beginning April 5, 2016. The couple will be tried together as co-defendants at the trial.

The couple appeared Thursday in Clatsop County Circuit Court, which was heavily secured with a metal detector outside the courtroom and half a dozen security officers on guard.

Roden allegedly made threats prior to the hearing regarding media cameras in the courtroom.

Roden's defense lawyer Conor Huseby filed an objection before Thursday's hearing to deny both still and video cameras in the courtroom.

Judge Paula Brownhill denied Huseby's objection, stating there has to be a substantial reason to bar cameras. At this point in the case, Brownhill felt there was no such reason.

"What I'm asking for is not crazy," Huseby said. "It happens in federal courtrooms every single day across the county."

Most of Thursday's hearing was spent on finding a trial date. Both the prosecution and defense said they have other capital murder cases in the next year, so scheduling would be limited.

The prosecution specifically cited their preparation for the June 2016 trial of Jessica Smith, the mother 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.

The lawyers on both sides initially wanted a trial in fall 2016, but Brownhill refused to wait that long, citing the defendants' right to a speedy trial.

Huseby felt an earlier trial date would end up being pushed back anyway, and both parties would not be properly prepared. He said it traditionally takes at least 18 months to prepare.

Brownhill allowed the possibility of postponing the trial date if requested at a later hearing.

"The enormity of the job we have to do is massive," Huseby said. "It's a huge undertaking."

Wing, who is being represented by defense lawyer John Gutbezahl of

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Democrats ask Governor Kitzhaber to quit

Party leaders say trust is gone

By PETER WONG
and HILLARY BORRUD
Capital Bureau

SALEM — Gov. John Kitzhaber is now under renewed pressure by Democratic leaders to resign in response to the influence-peddling allegations against him and first lady Cylvia Hayes.

Senate President Peter Courtney, D-Salem, said he and House Speaker Tina Kotek, D-Portland, urged the Democratic chief executive to resign — just one month into his fourth term — when they met in the governor's private office Thursday.

Kitzhaber's response? "The man is struggling," Courtney told reporters afterward, though he declined to

speculate about the mental state of Kitzhaber, who turns 68 March 5.

Kotek was also unsure of Kitzhaber's plans.

"I really don't know," Kotek said. "I really don't know. He did not give any indication either way."

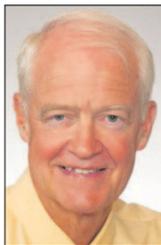
Although Courtney and Kotek agreed Kitzhaber should resign, they cited different reasons.

"It has become clear to both of us that the ongoing investigations surrounding the governor and Cylvia Hayes have resulted in a loss of the people's trust, and have undermined his ability to effectively lead as our state's chief executive," Kotek said.

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Gov. John A. Kitzhaber



Peter Courtney



AP Photo/Timothy J. Gonzalez

Media gather around Oregon House Speaker Tina Kotek during a news conference in her office at the Capitol, Salem, Thursday. Oregon's top Democrats urged Gov. John Kitzhaber to resign Thursday, saying he cannot lead the state effectively amid a growing ethics scandal involving his fiancée, a green-energy consultant accused of using her relationship with the governor to land contracts for her business.

