



JOSHUA BESSEX — The Daily Astorian
The Astoria Public Library and Waldorf Hotel are seen from the roof of The Daily Astorian office Tuesday.

Council: 'It's not going to happen unless the whole town is behind it'

Continued from Page 1A

"Nobody cares about this more than Mayor LaMear does. Nobody has been on this for as long as Mayor LaMear" has, Herzig said. "If she's willing to step back and say, 'Maybe we need to go a different direction.' I think that's incredible on her part."

Other councilors also welcomed LaMear's proposal to separate the fates of the library and the Waldorf. The library's long-standing problems, which include aging infrastructure and a lack of accessibility for the disabled, have been overshadowed recently by the attention on saving the hotel.

Back to the Waldorf

But in the course of a nearly two-hour discussion, councilors circled back to where they started and were unable to untangle the library and the Waldorf.

Councilors said they would also entertain an idea from Ted Osborn, the president of the Lower Columbia Preservation Society and a retired architect, to expand the library into the basement and first floor of the Waldorf and use the upper floors of the hotel for housing.

The preservation society has led the campaign to save the Waldorf, which preservationists view as an example of Late Commercial with Renaissance detailing and an important component of the city's historic downtown. The hotel, built in 1926, was closed for health and safety code violations in 1989.

"Sure you have to gut the library, you have to gut the Merwyn, but then you've

got a lot of solid value there," said Osborn, who told the council he has been drafting plans for a melded library and hotel.

LaMear said she has "grave doubts" but did not object to looking at Osborn's idea.

Councilor Russ Warr initially warned that it would be a "real slap in the face" to the library board for the council to step away from the library renovation plan. The library board had recommended the renovation plan after extensive study and public feedback.

"My fear is that we're going to get into a position where we're not ever going to renovate the library or do anything with the Merwyn Hotel because it's going to get so messed up that nobody's going to want to touch it," he said.

Yet Warr said he is interested in seeing Osborn's idea for a blended library and hotel.

David Oser, who serves on the library board, said afterward that the library renovation plan does not have the necessary support from the community.

Several observers have complained that the renovation plan was crafted with the presumption that the Waldorf would be demolished and the library's budget and staff would be not be increased, which at the time restricted the options available.

A new or renovated library will need both public and private money to succeed and financing would likely be difficult if the community is divided.

"It's not going to happen unless the whole town is behind it," Oser said.



Photo courtesy of Glenn Lamb

Klickitat County rancher Bill Giersch sold hundreds of acres of his property to the Columbia Land Trust in 2001, said Columbia Land Trust Executive Director Glenn Lamb, after rebuffing efforts by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to make it a wildlife refuge.

Forum: Despite progress, there's much more work to do

Continued from Page 1A

holding on average between 500 and 1,000 acres, Lamb said. The land trust is working with the Washington Farm and Forestry Association to create a program to help families with increasing land costs and no successors to conserve their land and get revenue from it.

Klickitat County rancher Bill Giersch, distrusted the government but loved and cared for his land, Lamb said. He eventually sold hundreds of acres along the Klickitat River in south-central Washington to Columbia Land Trust in honor of his wife Mary Giersch's wishes.

Frank Glenn IV, a fourth-generation cranberry farmer from Cranguyma Farms on the Long Beach (Wash.) Peninsula asked for help preserving 3.5 miles of untouched forests that was to be divided among his siblings. With help from \$1 million in donations from a woman in Florida and another \$900,000 from



JOSHUA BESSEX — The Daily Astorian

Glenn Lamb, executive director of the Columbia Land Trust, spoke to a full room at the Columbia Forum Thursday.

Portland Trail Blazers owner Paul Allen, Lamb said, the land trust was able to buy and preserve the land.

The land trust takes in about \$1 million in donations annually from about 3,000 people. But with donated land, he added, it's able to conserve about \$30 worth of land for every \$1 donated.

But despite all the progress, Lamb said, there's much more work to do.

Marbled murrelet populations are still decreasing by 10 percent per year, he said, and regulations meant to protect them are harming rural economies.

"It's time to move past the antagonism of the tim-

ber-salmon wars," Lamb said, calling for a common vision, possibly informed by the cultures of Native Americans who have lived with the land for thousands of years.

After observing a moment of silence for Ray Gardner, former chairman of the Chinook Indian Nation who died Feb. 3, Lamb recounted "The Big Promise," a story told to him by a member of the Umatilla tribe about how to strike a delicate balance.

In the story, the creator sent the coyote down from the top of the mountains to the river to ask the animals of the world for gifts in the creation of humans. In exchange for those gifts, humans must promise to protect the animals and nature, now and for future generations.

All people have a creation story, Lamb said, and all people are connected to the earth.

"The answer lies in supporting the entire fabric of life that surrounds us every day."

Log ship: Trip has been daunting for ship's crew

Continued from Page 1A

nine months. The negotiations have soured recently, with PMA members shutting down all West Coast vessel loading the weekend of Feb. 7 and more recently on Thursday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday.

The trip has been especially daunting for Li's crew, which he said never got to leave the vessel because they didn't have immigrant visas. With the two to three weeks each way across the Pacific and the two weeks in Astoria, the crew will have spent about two months straight on the vessel by the time it reaches China.

Li said he lives in the Fujian province in southeastern China, a long way from Beijing, which he added is the only place Chinese can get immigrant visas, making it difficult to get the designation.

The Bunun Fortune will arc north along the Pacific, said Li, passing by the Aleutian Islands and the Bering Sea. A trip to pick up logs usually takes about two months, he said, and the crew's contract is for eight to nine months.

The log ship African Swan is expected by tonight, Port Executive Director Jim Knight said.

Meanwhile, President Barack Obama has sent Secretary of State Tom Perez to California to mediate contract negotiations between the ILWU and the PMA. Longshoremens have been without a contract since July 1, as negotiations have dragged on for more than nine months.



EDWARD STRATTON — The Daily Astorian

Port of Astoria Executive Director Jim Knight, right, presented Capt. Wang You Li with an Oregon-shaped plaque commemorating the Bunun Fortune, which was completed in Imabari, Japan, in November and made its maiden voyage to Astoria earlier this month.



The watchdog role of the Oregon Attorney General

March 3rd Ellen Rosenblum

Rosenblum is Attorney General of Oregon

TO ATTEND:

For Members:
Dinner & Lecture: \$30 ea.
Lecture only: no charge

For Non-Members:
Dinner & Lecture: \$40 ea.
Lecture only: \$15 ea.

Appetizers will be available at 6 p.m.

Dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m.

The speaker will begin after the dinner service is complete and non-dinner members and guests of the audience take their seats.

Forum to be held at the CMH Community Center at 2021 Exchange St., Astoria.

LIMITED SEATING
RESERVE YOUR SPACE TODAY!

ColumbiaForum

FOR RESERVATION OR TO JOIN COLUMBIA FORUM CONTACT:
Holly Larkins at 503.325.3211 ext. 227 or forum@dailyastorian.com by Feb.27th, 2015

Columbia Forum is sponsored by:

The Daily Astorian • Craft3 • OSU Seafood Laboratory • KMUN-FM
Cannery Pier Hotel & Spa

OUR COAST

M A G A Z I N E



2015 Edition
Coming February 25

in The Daily Astorian and Chinook Observer

This annual regional travel magazine showcases the place we call home – and the place people love to visit.

Discover all the wonderful attractions, lively entertainment and local quirks of the Columbia-Pacific region.

DiscoverOurCoast.com