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install lights under vault light panels; Paul Caruana, who owns the Astor and Norblad buildings and recently removed vault lights at the Norblad; and John Goodenberger, who discusses the city's history of vault lights; and Jensen.

"(Vault lights are) easy to overlook but they're an intriguing topic once we got into it. You always see them downtown but you never really hear about them," Jensen said. "We have several of them right outside our door (of the society). It's kind of like a fish-bowl because we see people all day long stopping, looking and taking photos of them."

Earlier this year, the society put up window displays on the vault lights near the society's entrance so people could learn about them without needing to go inside the society. Ray also created a short video on vault lights toward the beginning of her internship.

"They're so interesting. In each interview I learned more with each person I talked to. They're not the same as they were in the 1920s because obviously they've changed over time but they still resemble what was once there," Ray said. "They're one of our unique everyday surroundings."

Hit the pavement

Ray and Jensen suggest listening to the podcast while going for a walk around town to view the lights.

One spot worth looking at is near U.S. Bank, Jensen said.

"We walked over there and were both amazed that we had just never noticed this integrated brick pattern in the sidewalk that may or may not be a reference to the lights but it was still just a unique sidewalk pattern that goes almost around the entire block," Jensen said.

Vault light panels may also be unique because of weather exposure and how they were made, Jensen said.

While the lights have been around locally for almost a century, they aren't officially considered to be historic, adding some complications to the process to preserve and restore the lights. People interested in advocating for vault light preservation can join different groups, like the society, Clatsop Community College's historic preservation program or the Astoria Downtown Historic District Association, Jensen said.

"They're important to preserve in Astoria because they've been here so long. And like it says in the podcast, there aren't that many panels around. They do have them in some areas but they're not everywhere. It's sort of one of those historical things we



Photos by Lower Columbia Preservation Society
TOP: A glass tile is removed before being replaced. **ABOVE:** New glass tiles made by Jamie Boyd. **RIGHT:** A restored vault light panel, outside Table 360 Bakery & Bistro.

have in Astoria," Ray said.

"I think they bring a lot of attraction because you don't always see them in everyday life," Ray said. "It's important to respect the sidewalk and pay attention that this is something that's historic in Astoria."

