

Publisher: Yingst's first edition of paper publishes Jan. 6

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He heard back from Hal and Edla Allen, who bought the Columbia Press in 1962 and moved it from Astoria to Warrenton in 1978. Nevan said the paper started as a Finnish-language publication in 1922, becoming a countywide English weekly in the 1940s.

Nevan said taking over the newspaper so young and green was like being a deer in the headlights, involving 10- to 12-hour days, six days a week, manually cutting and pasting the content each week on large typesetting machines.

Nevan credited his wife of 18 years, Trish, with helping modernize the paper. Nevan is editor and publisher, while she does advertisements and layout. The newspaper includes a collection of regular contributors from senior lunch columnist Emma Edwards, who writes a senior column, to Warrenton Mayor Mark Kujala.

In sickness and in health, and even during power outages amid the Great Coastal Gale of 2007, Nevan said, he always met his deadlines.

"We're just going to take a little breather," he said of stopping. "It's been a long haul for us, week after week. Weekly deadlines, it kind of takes its toll after a while."

Nevan's last edition is Dec. 30.

Kujala, at a City Commission meeting Tuesday night, recognized Nevan as a "voice for this community through the Columbia Press."

Nevan's work, the mayor said, "has been very important to give the community information on what's going on."

Back to the paper

Yingst, who co-owns the UPS

store in Warrenton's Premarq Center with her husband, isn't new to news. Originally from east of Los Angeles, she studied communications at California State University Dominguez Hills, and after graduation worked nearly 18 years for the San Bernardino Sun, first as a reporter and later as bureau chief and eventually deputy metro editor.

Yingst and her husband moved north in 2000 after visiting Astoria on vacation. She spent her first year in town as the managing editor of The Daily Astorian, learning to create budgets and laying out pages for the first time since college. Yingst joined The Olympian in Olympia, Washington, as a night editor from 2001 to 2006, still living on the North Coast, renting an apartment for work and coming home on the weekends.

Before opening her UPS store in Warrenton 10 years ago, Yingst said, she approached Nevan about buying the Columbia Press, but he wasn't ready to retire. Nevan recently approached her about buying the paper.

"It took some soul-searching, you know," she said. "Newspapers aren't exactly a growing business, but I think there's still plenty of life" in them.

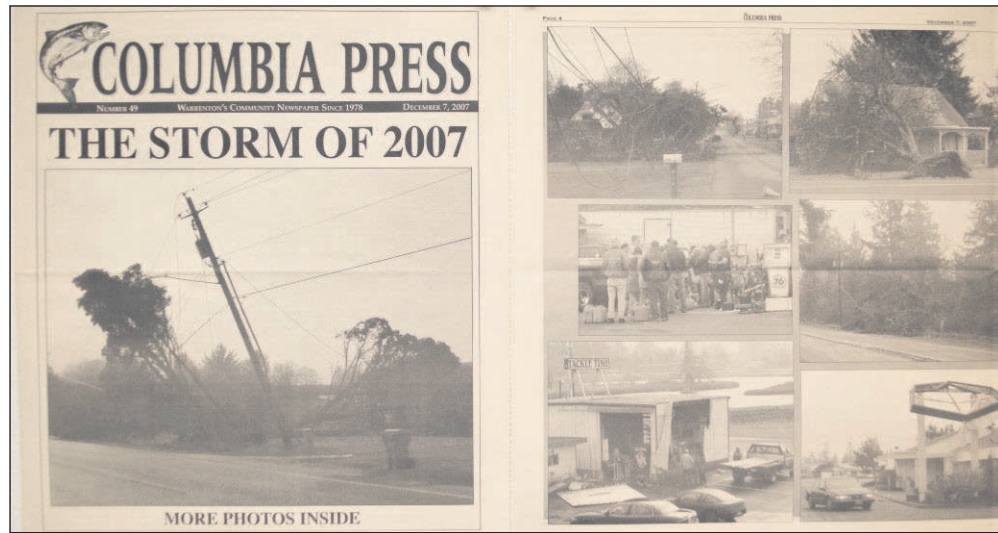
Yingst said she wants to increase the amount of local news coverage. Like Nevan, Yingst said she'll put together most of the paper herself, with her husband running circulation and helping with technology. She's developing a revamped version of www.thecolumbiapress.com, including more online content, and is reaching out to potential freelancers.

Her first edition of Columbia Press publishes Jan. 6.



Edward Stratton/The Daily Astorian

Former newswoman Cindy Yingst's first edition of the Columbia Press will be Jan. 6.



The Columbia Press' coverage of the 2007 storm is pinned to Publisher Gary Nevan's office wall.

Danny Miller
The Daily Astorian

Logo: The word warrior 'itself is our unifying, universal symbol'

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Board member Greg Morrill said it would be nice to have a similar logo throughout, and asked why there hasn't been much community involvement. Heyen said the district can do that if the board

wants, but that there are challenges in reaching consensus.

"I'm really in favor of the coaches being able to put together what they like to have on a uniform, within reason," he said. For right now, I'm really overseeing that, to say, 'Hey, bounce it off me to

make sure we can talk about what's going on.' But I've had some great input on some of the stuff that we've had. Somewhere along the line, something that one of these guys comes up with is going to really resonate within the community."

Jeffery said that in his six years as superintendent, there have been several variations of logos for different teams and schools in the district.

"My position has been ... you can be whatever kind of warrior you want to be in your heart, but we are the Warriors,

and that doesn't really change. The word itself is our unifying, universal symbol."

In other news:

- The district approved a new contract with Jeffery, a retiree in the Public Employees Retirement System who can only work 1,039 hours a

year without having to repay retirement benefits. Jeffery, who started with the district in 2011, will be paid \$250,300 over three years. He has said that using a part-time superintendent saves the district approximately \$250,000 over the life of his contract.

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