

1923-2021

Henningsgaard Miller seen as a transformational figure for the city

First woman to serve as Astoria mayor

The Astorian

Edith Henningsgaard Miller, a transformational figure in late 20th century Astoria, died on Saturday. She was 97.

As the first woman to serve as Astoria mayor, she brought a level of professionalism to City Hall. A number of important Astoria government careers began during her administration, including her city manager, the late Jim Flint, the city's community development director, Paul Benoit, and Ron Louie, who became the first Chinese-American police chief.



Edith Henningsgaard Miller

Her administration was a pivotal moment in the city's life. Planning and urban development work during her seven years set the stage for the civic rebirth that blossomed after she was out of office.

Henningsgaard Miller's storied life included a whirlwind World War II courtship, a late-in-life political candidacy and survival of an airplane crash on the Columbia River.

"My mom lived a long life. She adored her children and her grandchildren and was proud and humbled to have been mayor of Astoria," said Blair Henningsgaard Jr., her son, who serves as city attorney.

Raised in Iowa

Born in 1923, her life began on a Cedar Rapids, Iowa, farm, where she was fourth of five children of German-Irish ancestry. She attended a one-room school,

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graduated from high school at the age of 15 and trained to become a nurse at the University of Iowa.

Edith Gensicke met her first husband, Blair Henningsgaard, at a U.S. Army hospital, where she was a nurse and he was recuperating. Blair Henningsgaard had seen combat action in Bastogne, where his unit was encircled by the German army.

After Blair Henningsgaard proposed marriage during a one-week leave, she said, "No, I don't have any shoes." A physician said he would give Edith his shoe ration stamp. They married in 1945.

Following the war, the newly married Henningsgaards lived in Portland, where the young physician was doing his residency at Good Samaritan. The couple considered moving to South Bend, Washington, when an acquaintance said: "You would be a natural for Astoria."

The Henningsgaards had four children: Blair Jr., Lisa, Jolee and Bill. In those years, Edith raised funds for the American Red Cross, played golf and was president of the League of Women Voters.

After Dr. Henningsgaard died suddenly in 1980, Edith worked for Bobbie McCal-

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BuffaloBills.com

Astoria's Jordan Poyer, in his fifth season with Buffalo, interacts with fans at a training camp practice.

POYER PREPARES FOR NFL SEASON

Astoria grad and Bills shooting for Super Bowl

By GARY HENLEY
The Astorian

There's a treat for NFL fans heading into the new season. With luck, no more cardboard cutouts in the stands, or automated music and fake fan noise over the loudspeakers.

All the way through the Super Bowl, last season had limited numbers of fans, as well as a ban on pregame tailgate parties, with players and coaches having to wear masks on the sidelines.

And who can forget the cardboard cutouts? "That was just weird, man," said Astoria's Jordan Poyer.

Poyer's Buffalo Bills will be one team even more anxious to have a full stadium, since the Bills have one of the most loyal fan bases, giving Buffalo a true home field advantage.

"We're excited to have fans back in the stadiums, and we're excited to give something for them to cheer about," Poyer said earlier this summer, before training camp began.

Poyer's hometown fans caught a glimpse of their hero in June, when he made his first visit to Astoria in over a year and staged an "NFL Experience" workout at CMH Field. He also used the visit to shoot footage for a documentary about his alcoholism, sharing the message, "It's OK to ask for help."



Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian

Local fans cheered for Jordan Poyer at CMH Field for a documentary about the football player.

'I KNOW WHAT I'VE DONE IN THE LEAGUE, PEOPLE KNOW AND SEE WHAT I'VE DONE. I JUST WANT TO KEEP BETTERING MYSELF, AND EVERYTHING ELSE WILL FALL INTO PLACE.'

Jordan Poyer | Buffalo Bills safety

Other than that, his offseason was "as normal as it can get, under the circumstances," Poyer said. "I've just been working, grinding hard, getting ready for the season."

Poyer took a vacation to the Bahamas, "but other than that, I just went back and forth between Florida and Buffalo."

17 games

Besides the real fans and the real noise, the big change in the NFL this season will be its first 17-game schedule. The league has cut one week off of the preseason, and added one game to the regular season. The NFL has been playing

a 16-game schedule since 1978. "We have 17 (regular season) games now," said Poyer, entering his ninth year in the NFL and his fifth in Buffalo. "It will definitely be a grind every season. But as a competitor, that's what you want. You want more games, more TV time, more opportunities to make plays."

And the Bills are ready to break through. After losing four straight Super Bowls in the '90s, Buffalo won its first playoff game since 1995, when the Bills defeated Indianapolis 27-24 in last year's

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College to forgive some student debt

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ
The Astorian

Clatsop Community College is looking to eliminate more than \$400,000 in student debt, an initiative that could provide financial relief for more than 500 students impacted by the coronavirus pandemic.

The relief is aimed at students with unpaid account balances who were enrolled at the start of the

pandemic emergency declaration on March 13, 2020 through this year's spring term. The amounts that students owe range from just a few dollars to several thousand. The highest amount owed is \$7,027.

The debt-elimination initiative comes from a one-time Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund award through the U.S. Department of Education.

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'Get the angle that nobody sees'

Photographer brings old photos back to life

By R.J. MARX
The Astorian

SEASIDE — The stunning SPhoGraphic Renditions of the Prom from 100 years ago owe their beauty not only to the intrepid photographers of the time, but to the man who helped them find a new life.

Photo restorationist Bruce Andrews archived century-old



museum negatives and photographs and restored them to a crisp and brilliant freshness.

He works from his house on S. Edgewood Street, in front of a large computer and surrounded by boxes of postcards, prints and negatives.

"I've done photo restorations for over 25 years,"

Andrews said. "I started out doing my own photos, and collected a goodly amount of negatives and slides that folks have either discarded, abandoned or I fished out of the garbage, dirty beyond measure. People didn't know who or what they were.

"I guess it was partly due to my feeling that as a photographer myself, the people who took these images originally took them because they meant enough to them to capture

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R.J. Marx/The Astorian

Bruce Andrews is a photo restorationist in Seaside.

Flood Valley Taphouse coming to Warrenton

Food and beer near the Shilo Inn

By ETHAN MYERS
The Astorian

WARRENTON — A craft beer destination from Chehalis, Washington, is coming to town.

Flood Valley Taphouse will open next month in the vacant building next to Shilo Inn and Walgreens on E. Harbor Drive.

They will serve breakfast, lunch and dinner. The menu will feature a variety of classic taphouse items: burgers, sandwiches, soups, salads and fish and chips, along with a list of beers.

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