

## Grogan and Rhoads promoted at First Independent Bank



**John Grogan**



**Jennifer Rhoads**

**John Grogan** has been promoted to senior vice president of the Credit Administration Division of First Independent Bank. Also promoted is **Jennifer Rhoads**, to vice president and manager of Advisory & Brokerage Services Group of the Private Banking Division.

Grogan had been manager of the bank's Credit Administration Division for the past year. He is a graduate of California State University and the Pacific Coast Banking School.

Rhoads, a Vancouver native, is a graduate of Washington State University. She is a member of the WMCA board of directors, president of the Hazel Dell Community Association and a member of the board of the Washington State University Cougar Club. Rhoads is also a classroom instructor for Junior Achievement and is a volunteer art instructor at Felida Elementary School.

### Vancouver, La Center sewer rates going up

While the Vancouver city council last night was increasing city utility rates, including sewer rates, Clark Public Utilities was meeting in La Center, explaining to

three residents, including mayor **Jim Irish**, why it would have to raise sewer rates for 750 customers on the system the public utility district operates for La Center.

This morning, utility commissioners approved increases in monthly sewer rates and sewer system development fees for the La Center sewer system.

Vancouver residential sewer rates will increase from \$25.48 a month, to \$27.77 in February, \$30.27 in January 2006, \$33 in January 2007 and \$33.16 in January 2008.

La Center residential sewer rates will increase from \$26.89 to \$35 in February. A special senior citizen residential rate will increase from \$22.50 to \$29. Utility district commissioners also increased the system development charge from \$4,320 to \$5,000, effective February 1.

Monthly sewer rates vary widely in Clark County, from a low of \$20.74 a month in Washougal, to a high of \$37.71 in Ridgefield. Serving a large area northwest of Vancouver, including Salmon Creek, the Hazel Dell Sewer District charges residential customers \$30.50 a month and has a system development charge of \$4,250.

The Vancouver city council approved small monthly increases for water service, as well as for garbage and yard debris collection.

### Venture capitalist joins small business seminar panel

**Michael H. Reynoldson**, vice president of InvestAmerica Venture Group, has been added to the panel of experts who are presenting a half-day seminar devoted to helping businesses leave daily distractions behind and focus on net worth, set for Friday, Feb. 4, in the E. B. Hamilton Hall, 605 Barnes Road, in Vancouver Barracks.

Other presenters at the Washington State University Small Business Development Center seminar are **John Mitchell**, US Bancorp, **Craig Byrd**, Byrd Financial Group, and **Steve LaCesa**, Oak Tree Insurance, Lake Oswego.

Reynoldson, based in Vancouver, is a registered investment advisor. A graduate of Washington State University, he received a masters degree in finance from the University of Iowa.

The seminar is sponsored by the *Vancouver Business Journal* and the Byrd Financial Group. A \$15 registration fee for the seminar that begins at 8 a.m. includes a catered lunch, according to **Jan Harte**, business development specialist for the WSU SBDC. For further information, call Harte at 992-2939.

### City advisory group on finances meets Thursday

Vancouver's newly created five-member Finance Working Group meets at 11 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 27, in City Hall to begin a search for a solution to the city's problems of funding its core services.

The public meeting is the second for the group headed by mayor **Royce Pollard**. Other members are **Dan Tonkovich**, mayor pro-tem, **Beth Quartarolo**, Hewlett-Packard and past president of the Greater Vancouver Chamber of Commerce, **Mark Brandon**, First Independent Bank, and **Jim Etzkorn**.

### People

A no-host luncheon and informal roasting gathering celebrating the retirement of C-TRAN's chief financial officer, **Fred Bateman**, is at 11:45 a.m. Monday, Jan. 31, in Beaches Restaurant, report organizers **Steve Horenstein**, **Donna Mason** and **Gail Spolar**.

### News briefs

Clark County commissioners meet in informal session at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 26.

Tuesday headlines from at home and around the world:

[PDX noise study offers little remedy for Vancouver--Columbian, \*\*Scott Hewitt\*\*](#)  
[Vancouver considering new taxi regulations to benefit local operators--Columbian](#)  
[50-employee MTR Western facility to break ground near Ridgefield--Columbian, \*\*Gretchen Fehrenbacher\*\*](#)  
[Diane Schuur returns to Vancouver for Clark College Jazz Festival--\*\*Brett Oppegaard\*\*](#)  
[Salmon Creek Elementary School learning center a tribute to Travis hays--Oregonian, \*\*Holley Gilbert\*\*](#)  
[C-TRAN laying plans to drop rural bus routes--Oregonian, \*\*Bill Stewart\*\*](#)  
[Mount St. Helens lava dome still growing--KATU, \*\*Bob Heye\*\* \(video\)](#)  
[Video shows American hostage--USA TODAY, AP](#)  
[New war spending will push deficit to record \\$427 billion--Washington Post, \*\*Jonathan Weisman\*\*](#)  
[Iraq violence highlights security risks, six American soldiers killed--Washington Post, \*\*Jackie Spinner\*\*](#)  
["Aviator" flying off with Oscar nominations--New York Times--\*\*Sharon Waxman\*\*](#)

### Tuesday on the air

Annual Legislative Outlook—4 p.m. CVTV  
City Minutes—5:30 p.m. CVTV  
Clark County Close Up—6 p.m. CVTV  
**Vancouver Planning Commission (live)—7 p.m. CVTV**

### Town Tabloids and the weather

**Kelly Sills** finding a cusp. 📍 **Gail Spolar** handling details. 📍 **John McKibbin** watching membership numbers climb. 📍 **Suzanne Levis** bringing California charm to La Center. 📍 **Philip Parker** event planning. 📍 **Tuesday**, sunny, 51. **Wednesday**, showers and sunbreaks, 52. **Thursday**, cloudy and cooler, possible showers, 45