

First Independent Bank elevates three to executive vice president



Mark Brandon, Jeanne Firstenburg, Brett Bryant

Three of First Independent Bank's top executives have been named executive vice presidents, joining **Bruce Firstenburg** at that level.

Executive vice president **Mark Brandon** joined the bank in 2002 as a senior vice president and chief lending officer. Brandon is a graduate of Washington State University and The Pacific Coast Banking School. He is past chair of the board of directors of the Columbia River Economic Development Council, past member of the board of United Way of Portland and past member of the board of Southwest Washington Independent Forward Thrust. He is chair-elect of the Greater Vancouver Chamber of Commerce and a member of the board of trustees of the Washington State University Foundation.

Jeanne Firstenburg, who holds the title of chief operating officer, also holds the title executive vice president. Firstenburg is a member of First Independent Investment Group, secretary to the bank's board of directors and a member of the executive committee. She is a magna cum laude graduate of St. Martin's College. Firstenburg is a member of the Washington State University Vancouver Advisory Council and the Southwest Washington Medical Center Foundation.

Brett Bryant, who joined First Independent in February 2003, is a member of the bank's executive management team and is director of Private Banking. The new executive vice president is a graduate of the Oregon Institute of Technology, a Certified Financial Planner and a Certified Trust and Financial Advisor, and is an honors graduate of the National Graduate Trust School. Bryant is a past president and trustee of the Southwest Washington Medical Center Foundation. He is chair of the New Heights Foundation and a member of the Community Foundation Investment Committee, the Estate Planning Council of Southwest Washington, and the Portland Estate Planning Council.

C-TRAN board to make decisions on reductions in service, fair hikes

The C-TRAN board of directors, meeting at 4:30 p.m. today in the Rose F. Besserman Room in the Fisher's Landing Transit Center, is expected to set a new fare schedule and agree to service cuts, effective September 25. The service cuts are expected, unless the transit agency tries again and passes a sales tax increase to make up for revenue shortages created by the loss of motor vehicle excise tax support.

Proposed fare increases vary, but most are in the 50 percent range. Of some significance is the recommendation to eliminate free transfers among bus routes.

Fare changes will also have an impact on the operating agreement between C-TRAN and Tri-Met, but both agencies are working out a new memorandum of agreement to serve each of their customers seamlessly.

Most fare increases will be effective May 1.

The C-TRAN board will also be considering a notice from the City of Vancouver that the lease on the downtown transit center will not be renewed annually when the existing agreement ends this fall. Mayor **Royce Pollard**, in a letter to the C-TRAN board, says the city will offer a month-to-month lease while C-TRAN finds a suitable replacement location outside the downtown core area.

The city's preferred location is the former location of the state Department of Transportation visitor information center east of I-5 near the Veterans Administration Hospital and Fourth Plain Boulevard.

JD White Company expanding

The JD White Company, land use and natural resources planning and public involvement facilitation firm has added three professionals to its staff, bringing the total number in the Vancouver and Portland offices to 29.

Dan Cary has been appointed as a senior scientist for the company. Previously with the Oregon Department of State Lands, Cary is a member of the Society of Wetland Scientists.

Chris Zeitner has been named a GIS specialist with the firm. Zeitner is a graduate of the University of Oregon.

Peter Markgraf has joined the company as a research project assistant for master planning. Markgraf is a recent graduate of Carleton College, Northfield, Minn.

Organization opposing Cowlitz Casino Resort calls public information meeting

Stand Up For Clark County Citizens, which opposes the proposed Cowlitz Casino Resort near La Center on I-5, is holding an informational meeting at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 17, in the La Center High School commons. Spokesperson for the organization, **Cindy Goolsby**, says: "We get many questions as far as what the impacts [of the casino] are, what we base our opposition on, what role individuals or elected officials have in this and overall why our group believes that this location is inappropriate. We don't believe the enormous cost to our communities that would occur as a direct result of this location can be justified." For further information, call Goolsby at **263-8752**.

News brief

Clark County Commissioner **Betty Sue Morris**'s State of the County Address can be found by clicking on http://www.clark.wa.gov/bocc/commish1/05_BSM_SOC.pdf.

Tuesday headlines from at home and around the world:

[Val Joshua has been going to jail once a week for 30 years helping women offenders toward rehabilitation--Oregonian, **Holley Gilbert**](#)

[Vancouver woman gets a lift to citizenship--Columbian, **Amy McFall Prince**](#)

[City of Vancouver to try to exterminate nutria for the benefit of Burnt Bridge Creek--Columbian, **Jeffrey Mize**](#)

[Vancouver veterinarian David Slocum practice is local but his volunteer efforts take him worldwide--Columbian, **Mary Sisson**](#)

[Today is election day in Hockinson School District and the Vancouver urban growth boundary--Oregonian, **Holley Gilbert**](#)

[Microsoft releases a slew of security fixes and says the new patches are critical to security--Seattle P-I, AP, **Allison Linn**](#)

[Sharon, Abbas pledge to halt Mideast violence--Washington Post, **Molly Moore** and **John Ward Anderson**](#)

Tuesday on the air

Bravo! Vancouver: The Best of Baroque—4:30 p.m. CVTV

Kootenay at Portland Winter Hawks (live)—7 p.m. KCMD

Vancouver Planning Commission (live)—7 p.m. CVTV

Vancouver Symphony Orchestra: Mostly Mozart—11 p.m. CVTV

Town Tabloids and the weather

Karen Ciocia still plugging away at JD White. ☞ **Noel Javier** coming through big time. ☞ **Marge Brown** doing Margaret Bourke White trick. ☞ **Michelle Brammer** getting an A. ☞ **Troy Thomas** putting a hood on the old DuMont. ☞ **Tuesday**, sunshine is fog gone conclusion, 49. **Wednesday**, mostly sunny, 50. **Thursday**, warming sunshine, 55.



Early one morning last week Marge Brown of Vancouver, who luckily was carrying her camera as she walked the Lacamas Trail, came upon a turn in the trail just as the sun forced its way through dense fog, getting this shot