

## Ed Firstenburg retiring after 69 years as chairman of First Independent Bank

Former Ridgefield school teacher **Ed Firstenburg**, who went to work for the Ridgefield State Bank as an assistant cashier in 1936, bought the bank and became chairman of the board in the same year, and changed its name to First Independent Bank, is retiring as chairman of the board after 69 years at the post. Firstenburg, however, will remain the bank's board of directors.

Firstenburg's oldest son, **Bill**, has been named chairman of the board and will also retain his title as president of the \$825 million institution. One of the new chairman's first official announcements was that a Firstenburg Family Office will be established coordinate investments and charitable giving on behalf of the Firstenburg family, where the senior Firstenburg can continue to conduct philanthropy. The family office will be in the bank's Private Banking Group's downtown Vancouver office.

The Firstenburg Family's most recent gift to Vancouver was \$15 million presented to Southwest Washington Medical Center to assist in the construction of the center's new patient tower.

First Independent is the largest privately held bank headquartered in southwest Washington. First Independent has twenty-four branches and twenty-four automatic teller machines, and has offices in Portland and Bellevue.

According to **Stacey Graham**, the bank's marketing director, First Independent was the first, in 1995, to introduce drive-up banking, the first to expand business hours to 5 p.m., the first to offer Certificates of Deposit, the first to introduce ATM machines in Clark County and the first to open a branch in a shopping mall, in 1985.

Yesterday, Firstenburg received an oil painting of himself and his wife, **Mary**, which will hang in the new family office.

## Clark College PR staff earns gold and silver regional honors

The Clark College public relations staff has earned gold and silver medallions in 2005 competitions with 70 community and technical colleges in the Northwest and western Canada.

The college's news media program, focusing on revitalization of the Workforce Development program and on success stories of college faculty, staff and students overcoming obstacles, was awarded the top prize in media relations category by District VII of the National Council for Marketing and Public Relations.

The council awarded Clark the silver medallion for its redesigned class schedule *Clark College Connections*.

**Nell Gladson, Barbara Kerr, Jane Vanderzanden, Maya Muller, Mary Geraci and Ian Beckett** all worked on the award-winning projects.

## Casa Grande offering free breakfast to the first 50 patrons Monday morning

**George Tejo** reports that the first 50 people to show up at his re-opening restaurant, Casa Grande, 2014 Main Street, before 6 a.m. Monday, Nov. 7, will get a Mexican-style breakfast free. For those who show up between 6 and 7:30 a.m. breakfast will be \$5 each.

Tejo is celebrating the reopening of the uptown restaurant, which was closed following a kitchen fire earlier this year.

Breakfasters may also show up on television. **Andy Carson**, of Fox 12 News, will be filming a program segment beginning at 5:45 a.m., according to fellow uptowner **Jennifer Petersen**, owner of Carnelian Rose Tea



Ed Firstenburg, after 69 years, stepped down as chairman of the board of First Independent Bank Thursday. The board, on which he will continue to serve, presented him with an oil painting of him and his wife, Mary, to hang in the new Firstenburg Family Office, where he will continue to conduct Firstenburg Family philanthropic activities.

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## Calendar

Lewis and Clark re-enactors who are passing through Clark County will be at Frenchman's Bar on the Lower River Road most of today. Demonstrations are planned during the day by this "kid-friendly" historical group, according to Lewis and Clark Committee director **Arlene Johnson**. ☞ Trail blazing, trail planning symposium presented along with dinner, entertainment and no-host bar, opens with cocktail hour at 5:30 p.m. this evening in the Hilton Vancouver Washington. Dinner is \$45. For further information, call **Kelly Puntaney, 619-1127**. ☞ Lt. Gen. **Harry E. Soyster** (Ret.) returns to Vancouver Saturday, Nov. 5, to serve as reviewing officer for the city's 19th annual Veterans Day parade. Following a brief ceremony at 10:30 a.m. on the front lawn of the Marshall House, the parade, which is expected to have 2,500 participants from 100 organizations, will begin at 11 a.m. from the corner of East Reserve Street and Officers Row, to continue west along Officers Row. ☞ The Pearson Air Museum Veterans Day USO-style hangar dance gets underway at 7 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 5, in the museum at 1115 E 5th Street. Admission at the door is \$20, \$15 for museum member. Period costumes are welcome. Viands and libations may be purchased. ☞ The Southwest Washington Wind Symphony is presenting a free concert at 7 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 6, in the Mountain View High School Auditorium, 1500 SE Blairmont Drive. The symphony group includes music educators and professional and amateur musicians, according to **Rich Carr**, organizer. For further information, call **574-8386**.

## Friday headlines at home and abroad

[Mill Plain Elementary School closed today after 140 students got sick, to open Monday after thorough cleaning--Columbian, \*\*Tom Vogt\*\*](#)

[Lewis and Clark re-enactors paddling down Columbia River to Frenchman's Bar--Columbian, \*\*Dean Baker\*\*](#)

[Forest Service looking for private sector help to show off Mount St. Helens--Columbian, \*\*Erik Robinson\*\*](#)

[GOP publicizes Stuart's mortgage woes--Columbian, \*\*Erin Middlewood\*\*](#)

[Columbia River Economic Development Council continues course in attracting new business--Columbian, \*\*Julia Anderson\*\*](#)

[Pre-screening may help travelers go through airports faster--USA TODAY, \*\*Thomas Frank\*\*](#)

[Bush's troubles follow him to summit in Argentina, New York Times, \*\*Elizabeth Bumiller and Larry Rohter\*\*](#)

## Friday on the air

I-5 Transportation Planning (11/1)—4 p.m. CVTV

City Minutes 10/23)—6 p.m. CVTV

Clark County Close Up (10/2)—6:37 p.m. CVTV

Animal Control Hearings (10/12)—7:09 p.m. CVTV

Education Today (10/27)—8 p.m. CVTV

Telecommunications Commission (10/19)—10 p.m. CVTV

## Town Tabloids and the weather

**Linda Floyd** looking for gingerbread media blitz. ☞ **Ruth Waite** patiently allowing birthday to occur. ☞ **Dan Anderson** improving newsletter accuracy. ☞ **Mark Bowyer** filing news dispatches from Frankfort, Mich. ☞ **Kernal Buhler** reporting much success. ☞ **Friday**, gray day, possible thunder showers, 52. **Saturday**, rain and windy, 54. **Sunday**, rain continues, 52.