

## Mark Brandon being installed as chairman of the Greater Vancouver Chamber tonight



**Mark Brandon**

**Mark Brandon**, First Independent Bank, this evening will be installed as chairman of the Greater Vancouver Chamber of Commerce, which is celebrating its 116th year as the community's leading business and professional organization.

Brandon, First Independent's chief lending officer and executive president, succeeds **Roger Qualman**, NAI Norris Beggs & Simpson. Being installed with Brandon are **Carol Keljo**, Security Signs, chair elect; **Carmen Villarma**, The Management Group, vice chair; **Lisa Dow**, West Coast Bank, secretary treasurer; and Qualman, past chair.

Newly elected members of the chamber's board of directors, also being installed this evening, are **Ron Arp**, Nautilus, **Dave Bennett**, NW Surgical, **Hal Dengerink**, Washington State University Vancouver, **Elie Kassab**, Prestige Development, **Joe Kortum**, Southwest Washington Medical Center, Dow and Villarma.

The installation begins with a 6 p.m. cocktail hour in the Red Lion Hotel at the Quay.

## C-TRAN ballots mailed to 856 voters who were omitted in the first mailing

An error in designating the boundaries of the new C-TRAN district that left out 856 registered voters in Clark County voting precincts 573, 646, 915 and 960 has been corrected, and the county Elections Department has mailed ballots containing the C-TRAN .2 percent sales tax measure to all those voters, reports Clark County auditor **Greg Kimsey**.

Voters in those precincts had already received mail ballots that lacked the C-TRAN measure and may have voted. If they wish to cast a vote on the C-TRAN issue, they must either return the mail ballots postmarked by Tuesday, Sept. 20, or take the ballots to the county Elections Department office, 1408 Franklin Street, prior to 8 p.m. on election day. If those voters have not yet voted, they may place both ballots in one envelope and return them together, according to Kimsey.

The C-TRAN measure is not a countywide issue since the C-TRAN boundaries have been redrawn to cover only C-TRAN service areas, which are generally within cities in the county or city urban growth areas.

C-TRAN seeks authority to increase the sales and use tax by .2 percent to preserve the agency's existing service and to restore service to La Center, Ridgefield, Yacolt and Washington State University Vancouver.

Currently C-TRAN collects a .3 percent tax (three cents on a \$10 purchase). If approved, the new measure would give C-TRAN the authority to collect up to .5 percent in sales and use taxes. The tax would replace some, but not all, of the funding the transit agency had received from a former state motor vehicle excise tax.

## Commissioners fashion verbal agreements that would put excursion trains on track

Clark County commissioners and the operators of the Columbia Basin Railroad and the volunteer members of the Battle Ground, Yacolt and Chelatchie Prairie Railroad have signed memoranda of agreement that could lead to reopening the volunteer BYCX line to excursions later this year, and these agreements would pave the way for Columbia Basin Railroad to increase its freight operations and eventually operate a dinner train similar to its successful operation in the Seattle area.

Commissioner **Marc Boldt** today said that, after the county approves the agreements, and after BCYX obtains \$1 million in insurance and makes some track improvements, the volunteer-operated line could resume excursions between Battle Ground and Yacolt.

Columbia Basin Railroad, which has a 40-year lease with the county on the entire line running from Vancouver to Chelatchie Prairie, plans dinner-train excursions in addition to its freight operations for industrial customers along the line.

Operational disagreements between the to railroad groups had prevented BYCX from operating so far this year.

## People

Clark County employees called to assist with Hurricane Katrina relief efforts include **Lianne Forney**, director of the Clark County Public Information and Outreach Office, who was asked by the Federal Emergency Management Agency to cover a two-week stint in Houston, Texas, where she will be an emergency public information officer in FEMA's joint information center. Also called to assist is **Don Phillips**, member of the county medical examiner's office, has been temporarily assigned to the federal Disaster Mortuary Operational Response Team in Bay St. Louis, Miss. In addition, **Robert Hank**, county jail custody officer, has been called up by the National Guard to provide temporary service in support of federal disaster relief efforts. "Supporting our staff who have expertise needed by the relief effort is a way that Clark County can make a meaningful contribution to the disaster relief effort," reports county administrator **Bill Barron**.

## Calendar

Clark County commissioner **Steve Stuart** is conducting a town hall meeting at 7:30 p.m. this evening in the Washougal City Hall, 1701 C Street.

## Thursday Headlines at home and abroad

[Vancouver's Claire Albert Rodman hears her New Orleans mother's hurricane stories first hand--Columbian, \*\*Tom Vogt\*\*](#)

[\\$40 million senior housing complex at the Columbia Tech Center that would be among the largest of its type in the county--Columbian, \*\*Gretchen Fehrenbacher\*\*](#)

[County may set limits on rolled curbs--Columbian, \*\*Erin Middlewood\*\*](#)

[Woodland event Saturday to benefit hurricane victims--Columbian](#)

[Roberts tells senators, 'I'm not an ideologue'--USA TODAY, AP](#)

[Mayor plans to reopen parts of New Orleans this weekend00New York Times, \*\*Maria Newman\*\*](#)

[Another 20 die in Baghdad today--New York Times, \*\*Robert F. Worth\*\* and \*\*Richard A. Opiel Jr.\*\*](#)

[Study: Half of All Teens Have Had Oral Sex--Washington Post, \*\*Laura Sessions Stepp\*\*](#)

## Thursday on the air

Cleanup Plan for Camp Bonneville (9/8)—3:30 p.m. CVTV

**Seattle Mariners at Texas (live)—5 p.m. FSN, KFX**

Clark County Close Up (9/4) 5:30 p.m. CVTV

**Clark County Planning Commission (live)—6:30 p.m. CVTV**

World's Smallest Army Museum Grand Opening (8/19)—10:30 p.m. CVTV

General George C. Marshall Lecture (8/27)—11:30 p.m. CVTV

## Town Tabloids and the weather

**Sylvia Ross** doing self-introductions. ☞ **Gina Bacon** taking care of all the details. ☞ **Bridget Schwarz** may get wet. ☞ **Garry Lucas** performing at high noon. ☞ **Will Pollard** admitting to random thoughts. ☞ **Thursday**, white, puffy clouds, breezy late, 70. **Friday**, cloudy, could become a little damp around the edges, 67. **Saturday**, mostly sunny, 71.