



Renee Newman

First Independent appoints new leader

Reflecting the changing ways in which people want to manage their finances, First Independent has reorganized its retail banking business and appointed **Renee Newman** to lead the new organization.

Promoted to senior vice president and director of retail banking, Newman is responsible for the branch network, virtual banking (online, mobile and remote channels), community banking for small business owners, and client services.

"Today our clients have many ways to do their banking," said Newman. "By putting all of our retail channels under one umbrella, we can be more effective, more efficient and deliver a more consistent client experience."

In recent years, online and mobile banking have grown increasingly popular, particularly among younger adults and busy families and professionals. Despite that trend, many clients and small business owners still want to visit a bank branch for at least some transactions. Over the past several years, First Independent has been

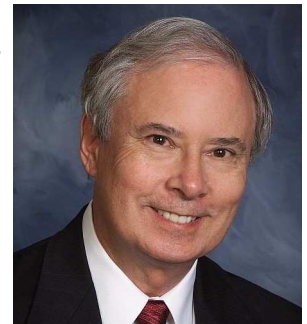
repositioning and resizing its branch operations to reflect changing demographics, population and transportation patterns in Southwest Washington. At the same time, the bank has responded to new technology and changing consumer habits to offer more choices about how to bank.

"First Independent has succeeded for 100 years because it has evolved as times change," said **Brett Bryant**, executive vice president and chief relationship officer. "Reorganizing our retail banking business makes sense as we look at how people bank today and the many ways we can deliver our services. With her experience and energy, Renee Newman is the ideal professional to manage this important function as we head into our second 100 years."

Newman joined First Independent in 2007 as head of the bank's Cash Management Office. With more than 18 years of experience in retail, commercial and private banking, she has held increasingly responsible positions at organizations ranging from small community banks to national institutions. She holds a B.A. in business management from Oregon State University as well as earning securities and insurance licenses from Oregon and Washington. Newman is on the board and is past chair of the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra.

Evergreen Habitat for Humanity elects new board of directors

Evergreen Habitat for Humanity announces the newly elected officers and directors for their 2010 board of directors. Effective January 1, 2010, **Russ Chambers**, retro-commissioning and energy manager of Educational Service District 112, assumed the position of past president. **Bill Bryant**, insurance agent of Bryant and Associates, assumed the position of board president. **Shawn Elpel**, attorney of Duggan, Schlotfeldt and Welch, assumed the position of vice president, **Justin Myers**, vice president of retail banking management of West Coast Bank, will continue in the position of treasurer. **Susan Riley**, kitchen/bath designer of DeWils Interiors, assumed the position of secretary.



Bill Bryant

The 2010 board of directors are as follows: **Brad Eriksen**, attorney, Jordan, Schrader and Ramis; **Tony Hodge**, director of business development, Team Construction; **Chad Peterson**, financial consultant, Pacific Northwest region, Thrivent Financial for Lutherans; **Larry Scherer**, owner/operator, Scherer Enterprises; **Cindy Thompson**, senior loan assistant, West Coast Bank; and **Brenda Tiefenthaler**, regional marketing coordinator, CWCapital. **Melisa Murguia**, service team leader, First Independent Bank, joined the board as a newly elected director.

Since 1991, Evergreen Habitat for Humanity has worked to improve living conditions for low-income Clark County residents. The nonprofit organization works in partnership with people in need, from all walks of life, to develop communities by building safe, affordable housing. Currently, Evergreen Habitat for Humanity has had more than 120 families attend information seminars on home ownership.

**Lisa Nisenfeld****SWWDC director tapped for national Leadership Council**

The National Skills Coalition (NSC), formerly known as The Workforce Alliance, has selected **Lisa Nisenfeld**, executive director, Southwest Washington Workforce Development Council (SWWDC), to serve on its Leadership Council. NSC is a national coalition of community-based training organizations, community colleges, unions, business leaders, local officials, and leading technical assistance and research organizations that promote policies that invest in the skills of America's workers, helping them better support their families, and helping American businesses better compete in today's economy.

Nisenfeld, one of 60 Council members nationally, brings more than 30 years of workforce development leadership to the Council. In addition to her position with the local Workforce Development Council, she is also chairperson of the Washington Workforce Association, an alliance of the 12 workforce councils in Washington. She also co-chairs NSC's Skills2Compete Campaign in Washington, which is aimed at increasing training to prepare workers for middle skill jobs (those requiring more than high school but less than a four-year degree), the fastest growing segment of jobs in Washington.

"Ms. Nisenfeld is one of the real-world experts we depend on to tell us what changes are needed in public policies to make skills more accessible to every worker and industry based on the needs of local communities," said **Andy Van Kleunen**, National Skills Coalition's executive director. "Her ability to mobilize colleagues and diverse workforce partners is critical to ensuring our workforce is prepared to meet the needs of industry."

For more information, visit www.nationalskillscoalition.org.

Children's art exhibit at WSU

Brightly colored paint, abstract forms and feathers are only a sample of the tools preschoolers from Washington State University Vancouver's Child Development program used to express themselves through art. For the third year, works by preschoolers aged three to five will be on display in the WSU Vancouver Library. The exhibit will be up through Feb. 26.

The WSU Vancouver Library is open Monday through Thursday 8 a.m. to 10 p.m., Friday 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Admission is free. Parking is available at parking meters or in the Blue Daily pay lot for \$3.

News Briefs

Starting in February 2010, the Family Birth Center at Southwest Washington Medical Center is offering a Teen Labor and Birth Class, designed to meet the special needs of the expectant teen. The class meets once a week for three weeks from 6 to 9 p.m. Cost is \$70 for the expectant mother and one support person. Visit www.swEvents.org or call **514-BABY(2229)** to register. Those wanting to register using a State Medical Coupon or to pay by check should also call this number. The medical coupon will pay for either a Labor and Birth Preparation five-week series or weekend-only series.

Calendar

The Vancouver Design Review Committee meets at 4 p.m. today, Jan. 28, 4400 NE 77th Avenue, Conference Room 3A. For more information, call **487-7882**. <> Slocum House Theatre will be performing *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare-Abridged* written by **Borgeson, Long and Singer**, and directed by **Tony Bump**, 8 p.m. tonight, Jan. 28, 605 Esther Street. Those interested in seeing the sketch comedy should visit www.slocumhouse.com or call **696-2427**.

Thursday on the air

One Place Across Time (digital)--5:28 p.m. CVTV

Clark County Land Use Hearings (live)--5:55 p.m. CVTV

Clark County Board of Health (1-27)--11 p.m. CVTV

Town Tabloids and Weather

Annie Lace Paylor celebrating. <> **Mona Ail** rejoicing. <> **Thursday**, cloudy, 54-41. **Friday**, p.m. showers, 52-41. **Saturday**, showers, 52-43.