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- Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
- Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))

**Item 8.01 Other Events.**

On January 30, 2012, Cathay General Bancorp announced, in a press release, the death of Mr. Thomas G. Tartaglia. Mr. Tartaglia had served as a director on the Cathay General Bancorp's Board of Directors since 1990 and on Cathay Bank's Board of Directors since 1986. He was also a member of the Cathay General Bancorp board's Audit and Risk Management Committee. That press release is attached hereto as Exhibit 99.1.

The foregoing information and the attached exhibit are intended to be furnished only and shall not be deemed "filed" for purposes of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 or otherwise subject to the liabilities of that Section, nor shall they be deemed incorporated by reference into any filing under the Securities Act of 1933.

**Item 9.01 Financial Statements and Exhibits.**

(d) Exhibits

99.1 Press Release of Cathay General Bancorp dated January 30, 2012.

**SIGNATURE**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned thereunto duly authorized.

Date: January 30, 2012

**CATHAY GENERAL BANCORP**

By: /s/ Heng W. Chen  
Heng W. Chen

Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

**EXHIBIT INDEX**

Number Exhibit

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