Discussion of Potential Publishing Merger Ends

The Adventist News Network reports that the commission formed to consider a merger of the Pacific Press Publishing Association in Nampa, Idaho, and the Review and Herald Publishing Association in Hagerstown, Md., has ended its work upon request by church leaders. The statement issued says, in part: "It is felt in the best interest of the publishing work of the church at this time for there to be no change in the governance of the two institutions." The statement also encourages both publishing entities to explore additional opportunities for cooperation and economy of service. Read the story and a link to the full released statement on Adventist News Network.

Zollbrecht to Lead Big Lake Youth Camp

Les Zollbrecht, long-time Portland Adventist Academy (PAA) teacher, announced that he will be leaving PAA to take a position at Oregon Conference as associate director for Youth Ministries and Big Lake Youth Camp director. Zollbrecht, who has spent the last 11 years at PAA, has been a Bible teacher and school Chaplain, along with leading mission trips to Peru, Nepal and Ireland. He will be filling the position left vacant at Oregon Conference when Monte Torkelsen announced in June that he would be leaving to teach at PAA. Zollbrecht has a long history at Big Lake starting in 1994 as a camp counselor. Read more from the Oregon Conference.

Fire Claims Life in Sunnyside

Family and friends in Sunnyside, Wash., are grieving the loss of Tami Mathison, wife and mother of five, who perished in a house fire last week. Mathison, ran back into the fire to look for two of her five children after she couldn't see the kids outside. The fire started late Thursday-night and Mathison was last seen through an upstairs window before she was overcome by the smoke. Please keep her husband, Marty, and their five children in prayer. "There's a numbness there, it's sort of hard to believe," said Larry
Mt. Ellis Names Interim Principal

Mt. Ellis Academy (MEA) has named Bruce Lane interim principal. Lane, whose 43 year career in education, with roles from teacher to administrator, serving in schools from Miami, Fla., to the Marshall Islands, has agreed to leave retirement to serve at MEA for their 2013–2014 school year. No stranger to MEA, Lane spent seven years teaching science at the school and both his daughters graduated from the school. “I couldn’t be happier to know that Bruce Lane will be the man at the helm of Mt. Ellis Academy next school year,” says Darren Wilkins, outgoing principal. Learn more about what’s happening at MEA on their Facebook page.

The Great Hope in Swahili

The Pacific Press, in Nampa, Idaho, is sending 600,000 copies of The Great Hope, Swahili edition (Tumaini Kuu in Swahili), are headed to the East Central Africa Division. The books are part of The Great Hope Project and will be distributed with evangelistic meetings in Kenya, Tanzania, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The books were packed onto 275 pallets and shipped in 15 containers with a total weight of 450,000 lbs. It will take about two months for the shipment to reach its destination.

Adventist Health-Portland Enters Partnership with Regence

Adventist Health-Portland is joining with Regence BlueCross BlueShield of Oregon and Tuality Healthcare to form an accountable care network aimed at advancing the health of patients, improving their experience, and lowering costs. This new Regence network will offer members in Portland’s east and west side communities a broader network of providers specializing in high quality, affordable care. “This robust partnership reflects our commitment to provide patients a positive healing experience in a cost effective manner,” said Tom Russell, president and CEO of Adventist Medical Center. “It also provides the community access to some of the most highly skilled and compassionate providers in the region.” Read more from Adventist Health.
Looking Ahead

July
31–Aug. 3: Walla Walla Camp Meeting

August
6–Sept. 28: Distraction Dilemma—Exposing Distractions & Dangers in Music Seminar
7–11: NW Adventist Amateur Radio Association Annual Retreat
23–25: Alumni Rosario Weekend

More Events

August

Many people say "You can't out-give God." But words are cheap and it's not always easy to see what that means. This month's GLEANER focus is on Planned Giving and how, through careful planning, a gift now cannot only benefit you throughout your lifetime, but can bless the church as well. Read more about those who have given in the August GLEANER!
Study of publishing house restructuring ends without merger recommendation

Jul 31, 2013 Silver Spring, Maryland, United States

Mark A. Kellner, Adventist Review

A commission announced June 19 to consider a merger of the Pacific Press Publishing Association in Nampa, Idaho, and the Review and Herald Publishing Association in Hagerstown, Maryland, will cease its work, officials of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists and North American Division said today. The General Conference owns the two organizations.

Mark Thomas, president of the Review and Herald Publishing Association, addresses employees July 31 at the Review's campus in Hagerstown, Maryland, United States. Both of the Adventist Church's publishing houses in North America will continue operating as separate institutions. [photo: Kim Peckham/RHPA]

Citing “differing perspectives as to the interpretation” of Spirit of Prophecy writings about the independences of the two units, a statement issued by church leaders said: “It is felt in the best interest of the publishing work of the church at this time for there to be no change to the governance of the two institutions.”

However, the statement noted that leaders of the General Conference and its North American Division have “requested that the two publishing houses continue to operate under their current structures but that they try to find ways to realize economies through closer cooperation and possible shared services.”

Additionally, “The publishing houses are also encouraged to work very closely with and respond to the North American Division's mission-driven publishing needs and cooperate in developing more division-oriented and efficient delivery and distribution systems,” the statement indicated.

As noted in an earlier report, “Review and Herald Publishing Association is the successor to the first publishing house, The Seventh-day Adventist Publishing Association, incorporated in 1861. The Pacific Adventist Publishing Association, established in California, was organized in 1875. It was renamed as the Pacific Press Publishing Association in 1904. A third General Conference-sponsored publishing house, Southern Publishing Association, merged with the Review and Herald Publishing Association in 1980.”

In the July 31 announcement, church leaders asked Seventh-day Adventists to “please pray for the public sharing and personal use of printed and electronic materials as we lift up Christ, proclaim His three angels messages of Revelation 14 and announce His soon second coming.”

The full text of the statement can be found here.
In August, the Oregon Conference will welcome Pastor Les Zollbrecht as Associate Youth and Big Lake Youth Camp Director.

Since Monte Torkelsen’s departure this summer, the Youth Department has undergone a bit of restructuring with Tracy Wood’s move to department director, leaving the position of Associate Director open. Zollbrecht will now fill that role.

Pastor Les Zollbrecht will be joining the Oregon Conference staff after 11 years at Portland Adventist Academy as Bible teacher and Chaplain.

As Associate Youth Director, Zollbrecht will share responsibility for Youth and Young Adult Ministries and event planning with Tracy Wood, while as Big Lake Camp Director, he will spend his summers at Big Lake Youth Camp, managing camp ministry and planning.

Zollbrecht has been connected with Big Lake Youth Camp for many years and already has a positive working relationship with the camp staff. Starting as a camp counselor in 1994, he moved on to roles including Rad Camp counselor and Associate Director, later helping introduce Mountain Leadership Institute camps.

He and his wife, Marschelle, have a two-year-old daughter, Sofie.
Investigators on Friday recovered the body of a mother of five, who was killed in a fire that destroyed her house late Thursday night.

Tami Mathison, 50, ran back into the burning house in the 1200 block of Northwest Crescent Avenue to ensure all her children had made it out when she became trapped in a room upstairs, Yakima County Coroner Jack Hawkins said.

An autopsy will be conducted Monday to confirm a cause of death and her identity. She was the only one unaccounted for in the blaze, he said.

The fire appears to be accidental, but its cause is still under investigation, said Yakima County Deputy Fire Marshal Ron Rutherford.

“My theory is that she was overcome with the heat and smoke,” Rutherford said from the scene.

Mathison’s husband, Marty Mathison, safely made it out of the burning house along with all the children, he said.

Family members told firefighters that they yelled for her to jump as she looked out a rear window of the two-story house, but instead she turned and walked back into the smoke-filled room, according to a Yakima County Fire District 5 news release.

Earlier in the day, heavy equipment was brought to the scene to remove debris in search of a body.
Firefighters responded to the blaze about 11:20 p.m. Thursday and found more than half of the house consumed by flames and smoke, the release said.

Firefighters attempted to place a ladder at the rear window where the woman was seen, but were unable because of the intense heat. Moments later, the second story began collapsing, the release said.

Firefighters were unable to search the caved-in structure.

A crew of about 25 firefighters from five stations responded, and were at the scene until 1:30 a.m. Friday, at which time the fire was turned over to the Yakima County Fire Marshal’s Office.

The loss of the house, a car and damage to a van is estimated at $200,000, the release said.

The tragedy marks the third fatal fire in Yakima County this year, Rutherford said.

In June, a woman was killed in a house fire in Terrace Heights, and on New Year’s Day, an 82-year-old Mabton woman died in a house fire, he said.

“So our track record,” Rutherford said with a pause, “there’s room for improvement.”
Regence, Adventist Health and Tuality Healthcare Forge Accountable Care Network

July 29, 2013
Portland, Oregon

Regence BlueCross BlueShield of Oregon, Adventist Health and Tuality Healthcare are joining together to form an accountable care network aimed at advancing the health of patients, improving their experience, and lowering costs. This new Regence network will offer members in Portland’s east and west side communities a broader network of providers specializing in high quality, affordable care.

The agreement includes an innovative payment model that shifts from traditional fee-for-service arrangements to an outcome-based model emphasizing quality and total cost of care. The new payment model includes a risk-based accountable health program with shared incentive measures based on quality and cost benchmarks that will allow Regence to offer products with lower premiums compared to the current marketplace, and add features aimed at engaging members in their health care decisions. Patients will also benefit from increased coordination of care, and proactive measures for populations at high risk of chronic conditions such as diabetes and heart disease. Studies show that these collaborative, outcome-based health care models help improve quality of care and result in higher patient satisfaction.

“We’re excited to join with Adventist and Tuality, two partners who have demonstrated a commitment to quality and innovation,” said Don Antonucci, president of Regence BlueCross BlueShield of Oregon. “This agreement is a win-win that gives Regence members access to a broader network of smarter, more coordinated care at lower costs.”

“Tuality, Adventist and Regence share a vision that collaboration is necessary to increase health care access and improve people’s ability to afford coverage,” said Dick Stenson, president and chief executive officer of Tuality Healthcare. “We believe this collaboration will result in quality, efficient and affordable health care.”

“This robust partnership reflects our commitment to provide patients a positive healing experience in a cost effective manner,” said Tom Russell, president and CEO of Adventist Medical Center. “It also provides the community access to some of the most highly skilled and compassionate providers in the region.”

“Accountable care agreements such as this collaboration between Regence, Adventist and Tuality will allow us to significantly and permanently transform the health care delivery system into one that achieves a greater value and patient orientation in health care,” said Patti Laughren, vice president of accountable health services for Regence.

This announcement is the latest as part of Regence’s comprehensive Accountable Health strategy within the Regence family of companies in Oregon, Utah, Washington and Idaho to help foster collaborative physician-patient relationships that improve quality of care. Since 2007, Regence has worked with providers, employers, and individual members throughout its four-state region to implement collaborative care models.
Additional collaborative arrangements with doctors and hospitals throughout the Northwest region are expected in the coming weeks.

**About Regence BlueCross BlueShield of Oregon**

Regence BlueCross BlueShield of Oregon is a leading health plan in Oregon, with nearly 750,000 members, offering health, life and dental insurance. Regence BlueCross BlueShield of Oregon is a nonprofit independent licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association, and is affiliated with Regence BlueShield of Idaho, Regence BlueCross BlueShield of Utah and Regence BlueShield (selected counties in Washington). Together, the companies serve more than two million members in the Northwest/Intermountain Region. The Regence affiliated companies are committed to improving the health of its members and communities, and to transforming the health care system. For more information, please visit [www.regence.com](http://www.regence.com) or [www.twitter.com/RegenceOregon](http://www.twitter.com/RegenceOregon).

**About Adventist Health-Portland**

Adventist Health-Portland includes Adventist Medical Center (AMC), located in southeast Portland, a nonprofit, 302-bed acute care facility, offering a full range of inpatient, outpatient and emergency services throughout the Portland/Vancouver metropolitan area. It has been ranked as one of America’s Safest Hospitals and is in the top 5% nationwide for patient safety. Adventist Health-Portland also operates more than 30 primary care and specialty clinics in the metro area. The organization is represented by nearly 2,000 employees and 500 physicians who choose to treat and admit their patients into the Adventist Health Network of services.

Adventist Health-Portland is part of Adventist Health, a faith-based, not-for-profit integrated health care delivery system serving communities in California, Hawaii, Oregon and Washington. Our workforce of 28,900 includes more than 21,200 employees; 4,500 medical staff physicians; and 3,200 volunteers. Founded on Seventh-day Adventist health values, Adventist Health provides compassionate care in 19 hospitals, more than 170 clinics (hospital-based, rural health and physician clinics), 14 home care agencies, six hospice agencies and four joint-venture retirement centers. We invite you to visit [www.adventisthealthnw.com](http://www.adventisthealthnw.com) for more information.

**About Tuality Healthcare**

Tuality Healthcare is the leading healthcare provider in western Washington County. Our system consists of hospitals in Hillsboro and Forest Grove, plus numerous outpatient clinics. Tuality serves a market area of 350,000 and growing. We offer state-of-the-art diagnostic and surgical services, including comprehensive cardiac, cancer and stroke care. Tuality has a medical staff of nearly 300 doctors and is one of the region’s largest employers with a staff of over 1,200. The following features set Tuality apart from other healthcare providers: A near perfect core measure score of 99.1 out of 100 in a recent accreditation survey from the Joint Commission; the leading geriatric psychiatry unit in the Pacific Northwest; easy access to Tuality Community Hospital via TriMet’s MAX light-rail service; a certified primary stroke center which recently received a Gold Plus Quality Achievement award from the American Heart Association, and an accredited cancer center, the second facility in the state of Oregon to be accredited by the American College of Radiology. For more information, please visit [www.tuality.org](http://www.tuality.org) or [www.facebook.com/Tuality](http://www.facebook.com/Tuality).

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**Media Contacts**