Youth Leaders Step Forward with Sidewalk Kids
Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.

John 7:38 (NIV)

Youth Leaders
Step Forward with Sidewalk Kids
McVay Announces Return to Teaching

John McVay, Walla Walla University (WWU) president, plans to resign effective July 1 so he can return to the classroom.

“It has been an honor to serve as president of Walla Walla University,” he says. “The work has stretched and blessed both me and my wife, Pam. We are grateful for the partnership of such an able and committed leadership team, as well as the support of the wider community of faculty, staff and students.”

McVay and his family will continue to reside in College Place, Wash., where he will serve as WWU theology professor, specializing in New Testament studies. “The opportunity to join the excellent team of professors in the School of Theology is energizing for me,” he says. “I look forward to serving WWU students as teacher, mentor and friend.”

McVay became the university’s 23rd president in 2006, when his first task was supervising the institution’s name change from Walla Walla College to Walla Walla University. He led strategic planning efforts for the university, earning a commendation from accrediting organizations, and instituted long-range budget planning processes. Under his guidance, the university welcomed its largest freshman class in 17 years for the current school year and yielded the highest freshman-to-sophomore retention rate in university history.

Letters

Still Misses Nature Cover

Every day our mailbox brims with personal bills, business bills, magazines, advertisements. Bills go one place. The ads are easy to dispose of. Then there are the magazines, each with cover picture and design to silently shout, “Read me now!”

Years ago the magazines with the hype covers got set aside, just as now. But when the GLEANER came, it was different. Its full-cover nature photograph spoke of peace. It drew me in. I’d lay the other magazines aside and, if at all possible, sit down right then and be inspired by the stories of how God was working in our beautiful Northwest.

A few years ago, that changed. The nature photograph went inside. The GLEANER became just another hype cover. It gets set aside with the rest. The difference in reaction went unnoticed for several years. Even after I realized what was happening, I hesitated to bother anyone with my observation — I am only one person. But I’m possibly pretty near your “average” reader. Might others be similarly disposed? I’m realizing I’ve lost some of the closeness I felt to the churches of the Northwest. Could the same thing be happening to others?

Helen Heavirland, College Place, Wash.

GLEANER Editors respond: Helen, you are not alone, although the current covers you mention do appeal to others who also consider themselves, we suppose, “average” readers. And some, who used to collect those nature photos, actually appreciate having them on the inside where the GLEANER logo does not intrude on top of the pristine image.
A Lesson in a Casserole

The service is almost over and already the smells from the kitchen are drifting through the sanctuary. It is fellowship meal Sabbath, and the thought of having more of Mrs. Brown’s famous casserole adds to the growling of your stomach. When you enter the fellowship hall and glance at the table loaded with salads and breads, you see her dish right there in the middle.

There’s a spot saved on your plate for this delicious treat. This time you decide to take a serving from the center, which has always been just perfect, and then on impulse, you reach for one of the corner pieces as well — just the perfect combination of crispy and juicy. Mrs. Brown has done it again — a masterpiece.

Back at your table, it’s time to enjoy. As you place that first bite in your mouth, the anticipation builds to a crescendo — but something is wrong. The taste is so flat, the gluten doesn’t taste right, the nuts almost taste stale. Maybe it was just that bite, maybe the corner piece will be what you have been anticipating, but that bite is worse than the first. In fact, even though Mrs. Brown is sitting right at your table, you jump up and rush to the bathroom.

What was wrong? As you rinse out your mouth it hits you — all the salt for the whole casserole was in that last bite.

Have you ever thought of the church and the community that way? Jesus described His church as salt, though He described the salt as losing its flavor. In a sense, salt all clumped together is as bad as salt that has lost its flavor. Both are useless and need to be thrown out. But salt used properly makes all the difference in the world.

Many of our Northwest members are providing wonderful examples. My mind, of course, goes to Oregon Conference communities, like Estacada where Shirley Lippincott coordinates a variety of choirs to feature in a city-wide Christmas Festival of Choirs.

Or Springfield where for years Jim McHan, a doctor, has brought together health professionals from around the Eugene/Springfield community to hold an event called Your Experience in Better Living.

Just this past year, the Meadow Glade Church in Battle Ground, Washington, remodeled a retirement home to create Center Point, a free medical clinic for the northern part of Washington’s Clark County.

Portland City Center Sanctuary has also become salt in a local community housing project. The members have treated residents there to birthday parties, help with a community garden, support of physical needs and, most of all, friendship.

And then there is Molly Geddis, who saw a need in her community and developed a ministry called Healthy Heart Teams, which has since spread throughout our conference and into three other conference territories.

Salt, all by itself, can be disgusting, not unlike a church that keeps God’s lifesaving properties to itself. However, take some of our enthusiastic Adventist members, stir them thoroughly into the community, and you’ll discover a special flavor. It’s the flavor of eternal life in Jesus Christ — at the very center of our message and mission.

“Salt used properly makes all the difference in the world.”

AL REIMCHE
Oregon Conference president
It doesn’t officially take the stage this year for another three months, but Greg and Shelly Hillman are already clustered with a group of 10–15 youth leaders, working on plans for their eighth Sidewalk Kids summer season. Similar to a traveling Vacation Bible School, Sidewalk Kids takes the program to the children, rather than the children to the program.

It’s not as if the Hillmans need more to do. Greg travels and works long hours for an international technology company; Shelly is the Orchards Church (Vancouver, Washington) secretary. But as they have watched the impact of this special summer ministry grow since its inception in 2005, it’s something they cannot afford to let go.

The Sidewalk Kids concept is not original. It has been used throughout the country, developing from its success in the ghettos of New York with Bill Wilson’s non-denominational Metro Ministries. Several years ago the program caught the eye of Oregon Conference members Wynn Kaiser, Chuck Davidson, the Hillmans and others.

After some local retooling, it provided an avenue for Greg and Shelly to help their Orchards Church Pathfinder group put leadership talents to use out in the community.

“YOUTH TAKE THE LEAD

Year by year, the program has grown. What began as four Sabbath afternoon...
programs in a park has blossomed to a full-summer ministry, with three events in three different locations each week for six weeks. What was initially an adult-led experience is now planned, designed and carried out by 20–30 Adventist youth representing as many as six local churches. The youth write scripts, help build staging and create the costumes. They are up front, leading songs, enacting plays and sharing a Christ-centered program, working with neighborhood children one on one.

John Wesslen, Orchards Church pastor, is excited to have the youth as the focal point. “The adults have stepped back into supporting roles, while our youth have stepped forward to lead.”

“We work behind the scenes and watch with amazement as these teen leaders exceed our expectations,” says Greg. “It’s truly humbling to see what the Holy Spirit does through their willing hands and hearts.”

Stop by some summer afternoon at Orchards Park in Vancouver and watch what happens as the Sidewalk Kids team arrives and sets up for action. One large trailer unfolds into a mobile stage. Another contains technical support equipment. There is something for every age group. Adults and retired volunteers help set up awnings and tables and run wires for the public address system. They plug in a popcorn machine and prepare snow cones for the coming onslaught of children. Youth workers get into costume and run over last-minute program adjustments. Back at the church, another group is bathing the event in prayer.

**CHURCH COMES TO THE COMMUNITY**

And then, it’s time. The crowd begins to filter into the park. Some parents and children are familiar faces — they come each week and consider the Sidewalk Kids crew part of their community. Others approach tentatively, wary of a gimmick or hard-sell program. The arriving children run from the registration table to grab a snow cone and perhaps some popcorn on their way to a seat on one of the tarps on the ground to await the day’s program. Parents and church volunteers mingle in the back. They all want what is best for these children — and this common interest is what builds community beyond church walls.

“The adults have stepped back into supporting roles, while our youth have stepped forward to lead.”

enes and watch with amazement as these teen ions. It’s truly humbling to see what the Holy ir willing hands and hearts.”
Building an awareness of Scripture is part of each event. “Our youth have designed some fun and creative ways to help these kids memorize Bible verses,” says Shelly. “They come back each week saying, ‘I remember the one from last time!’ And that’s what it’s all about — putting God’s Word in their minds.”

SUPPORTING THE VISION

The Sidewalk Kids summer ministry doesn’t have to be complex or expensive. But as the Orchards project has grown, so has the budget. The Riverside Church in Washougal, Washington, has now partnered with Orchards to add additional funds, volunteers and other resources. More than $20,000 from the Orchards Church alone is budgeted each year to help fund summer stipends for full-time youth who consider it a summer job. Funding has, so far, not been a problem, says Wesslen. “This program is not focused on the older folks in our church, but they realize the value of this program,” he says, “and they contribute liberally.”

Middle three photos pictured clockwise are: Volunteers prepare snow cones, a popular item on warm summer days; Greg Hillman (left), is dressed for a rare “adult” part in the program and confers with John Wesslen, Orchards Church pastor; Shelly Hillman gives last-minute instructions to the youth leaders.
Besides the special program and activities in the park, the Orchards/Riverside program serves a supper, catered by Gail Spreadborough, Columbia Adventist Academy food service director, who loves being part of the outreach. This dinner may be one of the few square meals some of the children can count on each week. And it’s no small feat. Attendance at one of these summertime programs can surpass 120 adults and children.

MINGLING LIKE JESUS

Beyond the rough, ungainly exterior of some who attend is a hunger for something beyond mere physical food. They consider this once-a-week event to be their “church” experience — the only contact they and their children may have with the spiritual side of life. “This program has gotten us involved in the lives of people who would never walk inside the doors of our church,” says Wesslen.

Will this summertime project become a better bridge to church attendance or baptism? At least one family has placed their children in an Adventist school because of Sidewalk Kids. Other results are still tentative. One thing is for certain: It follows a model made clear by Ellen White when she described Jesus’ ministry as going into the communities, ministering to people as one who desired their good.

“One special thing has changed through all of this,” says Wesslen. “We know our neighbors now, and they know us.”

CONSIDER THIS AT YOUR CHURCH

Does your church have an active Pathfinder program? Have you been wondering how to expand your outreach into the community, to take your program to where people actually are? Do you have teens hanging out with nothing to do? Consider visiting one of these summertime programs in Vancouver to see how it is opening doors into the community. Talk to Greg or Shelly, Pastor John, or any of the youth leaders and learn from their experience. You’ll find them eager to share.

Shelly says, “It’s a lot of hard work. I’m exhausted at the end of the summer. But it’s also the best thing I get to do all year!” It could be for you too, if it helps you and your church step out beyond the four walls to become Salt in Our Communities.

Steve Vistaunet, GLEANER editor

“...the best thing I get to do all year!”
Nueva Congregación en Richland

La Iglesia Hispana de Kennewick situada en Tri-Cities, Wash., es una de las congregaciones más jóvenes del territorio de la Conferencia de Upper Columbia. La misma ha demostrado estar determinada a crecer y multiplicarse; es dueña de su propio templo y a su corta edad ya ha decidido dar a luz a su primer hija.

El desafío inspirado por el cielo era plantar una nueva congregación en la vecina ciudad de Richland, Wash. Dicha iniciativa se hizo realidad cuando la congregación Hispana de Richland, se fundó como compañía, el Sábado 14 de Enero del 2012 reuniéndose por primera vez en las instalaciones del hotel Red Lion situado en la costa del Río Columbia en una ciudad cuyo nombre se traduce a la lengua de Cervantes “tierra rica.”

Cuarenta y ocho hermanos firmaron la foja de los pioneros; entre los cuales se distinguen claramente cuatro grupos bien organizados que interactúan armoniosamente como si marcharan observando un estandarte invisible. Un tremendo ejército de jóvenes de primera, segunda y tercera generación se suma a hermanos de diversas edades y culturas para crear un grupo con tremendo potencial para alcanzar a la mente secular que ignora la verdad del evangelio en esta región del mundo.

El pastor local, Jaime Flores, y su esposa, Diana, recalcan que una de las características particulares percibidas en ambas congregaciones, tanto la madre como la hija, es el número de líderes visionarios y determinados a crecer movidos por un profundo sentido de dependencia divina. Estos se destacan por su sociabilidad y deseo ferviente de llevar adelante la misión del evangelio en el contexto multicultural y secular que los rodea.

Nueva Iglesia en Granger

Félix Maijub, el pastor del distrito de Central Valley, comenta que a pesar de la nieve, el 21 de Enero del 2012 en la tarde, la administración de la Conferencia de Upper Columbia representada por su presidente, Robert (Bob) Folkenberg Jr., y su director ministerial, Gerald Haeger, se hizo cita junto a un buen número de hermanos para conmemorar la organización de la Iglesia Hispana de Granger (Wash.).

Alrededor de sesenta hermanos firmaron la foja de los pioneros. La iglesia de Granger milita dinámicamente en un distrito de tres iglesias, por lo que es mayormente dirigida por un buen grupo de líderes competentes y muy talentosos que trabajan en equipo con el Pastor Maijub y su esposa, Damaris.

Uno de los líderes declara que en los últimos meses se ha percibido un incremento no sólo en el número de líderes sino también en el desarrollo de los talentos de cada líder y la forma en que estos dirigen sus respectivos ministerios; esto, declara el hermano, ha beneficiado ricamente a nuestra congregación.

Gracias a Dios por los líderes visionarios que Dios nos da en estas ciudades.

La iglesia Hispana de Granger reconoce y agradece el apoyo desinteresado e incesante brindado por los hermanos de la iglesia Anglo de la misma localidad.

Walter Pintos-Schmidt, coordinador Hispano de la Conferencia de Upper Columbia
Juneau Church Launches 24/7 Evangelist

Anticipation had been running high as the Juneau (Alaska) Church set out to build a Christian radio station, but one major roadblock remained: a suitable location for the radio antenna. More than two years had passed of the three that the Federal Communication Commission allowed for new radio stations to be established. Time was running out.

A possible site nearly a mile's hike up a mountain was suggested. Other towers were visible there, so the site manager was contacted. After many prayers, a site was found.

Questions arose: Where to buy a tower? How to take it up a hill? The mountain's two helipads were unusable — one was strictly for the Federal Aviation Administration, and the other was an old, wooden structure located too close to the other towers.

Looking in the brush nearby, three sections of a tower that had been there for some time were spotted. The tower, in perfect condition and the correct height, belonged to another local Christian station, which gave the Juneau Church permission to use it. God had supplied a tower.

Next the tower needed a pad, along with three anchor pads able to withstand 125-mph winds. Getting the concrete up the hill became the next challenge.

Church members from area churches hauled 80-pound concrete bags up the mountain, along with water to mix. Older members hauled concrete up the hill in smaller quantities. In just a day, members hauled more than 2,500 pounds of concrete, water, chainsaws and tools to clear the ground and dig holes for the foundation.

Equipment for the station was ordered, but the main computer broke during shipping. Brad Imboden, a new Adventist, knew just who to talk with — a man named Charles. Although not a member, Charles reassembled the computer, installed the software and registered everything. The unit is operating the station today.

The new station, KQQJ, which broadcasts at 90.7 FM in Juneau, went live in October 2011. It operates as a 24/7 evangelist, spreading the good news of the gospel and broadcasting inspiring Christian music. Broadcasts include daily devotionals, and will soon include promotional spots for the Juneau Adventist Christian School.

Steve Evenson, Juneau and Sitka District pastor
Cove Church Presents Annual Poinsettia Tree Program

The Cove (Ore.) Church members welcomed the entire community to their 27th-annual Poinsettia Tree Program in December 2011.

Nearly 100 Adventists, community members, and members of the Lutheran Church (currently renting the Cove Church), filled the small building. A “tree” of poinsettias provided a splash of seasonal color. At the end of the program, the poinsettias were given to attendees, some of whom took the plants to members and community members not able to be at the service.

Cove and La Grande (Ore.) Church members presented seasonal music selections. These included the following: Roger Wilkerson played the piano, and Mike Armayor, Cove Church pastor, gave the welcome and offered prayer. Doris Wareham shared a story, A Christmas Far from Home, which encouraged everyone to remember the true meaning of Christmas.

During the Christmas season, everyone loves to hear the talents of children, including the students of the La Grande Adventist School singing and playing bells. They performed one song, “The Virgin Mary,” in sign language. Baker City (Ore.) Church members, Gary and Alice Laabs, and Karl and Ma’Lena Wirth, also shared music.

The program gives church and community members an opportunity to share talents together. Cindy and Sue, non-

Long Creek Creates Christmas Community Connections

After years of caroling and distributing holiday treats to various groups in the community, the Long Creek (Ore.) Church members set the “over the top” goal to give a basket to every household in town this past Christmas. There were 91 baskets filled with homemade bread, jelly or jam, sweet breads, oranges, and homemade candy.

A member of another church heard of the project and wished her church could be included, but her pastor was hesitant to accept the invitation. The Adventist members began to pray that if this was the Lord’s will, the other church would join them.

One week before the planned distribution, the other church confirmed its participation. Members from both churches, plus additional community members, contributed to the baskets and joined in the caroling and handing out of baskets from horse-drawn wagons.

The impact on the community has been evident by continuing positive comments and even more people stopping to say, “Count me in for this year’s project.” It’s a wonderful reminder that God’s sheep are not limited to just one fold.

Alita Henslee, Long Creek Church member

Leona Garrett, Cove Church communication leader
Helena Hosts Vegan Cooking Seminar

As a result of several individuals indicating they would like to learn more about the vegan diet, a cooking seminar in Helena, Mont., was planned for Sept. 25, 2011, from 5–7 p.m. and continued for the following four Sundays.

Tim Ranalla, from Anaconda, Mont., who has given a number of cooking seminars across the United States, agreed to be the main speaker. A committee of six additional members helped.

The seminar covered breakfasts, lunches, dinners, desserts and tofu uses. Recipes for each topic were provided. There were 15 to 20 individuals who attended nightly, including five non-Adventists. A follow-up cooking class and a Bible-marking class are being offered.

Geri Brusett, Helena Church member

Mount Ellis Academy Sophomores Excel on Achievement Tests

There are many ways to measure a school. For an Adventist school, there is no more important measure than the evidence that the Holy Spirit is working in the lives of individual students. Some might view spiritual formation and academic excellence as mutually exclusive processes, but at Mount Ellis Academy (MEA) they are considered closely connected. An awareness that we are created by a loving God gives all the educators’ efforts a purpose and a reason to excel that goes far beyond a desire for prestige or affluence. These best efforts are an act of worship — an offering to Him.

For this reason they have good reason to set high standards. The recent CogniGenesis Project provided empirical evidence for the outstanding quality of academic instruction in Adventist schools across North America. MEA’s fall achievement test scores confirmed the finding of CogniGenesis and showed several remarkable things about the sophomore class’ scores:

- As a group, the class ranked in the 99th percentile compared to all the other 10th-grade groups in the nation.
- 100 percent of the class scored at the proficient level or above in every tested subject.
- At least 45 percent of the class scored at the advanced level in every single subject tested, with 82 percent advanced in reading and 73 percent advanced in science.

The MEA mission statement commits the campus family to “Discover the Reality of Our Creator, Develop Our God-Given Gifts, and Serve in His Kingdom.” For MEA, the purpose of academic achievement is to make students better able to serve, and with humble and grateful hearts they strive to achieve at the highest level.

Darren Wilkins, MEA principal
Investing in the Future
Former Worthy Student Gives Back to PAA

Portland Adventist Academy (PAA) recently received a generous gift from a former worthy student, showing how giving is the greatest investment.

In the late 1920s, Alyce Geiser’s family couldn’t afford tuition at Portland Junior Academy (later Portland Union Academy and now PAA).

The kindness of worthy student donors supported her education. Geiser graduated in 1929 as vice president of her class and secretary of the Missionary Volunteer (MV) Society.

Years later, she became a bookkeeper and eventually married Charles Hadley. Together they became active members at the Tabernacle Church in Portland, Ore., where Geiser was the church treasurer for more than 20 years.

The Adventist community was saddened by the loss of Alyce (Geiser) Hadley last year. “She was such a kind person,” says Tamberly Couch, a friend and former member of the Tabernacle Church. Couch, who also serves as PAA’s development manager, says, “I remember Alyce and Charles had a way of making you feel so special and loved.”

It was a bittersweet surprise when PAA was told that she left one last gift of love to the Adventist community. When she sat down to write her last wishes, Hadley was thinking of PAA and the donors who blessed her life.

She left $360,000 to the academy — half to the Journey to Excellence Campaign to support the school’s new building fund and the other half for PAA’s student scholarship fund to ensure that students just like her could be blessed with an Adventist education for years to come.

“Knowing this gift came from someone who graduated over 80 years ago and yet still remembered what a difference Adventist education made in her life is truly inspirational,” says Gale Crosby, PAA principal. “I know there will be students today that will make their decision to follow Christ because of the thoughtfulness and generosity of Alyce Hadley.”

Liesl Vistaunet, PAA GLEANER correspondent
Oregon Christian Women’s Retreat Leads to Baptism

The long, hard walk that brought DeziRae Mendoza to the baptismal fount has taken many turns. One of them was through the 2011 Oregon Conference Christian Women’s Retreat.

Abused and neglected as a child, shuttled back and forth between an alcoholic father and a drug-addicted mother, but with her grandparents for a positive influence, Mendoza never really belonged anywhere. She began to run away and act out, finally leaving home for good at age 13. She got involved with drugs, alcohol, fighting, skipping school, and breaking the law.

About five years ago she met a woman named Angelina Sosa, who became a friend. When Sosa began to attend the Seventh-day Adventist Community Church of Vancouver, Wash., she invited Mendoza to come too. Mendoza resisted but eventually agreed to visit once. Then she came back for more.

Over the next seven months, Mendoza worked through a Bible-study course. And last October she came to the Oregon Conference Women’s Retreat at Skamania Lodge in Stevenson, Wash., and her life will never be the same.

Mendoza was profoundly impacted by speaker Janice Browne’s presentations and by the setting, the fellowship and the music. On Saturday night, when Browne made an appeal, Mendoza went forward. She followed through with her commitment to God by being baptized on Dec. 3, 2011.

Carolyn Karlstrom, Vancouver Church personal ministries director

DeziRae Mendoza proudly shows off her name tag at the Oregon women’s retreat. DeziRae Mendoza is baptized by Jeff Richards, Vancouver (Wash.) Church pastor.

Southern Oregon

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Live concert at the Valley View Church

On Sunday...

Training events beginning at 9:00 a.m. at Rogue Valley Adventist Academy

Visit www.OregonConference.org for more information!
Christmas in Springfield

The Springfield (Ore.) Church celebrated God’s love in special ways during the Christmas season.

The kindergarten, cradle roll and some primary children, along with adults, played a big part in the Dec. 10, 2011, Sabbath service.

Songs, festive decor and backdrops enhanced the traditional nativity scenes of angels, shepherds and wise men visiting Joseph, Mary and the newborn baby Jesus. One little shepherd brought his grandmother as his shepherd companion to accommodate his special needs.

Lutz Binus, Springfield Church pastor, praised the little shepherds for doing a good job of sitting through the whole program from start to finish with such poise. Many visiting parents, grandparents and other relatives and friends joined the service to get a chance to see their little ones perform, and the event became an outreach as many joined the visitors’ potluck after the service.

Additionally, the church welcomed the Greater Eugene Sacred Choir on Dec. 3, 2011, led by Don Corcoran. An ensemble, harp and bell choir accompanied the choir to present an uplifting program during the worship service.

The church elders provided a waffle breakfast to all who attended on Christmas Eve. This became another unplanned outreach as many brought holiday visitors, relatives and friends who are not regular attendees of church. The fellowship hall buzzed with friendly conversation and thankfulness for all that God had done for members throughout the year. A short but inspiring service after the breakfast included instrumental music, sermonettes...
Milo Adventist Academy (MAA) in Days Creek, Ore., lost the basketball game. As students loaded onto the bus, Milo’s principal, Randy Bovee, and his wife, Carol, headed home in their car along the remote, dark and slippery highway.

At the bottom of a long hill, they spotted taillights over the bank.

Stopping, the Bovees found a woman shaken, unhurt and very worried about getting her car up the embankment.

Surveying the car with the woman and another man who stopped to help, Randy Bovee said, “Don’t worry. We’ve got a whole team coming along in our bus — they’ll be happy to help you out!”

Calling the bus, he suggested the driver ask the students if they would like to help. The moment the bus pulled to a stop, the doors opened, and the basketball players spilled out and headed enthusiastically for the bank. After checking for safety, the teams pushed and shoved.

The car came up so quickly that the woman and those watching had to scurry out of the way. The players cheered, high-fived the woman, wished her a safe trip home and loaded back onto the bus.

In less than 15 minutes, they were back on the road again.

The woman, as well as the man who stopped to help, brimmed with questions for the Bovees about MAA and the happy, helpful kids who could be so joyful after losing a basketball game.


Losing? No way!

As Jonah Wilbanks, a junior and varsity center, says, “That was awesome … way better than winning a game!”

Nancy Starr, MAA administrative assistant

Cooking Classes Teach God’s Original Diet at HVJA

Delicious scents waft throughout the classroom as children prepare Chinese fried rice in honor of the Chinese New Year. It’s all part of their monthly cooking and nutrition learning time — a day in the life of a second grader at Hood View Junior Academy (HVJA) in Boring, Ore.

Under the supervision of their teacher, Fran McVicker, the second graders’ cooking experiences are based on a vegan diet and include pizza, pudding and smoothies all made without meat or dairy. In addition to learning valuable cooking skills, they are better understanding God’s original diet for mankind.

The cooking activities are based on the Health on Purpose nutrition curriculum for children ages 5–11. So far the children have experimented with recipes like bulgur salad, tabbouleh and hummus. Some reluctant students are surprised by how tasty unfamiliar foods can be and are more willing to try new foods they help prepare.

The students are also learning about the different cultures from which various foods come, including Middle Eastern, Native American and Asian.

Like the prophet Daniel, the second graders are becoming more comfortable eating food as it grows in nature and have begun to realize that their Creator has provided highly nutritious, plant-based foods for their “body temples.” And by adopting healthier eating habits, they can be better prepared to meet their life goals.

McVicker, who has taught at HVJA for 38 years, is retiring in June. Her cooking students will participate in the upcoming Community Health Fair at HVJA on Sunday, April 1, 12:30–5 p.m. This will include a free vegan meal served to the first 150 attendees.

Heather Tourville, Pleasant Valley Church member
UCA Selects Principal for 2012–2013 School Year

Upper Columbia Academy (UCA) in Spangle, Wash., announced the selection of John Winslow as its new principal following Troy Patzer’s decision to join the Upper Columbia Conference trust department, effective July 1, 2012.

Winslow, currently Campion (Colo.) Adventist Academy’s principal, previously served as UCA’s vice principal.

“I look forward to allowing God to work through me and the staff at UCA to share the love of Christ, including our unique Adventist message, with young people as well as the amazing and exciting life that comes by walking with Him and sharing Him with others,” Winslow says. “Simply stated, I pray that, with renewed commitment, we will continue to share the love of Christ with kids in such a way that they can’t help but fall in love with Him and be lifelong missionaries for Him.”

He also emphasizes how he appreciates what Patzer and the current academy staff have done to create a Christ-centered atmosphere that is also strong academically.

Winslow and his wife, Allison, have three children: Jonathan, 5, William, 3, and Victoria, 1.

Patzer says, “Renee and I have been blessed to be a part of UCA these past 13 years and particularly these last four as principal. How rewarding it is to work with such talented young people and their families and an honor to work side by side with some of the most gifted, compassionate and Christ-centered staff members in education. Not only do we believe God will continue to bless UCA, we are also excited for what God has in store for us in our next chapter with the Upper Columbia Conference.”

Jay Wintermeyer, Upper Columbia Conference communication director

Longtime Northwest Adventist Educator Retires

John Deming, longtime Northwest Adventist educator and principal of Walla Walla Valley Academy (WWVA) in College Place, Wash., just announced he is retiring at the end of the current school year.

“Working and walking with teenagers is both exhilarating and humbling,” says Deming, who has served as WWVA’s principal since 1992.

Deming served as principal of Battle Creek (Mich.) Academy before coming to WWVA and as principal of Minneapolis (Minn.) Junior Academy for four years. He received a master of arts in counseling from Western Michigan University (Kalamazoo, Mich.) in 1972 and a bachelor of arts in history from Union College (Lincoln, Neb.) in 1965.

When asked about his years as an educator, Deming says, “It has been both a challenge and a joy to plant, cultivate and water the fertile hearts of students and watch as they move from nervous adolescent to the cusp of young adulthood. Far-reaching and important decisions are made during the four years of high school, and to have had the privilege of helping shape students’ decisions has been more than rewarding. A daily morning prayer for my students is that they lean towards Jesus and choose to walk with Him that day.”

Deming and his wife, Joan, a familiar face at College Place’s Blue Mountain Credit Union where she has been employed for many years, intend to stay in the Walla Walla Valley. He plans to volunteer, teach by request and do some traveling.

Larry Marsh, Upper Columbia Conference vice president for education, will be working with the academy board to select a replacement.

Cindy Chamberlin, GLEANER managing editor
Kennewick Hosts Pathfinder and Adventurer Induction Ceremony

The Kennewick (Wash.) Nighthawk Pathfinders and Adventurers held their induction ceremony on Oct. 26, 2011. Forest and June Cross, Pathfinder district coordinators, and Anita Leibold, Adventurer district coordinator, gave an inspirational talk and helped hand out certificates.

Shirley Canfield, Kennewick Church communication leader

A Sweet 10th Year at Sandpoint Junior Academy

The smell of homemade hot apple pies once again permeates the hallways of Sandpoint (Idaho) Junior Academy. Several pies are baked and topped with ice cream as just one of the great benefits of being part of the volunteers creating apple pies.

More than a ton of Golden Delicious apples have been peeled, cored, and sliced. Spices and sweetener have been added, and 1,246 crusts have been rolled and edges crimped to seal in the flavors. A total of 673 pies have been wrapped, boxed and ready for the freezer.

Students had pre-sold 511 pies before they were made on Nov. 13, 2011, and the remaining 162 pies were sold within a week. Over the years, the community has learned they must place their orders early to obtain their pies for the holidays.

To make this happen, countless volunteers worked anywhere from a few hours to a full day, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at different times, anywhere from 60 to 80 men, women and children of all ages worked together, enjoying fun and fellowship and watching the boxed pies stack up.

The total number of pies has increased year after year. The $11 price per pie makes it affordable for many people in Sandpoint to enjoy the fruit of the labor of all involved.

Ten years ago the Wheeler family brought the pie fund-raising idea with them when they moved from Fall River Mills, Calif. The church school there had a successful pie program, and they figured it would work well in Sandpoint. The proceeds from the pie sale fund the ski program for every student, which includes equipment rental, a day pass and a ski lesson one day a week for six weeks at Schweitzer Mountain Resort.

As the students see the snow falling, they are looking forward to another great year on the slopes — some learning for the first time, while others gain new skills. With the 10th year completed, the students, staff, and parents are thankful to all who had a part in preparing, assembling, and purchasing the pies and making it another great, successful year.

Barbara Loss, Sandpoint Junior Academy communication leader
Youth Rally Helps Teens Grow in Faith

Teenagers stood at the entrance of a classroom building and called out to their peers to “come understand more about the gospel” or “distribute GLOW tracts door to door.”

Classrooms filled up as hundreds of teens, parents and youth leaders selected faith-building afternoon workshop options at Washington Conference’s Youth Rally. All the chairs in the Understanding the Gospel workshop by Patrick Clifford, Auburn Adventist Academy (AAA) boys’ dean, were filled, and teens brought in more chairs from the hallway.

A few classrooms down, more teens learned about holding onto their faith in college and how to effectively lead music ministry. Elsewhere, a group of young people prepared to distribute 1,500 pieces of literature in the community.

“Going door to door passing out GLOW tracts was super fun even in the cold,” says Lynnette King, a teen from Olympia, Wash. “There were no rejections for our group. They were all receptive.”

Seth Jurgensen, a teen from Issaquah, Wash., also liked distributing GLOW (Giving Light to Our World) tracts and prophecy seminar invitations. “I like stepping out of my comfort zone, along with friends, to help spread the word, which I find really rewarding,” he says.

The youth rally, held Jan. 14 at Highline Performing Arts Center in Burien, Wash., annually brings together hundreds of western Washington teenagers, parents and youth leaders for a day of worship, fellowship and outreach.

Japhet de Oliveira, from the Center for Youth Evangelism, shared story snapshots about Jesus. Maria Long, recording artist, shared an original song, “Endeavor,” about seeking after Jesus. She also performed a mini-concert.

“It was really cool to be involved this year and pray with the staff,” says Elliot Fletcher, an AAA junior. “It was a great experience. Before I was just sitting out there [in the audience] listening.”

Teenagers also had opportunities to learn more about Adventist Christian education, Youth Rush literature evangelism, summertime youth evangelism at Sunset Lake Camp, and mission service abroad.

Washington Conference plans youth-friendly activities and training sessions throughout the year, including a recent series of parent sessions for helping teens develop “sticky faith” and an associated teen retreat to aid students in forming a lasting relationship with Jesus Christ.

Join the youth ministry conversation at facebook.com/washingtonyouth.

Heidi Martella, Washington Conference communication director
Food Basket Ministry Blesses Community

The North Cascade Church in Burlington, Wash., recently marked its 10th anniversary for providing Thanksgiving and Christmas food baskets for community families.

Members filled and delivered food boxes to a combined total of 71 families in 2011. The boxes also included Christmas gifts from the Giving Tree in the church foyer.

The church features a Food of the Month program all year by asking members to bring specific items each month to build up inventory for the most-needed items.

Pathfinders hold two neighborhood food drives in addition to a youth Sabbath School class food drive to help fill the food baskets.

The Adventurer Club created gift-wrapped pasta meals that were included in each basket, and another church member created a soup package with all the ingredients and the recipe for making the soup. In addition, each basket included a copy of Steps to Christ.

The families receiving these food baskets are grateful. “We don’t need to worry anymore because God just blessed us with more food,” says a child of a single mother of two who received a food basket.

Church members feel blessed to help families by working together to make a difference within the Skagit Valley.

Vanoy and Joan Smith help prepare food baskets for families in Skagit County.

Port Angeles Purchases Church Building

The Port Angeles (Wash.) Church purchased a vacant church in September 2011 from the First Church of Christ Scientist. The building includes a larger sanctuary, fellowship hall and parking area but lacks classrooms, handicapped restrooms, kitchen and baptistery.

Committees have been actively working with the congregation’s ideas for an addition and remodeling to meet the church’s needs. Fundraising plans are also being made.

The fellowship hall in the new building is already being used for a Financial Peace University seminar, a weekly needlework social, and some committee meetings. The first official all-church activity in the new building was a Christmas program that followed Ingathering and caroling. The new building is much more visible to the public on a main Port Angeles thoroughfare.

The original part of the present Port Angeles Church was built sometime in the early 1900s. Willard Johnson, an engineer on the railroad that connected Port Townsend, Wash., with Port Angeles and who also supported the nearby Sequim (Wash.) Church, was one of the main influences in this project. Over the years, several additions were made, including a separate Dorcas building (connected to the main church building later). At one time a church school operated in the building.

Judy de Chantal, Port Angeles Church clerk

Port Angeles (Wash.) Church members purchase a larger facility to allow additional room for worship, ministry and fellowship.

Cole Witas loads a box for delivery to the community as part of the North Cascade (Wash.) Church’s food basket ministry in Skagit County.

Carol Atkins, North Cascade Church food basket coordinator
**Tri-school Activities Bring Small Schools Together**

Three small schools in the Washington Conference teamed up earlier in the school year to offer tri-school activities. 

"[The three teachers] decided it would be good to get our small, one-teacher schools together once a month this year," says Shannon Whidden, Forest Park Adventist Christian School (Everett, Wash.) principal and teacher. "We wanted our students to have some interaction with other kids."

Forest Park has 14 students while Cedarhome Adventist Christian School (Stanwood, Wash.) has eight and Sky Valley Adventist School (Monroe, Wash.) has four.

The tri-school activities vary every month. For the first outing, students split into teams for a scavenger hunt at the Evergreen State Fair.

Students next explored the Washington State Corn Maze in Snohomish County to see all the major Washington roads and attractions built into the maze.

A few weeks before Christmas, students cycled through five craft stations to assemble Christmas presents.

Recently, the schools joined for Tri-school Science Olympics, where students designed an egg-drop apparatus, produced paper planes, built a tower of straws to hold a tennis ball, and enjoyed other science activities. 

“At first, our students weren’t so sure about interacting with each other,” says Amanda Kobberstad, Cedarhome principal and teacher. “Now they have fun learning together."

The three schools plan to continue their joint learning activities. 

Heidi Martella, Washington Conference communication director

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**Grays Harbor Students Learn to Bless Humanity**

Students at Grays Harbor Adventist Christian School (GHACS) are learning to use their time wisely to bless humanity. 

The service theme is woven throughout the curriculum for this multi-grade school in Montesano, Wash., where students are encouraged to develop their talents and be a blessing to others.

When the students finish their assignments, they can make gifts to give out at the local food bank, create cheer cards or bookmarks to brighten someone’s day, or knit warm hats for people in need.

Several upper-grade students from the school attended the conference-wide service project in September 2011 in Kirkland, Wash. Before the Christmas holiday, the students made candy leis to distribute at the Grays Harbor Adventist Food Bank to the children of clients.

In January, the students sang at a local nursing home and then gave out handcrafted cards and bookmarks with Bible verses on them.

“It gave me a leap of joy to sing to them,” wrote one student in a journal response after the singing outreach service project.

GHACS appreciates the support from its local churches and the Washington Conference for encouraging its youth to learn the joy of service and to pursue a life-work of helping others. 

Adria Hay, GHACS principal and teacher
For many former and current students, it’s the sense of community that defines their time at Walla Walla University (WWU). Here, small classes, friendly people and a full schedule of academic, social and spiritual programs are all part of a memorable collegiate experience.

Jodi Witzel, senior education major and a resident assistant director in the women’s residence hall, says that the relationships she has formed have had a positive effect on her experience in school. “Whenever I’m away, I always look forward to coming back to campus to be with my friends — they’ve become more like a family,” she says.

Recent renovations are enhancing campus life for residence hall students — 39 percent of WWU’s 1,831 students. Improvements include:

- **Sittner Hall:** Several bathrooms in the men’s residence hall have been renovated and more will be updated next summer. Also, new washers and dryers are installed in laundry rooms and are free to residents.
- **Foreman Hall:** The lobby and laundry rooms in the women’s residence hall have been renovated, and the new washers and dryers are free to residents.
- **Campus Dining Services:** Serving stations, which feature all-vegetarian food, have increased from six to nine to accommodate additional healthy meal options, including a soup and wrap bar, an international cuisine station, and a vegan/alternative station.

To improve pedestrian safety and visibility, cars can no longer park on College Avenue, which passes through the main campus. This change and future landscape enhancements are part of an overall physical campus master plan.

And in November 2011, the Association of Students of Walla Walla University opened The Atlas, a new student center where students can study, connect and worship together.

“We have been working diligently to make these improvements,” says Ken Rogers, vice president for student life. “Our goal is to provide residence hall students with a setting where they can flourish in all aspects of their university experience.”

Rosa Jimenez, WWU GLEANER correspondent

If you live in the North Pacific Union Conference (NPUC) region, it’s likely that you or someone you know is connected to Walla Walla University (WWU). Today at WWU, more than 1,800 students are launching careers and building lifelong relationships, but most importantly, they are learning about God and how to make a difference for Him in this world.

Church members help young people continue their education through an annual church offering to provide tuition grants to financially needy NPUC students. Thank you for your gifts to this offering and also for your continuing prayers of support.
During the early spring of 1963, while I and my soon-to-be-wife, Nadine Platner, were students at Walla Walla College (WWC, now Walla Walla University/WWU) in College Place, Wash., Melvin K. West, music professor and organist, and Loren Dickinson, speech professor, began a long-running series of Sabbath evening concerts. This monthly sundown interlude in the College Church became known as Evensong: A Sabbath Sunset Reflection. For many, these were appointments not to be missed.

Evensong arose not by mere accident, but from West’s desire to endear the new church organ to the students, faculty, staff and college community. He surmised a series of organ programs at the sundown vespers time would be just the right thing.

New Neighbors Begin a Tradition

When Dickinson joined the faculty and, with his wife, Carolyn, moved next door to the West’s home in College Place, he learned of this dream during their neighborly “gab” sessions. “Why don’t you find some poetry, prose or whatever and do it between the numbers I play?” West urged.

“The concept was simple, had elegance to it and was something I could surround,” Dickinson remembers. “When we talked the first time, he said, ‘I know exactly how we can open this thing.’”

Editors’ Note: Richard Dower, retired GLEANER editor, writes here of his perspectives on the Walla Walla University tradition of Evensong and how a new audio CD recording of the program came to fruition.

The Evensong CD is the first of a series of Sabbath Time Music recordings.
“I had the piece of music, and I thought, you know, that’s absolutely perfect,” West recalls. Dickinson wrote introductory words meant to help set a mood of meditation and expectancy, all in a setting of “the great chords of harmony.” Those words and the music became the hallmark of Evensong. Two other elements defined Evensong: a guest performer and an improvisation on a hymn.

Evensong came to full bloom right away — almost nothing changed after the first couple of programs. West knew the kind of music he wanted to play, and he knew there ought to be readings interspersed. It was a simple concept that didn’t have to change too much throughout its long life.

Nadine and I left WWC in the spring of 1964 and did not return to the campus on a Sabbath until Alumni Weekend in April 2000. During that weekend, West and Dickinson did a reunion Evensong, which we attended. It was a wonderful concert and brought back memories of the concerts we enjoyed so long ago. Nine years later, they presented what was billed as “the last Evensong” at Sunnyside Church in Portland, Ore., in May 2009.

The CD Project Takes Root

Soon after that, the idea was born to ask both West and Dickinson to record an Evensong for posterity. Quite frankly, these concerts were so special to me and to so many other WWC students that, selfishly, I wanted to hear the opening and closing words and music whenever I wished. West’s initial reaction was an emphatic “no!” He had never allowed recordings to be made of his concerts or recitals because he did not want the pressure of a recording added to the stress of performance. I persevered, trying to convince him that a recording of Evensong would be a treasure to many WWC alumni.

West was touched, and so he agreed to allow the recording of an Evensong program held March 12, 2011. This recording is a tribute to Mel West and Loren Dickinson, the men who made Evensong so long-lived and memorable for so many people. The Evensong CD is the first of a series of Sabbath Time Music recordings. For more information, go to www.sabbathtimemusic.com. WWU has continued the Evensong tradition on campus with Kraig Scott and Monty Buell currently doing the honors — a treat to be experienced by anyone who visits College Place on a Sabbath evening.

In Their Own Words

Transcribed from a conversation with Melvin West and Loren Dickinson and recorded by Gordon Wildman.

Mel West remembers ...

“We chose a theme song. The theme song was an instant success [and] people very early on grabbed on to that song. I’ve heard people say, ‘All that it took was to have that theme song start and tears came.’

“I have thought this, but I don’t know if I’ve ever expressed it. We could do the opening and the closing, have nothing in the middle … and we would have satisfied a lot of people. There’s something about that melody we picked years ago that just stuck … and people want that.”

Loren Dickinson recalls ...

“Mel saw [the new college Casavant organ] was capable of doing things that hadn’t been done before. The church was new, the organ was new, and he saw potential that the rest of us didn’t understand. So, this made it reasonable to hook into some kind of a programmatic idea. And there it was. Providence filled in all the rest as far as I am concerned.”

Richard Dower, former GLEANER editor

Gordon Wildman is the technological brain behind the new Evensong CD, which features Melvin West and Loren Dickinson as recorded at the Sunnyside Church in Portland, Ore.
To promote a healthy lifestyle and team spirit, Adventist Health recently sponsored the largest corporate participation at the 2011 California International Marathon (CIM). More than 135 employees from across the four-state, 18-hospital system made up 35 relay teams with several full-marathon runners for the Dec. 4, 2011, race. This marked the fifth year Adventist Health has participated in the race.

The CIM is a 26.2-mile race from Folsom, Calif., to the state capitol in Sacramento, Calif. Ranked as the 14th largest marathon in the country, the most recent CIM had 8,000 marathoners and 4,000 relay runners. The course is slightly downhill and is known as a great race to earn a Boston Marathon qualifying time.

Adventist Medical Center in Portland, Ore., had several participants in the race, as did several California hospitals: Adventist Medical Center Hanford, Glendale Adventist Medical Center, Howard Memorial Hospital, St. Helena Hospital Napa Valley and Sonora Regional Medical Center.

To get employees excited about running, the Roseville, Calif., based organization offered to pay employees’ registration fees for the race. Adventist Health also provided bright yellow T-shirts with the company logo for runners to wear during the race to add to the team atmosphere. Adventist Health runners were known as “Team AHsome” and proudly wore the Adventist Health name on their shirts.

In addition to training regularly several months in advance for the race, participants encouraged each other and engaged in healthy competition for motivation. While some participants were seasoned runners, others had never done a distance race before.

George Bailey, an employee at the system headquarters, was a first-time runner this year with a remarkable story. Several years ago, Bailey decided to improve his health and lose weight. He has participated in CHIP (Complete Health Improvement Program), Adventist Health-sponsored health programs and daily walks. He wears a pedometer every day to keep track of his steps and spends lunch breaks walking. Since his decision to become healthier, Bailey has lost more than 100 pounds. He initially was nervous about signing up for the CIM and, after doing so, wanted to drop out. His teammates encouraged him to do the race, and, with their support, he was able to run his portion of the relay successfully.

By promoting health among its employees, Adventist Health is working to set a good example for its patients and the communities its hospitals and other facilities serve. For health and fitness tips, quizzes and other online tools, visit AdventistHealth.org and click on the Health Library tab.

Brittany Dobbs, Adventist Health GLEANER correspondent
Alice Collier

Collier 100th

Alice Collier celebrated her 100th birthday on Sept. 17, 2011, with a potluck at the Ontario (Ore.) Church.

Alice Foster was born Sept. 21, 1911, in Marshfield, Ore. She is the oldest of five children. She and her siblings attended school in Marshfield and Coos River, Ore. They rode a boat on the Coos River to school.

She married Henry Collier in Coquille, Ore., on Dec. 21, 1929. They had one son and one daughter. Later, they moved to a 120-acre ranch in Ontario in 1951.

Collier's interests are music, gardening and church. She plays the organ, violin, piano and accordion. Her secret to longevity is eating from her garden and playing her music.

Collier's family includes John and Betty Collier of Ontario; Rose Masterson of Twin Falls, Idaho; 7 grandchildren, 16 great-grandchildren and 11 great-great-grandchildren.

Jacoshenk 70th

Ray and Ruby Jacoshenk celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary on June 2, 2011, at the graduation of their twin grandsons in Sacramento, Calif.

Ray was snorkeling in the ocean. They have endured the hardship of losing two of their children: Jim in 1992 and Judy in 2004. They have 8 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

Petersen 90th

LuVerne Petersen was honored at a weekend celebration for his 90th birthday in Walla Walla, Wash., Dec. 1–4, 2011.

Petersen was born Dec. 1, 1921, in rural Iowa. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II. On Jan. 19, 1944, he married Alice M. Nelsen of Kimballton, Iowa. They farmed near Kimballton for more than 50 years and were members of the Exira Church.

In July 2009, they moved to an apartment in Wheatland Village in Walla Walla. Petersen and his wife are members of the Walla Walla University Church.

His family includes Jane and Larry Dodds of Walla Walla; 4 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

White 50th

Glenn and Sandy White celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary at their home with a surprise weekend visit with their family and a gift of a trip to Hawaii in December.

Glenn White and Sandra Haughey met at San Pasqual Academy (Escondido, Calif.) in the summer of 1959. Glenn proposed to Sandy on Christmas Day 1960. They were married on Nov. 19, 1961, in the Santa Ana (Calif.) Church of the Palms, by E. Irwin Lehman.

In 1965, they moved to Pomona, Calif., where their children, Teresa and Scott, were born. They became members of the Pomona Church, where Glenn was a deacon, worked in the youth department, and helped in Pathfinders. Sandy worked in the primary and kindergarten departments.

In 1972, the family moved to Klamath Falls, Ore., where their daughter, Julie, was born. They became members of the Klamath Falls Church, where Glenn served as head deacon, member of the church and school boards, and helped with Pathfinders. Sandy served as head deaconess, church clerk, and a member of the church and school boards. Glenn worked for Burlington Northern/Santa Fe Railroad in the track department and driving/operating a high-rail boom truck. Sandy worked at the Merle West Medical Center as a medical clerk.

In 1990, Glenn was transferred by the railroad to Salem, Ore. Sandy went to work for Kaiser Permanente as a telephone receptionist. They both retired in August 2004.

The Whites enjoy being with their grandchildren, camping and traveling. Glenn enjoys his woodworking shop, while Sandy enjoys sewing and gardening.

The White family includes Teresa and Bruce Price of Walla Walla, Wash.; Scott and Shannon (Hoard) White of Keizer, Ore.; Julie White of Vancouver, Wash.; 5 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.
CLIFTON — Elijah Lynn was born Aug. 22, 2011, to Tony and Sheila (Hammack) Clifton, Sutherlin, Ore.

CONNERS — Jordan Denae’ was born Oct. 16, 2011, to Josh and Noelle (Carlson) Conners, Castle Rock, Wash.


HERZBERG — Zuri Rain was born Dec. 8, 2011, to Jeron and Gena (Stone) Gibson, Grants Pass, Ore.

PATZER — Lilia Solène was born Jan. 10, 2012, to Troy and Castle Rock, Wash.

PIESKE — Grayson Lee was born Jan. 1, 2012, to Jordan and Chelsea (Hummel) Pieske, Gresham, Ore.

RITER — Levi Wesley was born Nov. 16, 2011, to Benjamin and Jannela (McGhee) Riter, Seattle, Wash.


COBLENTZ — Margie N. (White) Friesen Manning, 90; born April 21, 1921, Clement, Okla.; died Sept. 9, 2011, Sweet Home, Ore. Surviving: sons, Jerry Friesen, Culver, Calif.; Max Friesen, Sacramento, Calif.; Don Friesen, Sweet Home; stepsons, Lloyd Manning, Sweet Home; Roy Manning, Tigard, Ore.; many grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.


FORBES — Robert M., 86; born March 11, 1925, Minneapolis, Minn.; died Oct. 29, 2011, Hermiston, Ore. Surviving: wife, Virgie (Steiner); son, Robert M., Lehr, N.D.; daughter, Carlotta Yauney, Pendleton, Ore.; sister, Blanch Bitzer, Brainerd, Minn.; 3 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.


SAMPSON — Cara, 28; born May 4, 1983, Walla Walla, Wash.; died July 7, 2011, Vancouver, Wash. Surviving: mother, Jeannie (Garcia), Vancouver; brother, Shawn, Vancouver; half brother, Chris Kilmer, Vancouver; half sisters, Carlie (Glen) Sanborn and Candice (Glen) Frantz, both of Vancouver; and grandparents, Frank and Maria (Alveraz) Garcia, Vancouver.

SIMER — Ronald R., 73; born Oct. 19, 1937, Corpus Christi, Texas; died Feb. 5, 2011, Medford, Ore. Surviving: wife, Lois (Pariani); sons, Steven and Kevin, both of Wisconsin; daughter, Rhonda Martinson, of Wisconsin; stepson, Jeff Mendoza, of California; brothers, Harold Fowler, of Texas; Bruce, of Florida; 6 grandchildren, 2 step-grandchildren and a great-grandchild.


WATTS — Lois May (Shepherdson), 92; born May 25, 1919, Kirkville, Mo.; died Nov. 13, 2011, Loma Linda, Calif. Surviving: husband, Carl; son, Howard T., Grand Terrace, Calif.; daughter, Kit Watts, Milton-Freewater, Ore.; and 2 grandchildren.
North Pacific Union Conference

Offering
March 3 — Local Church Budget;
March 10 — Adventist World Radio World Budget;
March 17 — Local Church Budget;
March 24 — Local Conference Advance;
March 31 — Walla Walla University.

Northwest Chapter ASI Convention

April 26–29 — Come join the excitement of an Adventist-laymen’s Services and Industries (ASI) convention at the Riverside Hotel in Boise, Idaho. Enjoy spiritual refreshing with speakers Jim Gilley and Kevin Wilfl ey. Be invigorated as members tell how they share God’s love with others. Special programs will be available for children. Treat your family to the rich blessings of an ASI convention and be reminded how “Faith Powers Service.” Take advantage of a first-time New Member Incentive: Two-year membership for the price of one. For more information, visit asinw.netasi.org. Make reservations with Marella Rudebaugh at the North Pacific Union Conference office 360-857-7000 and the Boise-Riverside Hotel 208-343-1871.

Walla Walla University

March 1–3 — March University Days;
March 2–4 — Young Writers Conference;
March 3 and 4 — The Festival of the One Acts, 8 p.m.;
March 15–25 — Spring Break;
March 31 — Evensong, 7 p.m., University Church;
April 1–3 — April University Days. For details and reservations, call 800-541-8900;
Various dates — Women’s softball, go to athletics.wallawalla.edu.

Portland Campus

March 10 — Ken Rogers, WWU vice president for student life and mission, will be at the Sunnyside Church at 8:50 a.m. and 11:20 a.m.

Idaho

Gem State Adventist Academy Homecoming
March 30–April 1 — All alumni, former students, faculty, parents and friends are invited to the annual homecoming. Honored classes are: 1942, 1952, 1962, 1972, 1982, 1987, 1992 and 2002. The alumni lunch is looking for addresses for the following honor class graduates. If you see your name listed or know the whereabouts of an individual on this list, please contact Linda Klinger at 208-459-1627, ext. 158 or lklinger@gemstate.org. 1952: Nancy (Rennings) Meyers, Ruth (Tewalt) Sedgebeer; 1962: Cheryl Grogan, Shirlee (Maynard) Hansen; 1972: Mike Anderson, Glen Bowman, Teresa Crain, Debbie Geddes, Lynn Goodman, Richard Gray, Mike Guerin, Jolene Hickman, Fusako Miyaji, Lauren Polson, Judy Reed, Louise Reid, Rita (Lall) Runyon, Sheryl Skinner, Tim Thornton, Terri Zenna; 1982: Ralph Eastwood, Carolyn (Simanton) Harris, Marlene (Reed) Henry, Tina (Lucas) Iuchi, Helen (Tabor) Lofton, Duncan MacFarland, Daniel Priest, Brent Ringering, Laren Stafford; 1987: Wanda (Fellows) Browne, Edye Campos, Anita Hardin, Dana McFarland, Michael Nelson, Tracy Olson, Lana (Sundsted) Parra, Vicki (Wagness) Zweigle; 1992: Brian Evans, Jessie Farley, Sarah (McGill) Curtis, Angie (Heyn) Wakely, Dwight Zitek; 2001: Stephanie Brister, Michelle DeBard, Sarah Gonzales, Jessica Gross, Jennifer Kramer, Elizabeth (Draget) Stenberg, Rebecca Torske and Holly Wheelock.

Montana

Missing members
The Belgrade Church is looking for the following missing members: Carol Armond, Sara Armond, Diane Burke, Don Clark, Fawn Felker, Rex Hudson, Terry Morris, Tina Morris, Susie Smith, Mary Stromme and Mary Towner. If you have any information about these missing members, please contact Ruth Stanton at the Montana Conference office, 406-587-3101.

Oregon

Health Fair
March 4 — The community is invited to a Health Fair from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Sunnyside Grange on Cowlitz St., Castle Rock, WA. This event is sponsored by the Castle Rock Church. For more information, contact Jeanne at 360-274-6709.

Tribute Quartet
March 17 — The Seventh-day Adventist Community Church of Vancouver is hosting Tribute Quartet at 7 p.m. This national quartet’s tour brings them to our church for a free-will offering concert. www.tributequartet.com.

Ministry Fest South
March 17 — Have you asked, “What can my church do to reach out to others? What can I do?” Come to Ministry Fest at the Rogue Valley Adventist Academy, 3675 S. Stage Rd., Medford, OR 97501. Beginning at 3 p.m. you will see live demonstrations, review program materials, and ask questions while visiting dozens of interactive ministry displays and booths. Be sure to enter the drawings, experience the Info Blitzes, and pick up lots of free resources and handouts. And childcare is provided for ages 4 to 9! After sundown enjoy a delicious haystack dinner and a live concert. Training classes begin at 9 a.m. Sunday morning in the same location. Discovering ministry has never been so much fun.

Stephen Bohr Seminar
March 23–24 — Stephen Bohr will present a seminar at the Riverside Church, 463 N. Shepherd Rd., Washougal, WA 98671. Bohr is the pastor of the Fresno (Calif.) Church and is regularly seen on Hope TV, Amazing Facts TV and 3ABN. The meetings will be held Friday, 7 p.m., and Sabbath, 11 a.m., 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. Please bring toppings for a haystack potluck at noon. For more information, email pmcaviness@msn.com, or call 360-953-1372.
McDougall Cooking Class
March 27 — Free McDougall Cooking Class will begin March 27, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., and continue for six more Tuesday nights until May 8, 2012. Location: Castle Rock Church, 7531 Old Pacific Hwy., Castle Rock, WA. Please RSVP. For more information, contact Wanda at 360-967-2165.

Oregon Conference Prayer Retreat
March 30-April 1 — It’s not too late to reserve your place at the 2012 Oregon Conference Prayer Retreat. If you are looking for spiritual renewal and Christian friendship, this retreat is just for you. Speaker Ty Gibson will focus on the prayer life of the end-time generation. Come experience the power of prayer and the peaceful setting of Grove Christian Camp just outside Cottage Grove, Ore. This retreat is open to everyone so feel free to invite a friend from your community. Register now for only $100 at www.plusline.org/eventdetail.php?id=1066818 or call 503-732-7587. For more information, go to orgcpersonalmin.

Community Health Fair
April 1 — Hood View Junior Academy in Boring, Ore., will host a Community Health Fair on Sunday, from 12:30–5 p.m. Come learn about the health benefits of physical activity and a plant-based diet, complete with cooking demonstrations, breakout sessions with local health experts, a kids’ jog-a-thon, booth and showings of the acclaimed documentary Forks Over Knives. A free meal will be served to the first 150 guests (food is also available to purchase throughout the day). The Adventist Medical Center Health van will be on site to conduct health screenings. Throughout the afternoon presenters will speak on topics such as reversing diabetes, the 10 best things you can do to improve your health, and the importance of childhood nutrition and physical activity. For more information, or to participate as an exhibitor or volunteer, call Kari Okensenholt-Unruh at 503-750-4730 or email questions to kariokensenholt@gmail.com.

OAMC 18th-annual Spring Festival
April 14 — Oregon Adventist Men’s Chorus 18th-annual Spring Festival will be at 4:30 p.m., at Adventist Community Church, 9711 N.E. St. Johns Rd., Vancouver, WA 98665. Be inspired by 100 singing men, including Northwest academy students. For information and free tickets, go to www.oamc.org/tickets or call 503-410-6970.

Orchestra Concert
April 24 — The Canadian University College Chamber Orchestra on their Northwest Tour, under the direction of Jennifer Penner, will be in concert at the Sunnyside Church, 10501 S.E. Market St., Portland, OR 97216, on Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. The concert will feature talented young musicians and soloists sharing an uplifting evening of sacred classics. A free-will offering will be taken in lieu of admission.

Laurelwood Class of 1962 Reunion
July 27–29 — The Laurelwood Class of 1962 Reunion will be at the Cherrylwood Village in Portland, Ore. Plans for our 50-year reunion include golf, sharing, inspiration, meals and an open house. For more information, consult their Facebook page: Laurelwood Academy Class of 1962. Contact information for the following missing classmates is needed: Lola Mae Burns-Worth, Peggy Estberg-Britner, Louise Neuffer-Trotti, Sue Wagner, Peggy Weaver, Sharon Conklin-Taylor, Mary Ann Clifford, Carolyn Hoffmeister, Lorina Abbot-Hopi, Carol Tamerius-Mullian, Jo Ann Schumacher, Doris Snyder-Driver, Kay Spears-Krist, Jack Irvine, Jan Newell, Kathy Haines, Linda Cain, Lexie Vantassel, Richard Tonole, Fred Rasmussen and Lawrence Serl. If you have any information, send a message on Facebook or call 503-641-4110.

Missing Members
The Shady Point Church is looking for the following missing members: Nicholas Aaltoinen, Deb Frank, Daniel Hutchinson, Ronald Kay, Joseph Lance and Edwin Redondo. If you have any information, please contact Sandy at 541-826-2839 or sbrown@ccountry.net.

Oroville Church Celebration
June 30 — You are invited to the dedication of the Oroville Church sanctuary and the 80th anniversary of the church formation. Bob Folkenberg Jr., Upper Columbia Conference president, will speak at the 11 a.m. service and at the afternoon dedication. Help them celebrate at 922 Main St., Oroville, WA 98844.

WWVA Alumni Weekend
Sept. 21–23 — Walla Walla Valley Academy invites all alumni and former faculty to the academy for this special reunion weekend. The 2012 Honor Classes are: 2002, 1992, 1982, 1987, 1972, 1962 and Golden Alumni. For more information, contact the Alumni Office at 509-525-1050 ext. 223 or email evanch@wwva.org.

Missing Members
The Kennewick (Wash.) Church is looking for the whereabouts of the following missing members: Sheryle Laubach, John Marsh, Naoma Marsh, Tanya McKean, Rachel Guajardo, Kimberly Melius, Ardelle Montgomery, Earl Montgomery, Kathleen Orht, Arthur Pittillo, Paul Ponozzo, Twila Ponozzo, Nancy Rose, Donna Scott, Carol Templeman, Ken Tovey, Alexi True, Robert Waznt, Michael Wisehart and Patricia Wisehart. If you have any information regarding these missing members, contact Fred Christensen at 509-783-8731 or email evanch@wwva.org.

Project PATCH: Family Experience Weekend
March 16-19 — Family Experience Weekend at the Project PATCH
Family Life and Conference Center, in Goldendale, WA, now open for registration. Various dates available, starting March 16-19. Learn effective communication and how to relate better to each other as a family, all in a Christ-centered, family-focused environment. Call 360-690-8495 for more information and to register. For program details and location photos, visit projectpatch.org.

**Washington**

**Sabbath History Seminar**
March 23-24 — Jim Wood will present a fresh, new look at the Sabbath in its historical context, drawing from his years of research for *The Seventh Day* television documentary series. Seminar topics are: Sabbath Controversy, Friday at 7 p.m.; Emperors, Popes and Calendars, Sabbath at 9:30 a.m.; Evolution and the Sabbath, Sabbath at 10:55 a.m.; and Sabbath Reformers, Sabbath at 1:30 p.m. Location: Tacoma Central Church, 1301 S. Baltimore St., Tacoma, WA. For more information on *The Seventh Day* series, visit www.the7thday.org.

**Vegfest 2012!**
March 24-25 — Vegfest 2012, at the Seattle Center’s Exhibition Hall from 10 a.m.–6 p.m. Taste food samples, see chef’s cooking demos, hear the latest nutrition information from physician speakers and choose from the largest collection of vegetarian books in the world. Admission is $8 for adults (children 12 and under free) or sign up to volunteer and receive free admission and a T-shirt. Details at www.vegfest2012.org.

**SAGE Creation Retreat**
May 9-13 — There will be a SAGE Creation Retreat at Camp Hope, British Columbia, Canada, “Celebrating God’s Creation.” Featured speakers will include Adventist scholars and scientists Dr. Timothy Standish, Dr. Doug Newton and Dr. G.T. Ng and Mrs. Ivy Ng, and World Missions speakers. There will be good home-cooked vegetarian meals, plus many nearby tourist attractions. Stay in the comfortable lodge or bring your RV. Call 253-681-6008 or email joan.libby@wc.npuc.org for our reasonable rates. www.washingtonconference.org/sage.

**Washington Adventist Camp Meeting**
June 14-23 — Washington Adventist Camp Meeting will be held at the Auburn Adventist Academy campus with programming for all ages. Guest speakers include: Bill Liversidge, Gordon Pifher, John McVay and John Bradshaw, with a concert by Charles Haubrooks. Reservations for on-site accommodations will be open March 1 at www.washingtonconference.org.

**Missing Members**
The Olympia Transformation Life Center Church is missing the following members: Tammy J. Barnes, Holly Baze, Kimberly Chapman, Michael Chapman, Torrey Chapman, Shirley Garrett, Richard Healy, Karla Hughes, Georgette Janes, Karen S. Klatusch, Loyola Davis, George Kulhvi, Jamie Lehew, Eric Lincoln, Sharon Lincoln, Marion McDaniel, Michael McDaniel, Matthew McDaniel, Debbie McPherson, Laurel Meyer, Corina Murray, Mary Parks, Rafael Perez, Rose Perez, Susanna Perez, Summer Perez, Karen A. Prestwood, Larry Rings, Rebecca Rinke, Adriana Salazar, David Davis and Marta Sanchez, Diane Scott, Tad Stephens, Tina Stephens, Kevin Turner, Christopher B. Tyler, Debra A. Ventris and James Zilsdorf. If you have any information, please contact us at: 1717 Eskridge Blvd. S.E., Olympia, WA 98501; call 360-943-1370; or email OlympiaSDA@integrity.com.

**World Church**

**Valley Grande Adventist Academy Celebrates 75 years**
March 30-31 — The Alumni Association invites all former faculty, staff and students to a celebration during Alumni Weekend. Come sing with the Sylvan Choir and visit with friends again. For more information, visit the website at www.vgaa.org or email Robert Saldana at eyeguy@live.com.

**Thunderbird Adventist Academy Alumni Weekend**
April 13-15 — Honor Classes are 1942, 1952, 1962, 1972, 1982, 1987, 1992 and 2002. North Aurora Church, North Aurora, Ill. Attend Friday night vespers, Sabbath School and church. All ideas and information welcome. For communication purposes, the school needs YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS, as postage is too expensive. Contact Ed Gutierrez by email at edjulie1@att.net or call 630-232-9034.

**Weimar Alumini**
April 13-15 — Weimar Center of Health and Education welcomes all Weimar Academy, college and staff alumni to the annual joint Homecoming Reunion for fellowship and spiritual enrichment with several special speakers and events. Honor academy and college classes: 1982, 1987, 1992 and 2002. For more information, email alumni@weimarch.edu or call 800-525-9192.

**Orleans Church/School 50th Anniversary**
April 14-15 — Former and current members, alumni and friends are invited for special services and activities at the Orleans Church, 240 Ishi Pishi Rd., Orleans, CA 95556. Good quality photos of members/alumni/activities are needed. Please send to Roger Williams, P.O. Box 241, Orleans, CA 95556. Photos will be returned. Email digital photos to orleansadventist@gmail.com. Please RSVP. Call Roger at 530-469-3341 or find on Facebook.

**La Sierra University Homecoming**
April 20-22 — Celebrate La Sierra’s 90th year, 50 years of Student Missions, 40 years of University Honors (Interdip), and the School of Business’ 25th year. Reunions include: GOLD, Premium (1922-1961), Latino, SALSU/ASLLU Officers, Soul Church, and Classes of 1972, 1962 and 1952. More information on www.lasierra.edu/alumni.

**Broadview Academy Alumni Weekend**
May 4-5 — All alumni, mark your calendars to attend the Broadview Academy Alumni weekend. Honor Classes are 1942, 1952, 1962, 1972, 1982, 1987, 1992 and 2002. Orleans Church, North Aurora, Ill. Attend Friday night vespers, Sabbath School and church. All ideas and information welcome. For communication purposes, the school needs YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS, as postage is too expensive. Contact Ed Gutierrez by email at edjulie1@att.net or call 630-232-9034.
Low-interest financing. Out-of-stock or factory all makes FLEET PRICES. Lauragriffith155@msn.com. Cell 509-951-4685, Griffi th, 509-892-7791, BACK AT HOME. Call Laura caring staff. You will feel right home for you, with daily environments and will meet your special dietary needs. Nationwide warranty. Test drive and demo before you buy. Nationwide warranty on new autos. Delivery at your home, offi ce, credit union or our facility. We ship nationwide, Alaska and Hawaii. Save thousands! Call or fax your specifi c vehicle desires: make, model, options, etc. Contact WESTERN AUTO WHOLESALE & LEASING: Portland, OR, 503-760-8122; Vancouver, WA, 360-263-6521; nationwide 800-284-6612; fax 800-300-0484; email wawl@aol.com.

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EMPLOYMENT
SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks professor of film to teach directing, screenwriting and film theory. M.F.A. in ﬁ lm production preferred. Broad knowledge of ﬁ eld, advanced technical skill, professional production experience, and strong storytelling abilities are requisite. Must be Seventh-day Adventist Church member in good and regular standing. Send cover letter, curriculum vita, statement of teaching philosophy, portfolio samples, and at least three references to Randy Craven, School of Visual Art/Design dean, Southern Adventist University, PO Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37315-0370.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY 
Department of Biology/Allied Health, Fall 2012. Prefer biology Ph.D. teaching upper- and lower-division classes and has a strong interest in origins. Desire Adventist scientist holding a short-term interpretation of creation and committed to involvement with undergraduate student learning and research. Send CV, statement of teaching philosophy, and three references to: Keith Snyder, Biology Search Committee chair, Southern Adventist University, PO Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37315; call 423-236-2929; fax 423-236-1926; email kasnyder@southern.edu.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks graduate faculty to join our mission-focused team as we launch a new DNP program. Candidate must hold current family/adult NP certiﬁ cation. Requisite qualiﬁ cations include interest in research, successful teaching experience, ﬂ exibility and commitment to nursing and Adventist education. The candidate must be a member in good and regular standing in the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Doctorate required. Send curriculum vita or inquiries to Dr. Holly Gadd, hgadd@southern.edu. SAU School of Nursing, PO Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37315. Please provide classroom instruction, direct ﬁ eld education program, participate in CSWE accreditation, mentor students and develop relationships with social service agencies. Contact Dr. Denise White, Human Development chair, dewhite@ucollege.edu, 402-486-2522.

CHRISTIAN RECORD SERVICES FOR THE BLIND is seeking a VP for Finance. Denominational or not-for-proﬁ t accounting experience preferred. The VP for Finance is responsible for managing the ﬁ nancial matters of CRSB. If interested, please contact Larry Pitcher, president,
Events
Washington Adventist University celebrates Alumni Weekend, April 13-15. Join us for the grand opening of the Leroy and Lois Peters Music Center, April 14, at 8 p.m. Visit www.wau.edu/alumni for a list of events and activities or call 301-891-4133 for more information.


Lassen Creek Campmeeting, June 21–23, Speaker: Marvin Moore from Pacific Press, presenting last-day event lectures. For more information, contact 541-880-4769. Enjoy an old-fashion tent meeting in the great outdoors.

Tillamook Adventist School invites past students, faculty and friends to a weekend celebration of 75 years of Christian education on May 18-20, at the school campus. For information, visit www.TillamookAdventistSchool.org, or join Tillamook Adventist School Alumni Facebook group or call 503-842-6533.

For Sale
Wortington, Loma Linda, Cedar Lake, Azure Product, etc. Low prices. Auburn Enterprises, Bill and Judy Hoard, 4192 Auburn Rd NE; PO Box 13757, Salem, OR 97309-1757; 503-585-9311; fax 503-585-1805; auburnent@hotmail.com.

The Great Controversy Countdown is a study guide that traces the great controversy theme through Ellen White’s Conflict of the Ages series, expanding understanding of this precious truth and equipping us to share it. Contact your ABC, 800-765-6955, or AdventistBookCenter.com.

The Great Controversy is now available with full-color illustrations throughout, and the complete text of the original. Attractively priced at $5.99, it’s perfect for sharing with friends and neighbors. Quantity pricing available. Contact your ABC, 800-765-6955, or AdventistBookCenter.com.
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Ketchikan 5:23 5:37 6:52 7:05 7:19
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Fairbanks 6:09 6:31 7:53 8:14 8:36
Medford 6:02 6:10 7:21 7:30 7:46
Helena 6:15 6:25 7:35 7:44 7:54
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Miles City 5:50 6:00 7:10 7:19 7:29
Missoula 6:22 6:33 7:42 7:52 8:02

March (DST) 2 9 16 23 30

Alaska Conference
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Ketchikan 5:23 5:37 6:52 7:05 7:19

Idaho Conference
Boise 6:34 6:43 7:52 8:00 8:09
La Grande 5:40 5:50 6:59 7:08 7:17
Pocatello 6:20 6:29 7:37 7:45 7:53

Montana Conference
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Missoula 6:22 6:33 7:42 7:52 8:02

Oregon Conference
Coos Bay 6:07 6:15 7:24 7:32 7:41
Medford 6:02 6:10 7:19 7:27 7:34
Portland 5:58 6:08 7:17 7:26 7:36

Upper Columbia Conference
Pendleton 5:43 5:52 7:02 7:11 7:20
Spokane 5:35 5:46 6:56 7:06 7:16
Walla Walla 5:41 5:50 7:00 7:09 7:19
Wenatchee 5:47 5:58 7:08 7:18 7:28
 Yakima 5:49 5:59 7:09 7:18 7:28

Washington Conference
Bellingham 5:54 6:05 7:16 7:27 7:37
Seattle 5:55 6:05 7:16 7:26 7:36

Daylight Savings Time begins March 11. Add one minute for each 13 miles west. Subtract one minute for each 13 miles east.

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For more information call: 509-876-4422.

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Sunset Schedule

March (DST) 2 9 16 23 30

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April 26-29 at the Riverside Hotel in Boise, ID

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MILO ADVENTIST ACADEMY

Mi-lo [mah-loy] noun a private educational destination.
1. a Christ-centered secondary educational option featuring a program that is spiritually enriching.
2. socially enhancing and academically challenging.
3. an educational destination that involves a rich natural environment, including mountains, a river, horses, and physical activities.
4. a school that takes education beyond the classroom by encouraging service to others while focusing on the ultimate destination of heaven.

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April 15-16, 2012

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COLLEGE PLACE, WA, FULLY-FURNISHED HOUSES available for rent, by the weekend or longer. Three-bedroom and 4-bedroom with W/D, and garages. View at myblue32.com, or call Judi at 509-540-2876.

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2012 STEPS OF JESUS: NPUC Holy Lands Tour, June 6-17 or 17–28, 2012 with Dr. Carl Cosaert of Walla Walla University. Rediscover the gospel by walking in the steps of Jesus, visiting places like Nazareth Village, Caesarea, Masada, Petra, Jerusalem and more. Only $2,000. Call Sue Patzer at 360-857-7031 or visit www.wallawalla.edu/bibletour.
God wants to bless our lives and our ministries “above and beyond” our wildest dreams. Each Pacific Northwest conference and church is invited to assemble a group of key financial ministry leaders forming a “Blessings Team” to attend the Blessings Above & Beyond Stewardship Summit in western Washington on April 1-2.

You will be inspired and trained to create a Blessings Stewardship Strategy for your local church and school ministry. Don’t be fooled by April 1: this summit is about more than money!

Bring your “Blessings Team” to the Stewardship Summit to find out why:

- Jesus talks about money more than any other topic and yet He doesn’t need our money.
- In addition to our heart, Jesus requires our time, talents and treasures to “finish His work.”
- Most of us don’t have a clue about how to “Test the Lord.”

**Keynote Speakers**

**ERIKA PUNI**  
World Church  
Stewardship Director

**LARRY EVANS**  
World Church  
Associate Stewardship Director

**BLESSINGS TEAM SESSION**

**Sunday, April 1** from 9:30 am to 4 pm  
This session is designed for pastors, head elders, church & school treasurers, stewardship and planned giving leaders, communicators and any key financial ministry leaders. **Please RSVP by teams by March 22.**

Auburn City Church  
402 29th St SE  
Auburn, Washington

**NORTHWEST PASTOR SESSION**

**Monday, April 2** from 9:30 am to 4 pm  
This session is designed specifically for pastors and head elders.

Washington Conference Office  
32229 Weyerhaeuser Way South  
Federal Way, Washington

Hosted by Washington Conference and sponsored by North Pacific Union Conference. Both sessions are free; donations accepted for provided lunch.

“Bring your full tithe to the Temple treasury so there will be ample provisions in my Temple. Test me in this and see if I don’t open up heaven itself to you and pour out blessings beyond your wildest dreams,” Malachi 3:10, MSG.

Questions? Email gordon.pifher@nw.npuc.org or bruce.koch@wc.npuc.org.  
Scan code to RSVP your BLESSINGS TEAM for the Blessings Above & Beyond Stewardship Summit or visit  
washingtonconference.org/blessings
Fast

“While we decry the unjust caste systems of some cultures, we are not immune here in the land of the free.”

The hard truth hit in fourth grade. Within my little school, I had heretofore owned the fleetest feet, propelling me to the front of every race. First place was an everyday occurrence. The view from the back of the pack was unfamiliar territory.

Then, following Christmas vacation, a new guy showed up in class. With boyish swagger I proposed a race around the bases of the school’s kickball field. I had not yet read Mark Twain’s description of the overconfident mongrel that presumptuously streaks across the desert after a coyote. After granting his pursuer false hope for a couple miles, the coyote turns with a fraudulent smile that seems to say, “Well, I shall have to tear myself away from you, bub...” and with a puff of smoke and sonic boom leaves the hapless hound prostrate in the dust.1

My ill-fated race was like a mini Revelation Seminar. I was no longer Speedy Gonzalez. I had been a medium fish in a tiny pond — a pond that would get deeper and broader, with bigger and faster fish, every year to follow.

At some point we all come to grips with the stark inequalities of life on this earth. Not all are straight-A students; not all are captains of the football team; not all immediately bring “hot” or “handsome” to mind. Some surge to the front, shine brightly, win awards, earn the spotlight. Others labor in the rear, behind the scenes, stuck in the shadows, unnoticed, unheralded, unappreciated. And while we decry the unjust caste systems of some cultures, we are not immune here in the land of the free. It is too convenient to mentally categorize those around us into winners and losers.

But are the real winners always the fastest or the brightest? Who gets to determine the leaders or the losers? Who steps to the podium with the announcement?

Our societal paradigm is hampered by an attention span shrinking faster than polar ice. My ancestors toiled for weeks over a rugged trail to reach the Oregon territory. I, on the other hand, get apoplectic if my Internet browser, connecting me to a billion places in the virtual world, takes a few additional seconds.

Yet, while speeding along in our daily blur, we may easily forget that “fast” has another, nearly opposite meaning. It denotes a laying aside of status quo, even our daily meals, for the purpose of spiritual focus. To fast is an intentional awareness on our part that God’s plan, in His way and in His time, is paramount, above and beyond all other things.

There is, too, the biblical oxymoron exhorting us to “stand fast” in the Lord. The opposites attract here toward a higher calling that cannot be achieved in a 30-second sound bite.

But it might be a nudge toward the winning strategy of Ecclesiastes 9: For the heavenly race, indeed, is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong.


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