The North American Division welcomes three new staff members:

Armando Miranda Jr. as accepted a call to the NAD Youth Department as Associate Director for Youth and Young Adult Ministries. Miranda has served as the Texas Conference Youth and Young Adults Associate Director since October of 2012. Before that he was a pastor in the Texas Conference since 2003. He will begin his duties at NAD later this summer.

Nickilos Wolfer will be NAD’s Director of Production for the new NAD Studio. He comes to us from being Director of Media Ministries at Pioneer Memorial Church at Andrews University for the past ten years where he began working right after graduating from Andrews.

Pastor Ruben Merino will be coming from the Greater New York Conference Poughkeepsie Adventist church to be Assistant Director of Esperanza TV. Before his pastorate in Poughkeepsie he was a departmental director in the Greater New York Conference from 2006-2014, and before that had wide evangelism and television experience with La Red in several areas, with Caravana de Esperanza Peru and other entities, and has held positions of multiple skill levels of TV production.

The Master of Arts in Communication program at Andrews University has been revised. The changes include renovating a studio, revising the curriculum, reducing the tuition by 45 percent for the next two years, and updating online course enrollment options. A dual degree option is now available with an MDiv and an MA in Communication. A live synchronous online option has also been added that allows students some flexibility in location.

MORE

May 13, 2015

Special Days

May Focus: Community Services
May 16, Single Adults Sabbath

June Focus: Church Growth and Evangelism
June 13, Women’s Ministries Emphasis Day
June 13, Refugee Awareness Sabbath

Helpful Special Day Websites and Resources

Special Offerings
May 30, NAD Evangelism
June 13, GC Session Offering (for World Mission)
June 20, Multilingual Ministries/Chaplaincy Ministries

Sample Offertory Readings
(in English, Spanish, Portuguese and French)
Envision magazine won six awards from the Associated Church Press. *Envision*, a student-produced publication of Andrews University, will publish its seventh annual issue this fall. It is a joint product of the Department of Communication and the Department of Visual Art and Design. It is edited by journalism professor Debbie Michel and features the work of student writers, graphic designers and photographers.

The student team of *Envision* also won the 2014 Society of Adventist Communicators' Best in Class for Design for their work on *Envision* magazine and Brian Tagalog received an Honorable Mention for photographs used in *Envision*.

For the third year in a row, Oakwood University has won a Tier 1 grant of $50,000 in The Home Depot's Retool Your School competition on social media. The judges liked Oakwood's grant proposal for a mile-long circuit of outdoor exercise stations emphasizing the laws of health. The stations will be a part of the Healthy Campus 2020 initiative that will officially launch this August. The university's administration would like to thank everyone who voted and/or utilized social media to help Oakwood win this competition.

Thousands sign petition regarding proposed Wexford County jail

Maine woman founded church, converted followers to vegetarianism
Nepal: More Urgent Help Needed – A second major earthquake, magnitude 7.3, struck Nepal yesterday morning. So far, at least 76 people have been killed in India, Nepal and Tibet, and more than 2,000 injured in the disaster, reports say, with thousands more injured and homeless. More than 90% of the homes have been damaged or destroyed. The need is great and immediate action is critical. ADRA is responding and needs your support. Learn more and share updates on the NAD Facebook page; ADRA Int'l; ADRA Canada; and ADRA Nepal. Please donate at ADRA.org, call 1-800-424-ADRA, or text ADRA to 41444.

Canadian citizens’ donations given through ADRA Canada by May 25 for the Nepal Earthquake Response will be matched by the Canadian government.

Financial donations are best because the money can be used immediately in hiring local people and helping the local economy when purchasing immediate needs in bulk at a lower cost, and without the added time and expense of shipping donated items. MORE

Learn more in videos:
First hand stories from Nepal: New Zealand ADRA Team Member on video; ADRA Nepal worker tells what it was like; Learn more and stay up to date on the ADRA Nepal Facebook page.

Resources

**Find resources for Single Adult Ministries Sabbath, May 16, at the Adventist Single Adult Ministries (ASAM) website.** Helpful resources include a program guide complete with a suggested order of service including a children’s story, “Healthy Choices” and a sermon, “Choices for a Full Life.” You can download it in Word document format, or PDF format.

If you wish to start an ASAM group, you can find helpful resources at the ASAM website, such as the ASAM QuickStart Guide, information about the ASAM forum, and ASAM Sabbath materials, and much more.

**Denominational business cards are available through AdventID** where they have been printing business cards and stationery for Adventist employees, from the local church to the world headquarters, for 15 years. You can create, preview, and order your personalized design online where there are more than 20 templates and four languages to choose from. Stationery and envelopes are also available. The Pacific Press Publishing Association will not be printing business cards or stationery. Go to [www.AdventID.com](http://www.AdventID.com).

ViewPoints

**What do you think people would say if asked who you are?**

NAD News: Colombia Union Hosts Hispanic Evangelism Event; Impact San Antonio: A Global Young Adult Experience, p. 11

NAD Update: Empowering Adventist Professionals, p. 15

NAD Perspective: The Church Family, by Daniel Jackson, p. 17

Daily Prayer Guide

May 17-23 – This coming week, please pray for the Kansas-Nebraska Conference, with 97 churches and 11,759 members
"Who are you? You see, that is what we in Adventist education must be about. That is why we exist: to help you answer the question, 'Who are you?' To help you understand that first and foremost, you are a SON and DAUGHTER of the Most High God of the Universe, Creator and Sustainer of all life, and that you are loved with an everlasting love. God will love you no matter what you do.

"Friends, the question is not 'Who are you?' but 'Who is He?' Jesus, the Person who loves you and has promised to be with you no matter what. He wants to be your defining image. When asked, people should say she/he is a Christian like Christ."

– Larry Blackmer, NAD Vice President for Education, in his Commencement Address he delivered to the largest graduating class in Southern Adventist University’s history on May 10, 2015.

Did you know Jesus Christ died, rose, and lives to save you?

Number four of "28 Fundamental Beliefs" is one of the 90: second videos that are available online at the NAD's "My Way to Jesus" site. There you can send a prayer request, enroll in the Discover Bible Course, or watch a video. For people who prefer to talk with someone a phone connection to Adventist Information Ministry is listed, where people can chat with someone about spiritual issues or things that are troubling them.

**Share your beliefs on Facebook:** If you are on Facebook, you can like the My Way to Jesus Facebook page. Then look for the 28 updates in the photo album titled "Biblical Teachings." Beliefs on video are gradually being posted in the album titled "Personal Testimonies on Video."

**Share the Beliefs videos on your own website:** Go to the Did You Know Vimeo Channel and use the Share button in the upper right corner of a specific video to get the embed code or to email it to a friend.
5-11-15 Andrews University Graduate Communication Program Revised

The Andrews University Department of Communication has made changes and improvements to the Master of Arts in Communication program, including renovating a studio, revising the curriculum, reducing the tuition by 45 percent, and updating online course enrollment options. The Department of Communication is committed to providing quality education and the changes that are being made to improve and strengthen the program will go into effect beginning fall 2015.

Students will now be able to complete the MA in Communication with 33 credits instead of the previous 40. The reduction will allow students to complete the degree in less than two years at a lower cost. In addition, students will also automatically receive a 45 percent tuition discount on graduate Communication course work for the next two years.

The department has also added a live synchronous online option that allows students some flexibility in location. Concentrations such as communication management, international communication and interdisciplinary communication are available, but not required. Finally, a dual degree option is available with a Master of Divinity and Master of Arts in Communication. This program is designed to take three and a half to four years and has two optional Communication concentrations: media ministry or interdisciplinary communication.

The department has acquired and renovated a media center and studio facility. Furthermore, the program and curriculum have been revised to strengthen the research component of the program and add key courses to the curriculum. In addition, the goal for the 2015–16 school year is for all graduate faculty to have terminal degrees in communication or a closely related field.

“Our goal in making these changes,” said Rachel Williams-Smith, chair of the department, “is for several purposes:

- To produce graduates who easily obtain jobs and careers in well-known and respected organizations,
- To produce graduates who can improve the effectiveness of Christian Adventist media programming in reaching young people,
- To make the program as affordable as possible, and
- To cultivate a departmental team of faculty experts who are well equipped to train the next generation of communicators.

We want to become the premier program option for students from both Adventist and public colleges and universities who wish to earn a master’s degree in Communication.”

To learn more about the Department of Communication, visit andrews.edu/communication or call 269-471-6314. To apply online, visit andrews.edu/apply.
Envision Magazine Wins Six Awards

Envision magazine, a student-produced publication of Andrews University, won six awards from the Associated Church Press on Friday, May 1. Envision, which will publish its seventh annual issue this fall, is a joint product of the Department of Communication and the Department of Visual Art & Design. Focusing on inspirational and lifestyle content for the Christian university student, Envision is edited by journalism professor Debbie Michel and features the work of student writers, graphic designers and photographers.

The 2014 edition of Envision received the following distinctions:

General Excellence: Best In Class/Online: Digital Edition/Mobile Publication
Honorable Mention
Kenty Ramdatt

Reporting and Writing: Personal Experience/1st Person Account: Short Format (1,200 words or fewer): Magazine/Journal
Honorable Mention
“Troubled Waters” by Emily Leffler

Art/Design/Graphics: Magazine Cover
Award Of Excellence
Fall 2014 cover by Brian Tagalog

Award Of Merit
Fall issue 2014 by Amber Sarno, Arielle Pickett, Jonathon Wolfer and Diane Myers

Art/Design/Graphics: Single Photo w/Article Or Cutline: Magazine/Journal
Award Of Merit
Patrick Knighton by Brian Tagalog

Student Publications: General Excellence: All Media
Award Of Excellence
Debbie Michel, editor

“I’m delighted that these awards acknowledge the talents of our student writers, designers and photographers,” says Michel. “It validates and confirms that our students are ready to work alongside the best in the Christian publishing business.”

Envision has received recognition for its quality in higher circles at Andrews as well. “Envision magazine is a gem at Andrews University,” says Carey Carscallen, dean of the School of Architecture, Art & Design. “I am pleased to see its continued success.” Keith Mattingly, dean of the College of Arts & Sciences, adds: “An award-winning magazine is a great credit to the Department of Communication and to the College of Arts & Sciences as a whole.”

In addition to the awards received by Envision, the Associated Church Press also gave an Award of Excellence for Non-fiction Books and an Award of Excellence for PR Videos to “Born Yesterday: The True Story of a Girl Born in the 20th Century but Raised in the 19th,” by Rachel Williams-Smith, chair of the Department of Communication.
For more on Envision, visit their website: www.andrews.edu/envision
Thousands sign petition regarding proposed Wexford County jail : News : UpNorthLive.com

A group opposed to the new jail because of its close proximity to North View Seventh Day Adventist School collected thousands of signatures to halt the process. &nbsp;/&nbsp;upnorthlive.com photo

WEXFORD CO. -- Wexford County is in the process of designing and applying for bonds for a new jail, but that process could be put on hold.

A group opposed to the new jail because of its close proximity to North View Seventh Day Adventist School collected thousands of signatures to halt the process.

The petition collected 3300 signatures, and if the signatures get verified, then the board of commissioners must hold an election to let voters decide the next steps for the jail.

"The people should be able to have a say," says Gunther Schwartz, organizer of the petition. "So it's the voice of the many we want to make decisions instead of the voice of just a few."

That's why Gunther Schwartz started a petition that could delay the construction of a new jail just north of M-55 and east of Crosby Road.

The petition asks for a vote that would let citizens decide if bonds should be used to pay for it, something the commission is already in the process of.

"We don't have a plan B, this was our plan," said Wexford County commissioner John Fuscone. "We are moving forward and it hasn't stopped us from our thinking of going on with the new jail. We need a new jail, it's important."

But Schwartz said many people signing the referendum were surprised to learn the new jail site is only hundreds of feet away from an elementary school.

"Initially the county commissioners basically stated that when they voted to put the jail there they didn't even know that there is an elementary school there," said Schwartz. "That seems unbelievable but that's what they stated."

The County Clerk's office needs to verify at least 2400 signatures to put the issue on a special election in November.

"In a very brief time thousands of people that are registered voters in the county have voiced their opinion with their signature and I hope they don't dismiss that," said Schwartz.

But commissioners said getting the jail built is something that remains a top priority.

"It's a shame that we have some people that have come before us feel that it's necessary to block this process," said
Fuscone. “But they have the right as citizens to go through the step which they have.”

Commissioners say it is possible that the petition could interfere with funding because there is no guarantee the same money will be available next year.

The county clerk says that holding a special election in November will cost about 25,000 dollars.

Commissioners say they were hoping to break ground on the jail in early 2016, but now that might be pushed back.
Vegetarianism can sometimes seem like a 1970s fad that mushroomed alongside organic food. However, meatless eating stretches back through recorded history to ancient Greece and India, waxing and waning in popularity over the ages with the rise and fall of religious and philosophical ideas.

We Mainers can claim our own share of its history, most prominently in the life of Ellen Gould White.

This book, published in 1938 after White’s death, compiles passages from her writings and teachings about food, and addresses her ideas on why people should eat less meat, or none at all. Ellen G. White, photographed in 1864, was a founder of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Courtesy of the Ellen G. White Estate Inc.

“It is impossible to talk about vegetarianism in the 21st century without mentioning Seventh-day Adventists and Ellen G. White,” said White expert Theodore Levterov, who directs the Ellen G. White archive at Loma Linda University in Loma Linda, Calif., a Seventh-day Adventist institution White helped found.

Born to Robert and Eunice Harmon in 1827 in a home on Route 114 in Gorham, White went on to found a major religion and become an influential early American advocate of vegetarianism.

“During her lifetime she was very well known,” said historian William David Barry with the Maine Historical Society. “And she’s certainly one of the most important health advocates from Maine.”

When she was a few years old, White moved with her family to the corner of Spruce and Clark streets in Portland’s West End.

Levterov says she likely attended the former Brackett Street School, now home to the Fresh Approach market. Her formal schooling ended at age 9, when an older girl threw a stone that struck her in the head, knocking her unconscious. The incident left her in a stupor for three weeks and disfigured her face. Slowly White began to recover but she was debilitated and ultimately forced to leave school.

White grew up in an era of religious fervor and exploration, marked by crowded revivals and prophecies about the end of times. She and her family attended the Chestnut Street Methodist Church in Portland, which today is Grace restaurant.

In 1840, White and her family heard the Baptist preacher William Miller from New York speak at the Casco Street Christian Church, at the corner of Casco and Cumberland streets. Miller famously predicted the imminent return of Christ in either 1843 or 1844. When that didn’t happen, many believers, known as Millerites, were left adrift.
As a 17-year-old in Portland in 1844 who was one of the disappointed believers, White experienced the first of many incidents she described as visions from God. Her insights from these experiences would ultimately lead to the founding of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Before the first of her visions, White went to Beethoven Hall (located near the present-day Monument Square) and heard Maine-native William Ellis Foy, who was black, preaching and speaking about his own visions.

Two years later, the young prophetess married the preacher James Springer White, who was born in Palmyra, and they began traveling the country and the world, speaking and publishing their views. Ellen G. White published widely, with more than 40 books to her credit during her lifetime and more than 100 published posthumously, plus thousands of periodical articles, speeches, pamphlets and other documents.

Levterov said White’s two major visionary messages about health came in 1863 and 1865, causing her to promote the benefits of a vegetarian diet. But since she lived in 19th-century America, where vegetarian food was scarce, and she admitted to a personal fondness for meat, White didn’t “become a strict vegetarian until 1894,” Levterov said, “although her habitual practice after 1863 was to avoid eating meat.”

White became a full-time vegetarian in 1894 while at a church meeting in Australia, Levterov continued. “She was approached by a Catholic woman,” Levterov said, “who prompted her to think about the cruelty towards animals killed for meat.” He added, “Ellen White’s major arguments for vegetarian diet were usually connected to its health benefits. But her decision to become a strict vegetarian came as a result of ethical concerns.”

Pastor Rick Kuntz of the Auburn Seventh-day Adventist Church said White was a sought-after speaker on a variety of topics, including health. “She would lecture to crowds as big as 20,000,” Kuntz said.

In “Vegetarian America: A History,” Karen and Michael Iacobbo write that White “became world renowned after she and her spouse founded a new Christian religion – the Seventh-day Adventist Church, which encouraged its members to become vegetarians.”

In 1905, White published “Ministry of Healing,” regarded as her most important work related to diet and health. In it she writes, “Grains, fruits, nuts, and vegetables constitute the diet chosen for us by our Creator.”

Today, the church has a worldwide reach with more than 18 million followers and a message that includes the importance of proper nutrition, with whole, vegan food seen as the ideal. Seventh-day Adventists aren’t required to be vegetarian, but it’s estimated that 50 percent do follow a meat-free diet. (Whether or not they’re vegetarians, few church members eat pork or other meats considered unclean in the Bible.)

“One of course, when you are healthy, you are happy. And that is the whole point of diet within the Seventh-day Adventist community.”

Studies have repeatedly shown Seventh-day Adventists, who also tend to be non-smokers and non-drinkers, to be in better health than average Americans. The city of Loma Linda, California, where the university attracts a large number of Adventists, is considered one of the world’s Blue Zones, a geographical area whose residents have notably longer life spans.
White, who passed away in 1915, is no longer the household name she once was, but last year Smithsonian magazine named this Maine native one of the “100 Most Significant Americans of All Time.”

Here in Portland, her childhood home is gone and replaced by part of the Reiche Elementary School playground. Yet White’s legacy lives on in the Seventh-day Adventist Church (and its hospitals and universities) and in the growing popularity of vegetarian food.

“Today, veganism and vegetarianism are being seen as not just something for physical health but also something that keeps people calmer and more alert and gives them more endurance,” said Pastor Kuntz, who started a church-run vegan café in Lewiston as a form of ministry advocated by White. “Ellen White was ahead of her time, and she was a pioneer.”

Avery Yale Kamila is a freelance food writer who lives in Portland, Maine. She can be reached at:
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Twitter: AveryYaleKamila

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Food for thought

A national teen program and a Marystown church have joined forces to help people improve their lifestyle.

© Colin Farrell Photo

Dean Crawford (with boy in arms), regional development officer for Teen Challenge Canada Inc., was in Marystown to speak to the members of the Seven Day Adventist Church May 2. Crawford, wife Susan (far left) and son Zachary joined Pastor Victor Reyes-Prieto, his wife Pamela and members of the church for a luncheon following the service. Colin Farrell Photo

Dean Crawford, regional development officer for Teen Challenge Canada Inc. and graduate of the Teen Challenge program, spoke with the members of the Seven Day Adventist Church in Marystown on May 2.

Teen Challenge is a 12-month, faith-based, residential drug and alcohol rehabilitation program for men and women ages 18 and up.

Crawford contacted Pastor Victor M. Reyes-Prieto about speaking with the members of the church about the work of the program.

Prieto said he was happy to invite Crawford, given the program shares many of the same ideas as the church.

“I got a call from Dean, and we started talking about the possibility of working together on this particular event,” Prieto said.

“The more we talked, the more we realized that our goals were very similar. He was looking to get people to come out of a life of crime; a life of drugs…and the Adventist Church for about 160 years or so has been committed to promoting a healthy lifestyle.”

The church’s Nufound Life Centre, a community-based organization that offers tutoring services and music lessons to members of the public, hopes to work with the Teen Challenge program.

“We would like to see the Nufound Life Centre become an agency for educating the public about healthy lifestyle, coming out of destructive addictive behavior,” Reyes-Prieto said.

The centre also wants to educate the public on how to decrease the risk of chronic illness.

“For that it requires a change of lifestyle, including eating habits,” Prieto said, adding he has contacted Dr. Arjun Rayapudi, a general surgeon at the Burin Peninsula Health Centre.

Rayapudi said there are more cases of chronic illnesses in Newfoundland compared to other places he has lived.

“In my experience, I have seen these cancers of the gastrointestinal tract, the stomach, the bowels happening at an earlier age,” he said. “Cancer is happening at a younger age and also a bit more aggressive.”
Diets containing the high intake of animal products could contribute to the increased risk of such diseases, Rayapudi added.

According to information found on the Canadian Cancer Society’s website, researchers believe foods people eat can either increase or decrease the risk of developing certain types of cancer.

Statistics on the site suggest one third of all cancers are related to the food one eats, body weight and the amount of physical activity.

Reyes-Prieto said the centre hopes to expand on information it provides.

“For the past two years we have been doing a yearly workshop on nutrition,” he said. “So for the third year in November we are going to have a nutritionist come over and teach us the third phase of the presentation that she has been doing.”

colin.farrell@tc.tc

The Canadian Cancer Society’s website offers the following tips to help reduce the risk of cancer through healthy food choices and increased activity:

* Eat a variety of foods from Canada’s Food Guide. Eating a healthy diet – lots of vegetables and fruit, lots of fibre and little fat and sugar – will help you get all the nutrients you need and will help you keep a healthy body weight.

* Eat regular meals. Skipping a meal – especially breakfast – can lead to overeating throughout the day. And when you’re very hungry, it’s hard to make healthy choices.

* Re-think your plate. Fill half your plate with vegetables, a quarter with grain products and a quarter with meat or alternatives.

* Cut back on portion size. (Portions in North America have grown steadily bigger over the last few decades.) Make sure that you’re not eating more than your body needs. If your portions are a reasonable size, it will be easier for you to eat what you want but still stay healthy.

* Use smaller dishes. Believe it or not, using a smaller plate gives your brain the impression that you’re eating your “normal” amount of food.

* Serve everything you eat in a dish – especially snacks. You’ll be much less likely to overeat if you’re not eating out of the box or bag.

* Make changes gradually. For example, if you try to switch from homogenized milk to skim, you may give up because you don’t like the taste. Try switching first to 2%, then 1%, then skim, and you may be more successful.

* Try to plan your meals for the whole week. Last-minute choices are often unhealthy ones.

* Don’t go grocery shopping on an empty stomach. You’ll make better choices if you’re not hungry.

* Read nutrition labels. “Low-fat” and “fat-free” doesn’t always mean low in calories.

* Don’t eat while watching TV.

* Choose wisely when you eat in restaurants – skip the fries and sugary drinks, and ask for dressings on the side.
* Slow down and enjoy every bite. It actually takes 20 minutes for your brain to get the message that your stomach is full.

* Try to limit how often you eat processed food – they often contain hidden fat, calories, sugar and salt.

* Balance the food you eat with regular physical activity to help achieve and maintain a healthy body weight.

* Choose water instead of pop and sugary drinks. Drinking water is important for your body to work properly.
Councilmembers Urge Montgomery County Hospitals to Cease Pesticide Use

by Krista Brick

Two Montgomery County Councilmembers are urging hospitals in the county to voluntarily stop using pesticides.

Montgomery County Council President George Leventhal, who chairs the Council’s Health and Human Services Committee, and Councilmember Roger Berliner, who chairs the Council’s Transportation, Infrastructure, Energy and Environment Committee, wrote to the leaders of the five organizations that operate hospitals in Montgomery County and asked them to voluntarily stop using pesticides on the grounds of their respective facilities.

The Council is currently considering Bill 52-14 that would limit the use of non-essential pesticides on county lawns, certain athletic playing fields and County-owned public grass areas. Leventhal is the lead sponsor of that bill.

“We are writing today to ask that hospitals in our County assume a leading role in increasing awareness of the health concerns regarding pesticides by voluntarily agreeing to eliminate their use on hospital grounds,” wrote the councilmembers in the letter to the hospitals. “As you know, in 2013, Washington Adventist Hospital in Takoma Park ceased using insecticides or herbicides in advance of the Takoma Park City Council passing its ordinance restricting pesticide use. We believe it is time for every hospital to take a similar stance.”

The letters were sent to Terry Forde, the President and CEO of Adventist Healthcare; Gene Green, President of Suburban Hospital; Peter Monge, President of MedStar Montgomery Medical Center; Kevin Sexton, President and CEO of Holy Cross Health; and Kurt Newman, President of Children’s National Health System.

Ronna Borenstein, Suburban Hospital’s senior director of communications, said that hospital received the request and are “researching a response” to provide the council with “accurate feedback.”

Tom Grant, spokesman for Adventist HealthCare, sent MyMCMedia the following reaction, “We are happy to talk with the other hospitals to see how we all might implement this request, as we did in Takoma Park with Adventist HealthCare Washington Adventist Hospital.”

You can read the complete text of the letter from the councilmembers below:

May 11, 2015

As you may be aware, the Montgomery County Council is currently considering a range of measures that would, if adopted, significantly reduce the use of pesticides in our County. This effort is driven in large part by concerns that have been raised by the medical community about the potential negative impacts of exposure to pesticides on human health.

There are strong signals from leading medical professionals that there is a fundamental need to reduce the amount of pesticides to which individuals are exposed. In 2012, the American Academy of Pediatrics found that
“Children encounter pesticides daily and have unique susceptibilities to their potential toxicity. Acute poisoning risks are clear, and understanding of chronic health implications from both acute and chronic exposure are emerging. Epidemiologic evidence demonstrates associations between early life exposure to pesticides and pediatric cancers, decreased cognitive function and behavioral problems.”

Earlier this year, the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) concluded that glyphosate, a commonly used pesticide, was “probably carcinogenic.”

We are writing today to ask that hospitals in our County assume a leading role in increasing awareness of the health concerns regarding pesticides by voluntarily agreeing to eliminate their use on hospital grounds. As you know, in 2013, Washington Adventist Hospital in Takoma Park ceased using insecticides or herbicides in advance of the Takoma Park City Council passing its ordinance restricting pesticide use. We believe it is time for every hospital to take a similar stance.

Regardless of how broader questions about pesticide regulation are resolved by our Council, your taking this step would help to reduce pesticide exposure for some of our most vulnerable residents, and more broadly, would increase awareness in our community as to its potential harmful effects.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to your response.

Related:

**Council Committee Weeds Through Pesticide Bill**

Government and health experts helped members of the Montgomery County’s Transportation, Infrastructure, Energy and Environment Committee weed through information about health concerns related to the use of some pesticides as they continue to discuss a proposed pesticide ban in Montgomery County. Committee members heard from top medical professionals as well as representatives from the Maryland […]

Read more »

**Council President George Leventhal Holds News Briefing (PHOTOS & VIDEO)**

Montgomery County Council President George Leventhal met with reporters at his weekly briefing on March 9. Some of the issues he discussed included, the pesticide bill, the Ad Hoc Committee on Liquor Control, the impact of snow on the county’s budget, the achievement gap and more. You can watch the briefing in its entirety, below:

Read more »

**Large Turnout to Discuss MontCo's Pesticide Legislation**

The proposal to limit the use of non-essential pesticides on lawns, certain athletic playing fields, and county-owned public grass areas continues to be a hot topic as about 350 people showed up for a public hearing on the legislation before the Montgomery County Council’s Transportation, Infrastructure, Energy and Environment Committee Thursday night. According to Montgomery […]

Read more »
Safe Grow Montgomery Supports Bill Proposed to Ban the Use of Certain Pesticides

The Montgomery County Council has set a public hearing at 7:30 p.m. on Jan. 15 and Feb. 12. to discuss Bill 52-14 that could ban the use of certain pesticides on local lawns. “If passed, this would be a landmark ordinance, the first county law of its type in the U.S.,” said Alex Stavitsky-Zeineddin, a […]

Read more »

County Bill Would Prohibit Use of Certain Pesticides on Lawns

A bill expected to be introduced Tuesday could have an impact on the way you take care of your lawn. Montgomery County Council Vice President George Leventhal, who chairs the Council’s Health and Human Services Committee, is scheduled to introduce Bill 52-14 on Tuesday that seeks to prohibit use of certain pesticides on county lawns […]

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About Krista Brick

Krista Brick is a multi-media journalist with Montgomery Community Media.

View all posts by Krista Brick →
ADVANCE FOR WEEKEND EDITIONS, MAY 9-10 - In this photo taken Tuesday, May 5, 2015, Ted Lewis, right, the new CEO of Guam Seventh-day Adventist Clinic, chats with pharmacist Ken Lee at the healthcare center in Tamuning, Guam. Lewis said ...

- Associated Press - Saturday, May 9, 2015

HAGATNA, Guam (AP) - Theodore “Ted” Lewis said he’s no stranger to managing struggling stateside hospitals. So when the chance came up to be the next chief executive officer for financially strapped Guam Memorial Hospital, he saw an opportunity that others might run away from.

Lewis is wrapping up his job at the Guam Seventh-day Adventist Clinic, where he’s been CEO for more than two years, to lead GMH at a challenging time for the local government-owned hospital.

GMH announced Monday that Lewis will become the administrator and CEO for the local government hospital.

In addition to GMH’s recurring cash shortages and need for taxpayer-funded bailout, GMH also will soon have competition for the first time from a private hospital.

The brand-new Guam Regional Medical City aims to start seeing patients beginning a few weeks from now.

If patients who have health insurance and have the means to pay their hospital bills choose to go to the new private hospital over GMH, Lewis acknowledged that the government hospital will go through some challenges, but those will be temporary, he said.

As GMH improves, there will be more than enough patients who would prefer to seek care on Guam to keep both the government hospital and the private hospital in business, Lewis said.

“Certainly it’s a challenge, especially in the short run, but I think in the long run, I welcome it, and the reason for that is if you look at the number of people who leave Guam for medical care, it’s astounding,” Lewis said.
“The number of people who go outside of Guam for care is so large that if we can keep even a third of those here — there’s plenty of business for everyone,” Lewis said.

Led by Dr. Larry Lizama, medical director and interim chief executive at GMH, the government hospital is actively recruiting for additional physicians, which Lewis said makes him feel “excited about the future.”

Lewis has been on GMH’s Board of Trustees for about a year now, so he’s familiar with the hospital’s internal challenges.

He said the governor and the Legislature have shown commitment to continue supporting GMH.

Lewis is expected to start his new job early next month.

Guam law bans the hiring of a board member to a classified position within 180 days of the person’s last day as a board member, but it exempts hiring within that period if it’s “to fill a critical, but vacant” position within that period, the law states.

Joseph Verga, GMH’s former CEO and recruit from Canada, abruptly resigned in March, but neither Verga nor the board has said anything publicly about the reason for his departure.

Story Continues →
Financially strapped Guam hospital gets new chief

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The hospital CEO’s job pays $200,000 a year, the hospital staffing pattern shows.

Lewis has more than 25 years of experience in the hospital industry including, senior leadership positions at Parkview Medical Center in Maine; Riverside Medical Center in Louisiana; Baton Rouge General Medical Center; and Fort Washington Hospital, GMH administration announced in a press release.

Lewis received his bachelor’s and master’s in business administration from Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Michigan, GMH’s press release stated. He is a certified health-care manager and a member of the American College of Healthcare Executives.

“What I bring to the table is — I have a background of a diverse set of experiences working at inner-city hospitals, large teaching facility environments, community hospitals … and I’ve had the opportunity over several years to gain experience in many different areas,” Lewis said.

“I’ve seen every situation, so I’m familiar with just about any situation there is,” Lewis added.

A major part of GMH’s financial struggles stems from its mission: It can’t refuse patients regardless of their ability to pay.

An audit report released in September last year states $161 million worth of patient services were unpaid over the years. The government of Guam subsidized GMH with $22 million this budget year, Pacific Daily News files show.

While his upcoming job won’t be easy, Lewis said, “one of the things that attracts me to this situation is I love working in an environment where there’s a keen sense of mission."

Lewis said his parents brought him up to look at obstacles with a glass-half-full view.

“You can look at them as stumbling blocks and be frustrated and have it destroy you, or you can look at that obstacle and say, ’It’s a stepping stone and it’s an opportunity for improvement,'” Lewis said, adding later: “And then when you approach things that way, all of a sudden, good things happen.”
Southern Adventist University Graduates Largest Spring Class On Sunday

Student Scene

Friday, May 8, 2015

Southern Adventist University’s graduation program will take place Sunday at 9:30 a.m. in the Chattanooga Convention Center. Larry Blackmer, vice president for Education in the North American Division of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, will provide Commencement address.

The 447 students receiving diplomas on Sunday represents the single largest graduating class to date for Southern. The graduating class of 2015 is leaving a "unique" senior gift. They’ve worked with Southern’s Advancement office to begin fundraising for a “Student-to-Student Scholarship.” Seniors who donated a minimum of $20.15 will wear blue philanthropy cords at Commencement.

Included in the ceremony are Southern’s first graduates from the Vegetarian Culinary Arts program (associate degrees).
Avista Adventist Hospital celebrates 25 years in Louisville
Employees talks about changes to women’s health care

By Whitney Bryen

Staff Writer

Posted: 05/08/2015 11:21:54 AM MDT

Avista Adventist Hospital CEO Dennis Barts serves a hamburger to an employee Thursday while celebrating the hospital's 25th anniversary. (Jeremy Papasso / Staff Photographer)

CORRECTION: This story originally misidentified the former Boulder Memorial Hospital.

Cows roamed the open field outside Lynne Snyder's office 25 years ago when she started working at Avista Adventist Hospital in Louisville.

Now, office buildings and U.S. 36 fill the view from most of the hospital's windows.

"I don't have a window in my office anymore," Snyder said. "The patients get all of the windows now, but you can still find a view of the mountains if you know where to go."

Thursday, Snyder, the hospital's director of women's and children's services, reminisced about the changes she has seen during the past 25 years as she celebrated the hospital's anniversary, and her own.
"I've been here since day one when my first neighbors were cows," Snyder said. "But then Superior started growing and the cows were replaced by people."

Hospital CEO Dennis Barts flipped burgers in an apron that read "CEO of the grill" Thursday afternoon during an anniversary celebration for the hospital's 650 employees.

The hospital began as the Boulder Sanitarium, which opened in 1895 before the hospital changed its name to Boulder Memorial Hospital in 1962. The hospital again changed names and reopened in 1990 in Louisville as Avista Adventist Hospital, Barts said serving a burger to an employee dressed in blue scrubs.

"We are wellness focused. That's what sets us apart," Barts said. "We were wellness focused even in the days when doctors were prescribing cigar smoke for tuberculosis."

Advertisement

Avista Adventist Hospital maintained the wellness foundation and applied it to a focus on women's health.

The Louisville hospital is on track to have its 50,000th baby born next year, Barts said.

"Babies, that's our claim to fame," Barts said.

Snyder was working as a nurse while running the birth center when Avista opened, delivering about 10 babies a month in the center's 11 labor rooms, she said.

Now, the hospital delivers nearly 200 babies a month and has 28 rooms.

Lynne Snyder, director of women's and children's services at Avista Adventist Hospital, looks at a chart Thursday afternoon. Snyder has been with the hospital, which celebrated its 25th anniversary on Thursday, since it opened in Louisville. (Jeremy Papasso / Staff Photographer)

"I work more with staff than patients these days," Snyder said. "My job has changed quite a bit, but the babies still come out the same way."

And it's not just Snyder's job that's changed.

Women's health-care trends have shifted, too.

Following a typical birth, moms used to stay in the hospital for three or even four days to rest before going home, Snyder said. Now, many patients leave in about 24 hours, she said, unless there was a complication or additional medical care is required.

Babies are more likely to stay in the room with parents instead of being kept in the nursery during a hospital stay, and more moms are breast feeding these days, Snyder said.

About 50 percent of moms were breast feeding when Snyder started at Avista, she said, compared to about 90
percent today.

"That was the trend back then," Snyder said. "Now, the research is showing that breast feeding is better and we're pushing that way, so that's the new trend."

While the hospital specializes in women's care, the 120,000-square-foot facility also offers general care, a clinic and joint care.

The hospital recently upgraded its clinic and is bringing on additional women's health specialists to expand care throughout a woman's life, beyond childbirth, staff said.

Avista is constantly expanding and changing, Snyder said. But one constant is keeping Snyder and other longtime employees around.

"A lot has changed, but what hasn't changed is the atmosphere," Snyder said. "The people I work with are like family to me and that atmosphere is the same. That's why I'm still here, why I haven't retired yet."

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KOMO Staff

AUBURN, Wash. -- A large fire ripped an Auburn warehouse Thursday night and spread to a neighboring building, but firefighters say nobody was injured in the blaze.

The warehouse, located in the 2800 block of Academy Drive SE, caught fire at about 8:20 p.m. The warehouse is located across the street from the Auburn Adventist Academy, and the school owns the building but rents it out to several tenants.

The three alarm fire does not appear to be suspicious, but firefighters on Thursday night had yet to go inside the building, according to Kimberly Terhune with the Valley Regional Fire Authority.

Terhune said firefighters had the blaze under control by 11 p.m., but she expected crews to stay on scene throughout the night to monitor hot spots.

Tom Decker, the principal of the Auburn Adventist Academy, said he wasn't sure how many businesses used the warehouse, but he believed one was an auto body shop.

Terhune said several employees were inside the building when the fire started, but everyone made it out safely.

"Fortunately nobody was hurt, and we're really grateful to God for that," Decker said.

It's unclear what caused the fire.
Clothes giveaway returns to Redding

Jenny Espino

REDDING, California - Shasta County parents looking for trendy bargains, get set. Doors to God's Closet are opening up again.

God's Closet, the national nonprofit at Seventh-day Adventist churches that organizes children’s clothes giveaways on a quarterly basis, has set up shop at the Eureka Way church.

Volunteers spent their Thursday sorting through gently used clothes by size and gender, ahead of Friday’s Free Shop Day event.

The tables were piled high with onesies for babies, sweatshirts, T-shirts and shorts for boys and girls. There were jackets and dresses. Some of the donations even included adult clothes. And they still had to go through a room packed with bags of clothes.

"People have a huge need for clothing, and children’s clothing is very expensive," said Merryl Tschoepe, the director of God’s Closet.

Families pay $1 to get in and are allowed to fill two bags.

The program is now in its third year and has been growing in popularity.

Tschoepe said the last event drew about 400 families.

Sienna Gippert travels from Shingletown to volunteer at the church whenever God’s Closet holds its shopping events. Those, like Gippert, who help out also are eligible to take clothes.

"We haven’t been able to buy that many clothes. But (through this), my daughter has so much clothes that it’s awesome," Gippert said. Her daughter, Danielle, is 2 years old.

Gippert plans to be back on Friday to help Tschoepe manage the event.

Last summer, the line of families waiting to shop stretched around the church.

“It is really busy," Gippert said. “Come early and try not to bring your kids, if you can.”

She, however, noted there will be childcare during the event.

Besides the clothes, families can receive haircuts and take part in Bible studies.

Because the event falls two days before Mother’s Day, Tschoepe said the nonprofit will give away gifts to 100 moms who attend.

For more information about God’s Closet, visit www.godscloset.com/redding.

If you go

What: God’s Closet free shop-day event

When: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Friday
Where: Redding Seventh-day Adventist Church, 2828 Eureka Way

About the event: The nonprofit offers families a place to take without cost gently-used clothes for newborns to 14-year-old children. The free shop-day events are scheduled quarterly. There is an entrance fee of $1. For more information, visit God's Closet online at www.godscloset.com/redding.
The Canadian Government has announced that it will match all donations for the Nepal Earthquake response made between April 25th and May 25th.

It has been four days since a 7.8 magnitude earthquake devastated Nepal. Over 5,000 people have been killed and the death toll is expected to rise further. Thousands more have been injured. The United Nations estimates that eight million people have been affected. Rescuers continue to dig in the rubble hoping to find survivors trapped beneath. Afraid of what the dozens of aftershocks may bring, hundreds of thousands are spending their nights in the open.

Houses, schools, businesses, historic temples, and other buildings have collapsed entirely or are now unsafe. Many areas are inaccessible as roads are damaged and there is debris from landslides.

Hospitals are treating patients outside and medical supplies are low.

Thankfully, all of ADRA Nepal's staff are unhurt and the ADRA Nepal office is still standing. The ADRA network has come together to jointly respond to this disaster. A team of skilled responders has been assembled to support ADRA Nepal and the members are either already on the ground or are on their way. Stockpiled emergency supplies are also on their way.

Providing water, shelter, hygiene items, and disease prevention information are now our focus.

More information will be provided as it becomes available.

We thank our supporters who have heeded our calls for prayers and donations.

More help is urgently needed. Please donate today.

DONATE NOW