Rescinding earlier actions, the North Pacific Union Executive Committee (NPUCEC) voted 26-4 against calling for a special constituency meeting about the ordination of women as pastors. Their rescinding action stated that they did not believe such a meeting would be productive at this time for the union. The NPUCEC members “made it clear that their decision should not be construed as a lack of support for women in pastoral ministry throughout the Northwest and beyond. An additional motion passed by the committee stresses their belief in the priesthood of all believers and a clear intention to foster increased opportunities for women in pastoral and leadership roles within the NPUC.” They also stated shared convictions. MORE [Photo by Anthony White]

On the scene in Saipan, Micronesia, in the aftermath of the devastating August 2 Typhoon Soudelor, a team of Adventist Community Services (ACS) people from NAD is working with other NGOs, including ADRA, to provide emergency needs and to develop a local Saipan ACS team to run a warehouse. This includes training people with very little technical expertise to work with inventory software necessary for running a warehouse in a disaster aftermath. Financial problems in Saipan are adding to the challenges in an area where power and water may not be restored for several weeks. “Every act of service is an act of worship and changes peoples lives,” said ACS Disaster Relief Director Sean Robinson. MORE, including Ways to donate; Photos [photo by Dan Weber]

August 26, 2015

Special Days

September Focus: Health
Sept. 5, Men’s Day of Prayer
Sept. 13-19, Nurture
Periodicals: (Adventist Review, Insight, Guide, Primary Treasure, Our Little Friend)
Sept. 20, Let’s Move Day
Sept. 20–26, Hispanic Heritage Week
Sept. 20–26, Let’s Move Week/Health Education Week/Vibrant Life

September Offerings
Sept. 12, Fall Mission Appeal

Helpful Special Day Websites and Resources

Sample Offertory Readings
(in English, Spanish, Portuguese and French)

Upcoming Events:
Sept. 3/4, Prayer Call
Mile High Academy celebrated the grand opening of their new campus in Denver, Colo. on August 16. Parents, students and other visitors toured the school with its cutting-edge design – study rooms with walls that can be used for writing, stools that move according to the need of the kinesthetic learner, desks that fit together for group projects or move apart to work individually, Smart Boards that remember what is written on them or display information from the internet, and so much MORE. [Photo by Kelly Waller]

Nearly one year after Ohio Conference leaders learned of the dire financial situation facing Mount Vernon Academy, constituents voted to ratify the recommendations to authorize the sale of assets of the Mount Vernon Academy Corporation, with 293 voting in favor of the motion and 17 opposed at a special constituency meeting earlier this year. MORE

Andrews University’s Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry is celebrating two anniversaries this year: The 75th anniversary of the department and the 50th anniversary of the ChemSem lecture series. The first one this year will be on Thursday, Aug. 27. This event and all following seminars during this special year of celebration will be live-streamed and recorded. To tune in to the live stream, visit www.andrews.edu/cas/chemistry and click “Seminar.” To watch recorded events, search “ChemSem” on YouTube to find the ChemSem channel. MORE [Photo by Anthony James]

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<td>It Is Written Webinar Training for Revelation Today</td>
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<td>Sept. 14-17,</td>
<td>Nonprofit Leadership Certification Program</td>
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Glendale Adventist Medical Center looks back on 110 years

Oceguera named Adventist Health’s Physician of the Year

Castle Medical Center parent pursuing East Hawaii hospitals

OB-GYN inspired by medical missionary now accepting patients

Andreasen to retire as Andrews president

Wellmont to take full ownership of Greeneville’s Takoma Regional Hospital

Want to expand your REACH beyond your local church? Learn how your church can live stream your church services and other events such as cooking schools, stress seminars, centennial celebrations, and more. People can watch from wherever they are. Tell your pastor and join Adventist Church Connect for a free Webinar on live streaming on Thursday, Aug. 27, at 7 p.m. CST. You will learn what live streaming is and how it works, details of various streaming services, equipment needs, the basics of creating a live production, setting up and delivering your streams, archiving your streams, and more. Register here. [Photo iStock/meshaphoto]

Men’s Day of Prayer will be Sept. 5, and free materials are available. Men’s Ministries Sermon and Program Guides are downloadable here, where you will also find archived sermons and program guides from past years.

Adventist Internet Network Conference


Sept. 7-10, Adventist Community Services Convention 2016, Gladstone, Ore.

Adventist World/ NAD Edition

August, 2015

NAD Feature: Breaking Barriers, by Odette Ferreira, p. 36

NAD News: Because We Care, Hispanics Inaugurate Radio Adventista Los Angeles, Florida Youth Catch the Vision to Serve, Oakwood University Celebrates Ellen White’s Legacy, p. 11

NAD Update: SONscreen Film Festival Celebrates Student Filmmakers, p. 14
Join the NAD Prayer Ministry Team for Prayer Call on Thursday, Sept. 3, for an all-night Prayer Call starting at 10:00 p.m. and continuing to 5:00 a.m. EDST Friday, Sept. 4. You do not need to stay on the phone all night, but join only for however long you wish. Call 404-891-6338; access code is Prayer# (772937#). Get bulletin inserts and learn MORE.

Awards entries are open NOW for the Society of Adventist Communicators (SAC) through Sept. 16. Electronic submissions only. Fees are waived this year. However, please submit only your best products. Not every issue or every video. Learn about SAC Communicators Awards. Find convention details online (Oct. 15-18) and register. Like the SAC Facebook page. Watch the video.

Don’t forget! The Nonprofit Leadership Certification Program (NLCP), Session II, September 14-17, in Federal Way, Wash., will equip nonprofit executive directors and staff, union and conference leaders, pastors and social service leaders, and Adventist Community Service leadership with the strategies and professional skills needed to successfully lead in a nonprofit organizational operation and in community outreach ministries. MORE

A "new" campaign is being formed by the transitioning of Adventist Risk Management, Inc. (ARM) to expanding their focus of preventing child abuse to combine their efforts with the enditnow campaign focus of ending abuse to women. This will create a multiple focus on the needs of both women and children to be protected from abuse, including bullying and neglect, and will mean increased resources and awareness for both groups. The transition is to be completed by this fall. MORE

NAD Perspective: Family Prayers, p.17

Daily Prayer Guide

Aug. 30 - Sept. 5 – This week, please pray for the British Columbia Conference, with 84 churches and 11,279 members.

Share This Newsletter
Free InStepforLife mobile apps are available for Android and iPhone. You must register on the website before using these apps. The app allows you to track your exercise, stay up-to-date with InStep news and events, and report miles toward the Let's Move Day goal.

The SAC newsletter, Practicing Communicating, is creating a brand new subscriber list. If you have been on the list in the past, and/or would like to receive the newsletter in the future, sign up HERE.

"I envision the day when our church will be known for our Compassion and Love for humanity rather than for the things we oppose. The day when this happens we will be in great historic company, we'll be in the company of Jesus. Jesus was known for loving people of all walks of life and backgrounds, as He walked this earth."

Conspiracies usually have a negative connotation. But Jose Cortez Jr. believes they can be a good thing.

Pastor Jose Cortes Jr., is an Associate Ministerial Director and Leads Evangelism for the Adventist Church in North America.

*URGENT - Teachers Needed!*

How do you apply to become a NAD **Volunteer to the Guam-Micronesia Islands?**

1) **Choose a call that interests you**.
2) Fill out **online application**.
3) **Complete paperwork** (Resume, two forms plus Health Clearance, three references)
4) Complete “Passport to Missions” **online training** (free). THEN, The **NAD Office of Volunteer Ministries** (OVM) and the GC Adventist Volunteer Services process and approve application. THEN,
5) You purchase airline ticket and send itinerary to OVM to arrange insurance. (Communicate with mission organization about your arrival date **before purchasing ticket**.)

**TIPS:**
Make sure your passport is valid for at least six months until AFTER your return. Visas are **not** required for U.S. citizens but **are required** for Canadians. Once you enroll in the training class OVM can continue approving application, but it needs to be completed before leaving for assignment.
*See last week’s NewsPoints for the announcement about the urgent need for teachers in Guam/Micronesia Mission

** Housing, travel insurance and a living allowance are provided. Volunteers must pay for their own travel. (See #5)
In its regularly scheduled meeting on Wednesday, August 19, the North Pacific Union Conference (NPUC) executive committee voted 26-4 on the following motion:

“We do not believe that convening a special constituency meeting about the ordination of women as pastors would be productive at this time for the North Pacific Union Conference (NPUC). Therefore, we rescind our earlier action, (agenda item #43-14).”

The previous action on November 12, 2014, had called for such a session to convene within 120 days after the fall 2015 North American Division year-end meetings. By constitutional mandate the motion to rescind required a two-thirds majority of the voting delegates present.

In this week's action, however, the NPUC executive committee members made it clear that their decision should not be construed as a lack of support for women in pastoral ministry throughout the Northwest and beyond. An additional motion passed by the committee stresses their belief in the priesthood of all believers and a clear intention to foster increased opportunities for women in pastoral and leadership roles within the NPUC.

That motion was worded as follows:

“We wish to acknowledge that the support in the NPUC for women in professional and lay ministry is very strong and to state the following shared convictions:

- We affirm Christ as the sole Head of the church and the priesthood of all believers
- We affirm the appropriateness and value of women serving as elders in local congregations
- We affirm the appropriateness and value of women serving as pastors and in other professional leadership roles within the church
- In line with the majority of members of the recent North American Division (NAD) Ordination Study Committee and the General Conference Theology of Ordination Study Committee, we believe that there is no biblical or theological barrier to the ordination of women for professional ministry
- We commit ourselves, in line with the current NAD strategic plan, to grow the number of women in professional ministry and to value, affirm and foster their leadership gifts. Our constituency will expect this commitment to be judged by actions and we look forward to reporting on progress at the constituency meeting scheduled for September 25, 2016.”

The discussion of these topics filled much of the committee's afternoon agenda. There was great diversity of opinion expressed in comments by committee members. The discussion was robust yet respectful, and representative of varied concerns throughout the Northwest.

Max Torkelsen, NPUC president, says union leadership will follow this directive from the committee and seek to
make measurable progress toward fostering opportunities for women leaders in all levels of church mission and ministry.

Share
**Typhoon Soudelor aftermath in Saipan**

8-26-15 ACS on the scene: Typhoon Soudelor aftermath in Saipan

**To give special donation for Saipan Disaster Relief**

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*Typhoon damaged much of the island  Photo: Daniel Weber*

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*NAD ACS Team met with other NGOs bringing disaster relief to the island.  Photo: Daniel Weber*
Winds equal to Category 2 hurricanes threw cars, downed trees, and caused power outages and clean water shortage on the island. Photo: Daniel Weber

ACS is on the scene in Saipan, part of the NAD’s Guam-Micronesia Mission, in the aftermath of the destructive Typhoon Soudelor, that devastated that area on Sunday night, August 2. According to the Red Cross, power and water supplies may not be restored for several weeks.

The VOAD partners for that area have asked ACS to set up a multi-agency warehouse to house and distribute goods coming from Guam and other countries. ADRA has given ACS an additional grant. ACS teams are working with the disaster response teams of other local and national Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) that have gone there to help.

One of their goals while there is to develop and train a Saipan ACS team from people who live there. In order for Saipan members to work with a larger organization that has means and specific duties to work with the entire disaster relief framework, special skills and understanding are needed. For instance, ACS is training people with very little technical expertise to work with the inventory software necessary for running a warehouse in a disaster aftermath. There are additional challenges, one being that Saipan is financially challenged, and they need additional funds beyond what is usually allotted to local NAD conferences grappling with disaster relief.

"Sometimes we do not realize just how many people are relying on your service and ministry," said Sean Robinson, ACS director for Disaster Response for North America. "Every act of service is an act of worship and changes people's lives."

To give a special donation for Saipan Disaster Relief, go to https://acsdonate.maxgiving.com/pay/step_1 and write "Saipan Relief" in the "Comments" blank, OR on a check if using church offering or snail mail to the division office (Mail to: NAD ACS, 12501 Old Columbia Pike, Silver Spring, MD 20904-6600).

See more photos
8-20-15 Mile High Academy Opens With a Celebration of God’s Goodness

by Carol Bolden

“If you want this facility for your kids, you’ll have to work out the details,” prayed Toakase Vunileva, principal of Mile High Academy in Denver, Colorado, as she stood in the parking lot of Colorado Christian School, a facility for sale off the C-470 and University Avenue. That was November 2014.

Nine months later, on August 16, after maneuvering through the buying, renovating and moving processes, the new Mile High Academy held its grand opening with a ribbon-cutting ceremony and praise to God. The ceremony involved representatives from the building committee, Centura Health leadership, RMC leadership, the school board, and the graduating class of 2017.

Relatives of Vunileva from Tonga and sang a worship song to the God who has done great things, the MHA choir, under the direction of Leandro Bizama, lifted up their voices while representatives gathered to cut the ribbon and a string ensemble made up of children from Mile High Academy played.

Eric Nelson, VP for administration for Rocky Mountain Conference dedicated the building and staff to communicate Jesus to the students and called it a day of “immense gratitude”.

Parents, students and other visitors toured the school with its cutting-edge design – study rooms with walls that can be used for writing, stools that move according to the need of the kinesthetic learner, desks that fit together for group projects or move apart to work individually, Smart Boards that remember what is written on them or display
information from the internet -- and so much more.

Seeing the bank of gray-painted lockers, I pictured myself back in school. How much better would I have done, how much more would I have learned with all these advantages?

Participating in the event, students wandered the school looking excited to see their friends and to start the school year in this new and wonderful place. Never before had they had a bright orange lounging chair that could be used on three sides. Nor had they enjoyed world-class photography on their walls.

Walking through the campus, the mood changed from one area to another -- serious and worshipful during the opening ceremony, a back-to-school-night feel as parents checked out rooms and talked to teachers, and joyful celebrating with small children riding the train in the parking lot, jumping in the bounce house and eating shave ice on what turned out to be a hot day.

When MHA entered the scene as an interested party in purchasing the property, another private school was already in the buying process, Douglas County had announced that they were acquiring it and Highlands Ranch had declared a moratorium on any more private schools. Vunileva’s prayer was answered in miraculous ways.

Even though the details involving a move to new location were on Vunileva’s mind since last January, it was on
August 10 when the MHA staff began moving in to the elementary section of the building. Transferring more than 60 years' worth of items from the “old” school and into the “new” school, is a huge undertaking. Luckily, the staff didn’t have to do it alone.

Don Reeder, principal of Campion Academy in Loveland, Colorado, brought his staff down to help on Tuesday. Reeder said that, “they [Campion staff] knew that we were in a push to get ready for school to start, but they figured that Mile High’s push was greater.”

The rivalry between the two academies has, at times, been fierce, but MHA and CA put that aside and had fun working together as a team.

The teachers shared more than just labor, though. During lunch, there was discussion of having the two schools work together on community service projects and social activities. It was made clear, however, that the goodwill between the schools would be put aside during the famed CA/MHA basketball games!

Vunileva was emotional as she thanked Reeder and the entire Campion delegation. “It means so much to us that you would take a day out of your prep time and come help us. I look forward to a time that we can repay the favor and help you,” she said.

“It was really great to have both schools working together,” said Amy Rasco, MHA alumnus and parent of a current MHA 7th grader. “Having Campion here today has made a big difference.”

As MHA and its leaders can list numerous miracles that made it possible to arrive at its Grand Opening, the students and their parents and guardians can complete the story with their own, personal experiences leading to Adventist education at MHA.

Mile High Academy is one of four academies in the Rocky Mountain Conference and is among 109 in the North American Division.
Constituents Approve Recommendation to Sell Mount Vernon Academy

Michelle Bernard

Nearly one year since Ohio Conference leaders learned of the dire financial situation facing their beloved Mount Vernon Academy in Mount Vernon, Ohio Conference constituents voted to ratify the recommendations put forth by the Mount Vernon Academy Board of Trustees and Ohio Conference Executive Committee to authorize the sale of assets of the Mount Vernon Academy Corporation. Though emotionally difficult, constituents understood the severity of the financial situation, with 293 voting in favor of the motion and 17 opposed at a special constituency meeting earlier this year.

Story by Heidi Shoemaker, Ohio Conference

The motion: To permit the “sale of all assets (real and personal properties) of the Mount Vernon Academy Corporation (MVAC), as well as consideration of disposition of conference lands and properties adjacent to and around MVAC properties, should such inclusion enhance desirability of said sale to prospective buyer(s).”

Ron Halvorsen Jr., conference president, recapped the series of events leading to this point. He also apprised attendees of the final $1.474 million total debt owed to the conference by MVA, and reminded all that this figure would only continue to climb. After addressing concerns raised by delegates about where and how the monies from the sale of academy properties would be used, he repeatedly assured constituents that the money would go into secondary Seventh-day Adventist education in Ohio once the debt had been reduced. “Every bit of monies that defrays debt will ultimately mean more dollars for our young people,” said Halvorsen.

Halvorsen commended constituents who helped support MVA in the past with a $407,000 annual subsidy, which went to help only 38 Ohio Conference students last school year. “Do you realize what $407,000 could do for Adventist education in this state?” He then went on to expound upon the vision he has for Ohio in the coming years.

Halvorsen assured constituents he will continue to update them as decisions are reached, allowing them to remain part of this journey. “I’m really proud of our church family here in Ohio. We’ve been through some hard times, but we’re going through them together,” he said.

For regular updates on the process, visit ohioadventist.org.
Campus News | Posted on August 25, 2015

Chem & Biochem Celebrate Anniversaries

by Becky St. Clair

Andrews University's Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry invite you to attend the first of the 2015 ChemSem lecture series on Thursday, August 27, at 4:30 p.m. in the Chemistry Amphitheater, located on the first floor of Halenz Hall in the Science Complex.

The Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry is celebrating two anniversaries this year: The 75th anniversary of the department and the 50th anniversary of the lecture series itself.

Programming for this first occurrence of the weekly series will include a brief history of the department and seminar, honoring first graduates and other alumni, and an announcement of this year's scheduled “Diamond & Gold” anniversary celebration events.

Also on the agenda is an opportunity to honor Dwain L. Ford, professor of chemistry, emeritus, by renaming ChemSem the Dwain L. Ford Lecture Series.

This event and all following seminars during this special year of celebration will be live-streamed and recorded. To tune in to the live stream, visit andrews.edu/cas/chemistry and click “seminar.” To watch recorded events, search “ChemSem” on YouTube to find the ChemSem channel.

For more information about upcoming Diamond & Gold anniversary events for the Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry, contact Desmond Murray, associate professor of chemistry, at murrayd@andrews.edu or
269-471-6087.

If you are alumni of the department, or if you have guest lectured for a ChemSem in the past, please contact Murray to see how you can be involved in anniversary celebrations during the year.

**Contact:** Desmond Murray murrayd@andrews.edu 269-471-6087
Ukiah hospital gets new ER

Ukiah Valley Medical Center is moving closer to getting a new emergency room.

Demolition of an old building that will be the new emergency department started July 27. The 68-bed hospital, operated by Roseville-based Adventist Health, is expanding its emergency services from 12 current beds to 19 private beds, and eight private rooms for intensive care. That includes two trauma bays and a rooftop helipad that will help the facility’s efforts to advance its trauma designation from level 4 to level 3.

The project is part of the $41 million campus expansion started in 2013. The entire expansion is scheduled to be completed in early 2016.

The emergency department opened in 1978 and initially saw 8,000 patients a year. Today, the unit sees about 25,000 patients per year, a number that officials anticipate will increase.

All told, the expansion and upgrade will add 19,000 square feet, including improvements to the six-bed intensive care unit, which will keep the same number of beds but will be converted to private rooms that are double the size. That will allow family members to stay with patients, according to the hospital.

The project was designed by Jennings Ackerley Architecture and Design of San Francisco. The general contractor is Herrero Builders of San Francisco, also working with Wipf Construction of Ukiah.

Adventist Health is a faith-based nonprofit with hospitals and clinics in California, Hawaii, Oregon and Washington.
Brunswick hospital leaders laud merger

By Beth Brogan, BDN Staff

Signs at the former Parkview Adventist Medical Center were changed Thursday evening following the sale of the hospital to Mid Coast Health Care. A new organization, Mid Coast-Parkview Health, will be formed by the sale.

Posted Aug. 21, 2015, at 4:35 p.m.

BRUNSWICK, Maine — Board members and administrators from both organizations stood together Friday morning to announce that the sale of the former Parkview Adventist Medical Center to Mid Coast Health Services, the parent company of Mid Coast Hospital, became final Thursday evening.

“We have figured out that we are stronger together than we ever were apart,” Bob Cundiff, president of the Northern New England Conference of Seventh-day Adventists and former chairman of the Parkview board of directors, told those gathered at the newly named Parkview Medical Center, part of what will become Mid Coast-Parkview Health.

Under the new organization, Mid Coast Hospital will continue to provide inpatient acute care, surgical, maternity and emergency room services — Parkview’s maternity unit closed in 2008, and its emergency department closed in June.

Parkview Medical Center, now under Mid Coast Hospital’s license and carrying Joint Commission and “magnet hospital” status, “will be the epicenter” of primary care and outpatient services and community health and wellness programs. In coming months, several other outpatient services will move to the Parkview campus, according to Lois Skillings, president and CEO of Mid Coast Health Services.

Mid Coast purchased Parkview for $3.8 million in cash, according to Bob McCue, chief financial officer of MCHS. Skillings said those proceeds will be allocated by the bankruptcy court to Parkview’s creditors — the largest of being Central Maine Healthcare Corp., which has operated Parkview since 2008.

In addition to the cash sale, Mid Coast forgave $579,540 in advances to Parkview, paid the Adventist church $280,000 per year for five years to consult with the organization about how to provide faith-based services, assumed about $763,000 in paid time off obligations to employees and committed $1 million per year for three years in capital improvements to the new Parkview Medical Center campus.

Skillings said she hopes to engage an architect within weeks to develop a master plan for the Parkview campus.

CMHC, the parent organization of Central Maine Medical Center in Lewiston that extended loans to Parkview and previously attempted to merge with the hospital, disputed the sale and expenditure amount before the court ruling Thursday.

CMHC wrote it was prepared to offer at least $6 million for the hospital and did offer $8 million, which would have included cash on top of $3.8 million it claims it holds in debt from Parkview.

Chief U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Peter Cary denied MCHC’s initial request to purchase PAMC in a private sale as part of a “pre-packaged bankruptcy,” according to Randee Reynolds, former CEO and president of Parkview and now vice president of community health and integration at what will become Mid Coast-Parkview Health. Instead, Cary told officials from MCHC and CMHC to present their “best and highest” offers to the Parkview board Tuesday evening. During a meeting of all board members that evening, the board unanimously voted to accept the Mid Coast proposal, he said.
But Reynolds said the Parkview board already made that decision the Friday before at a regularly scheduled meeting of the board of directors.

The board unanimously chose the Mid Coast offer in part because MCHS offered to retain all employees, according to Reynolds, while the CMMC offer essentially said former Parkview employees would be given preferential consideration when jobs opened at CMMC.

“It wasn't a guarantee,” he said.

“The advice and decision of the bankruptcy judge was that it was the highest and best use” to accept the Mid Coast Hospital bid, Skillings said. “The members of PAMC made the choice.”

An attorney for Mid Coast said during a court hearing Thursday that the board members considered in part a letter from Attorney General Janet Mills that stated Mid Coast's offer was an “innovative plan both to preserve the charitable goals of the founders of Parkview Adventist Medical Center and to better serve the needs of the community by creating a single health care presence in the Brunswick area, instead of fostering the divided and costly competition that has existed over many years.”

“The judge saw the wisdom of allowing the board to decide,” Cundiff said.

Reynolds said Mid Coast's commitment to ensuring the faith-based care continue and to offering jobs to all former Parkview employees helped sway the decision.

“We want to preserve that Adventist culture and value system, and Mid Coast has promised that will continue forward,” Cundiff said.

Skillings said no decision has been made about closing one of two walk-in clinics — one at Parkview Medical Center and one on Maine Street — but she said it would be impossible to run both clinics, 1½ miles from each other.

Barbara Reinertson, chairwoman of the Mid Coast Health Services board of directors, said Parkview has “pioneered” health and wellness in the area.

“Together, we are stronger,” Reinertson said. “We are poised to take the best possible care of the community — body, mind and spirit.”

“Parkview's mission of holistic health care — mind, body and spirit — will continue,” Reynolds said, “We will continue to provide for the spiritual needs of our patients. Chaplains and volunteers will be available to all who would like those services. The campus will continue to provide the faith based aspects of the Adventist church.”

“Our prediction is this campus will become more active than it has ever been,” Cundiff said after the news conference.

CORRECTION:

A previous version of this story inaccurately stated that Mid Coast Health Services forgave $578,540 in advances to Parkview and assumed about $163,000 in paid time off obligations to employees.
Glendale Adventist Medical Center looks back on 110 years

This side-by-side image shows the Glendale Hotel on the right, which was converted to the Glendale Sanitarium in 1905, next to the Glendale Adventist Medical Center, photographed on Friday, August 21, 2015.

(Left: Courtesy of the Special Collections Room, Glendale Public Library; Right: Roger Wilson / Staff Photographer / August 21, 2015)

Glendale Adventist Medical Center turns 110 this year, a long journey since it was established within the walls of a former hotel and when the average stay was about 40 days.

In 1905 the Seventh-day Adventist Church converted the Glendale Hotel — a Victorian era-style structure — into the Glendale Sanitarium. Stays at the facility encompassed spa treatments and exercise routines to help recuperate and reenergize — all that at a time when a hospital bill amounted to a couple bucks.

While there have been massive leaps forward in medical science and technology, some of those early principals of overall wellness continue to ring true today, according to hospital officials.

“"The ideas that the founders had regarding whole-person wellness are beginning to be understood as fundamental to the health of our community," said Dr. Michele Cosgrove, the medical center’s chief of staff.

A lot of that relies on outreach, educating the public and medical staffers spending more time outside of the hospital..."
and in the community, said Warren Tetz, Glendale Adventist’s senior vice president.

Part of looking past the supercentenarian anniversary will revolve around increasing local ties.

“The use of tobacco is still pretty prevalent in the Glendale community,” Tetz said. The message of quitting remains one that needs to be delivered, Tetz added.

“It would be an almost dramatic improvement in their health, particularly as they get older,” he said.

After its early years, Glendale Sanitarium was eventually relocated to a new campus where the current hospital currently stands and initially occupied a five-story main building with 225 beds.

Sanitarium services continued to be offered, and the grounds even had its own croquet field.

By the 1970s, advancements in medical science led surgeons to perform the first open-heart surgery at the hospital in 1973.

In the same decade, a new main building known as the east tower was built and the facility updated its name to Glendale Adventist Medical Center.

Flash forward several decades and the hospital now houses 515 beds and employs 800 physicians and 900 nurses, making it the largest hospital in the San Fernando Valley.

Despite a series of major changes in the past century, Glendale Adventist remains at its core a faith-based hospital.

When desired, people are welcome to pray with hospital staff, a long-standing tradition, Cosgrove said.

“It’s a very beautiful and very reassuring moment when patients and their families and their healthcare providers are able to pray together,” she said.

The hospital will celebrate its 110th birthday with a celebration from noon to 4 p.m. Sunday at the JCPenney Court of the Glendale Galleria. Admission is free and there will be aerialists, stilt walkers and treats.

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Oceguera named Adventist Health’s Physician of the Year

August 20, 2015

LODI — Dr. Jorge Oceguera of Lodi Health has been awarded the 2015 Physician of the Year Mission Award by parent company Adventist Health.

In awarding the honor, the company specifically mentioned Oceguera’s positive attitude and focus to Lodi Health Physicians Galt Family Specialty Care and the fact that he mentors his staff, encourages teamwork and assures patients are pleased with their experience.

“You will often see Dr. O in the background living as an example we are all fond of in this journey of life,” said Executive Director of Physician’s Administration Pam Schneider. “He is compassionate, caring and understands the ‘whole-person care’ philosophy.”

Lodi Health became part of Adventist Health earlier this year. The company has a total workforce of 31,000, 20 hospitals, more than 275 clinics, 15 home care agencies, seven hospice agencies and four joint-venture retirement centers.

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Oceguera named Adventist Health's Physician of the Year

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Castle Medical Center's parent company is in talks with Hilo Medical Center, Ka`u Hospital and Hale Ho`ola Hamakua, the state-owned hospitals operated by Hawaii Health Systems Corp.

Castle Medical Center's parent company is considering an acquisition of three public hospitals in East Hawaii on the Big Island.

California-based Adventist Health, the tenth-largest health system in the country, is in talks with Hilo Medical Center, Ka`u Hospital and Hale Ho`ola Hamakua, the state-owned hospitals operated by Hawaii Health Systems Corp.

“Our board, as responsible stewards of our commitment to healthcare, has set a very high priority on the examination of several potential options to better provide for the needs of our community,” said Kurt Corbin, board chairman of HHSC’s East Hawaii region. “The prospect of a strategic alliance with another healthcare organization is one of these options that merits a serious evaluation.”

Facing a $7 million shortfall, the Big Island hospitals cut 87 workers, or about 7 percent of the region’s workforce,
earlier this year.

“Recent service cuts and staff reductions at Hilo Medical Center, Ka’u Hospital and Hale Ho’ola Hamakua, while necessary in the short run, are contrary to the best interests of our patients, staff and community,” HHSC said in a press release.

Castle has operated in Windward Oahu for more than 50 years. Adventist Health owns and operates 20 hospitals, 230 clinics and several home health agencies in California, Oregon, Washington and Hawaii.

“Our mission is to improve our community’s health through exceptional and compassionate care,” said Dan Brinkman, HHSC’s East Hawaii regional CEO. “Frankly, the road ahead is even more financially challenging in our journey to achieve long-term sustainability and we must be open to all viable solutions.”
OB-GYN inspired by medical missionary now accepting patients

Laura Brown Staff Writer

Dr. Isaias Coelho, an obstetrics and gynecologist, is now accepting Kingsburg, Selma and Fowler patients through the Adventist Health / Community Care clinics

Dr. Coelho knew he wanted to be a doctor at the age of 16.

“I was working in the library of the boarding school I was attending in Brazil,” he says. “One of the books I read was a biography about David Livingstone, a Scottish explorer and medical missionary who traveled from England to Africa caring for people. His story made me want to pursue medicine.”

So Dr. Coelho moved from Brazil to the United States, where he attended Towson University in Maryland. He earned his medical degree from Loma Linda University, but it wasn’t until he and his wife were expecting their first son that Dr. Coelho realized he wanted to become an OB-GYN.

“I took my wife to all of her prenatal visits and was in the delivery room when I realized that was the type of doctor I wanted to be,” he said.

Dr. Coelho completed residency training in obstetrics-gynecology at Baystate Medical Center in Springfield, Mass. and became board-certified thereafter.

He worked for a group of rural health centers in Bakersfield from 2006 to 2015, but for 14 months in between, Dr. Coelho took time off to do missionary work in Guam. He said there was a great need for doctors who could deliver babies.

“I think one of the most important times in a person’s life is the birth of their children,” he says. “I am fortunate to be a part of that moment, which is very rewarding.”

Dr. Coelho is fluent in Portuguese and Spanish.

He may be reached by appointment at Adventist Health / Community Care – Fowler, 119 S. Sixth St., 834-1614; Kingsburg, 1251 Draper St., 897-6610; and Selma, 1041 Rose Ave., 856-6090.

Dr. Coelho will perform deliveries at the Family Birth Center in Reedley.

Adventist Health / Central Valley Network is part of Adventist Health, a faith-based, not-for-profit integrated health care delivery system serving communities in California, Hawaii, Oregon and Washington.
OB-GYN inspired by medical missionary now accepting patients: News
Andrewsen to retire as Andrews president - The Herald Palladium

By HP Staff

BERRIEN SPRINGS - Andrews University President Niels-Erik Andreasen will end his 22 years at the helm after the upcoming school year, the university announced Tuesday.

The retirement will be effective June 2016. He announced his retirement during his annual State of the University address August 13, the university reported.

Andreasen has led the flagship educational institution of the Seventh-day Adventist Church since 1994, the longest-serving president in Andrews' history. The university, established in 1874 as Battle Creek College in Battle Creek, moved to Berrien Springs in 1901 as Emmanuel Missionary College, and became Andrews University in 1960.

Benjamin Schoun, chairman of the Andrews University Board of Trustees, said the search process has begun.

The process, overseen by the trustees, will be directed by a search committee made up of board members, university faculty, staff, alumni and students. Schoun will serve as search committee chairman.

At the June 2016 trustees meeting, the new president will be elected and the new board chairman, Artur Stele, a general vice president of the Seventh-day Adventist world church, will assume chairmanship of the Andrews University Board of Trustees.

During Andreasen's tenure, Andrews grew to a global institution of more than 7,000 students studying around the world, with more than 3,400 studying on its Berrien Springs campus, the university reported.

Major construction projects during those two decades included the Howard Performing Arts Center, a significant expansion of the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary, a major new Undergraduate Learning Center and significant infrastructure improvements to the Dining Center, Dairy and a new University entrance.

Fundraising is nearly complete for a major Health & Wellness Center, which is scheduled for completion within the next three years.

The restructuring of academic entities, including the School of Health Professions and School of Architecture, Art & Design during Andreasen's presidency, reflected his ongoing interest in adding professional training opportunities to the core liberal arts education offered by Andrews, the university reported.

He has helped establish Andrews as a significant global force for higher education - now ranked as one of the top 200 national universities in the U.S. News & World Report's Best College listings and consistently ranked in the top 10 for both international and ethnic diversity.

Born in Fredensborg, Denmark, Andreasen lived in Denmark for his first 19 years. Andreasen graduated in 1963 with a bachelor's degree in religion and history from Newbold College. He holds two degrees from Andrews University: a Master of Arts in biblical studies, which he received in 1965; and a Bachelor of Divinity in 1966. In 1971, he received a doctorate degree in Hebrew Bible from Vanderbilt University in Nashville.

In 1970, Andreasen began what is nearing half a century of teaching and leadership posts for Seventh-day Adventist colleges and universities. In 1990, Andreasen was named president of Walla Walla College, College
Place, Wash. He served in that capacity until July 1994, when he became the fifth president of Andrews University.

He also serves as professor of Old Testament studies at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary.

Andreasen is married to Demetra Lougani of Athens, Greece, a retired medical social worker, who served as community relations coordinator at Andrews for many years.
After a year under the full ownership of Adventist Health System, Greeneville's Takoma Regional Hospital will be fully owned by Wellmont Health System. (Photo contributed by Wellmont)

Wellmont Health System
Nathan Baker • Updated Aug 19, 2015 at 9:47 AM

A Kingsport-based health system's on-again-off-again relationship with a Greeneville hospital took another turn Tuesday, as Wellmont Health System announced it would assume ownership of Takoma Regional Hospital on Nov. 1.

Much has changed for the six- (soon to be seven-) hospital system and the 108-bed community hospital in the past year, and much will surely change for them in the near future as care providers continue to adjust to health care reforms on a national level, Wellmont President and CEO Bart Hove said Tuesday afternoon.

Owned by the Seventh-day Adventist Church for two decades, then transferred to the church's organized health care non-profit, Adventist Health System, Wellmont took on 60 percent ownership of Takoma in 2007, while the faith-based organization continued to manage the facility.

In June of last year, as attorneys scrutinized a potential merger agreement between Wellmont and Johnson City-based Mountain States Health Alliance, full ownership of Takoma was transferred back to Adventist Health, in...
part because the latter shared the hospital’s electronic medical records system and clinical protocols.

During the year between the last ownership announcement and the current one, Hove said both Wellmont and Adventist Health took a “time-out from the rapid pace of change in health care,” and realized it was best for the residents of Greene County and the surrounding areas that Takoma be aligned “with a health system that provides care exclusively in the region.”

“Adventist has been cordial in our ongoing discussions and has allowed us to lease their electronic medical records and their business and finance arm, so there will not be a disruption,” Hove said. “That’s given us more time to analyze and determine the best approach for the future.”

Hove said the ultimate goal is to include all Wellmont hospitals — and presumably those under a merged system in the future — under one electronic medical records system. Last year, Wellmont put the finishing touches on a multi-year, multi-million dollar EMR system called Epic.

According to Hove, part of the agreement between Wellmont and Adventist Health last year left the door open for Wellmont’s return to again take a stake in Takoma. Under Wellmont’s ownership, that door will be closed, Hove said, but that doesn’t mean a friendly knock from Adventist won’t be answered.

“I can’t say there will never be an opportunity for Adventist to come back and work collectively with us at Takoma,” he said. “But, in our re-evaluation, we came to the conclusion that a locally managed health care system covering the region would be a more appropriate owner.”

As part of the deal, the financial terms of which were not disclosed, Takoma Medical Associates, the organization of affiliated physicians, will become part of Wellmont.

Even under Adventist Health’s ownership, Takoma continued to rely on Wellmont’s Holston Valley Medical Center and Bristol Regional Medical Center for specialized care and intricate procedures that could not be performed at the Greeneville hospital.

The continued relationship through the last year means Takoma’s patients won’t be forced to change doctors or facilities, interim hospital CEO Dennis Kiley said.

Kiley, who took on the leadership role at Takoma after previous CEO Daniel Wolcott’s departure last month to serve as the CEO of a California hospital, will continue in his position until Wellmont finds a successor, Hove said.

Like many rural hospitals across the country, for Takoma, especially when facing competition from Laughlin Memorial Hospital, a 230-bed facility across town, it’s been “hard to keep our head above water,” Kiley said.

According to online records hosted by the American Hospital Directory, last year Takoma collected $191,704,606 in patient revenue, but still lost more than $1.8 million. In the same time period, Laughlin Memorial saw 1,200 more patients, collected $192,160,430 in patient revenue and posted a net income of nearly $1.3 million.

Wellmont currently provides cardiovascular services to both Laughlin and Takoma, Hove said, but will not pull those out of the competing hospital when the system fully owns Takoma.

Chuck Whitfield, President and CEO of Laughlin, released an emailed statement Wednesday morning saying the hospital and its administration looked forward to “continuing our relationship with Wellmont during and after their acquisition of Takoma Regional Hospital. We believe this acquisition will enchant both local hospitals’ capabilities in providing the very best health care for our community’s residents.”

Hove also said it’s too early to tell what capital investments will be made in the facility and if specialized services will be changed.
“We plan to evaluate the current capacity as it exists now and make those decisions in the future,” he said.

Though Wellmont’s leaders made it clear the decision to own Takoma was not made because of the pending merger with Mountain States, if the merger is approved, the hospital will be the new organization’s 19th.

Should the two systems move forward with a merger, Takoma will be included in the plans submitted to regulators in both Tennessee and Virginia to secure approval for the joining.

If the restrictions of the certificate of need agreement, the legal promise meant to keep the amalgamated system in check, are similar to those made years ago by Mission Health System in North Carolina, the new system’s growth would be capped to avoid an unfair advantage over competing systems and hospitals near the border of the merged organization’s territory.

Wellmont and Mountain States expect the process to develop a final plan for the merger to take at least until the end of the year.
Silver Spring, MD. August 19, 2015 – Adventist Risk Management, Inc. (ARM) is transitioning its campaign that focused on preventing child abuse to the enditnow campaign, led by the Women’s Ministries department of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and the World Divisions. The move will enhance the resources provided by the enditnow campaign and expand its focus to children in distress. The transition will be completed this fall.

“We’re grateful that ARM is sharing its resources with us. This is a meaningful contribution to our mission to protect women and children around the world from abuse and neglect,” said Heather-Dawn Small, director of Women’s Ministries for the Seventh-day Adventist World Church. “It is a natural progression in our journey to reach not only women in trouble but their children as well.”

Launched in 2012, the Seven Campaign raised awareness on child abuse, including bullying, neglect, physical and sexual abuse against children. The transition comes as leaders at ARM felt enditnow would be a better platform to share preventive resources globally. enditnow is a well-known and established initiative that has called attention to the plight of women around the world who suffer in silence against physical and emotional abuse.

“We’ve seen that enditnow has impacted the lives of many women and we want this important focus to expand to children who are in danger,” said Bob Kyte, president of ARM. “Our mission is to encourage risk management and any way we can help other ministries of the Church protect the most vulnerable.”

Learn more about enditnow and its digital resources at www.enditnow.org.

Adventist Risk Management, Inc. is the risk management company for the Seventh-day Adventist Church, headquartered in the Washington DC area. We provide risk management services and insurance product solutions to assist the Church in eliminating oversights that can lead to costly accidents. ARM employs 130 people around the world with its corporate headquarters in Silver Spring, MD, and satellite offices in Riverside, CA, St. Albans, England and Brasilia, Brazil. Please contact Frenita Buddy at 301-680-6929 for more information.

Please visit our website at www.adventistrisk.org. We also invite you to follow us on Twitter and Facebook.