"What an outpouring of love!" exclaimed Lakeport church Pastor Ted Calkins as he videotaped the tour led by Seth Cantu through the Lakeport Seventh-day Adventist Community Church. The church has become a shelter and distribution center of goods for survivors of the Valley, Calif., wildfires and Cantu has been the director of the now "Lakeport Fire Relief Evacuation Center" conversion of the church. Seven families are staying there now, and many more are coming to receive needed supplies, food, clothes, and more. About 20 Adventist families have lost their homes. Handling all the needs involved with running the shelter requires about 30 volunteers a day, and there is a need for more volunteers. Another building nearby has been donated for use over the next 45 days as a distribution center. "It is really amazing what happens when a community comes together," said Cantu as he showed the rooms full of clothes and food. Watch the video, MORE

The California fires have impacted many, many Adventist Health employees, physicians and volunteers of St. Helena Hospital Clear Lake and St. Helena Hospital Napa Valley, as well as Sonora Regional Medical Center. An estimated 230 employees have been displaced and approximately 65 have lost their homes. It is anticipated that these numbers will continue to grow in the coming days. MORE
El Paso, Texas participated in the 5th annual Let's Move Day, Sept. 20, sponsored by NAD Health Ministries. More than 500 runners and walkers took part in the event which helps to promote healthy living and the benefits of exercise and eating healthy food. [Watch the video.]

Living on the streets of Washington, D.C., Pastor Tim Madding, as an act of sympathy and in order to draw attention to a specific need in our community or world, has chosen to live Seven Days Without a vital human need. Madding believes Jesus is calling the Church to actively live out our faith by showing His love to others in a practical way. Through this seven-part message series, Madding wishes to reveal the Christian's heart in the life of Jesus. [MORE.]

Diane Thurber has accepted the appointment to be the new president of Christian Record Services for the Blind (CRSB), as voted by CRSB Board of Directors. She will follow Larry Pitcher, who is retiring Oct. 1 after serving as Christian Record's president for nearly 21 years. [MORE]

2016
Jan. 13-17, Emotional Wellness Summit, Orlando, Fla.
Feb. 17-20, Just Claim It Youth Prayer Conference, Ontario, Calif.
Feb. 24-28, GAin - Global Adventist Internet Network Conference
April 24-27, HR Conference & Secretariat Council, Minneapolis, Minn.
Valley Fire: Many Lake County residents, already suffering from poverty and poor health, besieged again

Adventist group conduct house-to-house care package distribution

Did You Know: Scottsdale Airport Was A WWII Aviation Training Base

'A small, family-type setting': Church school goes back more than century

Church assembles new building at industrial park

The hotel registration deadline has been extended for the Society of Adventist Communicators Convention until Friday, September 25. There are only four rooms left. Register here.

Join the NAD Prayer Ministry Team for Prayer Call on Thursday/Friday, Oct. 1/2 for an all-night Prayer Call starting at 10:00 p.m. Thursday and continuing to 5:00 a.m. EDT Friday. 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.

"Destination Paradise" is the theme for Children's Sabbath, Oct. 3. NAD Children's Ministries has supplied helpful resources on the Children's Ministries website, such as a suggested program, a poster, invitation cards, bulletin cover, and even a letter to the pastor asking for

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

Adventist World/ NAD Edition September, 2015

NAD Feature: Reflections from North America; General Conference Session 2015 – a Millennial Perspective, p. 36

NAD News: New Kitchen House Coming to Orlando Junior Academy, Find Peace where Adventism began; It Is Written is Streaming Truth to Your Screen, p. 11

NAD Update: The Third Annual Adventist Conference on Family Research and Practice, p. 14

NAD Perspective: Finding Light
permission, blessing and involvement. If Oct. 3 will not work for you, we encourage you to have a children's Sabbath whenever you can. This day provides a great "excuse" to invite neighbors, friends, and inactive members to bring their children. The more you put into planning and promoting this special day, the more impact it will have on your church and your community. MORE

October is Adventist Heritage Month, and Oct. 17 is Spirit of Prophecy Sabbath. The Ellen G. White Estates has provided resources, such as a suggested program for the occasion, along with a sermon, The Beauty of the Lamb of God, and a Children's Story, Strength to do the Impossible.

Two signs. Both signs of refuge. "Open to All!"

There is no green lawn due, no doubt, to the drought in the area, but a more beautiful church could not be found in the aftermath of the California fires that have destroyed over 1,000 homes. The beautiful churchyard sign on the right declares that this is the Lakeport Community Church - Seventh-day Adventist. The sign on the left indicates that it has had a "makeover" into a Fire Relief Evacuation Center for survivors of the wildfires in that area and is "open to all." How does the community see us? You can be a part of this "view." To assist, download the bulletin inserts for friends and others. Read more. Watch the video (also linked in top story).
Did you know God has a place for you in His community?

The church is one body with many members, called from every nation, kindred, tongue, and people. In Christ we are a new creation; distinctions of race, culture, learning, and nationality, and differences between high and low, rich and poor, male and female, must not be divisive among us. We are all equal in Christ... MORE

Watch the 90: second video on Vimeo.

Share it! Each topic on the My Way to Jesus website links to a video, an invitation to study the Bible, the Find-a-Church Directory, a link for kids to My Place with Jesus, a place to send prayer requests, and more. You can easily post the videos and information on your church website and/or share the updates from the My Way to Jesus Facebook page. Learn how.
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9-23-15 Adventist Health employees hit hard by Butte/Valley, Calif. Fires

The Valley Fire near St. Helena Hospital Clear Lake and St. Helena Hospital Napa Valley – as well as the Butte Fire near Sonora Regional Medical Center – both in California, have impacted many Adventist Health employees, physicians and volunteers.

The Valley Fire has burned close to 70,000 acres in just the first five days alone, and is only 35% contained. As of Thursday, it has destroyed more than 585 homes and hundreds of other structures. It is anticipated that these numbers will continue to grow in the coming days.

These are catastrophic events that have hit Adventist Health’s workforce very hard. An estimated 230 employees have been displaced and approximately 65 have lost their homes. It is anticipated that these numbers will continue to grow in the coming days.

The good news is that there has been an outpouring of support from every corner of our health system and the communities. (For instance, Adventist Health’s Roseville employees are being incentivized to contribute with a match for all funds raised by COB on Friday. JLL is also matching donations by its employees.)

St. Helena Hospital’s foundation is handling contributions for all sites. Go to: www.shhfoundation.org. Click on “Make a Gift” (an orange box presently) and select “AH employee fire relief fund.”

None of the Adventist Health structures have been damaged by the fires.
9-23-15 Adventist Pastor Lives on Streets of Washington, D.C.

As I walk the streets of downtown DC to observe and interact with the city’s poor, I come across a handful of homeless that have gathered all their personal property on the corner of the busy, urban street. I use the term homeless in the traditional sense because for these three people, this is their home.

Scattered all across the sidewalk like a yard sale on an early Spring day are all their belongings. Cardboard boxes filled with clothes. Pants hung over the sidewalk railing. Several backpacks lie next to a pile of shoes and two tarpas cover whatever remains.

As far as I can tell, three people call this metropolitan corner their home. One man sleeps on a cardboard bed under a ragged blanket. Another sits in a plastic chair talking on his phone while a woman paces endlessly back and forth engaged in a very animated discussion with herself.

I cross the street to observe from a distance, turning over a milk crate to sit. As I do, another man passes, "Buy me something to eat sir?" I have nothing to give so he walks on without stopping.

As I watch hundreds of people blindly pass them by, I sit wondering: who are these people? Where have they come from? Why are they here? How long have they been on this street? Is anyone offering to help? Do they even want help? I come to the realization that I know very little about the plight of America's homeless. Then again, that's why I'm here spending seven days on the streets of our nation's capitol, eating in soup kitchens and sleeping wherever I can lay my head safely.

Standing next to me, waiting for his bus, is an off duty security guard. I gather he stands here everyday so I approach him, asking about those across the street, "They sure do have a lot of stuff. They been there long?"

Tim Madding, the author
In disgust the guard replies, "They've been there three weeks. They use to be down the street in front of Hard Rock Cafe but they got kicked out of there. So they moved here."

I want to know more so I inquire, "What about the woman? What do you know of her?"

Waving his hand in a motion of demeaning judgment, "Oh, she's crazy!" Just then his bus comes and he heads home.

I turn my attention again to the "home" across the street. Hundreds of people walk by. As they do, they look the other way. Everyone knows they're there but no one chooses to see them. Really see them. At least that I can see.

It starts to rain and the woman begins putting things under a tarp. I need to get to a dry place for the night myself, so I walk on.

I see the homeless differently now. It is so natural to want to look away and ignore them. To let someone else handle them. No more. I no longer see men and women to turn my face from, but sons and daughters of God who deserve to be valued, loved and helped. I don't claim to fully understand them or the best way to help, but I hope to learn how.

-Story by Tim Madding, lead pastor of the Beltsville Seventh-day Adventist Church, who recently started the "Seven Days Without" sermon series which encourages members to live out their faith in practical ways. Visit sevendayswithout.com to follow Madding and learn more about the series.
A New President For Christian Record

Christian Record Services for the Blind Board of Directors has announced the appointment of Diane Thurber as the new president of the organization. Thurber will follow Larry Pitcher, who is retiring October 1 after serving as Christian Record's president for nearly 21 years.

During his term as president, Pitcher guided the organization out of substantial debt and helped innovate new programs and services, such as the inSight4Vets initiative for blinded veterans and modernization of the Christian Record audio lending library. Prior to his time with Christian Record, Pitcher served as the senior pastor of the Wichita South Seventh-day Adventist Church in Wichita, Kansas.

Thurber will be transitioning from her roles as women's ministries director and associate communication director with the Lake Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, where she has served since 2004. Prior to Thurber's appointment at the Lake Union, she served as communication director of the Indiana and Northern New England conferences. Additional ministry experience includes serving as associate director of family ministries in the Michigan Conference. Thurber also served as leader of the Shepherdess and Ministerial Spouses Association organizations in the Northern New England, Indiana, and Rocky Mountain conferences. She will be joining husband, Gary Thurber, recently-elected president of the Mid-America Union, as they make their new home in Lincoln, Nebraska.

The Thurbers have two adult sons: Ryan and Justin. Ryan is married to Baylie née Thompson. He is an attorney at Polsinelli in Denver, Colorado, and Baylie is an Intensive Care nurse at Littleton Hospital in Colorado. Justin is a senior at Andrews University, majoring in biology.

“It is an honor to partner with God and the many Christian Record employees, volunteers, and donors who have dedicated their lives and resources to people who are blind or visually impaired,” said Thurber. “I am excited to learn more about this indispensable ministry of the Seventh-day Adventist Church that touches more than 20,000 individuals each year. Many lives have been and are being changed each day, and I believe there continues to be a tremendous opportunity to introduce and lead these individuals to Jesus, the Healer. I also pray the Lord will open my eyes to see His plans to guide this ministry until He returns,” she said.

“I am very pleased with the vote of the CRSB board to elect Diane Thurber as the new president,” said Daniel R. Jackson, North American Division president and CRSB board chair. “I believe that Diane will bring a new perspective and energy to the organization and that God's mission for the blind will move ahead in a significant way,” he said.

For more than 115 years, Christian Record Services for the Blind has offered free programs and services to all who
are blind or visually impaired. Funding for services is provided by the generous donations from individuals and businesses.

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Photo caption: Diane Thurber, Christian Record Services for the Blind President (Photo by Dave Sherwin)
Hospitals Seek Volunteers for No One Dies Alone Program

Adventist Midwest Health

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Julie Busch, Assistant Vice President, Communications, 630.856.2353, julie.busch@ahss.org

News Release: September 21, 2015

Hospitals Seek Volunteers for No One Dies Alone Program

Hinsdale – AMITA Health Adventist Medical Center, Hinsdale and AMITA Health Adventist Medical Center, La Grange are seeking volunteers for the No One Dies Alone program, which supports patients who are dying.

Volunteers are needed to serve as compassionate companions who will provide support for persons who are dying, and have no family or friends to sit with them.

“We wish to give dignity to all who are dying by providing a loving presence during their final hours,” said Aleksandra Tanurdzic, manager of pastoral care at AMITA Health Adventist Medical Center, La Grange. “We believe in patient-centered care, and we believe that no one should die alone. This program will be another way in which we extend the healing ministry of Christ.

“It is also a journey for the volunteers who will be spending time with the dying person,” Tanurdzic said. “Sitting with someone in their final hours is a profound experience. It is a sacred and unique time.

“Also, it means a great deal to our nurses and other medical staff members to know that their patients are not alone,” she said.

Informational meetings and training will begin in October. Volunteers who wish to serve as compassionate companions will receive training on the physical needs of the dying from clinical managers and nurses, although volunteers will not provide any medical care. They will also be trained on spiritual needs by pastoral care staff members.

Volunteers will rotate through two-hour shifts until the patient dies. During the shift, the compassionate companion may speak with the patient, hold his or her hand, or simply be present at bedside. Books and music will be provided.

Volunteers must be at least 18 years old, and must not have experienced the death of a family member or friend during the past year.

The No One Dies Alone program was started by Sandra Clark, RN, in 2001 at PeaceHealth Medical System in Eugene, Oregon.

For information on meetings and training, call Esther Jarrette at AMITA Health Adventist Medical Center, Hinsdale at (630) 856-8124, or Mimi Giles at AMITA Health Adventist Medical Center, La Grange at (708) 245-3920.
Increasing births leads Castle Rock hospital to expand

The expansion of Castle Rock Adventist Hospital’s labor and delivery unit is expected to be complete in December.

Shanna Fortier

With Castle Rock’s population rising, Castle Rock Adventist Hospital felt the need to grow as well — with a $1.5 million expansion to the labor and delivery unit.

Last year, the hospital delivered 686 babies. Since the addition is expanding the labor and delivery unit by about 50 percent, the hospital expects to handle about 50 percent more births, said Kathy Podorsek, the hospital’s director of women’s services.

“With the growth in Castle Rock and the volume that we’ve been seeing,” Podorsek said, “we need to have more rooms so that we’re able to keep our moms here on the unit, able to deliver here and keep
moms and babies together.”

Now under construction, the expansion will add five labor, delivery, recovery and post-partum (LDPR) suites to the eight that already exist. An additional nurses station also will be added. The project is expected to be complete by December.

Each new room will have a soaking tub, which coincides with the unit’s goal of crafting a personal birthing experience.

“Parents are really looking for an experience,” said Jacque Northrup, birth concierge and education coordinator. “Here at Castle Rock, we offer a lot of amenities including soaking tubs, aromatherapy, birthing balls and the LDBR suites, where a mom labors, delivers, recovers and post-partums all in one room.”

A group of midwives also contract with the hospital to create a proper birthing environment for those patients.

“I think that the care that we give here is exceptional and we are able to personalize the experience to what each mom wants,” Podorsek said. “That’s probably the biggest strength that we have.”
Church Celebrates 100th Birthday

Minot's Seventh Day Adventist Church celebrates it's 100th birthday today. The congregation gathered together with members of the community to thank God for the strong foundation created in the community.

Darlene Lien, has been apart of that history since 1976. Lein says in times of trouble, and in years of grace she likes to take a look back at some of her favorite memories.

(Darlene Lien, Member of Seventh Day Adventist Church) "It's been a real blessing. I first came here as a church school teacher, and I have seen it grow and decrease, and grow again."

The 7th Day Adventist Church is located at 10 17th Ave SW.

Members say they welcome all to join them in their future services.
Many Lake County residents, already suffering from poverty and poor health, besieged again
LAKEPORT -- The air is so fresh here -- long ranked the cleanest in the nation -- that residents of Lake County like to boast that they don't need to smog test their cars.

But six wildfires so far this summer have ravaged this rural county north of Napa, and the smoky haze has settled into the souls of its 63,000 residents. Since last weekend, the drought-fueled Valley Fire alone has destroyed nearly 600 homes and killed three people. The blaze still isn't contained and fire season isn't over. It's tough on a county that, unlike its wealthier Wine Country neighbors to the south, is as poor as it is pretty.

"You get the feeling of 'what's next and why?' " said the Rev. Randy Brehms of Lakeport Seventh-day Adventist Church, which has become one of several tent cities for evacuees. "It's overwhelming."

Seth Cantu, facility coordinator at the Seventh Day Adventist Church in Lakeport, Calif., shows one of several areas filled with clothes donated for evacuees on Thursday, Sept. 17, 2015. The church is one of the evacuation centers for displaced residents of the Valley Fire and homeless, too. (Ray Chavez/Bay Area News Group) (RAY CHAVEZ)

In many ways, locals are content to live one valley over from the center of California's most famous wine region. You can buy a cheaper house or a farm in Lake County and still enjoy the bucolic, oak-studded views. You can raise chickens in town and ride horses down Main Street.

Unlike Napa to the south, luxury hotels never found their way here. The Super 8 and Best Western are the only chain motels in the county. But to the lament of locals, the once-proud Konocti Harbor music venue in Kelseyville, founded by the president of a plumbers union in 1959 to offer affordable vacation rentals for union members, closed six years ago.

Advertisement

Until the fire destroyed it, you could dip naked at Harbin Hot Springs Retreat. Characters are embraced here. And when the Valley Fire hurtled down the center of Middletown and through subdivisions on Cobb Mountain and in Hidden Valley, neighbors rescued neighbors.

Many who grew up in the Bay Area remember spending summers in funky lakeside resorts just north of the fire zone at Clear Lake (which isn't so clear these days). But key indicators of health and wealth show Lake County often falling in the bottom five among California's 58 counties.

Besides the county government based in Lakeport, Walmart and Kmart are the top employers. Senior citizens here are among the poorest in the state. One of every four residents smokes, causing a ripple effect of chronic heart and lung conditions. One in five residents is considered obese. Lake County has one of the highest rates of suicide in the state. Drug abuse is rampant.

That's part of the reason it will be so tough to recover.

But they're trying.
"Most of the time, when people talk about our dire circumstances, that doesn't land well with the people who live here. People don't understand there's a strong community effort to try to work together," said Susan Jen, part of the leadership team for Wellville, a nonprofit that chose Lake County as one of five communities across the country to improve residents' health and the economy.

Welcome to Cobb Mount sign was destroyed by the Valley Fire in Middletown, Calif., on Friday, Sept. 18, 2015. (Ray Chavez/Bay Area News Group) (RAY CHAVEZ)

"We'll have to address the real needs that are obviously in front of us, but on the other side, there is the true spirit of looking at not only rebuilding what was, but making something better."

Churches and schools and fairgrounds are running well-stocked evacuation centers. Ranchers are loading their trucks and trailers with hay and feed to deliver to livestock left alone, while many residents remained banned from returning home. A bridal shop donated a dress to a bride who lost everything.

The "Hardester boys," as they're known in town -- brothers who run Hardester's Market and Hardware stores in Middletown and Cobb -- are showing up at the evacuation centers to check on their customers and deliver paychecks to employees who haven't been able to get to work in a week.

A pedestrian walks along Main Street in downtown Lakeport, Calif., on Friday morning, Sept. 18, 2015. The KPFZ 88.1 FM radio station is located in the white building where they have been keeping updates with the valley Fire since Saturday. (Ray Chavez/Bay Area News Group) (RAY CHAVEZ)

And as much as Facebook has been a fire forum for residents, it is a local community radio station -- KPFZ -- in the old Farmers Savings Bank building on Main Street in Lakeport, that people are turning to for information. The 300-watt station at 88.1 FM, staffed by volunteers, suspended its regular programming -- from "Karma Cola" to "Senior Moments" -- to connect those with needs to those who can fill them.

"Hi, this is Rick from Seventh-day Adventist on Park Avenue," said the caller from one of the evacuation centers in Lakeport last week. "We could use kitchen workers -- for the last four days, they've been working their tails off. The other thing that came up was luncheon meats, turkey or chicken -- and belts. We have many pants but few belts. Is it OK that I ask?"

Camping tents are set up for evacuees outside the Seventh Day Adventist Church in Lakeport, Calif., on Friday morning, Sept. 18, 2015. The church is one of the evacuation centers for displaced residents of the Valley Fire and homeless, too. (Ray Chavez/Bay Area News Group) (RAY CHAVEZ)

"That's why we're here," said Andy Weiss, who on a normal day hosts "Pagan World Views" but was fiddling with the sound board one morning last week to answer the on-air call-in line instead.

As big as the county is -- bordered by Napa County to the south and Mendocino County to the north; at 1,329
square miles, larger than Rhode Island -- people seem to
know each other far and wide.

"You can't go anywhere in this county and not meet
somebody you know," said Horace Mendoza, 76, who
moved from Alameda to Lakeport when he retired. He
spends most mornings and evenings catching up with
friends at Renee's Cafe in downtown Lakeport, often talking
about the lake's premier bass fishing. "We have The
Grange and the Lions Club and they visit each other. It's
just a big family, really."

The evacuees are counting on that closeness now more
than ever.

Anthony Bracisco, 26, lost not only his own home but also his mother's up on Cobb Mountain, where the fire
first hit last Saturday. The only thing that survived -- thanks to a small group of firefighters -- is his garage, filled
with the work tools that belonged to his father, who died four years ago.

"Someone tried to break in last night, so I'm going to stay here and protect what little we have left," said
Bracisco, a county correctional officer who helped fight the fire and direct traffic during the blaze. "I have 30
days of provisions."

The county has suffered greatly, he said, with the fires this summer and its pervasive social problems. Since
July 29, six fires have torched more than 169,000 acres in Lake and its neighboring counties. The 69,438-acre
Rocky Fire destroyed 43 homes.

It all makes it hard to stay positive, Bracisco said.

"The only thing next for Lake County is for us to stay together and rebuild," he said. "We've seen a lot of terrible
things this year, but we will get through this."

And someday soon, everyone hopes, the smoke will clear.

Contact Julia Prodis Sulek at 408-278-3409. Follow her at twitter.com/juliasulek.
Adventist group conduct house-to-house care package distribution

21 Sep 2015

By Junhan B. Todiño - junhan@mvariety.com - Variety News Staff

To reach out to typhoon victims in remote places and those in the interior parts of the villages, the Adventist Community Services team conducted another care package distribution on Sunday.

Pastor Matt Mattzela said they prepared 200 buckets containing assorted relief goods, including milk and hygiene items.

Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster warehouse manager Ray Aldan said the Adventist group distributed care packages in Dandan, San Vicente, Oleai and Garapan.

“This is our second week of house-to-house visits to give typhoon victims care packages,” said Aldan, who joined the group in the distribution effort.

The children of Dr. Sang Yoon of Adventist Community Service hand relief goods to a family in Oleai. Photo by Junhan B. Todino

On Sept. 13, he said the group distributed 225 care packages in Tanapag, San Roque, As Matuis and Kagman.

“The typhoon victims were very appreciative that we handed them the relief goods right outside their door,” Aldan...
Joel Lopez, another volunteer, said local residents were “very surprised” that a church group visited them with care packages.

Aldan said they are planning to conduct another house-to-house distribution next week.
Did You Know: Scottsdale Airport Was A WWII Aviation Training Base

The Thunderbird Field 2 cadets during the time the airport was an aviation training base. An estimated 5,500 cadets were trained at Thunderbird 2, today Scottsdale Airport.

A view of the Thunderbird Field 2 control tower when it was a WWII aviation training base.

An aerial view of the Thunderbird Field 2. McDowell Mountain is in the background.

It’s not the biggest one in town — you might even say it flies a little bit under the radar. Hollywood stars who make their stop in the Valley certainly hope so. It’s history goes back to war time.

The Scottsdale Airport averages about 140,000 departures and arrivals a year. They’re mostly private and corporate planes. Did You Know… Scottsdale Airport was an Army Air Corp aviation training base during the second World War known as Thunderbird Field 2?

“This was primarily for U.S. Aviation cadets,” said Joan Fudala, who has written extensively on the history of the Scottsdale airport.

“This was in the middle of nowhere. From our founding in 1888, Scottsdale through WWII was just a really small farming and ranching community centered in what is now downtown Scottsdale. And this was far north of where any development was,” Fudala said.

Thunderbird Field 2 opened in June 1942. It’s boundaries were around what is today Frank Lloyd Wright Boulevard to Thunderbird Road, and from about Scottsdale Road to the Pima Freeway. The runway was a flat graded area. And the closest air marker was decidedly low-tech.

“The McDowell Mountains came in very important has a navigational aid to those cadets. In fact, Pinnacle Peak Mountain north end of the McDowells became a real important nav-aide. Years ago I interviewed several of the cadets that had trained here and said without Pinnacle Peak they may have not found their way back to Thunderbird...
Fudala said while U.S. cadets were trained here, all of the other airport workers were civilians, actually Scottsdale residents. During that time the base became the largest employment center in the area.

Thunderbird 2 closed in October 1944. During the two years that it served as a military aviation base, an estimated 5,500 cadets were trained here. After the war the land went through a series of owners, from Arizona State College to the federal government and by 1953 the Seventh-day Adventist Church purchased the land. The tower control and cadet facilities area was converted into what is today the Thunderbird Adventist Academy.

"The Adventist realized they had way more land than they needed. So, they offered the landing area to the city of Scottsdale to open up a municipal airport, which the city did in 1967 and that became Scottsdale Airport," Fudala said.

A few of the Thunderbird Field 2 base hangars still exist today in the area where the school is located. The airport landing strip has been paved since then, but the angle of the runway is very similar to what cadets used to train on during WWII.
Cherri Olin is a big fan of the school Angela, her eighth-grade daughter, attends. So much a fan that she says she and her daughter don't mind the hour's commute.

Angela is one of eight students at Sheridan Seventh-Day Adventist Church School in northeastern La Salle County. Cherri has been a teacher's aide there two years and volunteered for eight years before that.

"You can't beat the student-teacher ratio," said Olin, who lives in Princeton. "The students can get the attention they need. They have an awesome teacher, and the school is based on Christian values. I felt it was important to have a small, family-type setting."

Olin's other daughter, Hannah, graduated from the preschool-through-eighth grade school last year.

They are Seventh-day Adventists, Olin said, but not all the students are. Church membership is not a requirement.

The school's enrollment has varied in recent years, rising to nearly 20 and dropping to four at one point.

In many ways, the school's classroom resembles its public school counterparts: Samples of cursive writing hang above the chalkboard. A wall hanging consists of U.S. presidential portraits. Desks are arranged in rows facing the teacher.

One of the differences are religious messages around the school. One poster reads, "Our journey is better when we go with God."

At the beginning of a recent school day, Laura Damon, the school's teacher for the last 17 years, reminded a couple of students they still had to take make-up tests.


The students recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Then Seventh-day Adventist pastor Mike Weakley talked about the importance of giving.

One student said he had gotten into the practice of giving cards. Another said people can give their love.

Yet another form of giving, the pastor said, was helping people know Jesus Christ.

The students take the same courses as public school ones, with the addition of regular Bible study. Oh, and the students also are learning gardening.

Damon, who taught at a Montana church school for 10 years before going to Sheridan, said she has always worked in one-classroom schools.

"When people ask me about it, I say, 'Think Little House on the Prairie,' " Damon said.

Marilyn White, a Sheridan resident, knows much about the school's history. She graduated eighth grade there in 1953, after attending eight years.
"We moved here from Minnesota," White said. "My dad worked at the sawmill."

The school has a scrapbook containing the photos of many of the classes. Of the 13 students during White's graduating year, four were relatives.

According to the scrapbook, the school dates back to 1908. It has continued off and on since then. Its current building south of Sheridan was built in 1994. That followed a time when the school wasn't operating, White said.

The school has a playground and recently paved its basketball courts. The recent warm weather outside is enticing.

"It's really a nice day," Damon told the students. "Make sure to check your gardens."
Church assembles new building at industrial park

SAINT CLAIR — Seventh Day Adventist Church in Pottsville is establishing a new location in East Norwegian Township at Saint Clair Industrial Park.

More than 40 volunteer carpenters and community organizers from across the country rolled into Schuylkill County this week to add more than a little elbow grease.

"By Sunday, we might have about 100," Mary Hampton, Locust Grove, Virginia, one of the volunteers on site, said Wednesday.

"In two weeks, we'll have the roof on," Betty Beattie, Green Bay, Wisconsin, who was also part of the team, said.

Seventh Day Adventist Church in Pottsville is based at 1213 Mahantongo St. According to the online Schuylkill Parcel Locator, the church building there was erected in 1959.

According to paperwork at the county planning and zoning office, the new church building will be located right off Mill Creek Avenue.

Earlier this year, the Schuylkill Economic Development Corp., Pottsville, sold the 1.5 acre parcel to the church, Brian Hansbury, SEDCO vice president, said Monday.

It's "Lot 3" in the business park, and it was vacant, according to the permit. It's 252.75 feet wide and 245.34 feet long. The square footage of the lot is 65,335, according to a Schuylkill County Zoning Permit issued Aug. 11 by Kyle L. Kehoe, county zoning officer.

"It was the last lot that SEDCO had for sale in the park," Hansbury said Monday.

The Seventh Day Adventist Church bought the parcel for $112,100, according to Hansbury.

"Earlier this year, the Seventh Day Adventist Church, who have a congregation here in the city, had expressed interest in purchasing the property. And after some deliberation with our board of directors, the decision was made to sell it to them. They did have to get a planning approval on it from the county planning authority," Hansbury said.

A "New Assembly Building, Place of Worship" will be built there, according to the permit.

Miller Brothers Construction, Schuylkill Haven, is the general contractor.

The construction work will be completed by December, according to the zoning permit.

The volunteers on site this week came together thanks to Maranatha Volunteers International, based in Roseville, California.

"Maranatha is a responsive organization that fulfills requests for construction assistance. Each project is carefully considered for need, overall impact on the community, and resources for long-term maintenance and support," according to its website at www.maranatha.org.

"They build churches all over the world," Hampton said.

"The only cost to us is our travel from home to here and back again. The church, the group that we're building for, they provide us with three meals a day and a place to sleep," Beattie said.
On Wednesday, the framework of the building’s walls were being built.

“The outside walls are going up today, and we’ll be transitioning to the interior walls,” Ed Burgan, Anderson, South Carolina, one of the volunteer carpenters, said.

Others on site Wednesday included Roger Hatch, Avon Park, Florida, a member of the Maranatha board of directors, and David Woods, Roseberg, Oregon, the North American project director for Maranatha.

“We try and have it all dried in by the time we leave in two weeks. Dried in means the roof is on, the siding’s on, the windows are in, the doors are in. We started working on Monday. A few more came yesterday. More came today,” Beattie said.

“Whatever we can do in two weeks, we do,” Burgan, who was helping to coordinate the volunteer effort, said.

The square footage of the proposed building is 8,215 feet. The building will be 22 feet high, and the construction project will cost $350,000. The project will also include the establishment of 28 parking spaces, according to the permit.

“Right now, they don’t have any parking spaces,” Burgan said.

The church pastor, Alex Dubee, could not be reached for comment Wednesday.
Thursday, October 1
Starting at 10 pm ET - Ending at 5 am ET
Phone #: 404-891-6288; Access Code 772837# (Prayer#)