ow many bird species can be seen in a single
day? At 3:00 am on May 5, the Kestrel
Krew, an enthusiastic group of 8th grade students
from Tualatin Valley Academy, began their quest
to find the answer.

The Kestrel Krew began as an idea planted by
John Gatchet when he shared stories about some
of his Big Days of birding with my students. For the
past five years, John has been leading my students
on bird watching ventures to Fernhill Wetlands in
Forest Grove. This year several of my students con-
tinued watching birds on their own time, so when
they asked me if I would take them on a Big Day,
I knew they were serious.

The American Birding Association defines a Big
Day as “a single-team effort in which the primary
objective is to identify as many bird species as pos-
sible during a single calendar day.” We weren’t
quite up for a midnight-to-midnight birding adven-
ture, so we settled on 3:00 am to 8:00 pm, a full
seventeen hours of bird watching bliss. Dave Irons,
content editor for BirdFellow.com, volunteered to
scout out local bird habitats, and then created a
detailed itinerary and Google map for us.

By 3:30 in the morning we arrived at Nobel
Woods Park in Hillsboro. As we quietly made
our way in the dark, Dave sounded off a series
of hoots; almost immediately a pair of Western
Screech Owls answered Dave’s calls. We had
scored our first bird!

When we reached Killin Wetlands, the dawn
chorus of bird song was in full swing. In the pre-
dawn darkness we identified Red-winged Black-
birds, Marsh Wrens, and Virginia Rails by their
songs alone. We heard a Great Horned Owl call
from the fir trees down the road, and as the early
morning light began to illuminate the landscape, an
American Bittern flew just five feet over our heads!
Somehow summer escaped on us again. It just barely started and now we are back into another school year and another autumn. But while it was here, some exciting things took place.

Camp meeting was a blessing again this year. The first weekend was filled with around 5,000 of our Spanish members who came on the campgrounds Thursday evening and stayed through Sabbath evening. A large number were able to enjoy camping throughout the three-day event than at previous camp meetings. Though I have not yet mastered the language, the comments shared told me that people were blessed by the speakers. For me the highlight of these three days was the Camp Meeting Joint Choir led by one of our pastors’ wives, Patty Pacheco. In fact, I have asked them to come together again for our quadrennial session in just a couple of weeks to share the rich sounds of their music for all of us to enjoy.

After a couple days of transition between Spanish and English camp meeting we were set to start again, and once again the blessings flowed. Our team of Conference directors had done an excellent job of coordinating the multiple seminars and speakers that filled each day. The evenings were a blessing as John McVey, president of Walla Walla University, and John Bradshaw, speaker/director of It Is Written, spoke. Sabbath morning Alexander Bryant from the North American Division shared a powerful message about the story of Gideon and how our understanding of having all the resources is different from God’s. Each morning we were blessed by Gordon Pifer’s and Russell Burrill’s thoughts on our theme, “Come Unto Me.” But camp meeting was not just speakers and seminars, as refreshing as they were. The energy and excitement of friends meeting again, the grounds filled with campers, the discussions that happened during lunch or in corn dog lines, the children sitting with rapt attention during skits and snakes and speakers, the huge team of employees and volunteers handling food trays, parking cars, teaching seminars, coordinating children’s programs, and providing security – these were all part of the blessings of camp meeting.

To finish out the summer, we met with the Conference Executive Committee members for the last time during this quadrennium. Our administrative team and I have been blessed these past four years as we have journeyed through reports, decisions, and plans with each of our Executive Committee members. It would be difficult to summarize all of the joys and challenges we have gone through together these past four years, but through it all runs the real experience of seeing God’s hand leading this conference. In a very brief way we will be sharing some of those experiences on September 15th at the Conference quadrennial session.

During this last Executive Committee we received reports from Stan Beerman in our ministerial department concerning evangelism in the Conference, a report from our new vice president for education, Gale Crosby, on the changes this summer has brought to his department, and a report from our associate member ministries director, Cheri Corder, describing the training and fellowship opportunities happening throughout our Conference. Treasury also shared data indicating that our tithe has continued to increase through it all runs the real experience of seeing God’s hand leading this conference.

So summer, a recent memory, still resonates with God’s blessings in a variety of ways. I pray that as you think back over your summer you too, feel God’s hand of blessings in your life.
It was a pleasant weekend at Gladstone Park Conference Center as motorcyclists arrived on their highway cruisers, sport bikes, custom choppers, and touring motorcycles. The third annual Northwest Motorcycle Camp Meeting 2013 – Jesus. All. was held August 23-25.

More than 70 attended from British Columbia, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, California, Maryland, and Florida. They camped out, stayed in nearby hotels, or commuted from home throughout the weekend.

The weekend schedule was filled with group rides, motorcycle safety workshops, worship services, and of course, visiting around the bikes and talking about life. Groups rode to Timberline Lodge, Multnomah Falls, and other locations enjoying fellowship and sharing God’s love with others along the way.

The guest speaker was Pastor James Black, Youth and Young Adult Ministries Director for the North America Division of Seventh-day Adventists. He and his wife Maxine flew into Portland then rented a motorcycle to enjoy Motorcycle Camp Meeting together. Pastor Black’s Bible-based messages were an inspiration to all who attended!

This year’s Motorcycle Camp Meeting Mission Offering was given for Adventist Frontier Missions (AFM) to provide a motorcycle for The Great River People project of Cambodia. It will be used by the Clay family to better get around the many potholed roads in the area.

The little book *The Ride of Your Life – Steps to Jesus*, was featured as an outreach tool along with GLOW tracts. Over 100 books and tracts were given to restock motorcycle saddlebags and jacket pockets for bikers to give out as they ride.

This year’s Oregon Conference Pathfinder Challenge was held on the slopes of Mount Hood toward the end of August. Pathfinder Challenge gives Pathfinders a chance to test their skills in real-world situations, while still working within the guidance of a mentor.

Below you will find four accounts written by Pathfinders who participated in this year’s challenge. While experiencing similar situations and challenges, each took something different from the experience.

**PATHFINDER CHALLENGE 2013**

**FROM THEIR POINT OF VIEW**

I went on a 6 mile (felt like 10) hike near Mt. Hood over the weekend. We started out at the lava rocks and spent the night. I slept like a baby! I was the only one in our group to get more than six hours of sleep. After that we trekked through another mile of lava rock which took about two hours. After a few near-death experiences we reached checkpoint one. Let’s just say we weren’t happy when we didn’t get our ice cream.

Six hours and MORE near-death experiences later, not to mention crossing the river five times and getting soaked, checkpoint two came into view. AGAIN we were deprived of ice cream but for a good reason. By the time we reached camp we were tired, wet, hungry and ready for bed. We quickly ate our M.R.Es and passed out (I slept better on the rocks!) We woke up the next morning greeted by the cold, and to top it off that was the day when we went on the lake. We put together our own raft and played a game of water polo. We sadly lost 6 to 13. After losing we went over to the boys and “forced” them in to the water. We all had a pretty good time. I would do it again if I had to.

— Alieha Dryden, age 13

On the 4th weekend of August, more than 30 pathfinders set out to hike 6 miles over challenging obstacles such as a lava bed. We did our best to navigate to a campground near Laurence Lake. On the last day of the trip, we tried our hand at building a raft with a set of pallets, inner tubes and a few yards of twine. And to guarantee a fun trip, we played a fun soccer-type game with the rafts on the lake. Just ask any of us and we will tell you how much fun we had!

— Ruben Lopez, age 12

August 23-25th was the weekend I learned how backpacking can get intense. How? Well when my team and I arrived at the lava bed, we were very surprised. WE all thought that we were going to sleep on flat ground, turns out the lava bed was actually going to be our bed. We did it anyway and it wasn’t so bad sleeping on the lava rocks. It’s like when you want God to give you something, and He gives you something better.

The next morning we were to hike across the lava bed and end up right next to the river. We had other ideas. The map said to go SW, we chose to go west instead. When we got to the end of the lava bed, there was a very, very steep path down to the river. We knew it wasn’t the right way but we went down anyway. Though we had some trouble, we were all there to help each other out. I learned the importance of following the map we are given, it’s always safer. Just like God wants us to continue down the right path.

— Fernanda Rinza, age 13

My experience on the Pathfinder trip was both exciting and challenging. One of the experiences that stood out most in my mind was the six-mile hike. We saw it all, lava rock, boulders, dirt, gravel, water, and thank the Lord, pavement! On this hike, we learned to trust each other, some of us with our lives. Most importantly, we learned to trust God.

Another good experience was building rafts, and playing a ultimate Frisbee type game in the water. This exercise helped us to practice our knot tying skills, critical thinking skills, and teamwork. I am very thankful that I was able to have this experience with my Dad, who at one point saved me from falling off of an embankment, by grabbing my arm. This reminds me of my heavenly Father, and how he keeps me safe.

This Pathfinder trip helped me realize how our heavenly Father will protect me anywhere and everywhere. I also learned that I can trust my friends to work as a team to accomplish a common goal.

— Robert Estrada, age 13
NOTE WORTHY...

TAYLOR ASSUMES WWU HEAD DEAN ROLE

Walla Walla University (WWU) has appointed Kristen Taylor as the new head dean of women. Taylor, formerly associate dean of women, says, “Becoming dean of women has always been a dream of mine.” Graduating from WWU, she has worked as a taskforce dean at Gem State Academy in Caldwell, Idaho, as well as in other positions at WWU, Southern Adventist University and Indiana Academy. As dean, she will oversee Foreman and Conard Halls, both of which are nearing capacity for this coming year.

SOULS NORTHWEST MOVING TO SUNSET LAKE

SOULS Northwest, the personal evangelism training school operated by the North Pacific Union Conference, will be moving this fall to Sunset Lake Camp, in Wilkerson, Wash. Formally known as Northwest Mission Institute, the school is transitioning from a six-month training program to a two-year program focused on training students in personal evangelism. The new location in Western Washington will accommodate the expanded program and offer students easy access to large metro areas that can be incorporated as part of the training program. The new program, which is modeled after SOULS West, in the Pacific Union Conference, starts Sept. 8.

CAIRO ADVENTIST SCHOOL/CHURCH PROTECTED BY LOCAL MUSLIMS

On Sunday, Aug. 18, Egyptian protesters marching near the Adventist church in Cairo were blocked from entering the church. Local Muslims with locked arms surrounded the property to protect it from an attack. The gesture comes as many Coptic Christian and Protestant churches, homes, and business have been attacked by extremists. Six adult volunteers, along with two children, were evacuated from Nile Union Academy in Cairo ahead of the planned protest marches. While not all Adventist churches have been spared damage, Llevenlyn Edwards, Egyt-Sudan Field president, says that despite the growing turmoil, there is a solidarity among Egyptians. “There are local Muslims here who understand the church staff each day to assure them of their safety,” Edwards said. Read more at http://bit.ly/15no1x9.

THE RECORD KEEPER WINS GEEKIE AWARD

The Record Keeper, a new web series being produced by the Adventist Church, won the award at the Geekie Awards film festival in the “Best One-Shot” category for “Best Trailer.” The “One-Shot” category recognizes episodes still in the final stages of post-production. The honor was accepted by director Jason Satterlund and executive producer Garrett Caldwell. “We are excited to receive this response on a series that isn’t even out yet,” says Satterlund. The Record Keeper is being produced as a unique take on The Great Controversy theme of the struggle between good and evil. The series is expected to debut this fall with study guides to explore the themes presented in the series expected next year. The September issue of the Gleaner will include an in-depth interview with the series’ creators. Read more about the the event at http://bit.ly/187N11f.

OPEN FILING WINDOW FOR LOW POWER FM RADIO STATIONS

The Federal Communications Commission has opened a window for new LPFM stations from October 15 to 6:00 pm ET, October 29. The last open window was in 2000 and 2001. This current opening is a rare opportunity and interested parties should take advantage of this. The upcoming filing window will be open for applications throughout all 50 states and all U.S. territories. To get started with your application, go to Life Talk Radio’s information site at http://bit.ly/14Hi2dX.

CULMORE RE-ELECTED IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

Former Oregon Conference pastor Wayne Culmore was recently reelected to serve as president of the British Columbia Conference (BCC). Before joining BCC, Culmore was the pastor of the Vancouver Adventist Community Church, in Vancouver, Wash.

NPUC SHOWS TITHE INCREASE

A significant bump in tithe during July helped increase member giving for 2013 by nearly 3 percent as compared with the year-to-date for the same period in 2012. The largest gains for the month were shown by Idaho, Montana and Upper Columbia conferences. Tithes provides the means for Adventist Church pastors and ministry-oriented services throughout the world church. While a small amount is retained at the union conference and world church levels for ministry support, most tithe funds revert back to local conferences and churches for front-line outreach. So this recent increase is good news for ministry efforts throughout the Northwest.

COLEGEDALE, TENN. WILL OFFER GOVERNMENT BENEFITS TO ALL MARRIAGES

Colegadale, Tenn., is the first city in its state to offer spousal and family health insurance benefits to municipal employees in same-sex marriages. Colegadale was founded by Adventists and is closely associated with the academic community surrounding Southern Adventist University. Katie Lamb, city commissioner and local Adventist member, cited reasons of fairness and equality for the decision. “It’s just a matter of being fair and treating your employees equally no matter what their choice of lifestyle may be,” she says. The Adventist Church has an official statement of belief regarding homosexuality, but does not yet have a consensus statement on same-sex marriage. Read more at http://bit.ly/1fmd5Sf.

WWU HISTORY PROFESSOR PUBLISHES WHITE BOOK

A new book, Ellen Harmon White: American Prophet is being published by Oxford University Press. The book, a biography of the co-founder of the Adventist church, is a history book meant to introduce White to general readers as well as history students. Co-edited by Terrie Dopp Aamodt, Walla Walla University (WWU) history professor, the book examines White’s public writing career. “Scholars have identified Ellen White with Anne Hutchinson, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Mary Baker Eddy, and Aimee Semple McPherson as one of the most prominent women in American religious history,” said Aamodt, “yet she is one of the least studied and understood.” Learn more about this book at http://bit.ly/16ZCvvn.

PAKISTAN ADVENTIST RECEIVES LIFE SENTENCE FOR ALLEGED BLASPHEMY

Sajjad Masih, a 29-year-old Pakistani man, was sentenced last month to life in prison for blasphemy. The man, a Seventh-day Adventist, was accused of sending text messages that defamed the prophet Muhammad, but even his accuser has recanted his testimony. Masih’s defense attorney says the judge buckled to pressure from extremist groups that dominate the area. John Graz, Adventist church director of public affairs and religious liberty, says, “Members of religious minorities in Pakistan live with the constant threat of being accused of blasphemy.” Masih is planning to appeal the ruling. Read more from the Washington Post at http://bit.ly/16Zdwr and Adventist News Network at http://bit.ly/17p39LN.

PAA WELCOMES PASTOR STEVEN LEMKE TO THE RELIGION DEPARTMENT

Portland Adventist Academy (PAA) has welcomed Pastor Steve Lemke to the Religion department. Lemke comes to PAA from the East Salem Church where he was a youth pastor and later an associate pastor. Lemke received his Masters of Divinity from Andrews University and a B.S. in Education from Walla Walla University. He is married to Laurel (Duffield) Lemke, a PAA graduate. They have a daughter named Alice. Pastor Lemke replaces Pastor Les Zollbricht who recently accepted a position at the Oregon Conference as Associate for Youth Ministries and Director of Big Lake Youth Camp.

For additional news visit http://www.oregonconference.org/news_entries.
For more announcement & event information please visit www.oregonconference.org/announcements – this page is updated weekly.
**39TH ANNUAL WILDWOOD MEDICAL SEMINAR**  
*When: October 9-13, 2013*  
*Location: Wildwood Lifestyle Center, Wildwood, GA*

This year we will focus on the various methods for relieving pain. It is designed for health professionals and also enthusiastic people who are interested in health. A variety of medical professionals will speak on the different causes of pain and methods of pain management. This year’s presenters include Joe Gager, PT, Roby Sherman, MD, Zeno Charles-Marcel, MD, Agatha Thrasl, MD, and Mark Johnson, MD and more. Topics will include physical therapy, overlooked causes of pain, cancer pain, nerve blocks, epidurals, treatment for acute pain, opioid withdrawal. For more information call 1-800-844-1099 ext. 1043 or visit [http://bit.ly/1885Otr](http://bit.ly/1885Otr).

**SIMPLY COOKING CLASS**  
*When: September 12, 6:30 pm*  
*Location: Castle Rock Adventist Church*

“Simply Cooking” with Ronni Reinecke will feature Entree Ambrosia on Thursday, September 12 at 6:30 pm at the Castle Rock Adventist Church. Join us and enjoy plant-based entree ideas with demonstrations, samples, vegan recipe handouts, and cooking tips. The Castle Rock Adventist Church is located at 7531 Old Pacific Hwy. N. Castle Rock, Wash. Call Wanda at 360-967-2165 to reserve your place.

**FESTIVAL OF THE LAITY FREE VIRTUAL CONFERENCE**  
*When: September 11-14, 2013*  
*Location: Your computer!*

Get equipped for effective ministry with no registration, travel, or hotel expenses! The North American Division Adult Ministries Department is offering FREE online training for Sabbath School, Personal Ministries, and Prison Ministries leaders through the Virtual Festival of the Laity September 11-14. Attend from the comfort of your home, church, or office—all you need is a computer with internet access. All of your church’s leaders can benefit from these live broadcasts presented by globally respected facilitators. To sign up, visit [www.festivalofthelaity.com](http://www.festivalofthelaity.com).

**NATIVE AMERICAN CAMP MEETING**  
*When: September 27-28, 2013*  
*Location: All Nations Center, Wapato, Wash.*

The All Nations Center in Wapato, Wash. will hold the 2013 Native American Camp Meeting, September 27-28. Five RV slots are available, as well as room for tent sites. Speakers include Joe Chythlook, Monte Church, and Denise Ellenwood. Hear musical artist, Ray Sample, in concert. Call for a brochure or more information at 509-877-0960. The All Nations Center is located at 3020 Ashue Road, Wapato, Wash.

**27TH ANNUAL OREGON CHRISTIAN WOMEN’S RETREAT**  
*When: October 18-20, 2013*  
*Location: Eagle Crest Resort, Redmond, Ore.*

Register now for this exciting event online by visiting [http://bit.ly/19R8Nsr](http://bit.ly/19R8Nsr)! This year’s speaker is Elizabeth Talbot from the Jesus 101 Institute. Hundreds of women who have never been able to access the blessings of our fall retreat will be able to this year! How? Learn more here at [http://bit.ly/14cn3Yi](http://bit.ly/14cn3Yi).

**DEPRESSION: THE WAY OUT SEMINAR SERIES**  
*When: September 19, 6:30 pm*  
*Location: Castle Rock Adventist Church*

Depression: The Way Out DVD series with Neil Nedley, MD, is once again coming to Castle Rock. Over the last three years, people have really been helped through this program. The free introduction DVD will be shown September 19 at 6:30 pm at the Castle Rock Adventist Church at 7531 Old Pacific Hwy. N. in Castle Rock, Wash. The class is an eight-part DVD series featuring Dr. Nedley, with breakout sessions following the DVD showing. The class begins October 1, and continues each Tuesday evening through November 19. The registration fee covers the books used during the class. For further information, contact Wanda at 360-967-2165 or Ruth at 360-274-7814.

Transitions

Les Zollbrecht (Marschelle) has started as the new Associate Youth and Big Lake Director for the Oregon Conference. (See the August issue for more.)

Heidi Lorenson (Donald) has joined the Gladstone ABC team as Periodicals/Customer Service clerk.

Steve Lemke (Laurel) has transitioned from Associate Pastor at the East Salem church to religion teacher at Portland Adventist Academy (PAA).

Charla Suppé (Derek) has resigned her position as principal at Tualatin Valley Academy to return to Idaho.

Ed Tillotson (Irma) has transitioned from his position at Columbia Adventist Academy to fill the position of principal at Tualatin Valley Academy.

Robert DeWeber (Bobbi) has transitioned from teaching at Mid-Columbia Christian School to Principal/Teacher at Central Valley Christian School.

Connie Ames has retired from her positions as administrative assistant for the Youth and Member Ministries departments. She started at the Oregon Conference after finishing college in 1969, and over the years has become the go-to source of Pathfinder knowledge for the clubs throughout in the conference. We congratulate Connie on her more than 44 years of service and wish her the best as she takes on the challenge of retirement!

FOR MORE ANNOUNCEMENT & EVENT INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT [www.oregonconference.org/announcements](http://www.oregonconference.org/announcements) – THIS PAGE IS UPDATED WEEKLY.
## Events

Exceedingly ABUNDANTLY beyond all we can ask or imagine

### SUNSET CALENDAR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Sep 7</th>
<th>Sep 14</th>
<th>Sep 21</th>
<th>Sep 28</th>
<th>Oct 5</th>
<th>Oct 12</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bend</td>
<td>7:32 PM</td>
<td>7:19 PM</td>
<td>7:06 PM</td>
<td>6:53 PM</td>
<td>6:40 PM</td>
<td>6:28 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eugene</td>
<td>7:39 PM</td>
<td>7:26 PM</td>
<td>7:13 PM</td>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
<td>6:47 PM</td>
<td>6:35 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hood River</td>
<td>7:34 PM</td>
<td>7:21 PM</td>
<td>7:07 PM</td>
<td>6:53 PM</td>
<td>6:40 PM</td>
<td>6:27 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Longview</td>
<td>7:40 PM</td>
<td>7:27 PM</td>
<td>7:13 PM</td>
<td>6:59 PM</td>
<td>6:45 PM</td>
<td>6:32 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medford</td>
<td>7:36 PM</td>
<td>7:24 PM</td>
<td>7:12 PM</td>
<td>6:59 PM</td>
<td>6:47 PM</td>
<td>6:35 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newport</td>
<td>7:43 PM</td>
<td>7:30 PM</td>
<td>7:17 PM</td>
<td>7:04 PM</td>
<td>6:51 PM</td>
<td>6:38 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portland</td>
<td>7:39 PM</td>
<td>7:25 PM</td>
<td>7:12 PM</td>
<td>6:58 PM</td>
<td>6:45 PM</td>
<td>6:32 PM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

A publication of the Oregon Conference Communication Department • Gary McLain, director • Krissy Barber, administrative assistant

To submit stories, announcements, or to get in touch with us please email us at krissy.barber@oc.npuc.org or call 503.850.3500

To subscribe to the eCommunique visit www.OregonConference.org. Click on the green “Subscribe to the eCommunique” button.

Visit www.OregonConference.org to learn more.

27th Annual Oregon Christian Women's Retreat
October 18 - 20, 2013, Eagle Crest Resort

with Elizabeth Talbot