



A new way to keep up  
with what's going on in  
the Oregon Conference  
—without wasting paper.

# eCOMMUNIQUÉ

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## 'TIS THE SEASON

'Tis the season to share about the many ways God is blessing the Oregon Conference! His mercies are new every morning!

PAGE 2



## WELCOMING NEW MINISTRY LEADERS

Meet the two people joining the Oregon Conference team in newly created roles and departments.

PAGE 3



## RECORD NUMBER ATTEND BIBLE CAMP

Fall Bible Camp is not only a chance to spend the weekend with friends. It's also a chance to spend the weekend with God.

PAGE 3



## NOTE WORTHY NEWS

Bits of news from around the Conference and around the world that we thought you might find interesting.

PAGE 4



## OREGON CONFERENCE TV STATIONS to offer Spanish & English programming

*B*eginning in early 2016, the Oregon Conference will air 24-hour television programming in English and Spanish.

The channels, 36.3 (English) and 36.4 (Spanish), will initially broadcast Hope Channel and Esperanza TV, with later plans including filming more local programming to create channels that speak to non-Christian Portlanders in a more local-friendly style.

Bringing Hope Channel to Portland was only a dream for Oregon Conference president Al Reimche when channel 36 came up for sale five years ago.

At the time, 36 was an out-of-use analog channel. The seller offered a low price to 3ABN's affiliate network, Better Life TV. Better Life was eager to move into the Portland area, but purchasing another channel proved too expensive.

By Rachel Scribner

That's when Reimche stepped in. With support from the North American Division (NAD), the Oregon Conference purchased channel 36. The generous seller even helped license the channel for digital TV, meaning that, among other things, the conference could now have several channels: 36.1, 36.2, 36.3 and 36.4.

Reimche invited Better Life to begin broadcasting immediately, and in October of 2010, channel 36.1 went on the air. The network has since added Better Health TV on channel 36.2.

But Reimche still wanted to see the Hope Channel on Portland screens. And as the conference media program grew, so did his dream. Finally, in spring of 2014, the Oregon Conference Media Center became an affiliate of the Hope Channel and announced plans to release English and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2...



## TV STATION

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Spanish channels with locally-made programs in the future.

Now, after years of preparation under Communications director Gary McLain and Media Center director JC Muñoz, the channels are almost ready. "Our dream is that, as of January, we will be on the air full-time," Reimche told the conference media board this month.

Reimche stresses that locally-made content is the key to reaching unchurched Portlanders. Once the channels are up and running, the media team will focus on creating those local programs. Reimche hopes church members will understand when the shows aren't familiar or church-like. "The Portland area is unique," Reimche says. "Being the most unchurched area in the US, it takes special

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programming to enter the market...preaching is not necessarily going to reach them."

"I have a feeling if we create content for the Portland area people, it's going to go way beyond Portland," McLain says. "It's going to reach other areas that are similar."

Producing the quality and quantity of shows necessary to reach a secular audience is a daunting task, but Reimche, McLain, and Muñoz all believe God has a part to play. "We are dreaming with little here. We know it's going to be difficult," Muñoz told the board, "but we believe God can bless us, so we are starting."

"I know I pray about it every day," McLain says. "I've been amazed by what we have been able to accomplish so far, and I think that's because of God's hand in it, definitely."

# 'Tis the Season...

By Al Reimche

**'Tis the season! The season to give, the season to rejoice! The season to be grateful, and the season to love! The season to count our many blessings, and to share with others what has been so generously bestowed on us – whether it be time, money, love, gifts, or food.**

'Tis also the season to share about the many ways God is blessing the Oregon Conference! His mercies are new every morning!

We are rejoicing in the blessing that Ben Lundquist, currently the young adult ministries director for the Arizona Conference, has accepted a call to join our Oregon Conference team to serve in the same capacity. Ben has been visionary in Arizona and throughout the North American Division in developing a ministry for and with young adults. We are excited that he will be expanding that ministry and leadership here in Oregon. He will be supporting and strengthening various campus ministries at public universities that are within our conference, and also coordinating young adult driven ministries in the local churches. We look forward to our young adults being able to come alongside Ben as they find their own ministries and as they share Jesus with their friends, colleagues, and classmates.

Everyone, young and old alike, loves to hear stories. Stories open hearts; stories help people heal; stories can lead people to Jesus. At our executive committee in October, we made the decision to use a specific non-tithe donation to aid in creating the position of assistant to the president for creative ministries. Dick Durksen, a powerful story teller, has accepted the call to that position. He will be coordinating the story-telling of the miraculous ways God is leading here in Oregon. Already he is finding stories that will be a blessing to each member, as well as opening opportunities for others to hear the good news. He will also be helping to develop our media ministry in creating programming which targets the Portland/Vancouver area. In time this programming will expand to include all of the areas covered by Hope Channel. Our prayer is that through this ministry, the Christmas story and the best story ever told – that of Jesus' birth, and His subsequent life and death which gives us the gift of salvation – will be spread across Oregon. Our mission is to share God's love with every man, woman, and child. Our desire is that each person hear stories that lead them to accept the greatest gift ever offered to us.

Another exciting venture beginning is 'riding the waves!' To be more specific, we will be riding the airwaves! This week we began to test the signal that will be sent to the newest television channel in the Portland/Vancouver market. KEVE Channel 36.3 is a free channel available throughout the Portland-metro area that will broadcast Hope Channel as well as local programming. Channel 36.4 will be the new Spanish channel – Esperanza. We believe that God has opened up this exciting opportunity that can make an impact for Him. You are invited to drop by the conference office and visit the new studio facility on the lower floor of the office. We are asking everyone to please support this project with prayer as it moves forward. We know God can use this ministry in a powerful way because 'waves' can reach people in their homes as nothing else can.

A supportive climate for all the individuals God has called to ministry within our territory is an important part of our mission here in the Oregon Conference. We have prayerfully examined the concepts of ordination and commissioning and looked at the policies laid out by our church. After dialoging with leaders within our conference and union, as well as at the division level, we have voted a process to affirm those who have been commissioned, while maintaining the church's understanding of ordination. Our intent in wrestling with this is not to create a two-tiered approach to ministry but rather to allow our pastors to be actively involved in the mission God has given us. The guidelines we have voted are within practices and policies throughout the world church. The document we shared with our pastors this past month is dynamic in nature and will continue to develop as we study God's call to ministry in His church. Your pastor has a copy of the full document and can share it with you if you are interested in reading more about this decision.

As you experience this holiday season and begin a brand new year, I pray you will feel God's blessings and love anew every day. My hope is that by knowing His love, you will find your own ministry to share that love with those in the circle in which you live. I wish you each and all a very Merry Christmas – and that it truly will be the season for all of us to love, rejoice, share, give, be grateful, and to count our many blessings.

– Al Reimche, Oregon Conference President

# BENJAMIN LUNDQUIST TO JOIN THE CONFERENCE AS DIRECTOR OF YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES

Benjamin Lundquist, currently young adult director for the Arizona Conference and young adult coordinator for the North American Division, will be joining us here in the Oregon Conference in March of 2016. He will serve as **Director of Young Adult Ministries**. That's right! This new department will specifically focus on improving our outreach to young adults.

Benjamin was first introduced to ministry through summer camps in the Georgia-Cumberland and Southern New England Conferences. During his year as a student missionary on the Island on Pohnpei, Benjamin committed his life to serving Jesus, and this call was confirmed as he survived a near death fall off a cliff shortly after that commitment. Lundquist did his undergraduate degree at Southern Adventist University and graduate work at Andrews University. He started full-time ministry in the Arizona Conference as a youth pastor at the Camelback Church where he served for eight years before taking his current position as Young Adult Director in the Arizona Conference office in which he has been serving for the past five years.

Lundquist will be focusing young adult ministry in the Oregon Conference on training leaders, expanding public campus ministries, and partnering with local churches to love young adults better. He sees huge potential adults more effectively, and he believes ministry plans for the future. Lundquist is passionate about reaching, loving, and empowering young adults for the cause of Christ. He also loves planning and organizing community outreach projects.

When Ben is not working, he loves spending time with his wife Kimberly and six-year-old son and four-year-old daughter. He also enjoys surfing, mountain biking, snowboarding, fly fishing, and eating Thai food.

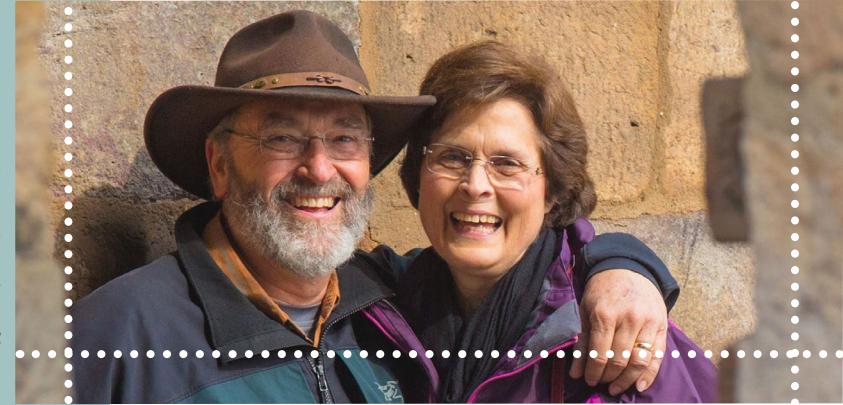


## Record Number Attend FALL BIBLE CAMP

The girl on the zip line, hair streaming in the wind, flies down the mountainside and splashes into the lake. In the gym, teens play in a supersized dodge-ball tournament, while onlookers scramble up three rock-climbing towers. Outside, there's a sports game and plenty of visitors to the ice cream shop. Teenagers spread like tumbleweeds across the wild-west-themed campus, enjoying swimming pools, bumper cars, good food, and friends.

This is Oregon Conference Fall Bible Camp. It's a kaleidoscope of adventure, sunshine, water, friends, and fun for high schoolers. "If we have fun, we stay together," says youth director Les Zollbrecht. But, at its heart, Bible camp is more than just fun. It's 500 high school students clapping in perfect rhythm as they sing. It's the pastor whose stories draw teens into the Bible before they know it. And it's the group of teens around the bonfire who will stay, long after bedtime comes, to sing Jesus one more song. Bible camp is worship.

"As an organizer, it's really cool to see the experience during worship time. To hear 500 plus youth come together and sing," says Melani Long, Big Lake administrative assistant. "It's a safe place to have a spiritual experience."



## DICK DUERKSEN JOINS CONFERENCE IN NEWLY CREATED POSITION

Dick Duerksen, and his wife Brenda, retired in January 2015 from their roles as host for *Maranatha Mission Stories* and clinical coordinator for Maranatha mission trips. However, for them, "retirement" did not mean moving into a retirement home and raising orchids. Instead, they have spent the past year speaking at camp meetings and weekend spiritual retreats, serving as photographers and story catchers for the *Adventist Review*, and editing Dick's new book: *Stories that will Set your Life on Fire*.

Dick Duerksen is an itinerant pollinator of grace. During 45 years as a Seventh-day Adventist preacher, pastor, and administrator he has carried the good news of grace around the world, using narrative-style presentations that bring hope to the hearers. His sermons focus on stories, permeated with Divine Velcro, to help the gospel "catch" the hearts of those who hear.

In November, Dick moved into a new role as **Assistant to the President for Creative Ministries**, where he will be helping us discover and implement new ways of telling the stories of grace-driven Adventism in our conference.

Dick's wife Brenda is a registered nurse and musician. Their three children, Jeremy, Julene, and Joy, are married and living in Colorado, New Zealand, and California. Their two grandchildren, Griffyn and Gwendolyn, live "too far away" in New Zealand.

Youth department administrative assistant Desiree Rinza says many high school students call Bible camp "the place where they feel connected to God." "I love it," says Allisynn Tweedy, a sophomore from Cascade Christian Academy. Tweedy says her favorite part of the weekend is praise and worship. The Friday morning session "gave me chills. Good chills," she says. "Everyone should go to Bible camp."

2015's Bible camp, September 24-27, was the biggest year on record, with 646 attendees. But Rinza says some homeschoolers "don't know about it." "It's open to anybody in grades 9-12," she says. Rinza and Long encourage churches, Sabbath schools, or any group of high-school-aged students to mark their calendars for the last weekend in September next year.

"Almost every Biblical epic has a story of a wilderness experience, of going out," Zollbrecht says. "Turning off your technology, getting away from the stress of life, being around...other young people who are seeking God too; that's the reason we're here."



# NOTE WORTHY...

## BODY OF MISSING ADVENTIST DOCTOR FOUND

Police in Kiev, Ukraine, have identified a body recovered from an abandoned building as that of Dr. Jay Sloop, the Seventh-day Adventist physician from Yakima, Wash. who went missing while on a health training visit to the country in May 2013. Police are currently conducting a forensic investigation to attempt to determine more details surrounding his death. Prior to his disappearance, Sloop had been serving on a three-week mission trip with a team of health professionals helping the Adventist church in Kiev set up a lifestyle center. Read more from the Upper Columbia Conference at <http://bit.ly/1JpgDJR>.

## BATTLE GROUND SCHOOLS SPARED TORNADO DAMAGE

An F1 tornado touched down in Battle Ground, Wash. on Thursday, December 10, damaging dozens of buildings. Near the path of the storm, Meadow Glade Adventist Elementary, and Columbia Adventist Academy classes were in session. Thankfully, no one was injured, and though MGAES sustained minor property damage, the buildings themselves did not. The students, however, did receive the rest of the day off, as power was lost. Power was restored late in the afternoon and classes were scheduled to resume at their normal time on Friday morning. Meadow Glade Adventist Church was undamaged in the storm as well.

## THE ONE PROJECT COMING TO SEATTLE

The ONE Project, a regular event focusing on Jesus' ministry and mission, will be examining "The Final Week" of Jesus' life on earth. The next such event will be held in Seattle, Wash., on Feb. 14-15. Its unique format, featuring short presentations interspersed with roundtable discussions, will feature speakers Paul Dybdahl, Karl Haffner, Ofa Langi, Matthew Gamble, Tara VinCross, Tim Gillespie, Jennifer Scott, William Johnsson, Dilys Brooks, and many more. More information about the event is available online at <http://bit.ly/1RBaphO>.

## THIRD UNIVERSITY STUDENT DIES THIS YEAR

Nicholas Culver, a freshman at La Sierra University in Riverside, Calif., was found dead in his dormitory earlier this month. He is the third student to die while attending an Adventist university this year. Walla Walla University sophomore Madison Baird died in February after being struck by a pickup while riding her bicycle. Kimberly Andreu, a freshman at Southern Adventist University was also found dead in her dormitory room in March. There is never a better time than now to show love and support for each student in our Adventist schools and universities.

## HEZEKIAH COMES TO LIFE IN NEW DISCOVERY

A recent discovery announced has unveiled a seal impression from Hezekiah, king of Judah. The size of a thumbnail, the seal was identified this year in material from excavations done during 2009 in Jerusalem by the Institute of Archaeology at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Imagery on the seal may suggest changes following Hezekiah's recovery from terminal illness described in 2 Kings 20. Hezekiah lived from 715 to 686 B.C. Read more from the Adventist Review online at <http://bit.ly/1mwwq4R>.

## MCVAY TO #MCSTAY

John and Pam McVay, the Walla Walla University's (WWU) presidential couple for nearly a decade, have decided to stay with the university for the foreseeable future. In recent weeks, university staff and students had rallied support for McVay as he interviewed for possible positions in three other organizations. In a letter in November to the university board and other stakeholders, McVay noted that he and Pam had turned away from these opportunities in favor of continued ministry at WWU. Many heard about the decision from McVay's Facebook post in which he referenced a unique hashtag, introducing the #McStays.

## STORM HITS INLAND NW ADVENTIST FACILITIES

A record storm tore through the Inland Northwest in November damaging several Adventist facilities. The storm caused building damage to Upper Columbia Academy (UCA) in Spangle, Wash., and some property damage and downed power-lines at the Upper Columbia Conference (UCC) office in Spokane, Wash. Power was knocked out for more than 206,000 people, including the UCC office and parts of UCA. Following the storm, more than 50 UCA students and staff worked around campus clearing trees and storm debris. UCA and UCC weren't the only Adventist facilities damaged. South Hill Adventist Church in Spokane discovered that their annual nativity village, which they had been building since mid-October, suffered significant damage from the storm.

## PAA SOCCER TEAM WINS STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

On November 14 the Portland Adventist Academy (PAA) men's soccer team made school history by winning the State Championship title for Class 3A/2A/1A. PAA played the title defending Oregon Episcopal School in the final game of the season, securing the game lead with only four minutes left in the game. Read more on PAA's website at <http://bit.ly/1PjFZzn>.

## Fiji's FIRST ADVENTIST PRESIDENT

Fiji's new president was recently sworn in. His Excellency President Jioji (George) Konousi Konrote is the island nation's first Seventh-day Adventist head of state. This is notable not only because Konrote is an Adventist, but also because he is a minority ethnic Rotuman and has been appointed under Fiji's new constitution which no longer requires that a president be from a chiefly family. Read Konrote's interview with the South Pacific Division's Adventist Record magazine at <http://bit.ly/1QG4JTQ>.

## OVER 200 ATTEND NW EVANGELISM TRAINING EVENT

Over 200 attended the first Start a Wildfire evangelism conference, hosted by the North Pacific Union Conference evangelism department, in Gladstone, Ore. on Nov. 6 and 7. The two-day event focused on training and equipping young adults to be evangelists within their own churches. Guest presenters included Joseph Kidder, Andrews University Theological Seminary professor; Tyler Long, Washington Conference evangelism coordinator; Michael Tuazon, SOULS West in Pacific Union Conference director; and Jason Worf, SOULS Northwest director. An event in August of next year is planned to be held in the Seattle, Wash. area. For more information about Start a Wildfire, visit [www.Startawildfire.org](http://www.Startawildfire.org).

## SHARE HOPE WITH AN APP

The publishing department of the General Conference launched an app this year that allows users to easily send inspirational books and excerpts to anyone via email or social media. The Sharing Hope app offers a library of Adventist publications, including outreach literature and popular books by Ellen G. White, free of cost. The purpose of Sharing Hope is to give users the ability to reach every culture in all parts of the globe. Content is currently available in Arabic, English, French, Italian, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish. Read more and get a link to download the app at <http://bit.ly/1MrPqim>.

# *Transitions*

Dick Duerksen (Brenda) has joined the Oregon Conference in the new position of assistant to the president for Creative Ministries. Dick recently retired from his position with Maranatha.

**Benjamin Tello** (Hogla) has transitioned from a temporary status to a regular full time pastor at Milwaukie Spanish Church.

**Benjamin Lundquist** (Kimberly) will be joining the Oregon Conference team, from the Arizona Conference, early in the new year to fill the position of Young Adult Ministries director.

**Juan Pacheco** (Patricia), pastor of the Beaverton Spanish congregation, was ordained as a minister on November 21.

## **BIG LAKE YOUTH CAMP NEEDS OUR HELP**

**Volunteers are needed to get some much needed projects finished before Christmas. If you are interested in helping work on any of the following jobs, please contact Bob Palmer, [bob@biglake.org](mailto:bob@biglake.org) or Les Zollbrecht, [les@biglake.org](mailto:les@biglake.org), as soon as possible.**

- ◆ Stripping and waxing the floors in HQ
- ◆ Removing a large hydraulic cylinder on the compactor on the garbage truck so the seals can be replaced
- ◆ replacing all the burned out light bulbs in the camp, including hanging some new fixtures in the two story cabins

**Unable to help this month, here are some jobs we need to do in the spring:**

- ◆ Rebuild the sports shed (framing, roofing and light electrical)
- ◆ Sheeting some of the cabins inside that have had the electrical redone.

**Thank you for your help in keeping this a vibrant ministry.**

For more announcement  
& event information, visit  
<http://bit.ly/1eN3VpV>.  
This page is updated  
each week.

# Events

## STONE TOWER CHRISTMAS CONCERT

**When:** December 26, 6:00 pm

**Location:** Stone Tower Adventist Church

Stone Tower Adventist Church invites you to join them for their annual Christmas Concert on December 26th at 6:00 pm! Beautiful instrumentation and heartfelt voices will combine to tell the story of the birth of our Lord. You don't want to miss it! Stone Tower Adventist Church is located at 3010 NE Holladay Street in Portland.

## JOHN WITCOMBE SPEAKING AT CASTLE ROCK

**When:** January 29-30, 2015

**Location:** Castle Rock Adventist Church

John Witcombe, author of the book *Jerusalem Caliphate and the Third Jihad* will speak on Friday, January 29 at 7:00 pm at the Castle Rock Adventist Church. Discover the endgame of the middle east conflict. Pastor Whitcomb will also speak at the Sabbath morning service on January 30, and at the 2:00 pm meeting that follows the fellowship meal. Call 360-967-2165 with any questions.

## ABC HOLIDAY SALE

**When:** December 1-31, 2016

**Location:** Adventist Book Center, Gladstone, Ore.

The Adventist Book Center's Holiday Sale is on now and running December 1-31. Loma Linda Gravy Quick is back just in time for the holidays! The details have been sent by email to those who have signed up. You can also get the details by downloading the sale flyer at [www.abcflyer.com](http://www.abcflyer.com).

## OREGON'S ADVENTIST RECOVERY MINISTRIES

**When:** January 9, 3:00-6:00 pm

**Location:** Oregon Conference Office, Gladstone, Ore.

Oregon's Adventist Recovery Ministries quarterly meeting will feature one of the authors of *Journey to Wholeness* (JTW), Shelley Weaver. JTW is an Adventist 12-step program designed to give Christians a specifically Christ-centered weekly meeting to supplement their other addiction-specific 12-step groups. Join us to hear what others are doing to facilitate recovery ministries; to hear about resources; or just to hang out with other Adventists who care about this issue. Sabbath, January 9, 3:00-6:00 pm, at the Oregon Conference office. FREE, but since a light supper is provided, please RSVP by January 7 to [jane.nicola@oc.npuc.org](mailto:jane.nicola@oc.npuc.org) or 503-850-3555.

## OREGON CON. MARRIAGE GETAWAY

**When:** February 26-28, 2016

**Location:** Cottage Grove, Ore.

*It's a Wonderful Life!* is the theme for Oregon Conference's marriage getaway featuring Richie & Timi Brower and Gary & Shelly Parks. No writing assignments, no confrontations or confessions – just great concepts to explore with great people, great food, great music...and a lot of fun! You'll both be glad you came! Bonus session: Starting a marriage ministry in your church. February 26-28, at the Village Green Resort and Gardens in Cottage Grove, Ore. Early bird rate of \$199 per couple through Valentines' Day (February 14), then \$225. For more information, visit [www.OregonConference.org](http://www.OregonConference.org)>Departments> Family Ministries.

## DEPRESSION THE WAY OUT SERIES

**When:** January 11, 6:30 pm

**Location:** Castle Rock Adventist Church

FREE introduction video for the updated *Depression the Way Out* series by founder, Neil Nedley, M.D. will be presented January 11 at 6:30 pm at the Castle Rock Adventist Church. Dr. Nedley is an internal medicine physician with specialty in mental health. Come check out the free introduction to see if you would like to register for the additional eight Tuesday sessions beginning January 26 at 6:30 pm. There is a materials fee for taking the full 8 week class. Call 360-967-2165 for more information or with questions.

## SAFETY SEMINAR AT OHANA

**When:** January 19, 6:30 pm

**Location:** Ohana Christian Fellowship

Former Portland chief of police, Derrick Foxworth, will be at Ohana Christian Fellowship January 19th at 6:30 pm to present a safety seminar. The seminar will include: How to handle an incident during services, how to deal with an active shooter, building security, and more. This 90-minute presentation will include powerpoint, DVD, and possible handouts and will end with Q&A time. All are invited. Ohana Christian Fellowship is located at 2180 NE Territorial Rd in Canby, Ore.

All links are clickable here and elsewhere in the eCommuniqué.

## SUNSET CALENDAR

	Dec 5	Dec 12	Dec 19	Dec 26	Jan 2	Jan 9
Bend	4:27 PM	4:27 PM	4:28 PM	4:32 PM	4:37 PM	4:44 PM
Eugene	4:35 PM	4:34 PM	4:36 PM	4:39 PM	4:45 PM	4:52 PM
Hood River	4:23 PM	4:22 PM	4:23 PM	4:27 PM	4:32 PM	4:39 PM
Longview	4:27 PM	4:26 PM	4:27 PM	4:31 PM	4:36 PM	4:44 PM
Medford	4:39 PM	4:39 PM	4:41 PM	4:44 PM	4:49 PM	4:56 PM
Newport	4:37 PM	4:36 PM	4:37 PM	4:41 PM	4:46 PM	4:53 PM
Portland	4:28 PM	4:27 PM	4:28 PM	4:32 PM	4:37 PM	4:45 PM

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](mailto:krissy.barber@oc.npuc.org) or call 503.850.3500

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