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eCOMMUNIQUÉ

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

This April's executive committee was presented with some exciting news! Learn how our schools' debts got a little lighter this year.

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BIG LAKE SPRING FLING

This spring Big Lake Youth Camp held its first fundraising disc golf tournament. Learn more about this rousing event.

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NOTE WORTHY NEWS

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

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EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Events and announcements abound with retreats, concerts, gatherings, and much more! Read about these upcoming occasions.

PAGE 6



OREGON MEMBERS help with relief efforts in Nepal village

By Rachel Scribner

Les Zollbrecht crosses his office to a bookcase and fingers an enormous metal yak bell on a shelf. "They gave this one to me because they said I was the head yak," he says, laughing. Not far from the bell sits a round gold plaque with the words "token of love" in red near the center. The bell and the plaque are gifts from Nepal, a place that means more to Zollbrecht than headline news, more than earthquakes and tragedies. Zollbrecht has a deep history with the people of Nepal, and it centers in a village called Kumari.

Lama was working as a trekking guide in Kathmandu when he heard that his father had fallen and needed medical attention. Five days later, Lama reached Kumari and prepared to carry his father the day's walk to help, but they never made it. The dying man said he had one last wish. Please, would his son bring medical care and education to Kumari, so others wouldn't die from treatable conditions? Then Lama's father was gone. Through his tears, Lama determined to help his beloved Kumari.

Until a few years ago, villagers had to hike nine hours to get basic medical care.

Kumari is a mountain village, and Zollbrecht says its 60,000 lower caste inhabitants are mostly forgotten by their country. Until a few years ago, villagers had to hike nine hours to get basic medical care. But everything changed because of a Kumari native named Jagat Lama.

In 2007, as Lama was beginning his work in Kumari, Zollbrecht was founding Mountain Leadership Institute, offering 8-day mountaineering-based leadership courses. It wasn't long before the MLI board wanted climbing expeditions beyond the Cascades and Rockies, and Zollbrecht began a careful search for an ethical trekking guide service in Nepal. He

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OC MEMBERS IN NEPAL

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found a company that allegedly gave porters reasonable loads and a living wage, so he contacted some previous clients to find about the owner, a guide named Jagat Lama.

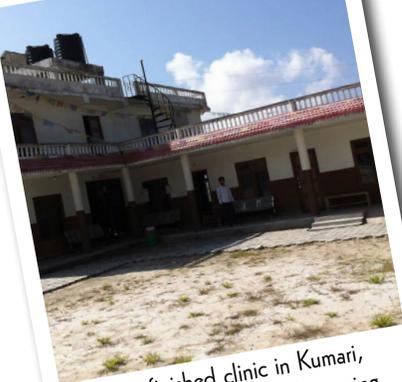
The response was overwhelming. “People from all over the world started responding... pages and pages,” Zollbrecht says. The people who trekked with Lama didn’t just respect him as a guide. They heard the story about his father, caught his vision, and often joined his project, traveling to the village, raising awareness at home, and sending funds. Through his guide service, Lama had built a support network for Kumari that spanned the globe, and now Zollbrecht was a piece of it.

In 2009, Zollbrecht traveled to Kumari for his first expedition. He went twice that year, and again in 2011. On each trip, Zollbrecht helped Lama with projects in the village and went on a mountaineering expedition with Lama’s company to stimulate the village economy.

Between 2007 and 2013, Lama organized, raised funds for, and built a road to the clinic site through what Zollbrecht calls “crazy mountainous terrain”; a women’s skills center to improve the lives of the local women and their children; a water purification system and two kilometer of pipeline; and on the top of a mountain they flattened, three school buildings and a library. Finally, in 2013, during Zollbrecht’s fourth trip to Kumari, the villagers celebrated the grand opening of Sukuman Memorial Polyclinic, the fulfillment of a dying man’s wish.

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Health & Ed 4 Nepal



The finished clinic in Kumari, shortly before its grand opening.



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

By Al Reimche

This past week our executive committee had its bi-monthly meeting and addressed a variety of decisions which direct the focus of our conference. Before we began the business portion of our meeting we were inspired by hearing about a number of miracles taking place the past few weeks in our conference.

We have been blessed by a donation from an anonymous group who wants our schools to have a fresh start and a strong sense of mission right here in our “own backyard.” They believe in our Adventist educational system, and wanted to show that belief in a very tangible manner. It was exciting to be able to share the gift with some of our schools and watch as the “lights came on” and the dream of what could be became a reality sunk in. There was a strong desire expressed by the donors that our schools be the training ground for members in ministry, and that along with a solid educational experience, an emphasis on empowering every student to share the gospel within their sphere of influence would result.

In addition to that donation, another exciting opportunity has been given to our schools to expand their ministry to new students. An offer has been made that any kindergarten, first grade, or ninth grade student who has not had the opportunity to attend an Adventist school be given that privilege. As a result, funding has been made available to accomplish that vision. Already we have seen the impact that gift is making in the lives of these new students.

One of our pastors on the executive committee shared the excitement of having a youth pastor join the team as a result of a commitment by a family to provide the necessary funding for the next two years. All these miracles have been made possible as members have sensed a calling by God to see His work go forward and have become more engaged in ministry throughout our conference.

Paul Cole, director of Portland Adventist Community Services (PACS) also shared with the executive committee the vision of PACS. He described the expansion of PACS’ ministry to not only include a unique food bank, thrift store, and medical ministry, but also a vision for opening a dental clinic as well. God has blessed with individuals willing to donate equipment, time, and funding to purchase a building, set up dental supplies, and provide the skills to make this a reality.

Following these stories we had to return to the reality of decisions that needed to be made: addressing finances, companies being organized, churches changing names, and young pastors being considered for ordination. One of the decisions that we spent some time discussing was a document addressing a cultural-

ized version of our 28 fundamental beliefs. Our committee has approved the formation of a Jewish-Adventist congregation, and in an attempt to make sure that our fundamental beliefs are clearly understood within the Jewish context, we have asked the Biblical Research Institute at the General Conference to make sure that nothing is “lost in translation” as we reword

these statements. I praise God for a committee that is willing to grapple with financial and legal issues and still take prayerful time to understand our mission and message as a church.

Let me add one other event that happened following our executive committee. This past weekend I had the privilege of meeting with all of our pre-ordained pastors and interns, and once again I came away blessed — blessed by the dedication, vision, and passion of our new pastors. To hear them articulate visions of their churches, to listening as they wrestle with tough issues both within the larger church and in their local congregations, to experience their love for Jesus and to see their calling to ministry — I came away refreshed. God is still working powerfully in His Church and we can be confident in the future as we remind ourselves of His ongoing leadership in our lives now.

We have been blessed by a donation from an anonymous group who wanted our schools to have a fresh start....



BLYC SPRING FLING

2015 DISC GOLF TOURNAMENT

On April 26, the yellow sunshine, blue sky, and green grass at the Gladstone Park Conference Center in Gladstone, Ore., became a colorful backdrop as dozens of flying discs took center stage.

The event was Big Lake Youth Camp's first annual Disc Golf Tournament, playfully entitled the "Spring Fling". Approximately 30 people participated in the event and prizes were awarded to the winners. Big Lake Director Les Zollbrecht planned the tournament as a way for Big Lake to connect with the local community, and as a fundraiser for the camp.

Disc golf players toss their discs (which Zollbrecht specified, are never called Frisbees), into raised goals called baskets. The player with the fewest throws wins. The baskets are specifically designed for the game, and must be purchased before building a disc golf course.

Sometime before the summer of 2014, Zollbrecht chatted with Bob Uhrig, the pastor of Gladstone Park Adventist Church. The two men discussed the possibility of building a disc golf course at Big Lake. Zollbrecht explained that the camp didn't currently have funding to purchase the baskets, and jokingly suggested that Uhrig should rally the Oregon Conference pastors to raise the money.

But Uhrig didn't laugh the idea off. He gathered the pastors at Gladstone Camp Meeting 2014, and they collected enough money to buy 10 baskets for the course. Grateful for their gift, Zollbrecht arranged for all 10 baskets to be set up on the Gladstone Park grounds for the tournament. Big Lake plans to host another Spring Fling in April of 2016. More information will be on Big Lake's Facebook page closer to the event.

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**What's not to love about working
at TRMC on the Tillamook Coast?**

Adventist Health
Tillamook Regional Medical Center

OC MEMBERS IN NEPAL

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But now, two years later, it was all gone. The April 25 earthquake hit Kumari, and every home was damaged or destroyed. All Lama's buildings – the school, skills center, and library – were destroyed. Even the sturdy clinic was badly damaged, and the precious medicine ruined. 60,000 people, including Lama's 85-year-old mother, had to sleep in the fields in the pre-monsoon rain.

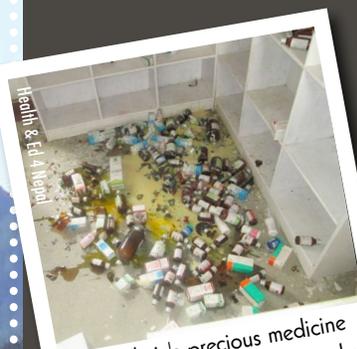
But Lama wasn't defeated. Assessing the immediate need, he contacted Health & Ed 4 Nepal, the American organization created to help his projects. "We need about 5,000 sleeping tents," he wrote. "Blankets about 10,000. Medicines and foods... dal(lentils), rice, salt, sugar, kerosene etc. These all we can buy here in Nepal and just need funds."

Zollbrecht also contacted Health & Ed 4 Nepal, and the organization soon had a special fund set up to channel money directly to Lama for aid in Kumari. Zollbrecht believes this is necessary because, as a mountain village and a low caste community, Kumari will likely be ignored by Nepali relief efforts, and even foreign aid workers will likely end up elsewhere. "No one will go to Kumari, I can guarantee it," Zollbrecht says. "Aid won't get there except through this project." Through Health & Ed 4 Nepal, two doctors left for Kumari on May 1, taking \$12,000 in emergency med-packs, and solar equipment to provide power. Zollbrecht says the first step is emergency medicine, food, water, and shelter. Then, in the long term, Kumari and Lama will start to rebuild.

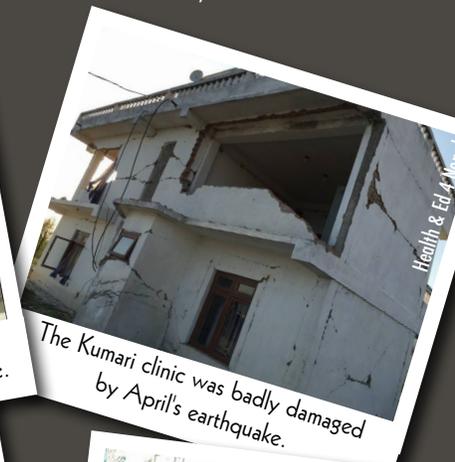
Zollbrecht continually emphasizes his admiration for the humble man from Kumari who has literally moved mountains to help his people, and who, even now, isn't giving up on his dream.

"He's a legend, that's what it says about him," Zollbrecht says. "He is deeply impacted by what has happened in his community, but he... stays focused on the vision."

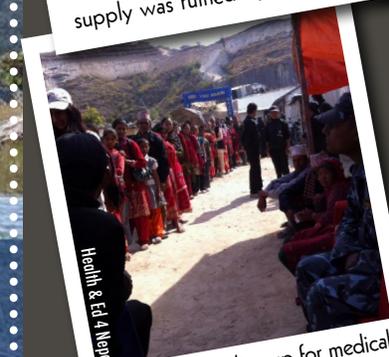
Zollbrecht believes his number one role in this project is to be a storyteller – to tell others about Lama and his vision. Zollbrecht doesn't run Mountain Leadership Institute anymore, he became Big Lake Youth Camp Director right after his 2013 expedition, but he isn't going to forget Kumari. "We've talked a little bit about possibly doing a young adult trip over there... an Oregon Conference thing," he says, but whether that happens or not, he says "it's a personal mission of mine to care for this community of people that I've come to love and call my own."



The clinic's precious medicine supply was ruined by the quake.



The Kumari clinic was badly damaged by April's earthquake.



Kumari villagers line up for medical care during the opening of the clinic.



Jagat Lama (left) welcomes the visiting medical team to Nepal.



NOTE WORTHY...

WWU TO OFFER NEW INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS DEGREE

The Walla Walla University School of Business will be offering a new bachelor's degree in international business development beginning fall 2016. The program presents WWU students with a special opportunity as it is the only one of its kind offered by an Adventist university. Through this program, students will be prepared for opportunities in business operations of international and domestic development agencies in accounting, finance, marketing, human resources, fundraising and other related areas. Read more from WWU online at <http://bit.ly/1FNG3CM>.

NW MEMBER HONORED FOR IMPACT ON CHURCH

George R. Knight, northwest member from Rogue River, Ore., has been recognized for his impact on the Adventist church through decades of research and writing. During an April 21 ceremony at Andrews University, Knight was presented with a special book entitled, *Adventist Maverick: A Celebration of George Knight's Contribution to Adventist Thought*. "Apart from Ellen White, professor George Knight is probably the most prolific author the Adventist church has seen," says Gilbert Valentine, La Sierra University administration and leadership department chair. Knight is the author of 37 books written between 1982 to 2013. Read more from the *Adventist Review* at <http://bit.ly/1GYJUHM>.

EARTHQUAKE SAFETY A MUST

Adventist Risk Management has put together a safety tip guide on earthquakes. The guide walks through earthquake safety steps and how to earthquake proof your facility. To find out how to be better prepared, read more from Adventist Risk Management at <http://bit.ly/1cj8yNb>.

ADRA RAISES SUPPORT FOR NEPAL EARTHQUAKE VICTIMS

The earthquake that rattled Nepal and Asia on April 25 has killed more than 7,500 people, injured more than 14,500 and left countless dispossessed. As the region begins to settle after countless aftershocks, ADRA has sent an emergency response team to Nepal to provide food and shelter to those in need. ADRA stated that it is working to get 1,360 tarpaulins to the area, adding to the 400 they already have there. Food and other resources are also being secured to help the 1.4 million people in need of assistance. While no Adventists have been reported among the dead, scores of Adventist pastors and other church members lost their homes. Find out how you can help and read more from the *Adventist Review* at <http://bit.ly/1EOLVcl>.

NW TEAMS ATTEND NAD PATHFINDER BIBLE EXPERIENCE

Thirteen northwest Pathfinder clubs were represented at the North American Division level Pathfinder Bible Experience held April 18. They joined 114 other teams who participated in the event hosted at Southwestern Adventist University in Keene, Tex. Ninety-two of the 127 teams came in first place, indicating their strong mastery of the Scriptures. Roughly 760 Pathfinders wrestled with answers to 90 questions from the Gospel of Matthew during this final level for the 2015 events. Check out the list of all teams and how they fared at the event, including those from the northwest at <http://bit.ly/1dLlIsI>.

WWU ETHICS TEAM PLACES IN ETHICS BOWL

The Walla Walla University (WWU) Ethics Bowl team placed third on Friday, April 17, in the second annual Ethics Bowl competition sponsored by the Independent Colleges of Washington (ICW) held on the campus of Seattle Pacific University in Seattle. Gonzaga University placed first and Whitworth University placed second. The full-day, judged competition between teams from the 10 ICW member colleges and universities was designed to showcase student knowledge of applied ethics, communication skills, team work, and the ability to think and speak about important issues. Read more from WWU online at <http://bit.ly/1JOFL0g>.

VOP HOLDS GRAND OPENING IN LOVELAND

The Voice of Prophecy (VOP) celebrated the grand opening of its new headquarters with leased space in Loveland, Colo., last week. Shawn Boonstra, VOP director/speaker, says the ministry has truly come back home. Ministry founder H.M.S. Richards was a Loveland resident and 1914 graduate of nearby Campion Academy. The grand opening brought together a crowd of about 300 local civic leaders, members of the Loveland Chamber of Commerce, and local Adventist believers. VOP left its former offices in Simi Valley, Calif., after the North American Division decided to sell its media center there. Read more from the *Adventist Review* at <http://bit.ly/1zydat4>.

WWU TO OFFER MASTER'S IN MEDIA MINISTRY DEGREE

Walla Walla University (WWU) will offer a master of arts degree in media ministry beginning fall 2015. The two-year program will allow students to choose from one of two concentrations: media and cinema, or web and interactive media. Core courses for the degree will include foundational theology exploring world view and mission, communication theory, research methods, and story structure. The program can be completed online with three scheduled two-week workshops on the WWU campus, making it an ideal option for professionals from across the country who work full time. Read more about this new program online at <http://bit.ly/1leAejm>.

WALLA WALLA GENERAL RECEIVES WOMEN'S CHOICE AWARD

Walla Walla General Hospital in Walla Walla, Wash., has been named a 2015 recipient of the Women's Choice Award® for America's Best Hospitals for Emergency Care. This credential places WWGH in the top five percent for emergency care out of the 3,800 emergency rooms which report data to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid. "Women play an important role both in providing care and making decisions about the health of their loved ones," says Monty Knittel, WWGH president and CEO. "At WWGH, we're committed to providing quality care during emergent situations which our entire community can rely on." Hospitals earning the Emergency Care Award consistently rank in the top 25 percent of the 3,800 hospitals reporting on their emergency department's performance to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Read more from WWGH at <http://bit.ly/1zKW8br>.

MT. ELLIS ANNOUNCES NEW VP FOR FINANCE

Mount Ellis Academy (MEA) in Bozeman, Mont., recently announced that Brian Schaffner will be the vice principal for finance, starting with the 2015-2016 school year. He replaces Nancy Lee, who is retiring after serving 26 years at MEA, including 17 years in that position. Schaffner brings a wealth of experience to the position. Since graduating from Walla Walla University in 1992 with a Bachelor of Science in business administration/accounting and obtaining his MBA in 1997, Schaffner has had a successful career in financial administration, most recently as the finance director at Family Help and Wellness in Salem, Ore. Read more online at <http://bit.ly/1c2yplz>.



Transitions

Susan Coberly (Michael) is no longer working in her half-time position in the education department.

Sandy Heusser (Don) is no longer working in the education department on a regular basis, though she is still in and out periodically.

Theresa Kramer (Robert) is the new administrative and financial assistant for education.

VJ Puccinelli (Marilyn) will be the interim pastor for the Stone Tower congregation.

Ron du Preez (Lynda) will be retiring from his pastoral position at the Stone Tower church.

Shirley Allen (Dave) has transitioned from her pastoral position at the Sunnyside church to the children's ministries director for the conference.

Marlon Batz (Liz), new pastor for the Portland Spanish and University Park Spanish congregations, has joined the Oregon Conference from Colombia.

Rachel Scribner has joined the Oregon Conference as the new creative media assistant for the communications department.

gladstone camp meeting
July 21-25, 2015

This year's speakers include:

Lee Venden

G

Jon Paulien

Carla Gober Park

Learn more at www.OregonConference.org

*called
to
love*

members in ministry

CAPTURING GOD'S HANDIWORK...

Share your photos that capture our amazing world for inclusion in an upcoming issue of the *eCommunique!*

Email your photos to krissy.barber@oc.npuc.org. All photos are subject to approval before publishing. Digital high quality (200 dpi or higher), please.

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

Events

LAURA WHIDDEN & ALISON BROOK IN CONCERT

When: May 23, 7:00 pm & May 30, 7:00 pm

Location: Multiple locations

Laura Whidden and Alison Brook are singer/songwriters from Michigan with a heart for ministry. Besides being great friends, they have 25 combined years of touring, writing, and recording experience that lends itself to a beautifully blended presentation. They weave together story and song to tackle topics such as addiction, depression, and mental health. Laura and Alison will show that through The Healer there is a remedy for the wounds of the heart. They will present two concerts in the Portland area. May 23, 7:00 pm will be at Sunnyside Adventist Church, and May 30 at 7:00 pm will be at the Pleasant Valley Adventist Church (PVC).

KARL HELTON IN CONCERT ON ORGAN

When: May 9, 4:00 pm

Location: Sunnyside Adventist Church

Sunnyside Adventist Church will host an organ concert by Karl Helton, organist, May 9, 4:00 pm. This will be a concert you will not want to miss. Bring a friend.

HOOD VIEW CHURCH 50TH ANNIVERSARY

When: May 29 & 30, 2015

Location: Hood View Adventist Church

The Hood View Church is going to be celebrating their 50 year anniversary and homecoming on May 29-30! A small group of Adventists from Gresham and Sandy first met on April 3, 1965 in what is now the Bell Tower Chapel in Boring. They were formally organized on May 29 of that same year. Save the date and plan to join us as we recognize God's providence over the years!

JOIN THE NEW SPRINGFIELD STRING ORCHESTRA

When: May 26, 6:30 pm

Location: Springfield Adventist Church

Calling violin, viola, cello, and string base players, or those who would like to learn to play! Are you interested in being part of a string symphonic orchestra? Join us for our first meeting on May 26, at 6:30 pm, at the Springfield Adventist Church. All ages and all experience levels are welcome. Bring a music stand if you have one. Questions or inquiries? Contact Olga Racine at 541-972-0975, or olgaracine@yahoo.com.

BEAUTIFUL INSIDE & OUT – SPA DAY

When: May 17, 10:00 am

Location: South Salem Adventist Church

You're invited to Beautiful Inside and Out, May 17th at 10:00 am at South Salem Adventist Church. This health and spa day will include door prizes! Our speakers are Kathy Wolfe, RN BSN, CBCN breast care coordinator at the Salem Cancer Institute and Lauren Cohen, nutrition specialist. There will be chocolate, a light lunch, and a mini manicure, mini massage, or mini facial. Reserve your seat today at 503-399-8698! Must be 18 or older to attend.

STONE TOWER SPRING CONCERT

When: May 30, 6:00 pm

Location: Stone Tower Adventist Church

Spring concert featuring Shannon and Jeanine Goodwin, Craig King, Carl Parker, and Tsikirai Family. May 30, 6:00 pm at the Stone Tower Church, located at 3010 NE Holladay St, just off Sandy Blvd. For more information call 503-232-6018.

PRACTICAL SUSTAINABLE LIVING SEMINAR

When: May 23 & 24, 2015

Location: Castle Rock Adventist Church

A Practical Sustainable Living Seminar will be held at the Castle Rock Adventist Church. This is a free two-day seminar beginning May 23, at 2:30 pm and continuing on May 24, at 10:30 am. The seminar will include practical ways to be prepared for natural disasters and other end time events. Some topics covered will be independent water systems, renewable energy systems, and canning & breadmaking demonstrations. Everyone is welcome to attend. On Sunday, a light lunch will be provided. Registration is appreciated. RSVP to 360-967-2165.

REAL TIME FAITH – EARLITEEN MINISTRIES TRAINING WORKSHOP

When: May 12, 6:15 pm

Location: Adventist Community Church of Vancouver

The Adventist Community Church of Vancouver in cooperation with Oregon Conference Youth Ministries is hosting an earliteen ministries workshop. This is for Sabbath School leaders who want to improve their teaching skills and resources for ministry to earliteens (junior-high school age). Come and experience prayer support, interactive learning activities, fellowship with other leaders, and receive free resources. Join us on Tuesday, May 12 at the Adventist Community Church of Vancouver. A light supper will begin at 6:15 pm, the workshop will start at 7:00 pm. RSVP for meal planning by email at vancouveradventist@gmail.com, or call the church office at 360-696-2511.

All links are clickable here and elsewhere in the eCommuniq .

SUNSET CALENDAR

	May 2	May 9	May 16	May 23	May 30	Jun 6
Bend	8:08 PM	8:17 PM	8:25 PM	8:32 PM	8:39 PM	8:44 PM
Eugene	8:16 PM	8:24 PM	8:32 PM	8:39 PM	8:46 PM	8:51 PM
Hood River	8:13 PM	8:22 PM	8:30 PM	8:38 PM	8:45 PM	8:51 PM
Longview	8:20 PM	8:29 PM	8:38 PM	8:46 PM	8:53 PM	8:59 PM
Medford	8:11 PM	8:18 PM	8:26 PM	8:33 PM	8:39 PM	8:44 PM
Newport	8:21 PM	8:29 PM	8:37 PM	8:45 PM	8:52 PM	8:57 PM
Portland	8:17 PM	8:26 PM	8:34 PM	8:42 PM	8:49 PM	8:55 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 or call 503.850.3500

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