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# eCOMMUNIQUÉ

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## IT TAKES A COMMUNITY

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## A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

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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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## AN ATHEIST FINDS A BETTER LIFE

By Marta Davis

There seemed nothing unusual about Better Life's visit to the Roseburg Seventh-day Adventist Church one Sabbath, but, God had something special planned for that day.

As the worship service began, Ron and Marta Davis, Better Life station managers, stood up front to briefly share some of the news of Better Life. As part of their presentation Marta read a recently received viewer letter.

In part it said, "I am writing to say that I'm very grateful you're still broadcasting in analog, I don't have a digital TV, so I'm left with two channels.

Better Life comes in very clearly, but the other does not—and that's good, since it has led me to renew my love and relationship with God after 30 years of hating (yes, hating!) Him." This was Kris' first Sabbath visiting the Roseburg Seventh-

day Adventist Church. Now as he sat listening to his own testimony he was moved to tears.

Kris' story actually began years before when, as a young man, he turned atheist and sank into substance abuse. He had lived a godless life that only led to hopelessness and despair. After a time he was living in a trailer with the TV as his only friend. A painful physical condition only added to his discomfort. Kris says, "I couldn't work effectively and I couldn't sleep and that made my abrasive personality even worse. Finally, after another sleepless night, and another warning from my employer, I found myself cursing God. Then I thought, 'If I'm cursing God, I must believe in Him.'"

**"IF I'M CURSING  
GOD, I MUST  
BELIEVE IN HIM."**

Kris found himself drawn to the programming on Better Life. He says, "As soon as I'd think of an-

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## FINDING A BETTER LIFE

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other reason to hate God, it seemed the very next sermon would be on that subject and I'd see my error!

"Then came the sermon that impressed me with the fact that God cares so much for us that He weeps with us when we're hurt by others, and for us when we do wrong! That was the final straw—the thought of God weeping for me made me so sad that I prayed and asked for His forgiveness.

"When God moved into my life I couldn't continue with my addictions," Kris says, "so that very day I gave up smoking pot, my alcohol use, and my caffeine addiction. Not gradually, but overnight!"

The more Kris watched Better Life and studied his Bible, the more changes came to his life. "I'd been watching Better Life for just three months when my employer took me aside. But this time it wasn't to reprimand me. Instead, he'd noticed my attitude change and gave me a raise—my first since 2002! My financial situation hasn't changed—except that since I've started tithing, I haven't run out of money!"

And so that's how Kris found himself at the Roseburg Seventh-day Adventist Church for the first time that fateful day. As Marta finished reading his letter, Kris recognized the hand of God. "It was like a very personal message from God saying, 'You're in the right place, Kris; you're doing the right thing. And it's about time!'"

Kris was later baptized in that same church and was warmly welcomed into his new church home.

We praise the Lord for this and many other stories like it. God is using Better Life to reach the lost and dying world, one person at a time. Please pray for hearts to be soft and open to the wooing of the Holy Spirit when they turn on their TV.



## IT TAKES A COMMUNITY

The car progressed down the winding road, passed all the fields with the newborn lambs, through a small deserted town and finally stopped at a quiet little church school. Though it had been a year since children had graced its doorways, it stood proud and full of history. Something stronger than an offer for employment, or the obvious challenges ahead, or the promise of church member support, drew the young college graduate to accept the offer extended to her and walk through those doors as the newly hired teacher.

With a deep commitment to God, community, and Christian education this young Walla Walla University graduate took her first steps as a teacher in a one room Seventh-day Adventist school. That community did rally behind their school and teacher, and with God's blessings the school grew from a mere eight students to forty two and a waiting list. In five years the school was completely remodeled, including outbuildings, playground and landscape, and had grown to include two teachers.

How did this rural school in a community where the industry had died years ago and that was virtually deserted grow? Through the years that question has come up many, many times.

Here are some lessons gleaned from this little school's experience.

so did the other. The tie between the two was obvious, intentional and real. The church viewed the school as part of its ministry.

3. Positive comments about the school were the norm. Constant positive updates were shared with the community and churches. It became infectious and everyone wanted to join in.

4. Improvements to the academics were made. Languages, computer skills, music, arts, and tutoring were all added, often by volunteers.

5. Miracles were celebrated. People were drawn to drive miles to attend this school because something "amazing" was going on there and they wanted to be a part of it.

The Oregon Conference currently has 32 amazing schools, with 12 of them classified as small schools, having only 1 or 2 teachers. Our next world and church leaders are right now being trained in our Seventh-day Adventist schools. Be prepared to be amazed as I share stories that have been shared with me here in future issues. Praise God for all He is doing with and for our schools.

**Fonda Cox,**  
*Director of Development & Marketing for Education*



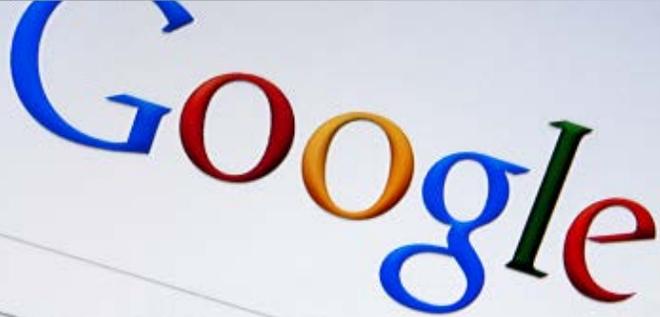
1. Dedication to God's work was number one. A mission focus was taken and sharing Jesus with family, friends and community was a priority. Raising church leaders from within the school was important.

2. The school helped the church when and wherever they could, and in turn the church members poured out their help to the school. The church and school worked together to build each other up. As one grew,

**WE NEED YOUR HELP.**  
We are looking for stories about Adventist Christian Education that we can use for articles and videos.

Share your stories here...  
<http://adobe.ly/VMM61N>





## IS YOUR CHURCH WEBSITE STRUGGLING?

Traffic....visitors...and new members.

That's what you really want, but it's not happening.

It's time to stop and take a good long look at your website. How well is it doing its job? Is it a "cookie-cutter" site that looks just like all the other Adventist websites out there? Is the information on it updated? Is the content unique and relevant to your community? Are you a bit disappointed with your church website?

This isn't how it was supposed to be.

Remember back when you started the website? People told you that the Internet was the "wave of the future." You had visions of a vibrant and engaged community. You knew that this was a great way to reach out to people and fulfill The Great Commission.

## A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Al Reimche

It was as if she was talking to our leadership of the Oregon conference as she talked about the mission. This dynamic speaker was addressing a large group of CEO's, physicians, and hospital board members which included our Adventist Health Corporate board.

The presenter, Leanne Kaiser Carlson, challenged us as she described the importance of having a mission. She was addressing how to have successful hospitals but my mind went immediately to our conference as the parallels are extremely obvious.

She started her presentation by saying that "organizations anchored in mission attract people who invest more of themselves." This is so true. Jesus never started his mission by saying, "Here are the benefits of employment as my disciples." In fact, the opposite was true. His statement to those early disciples was "Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay His head." Matt 8:20. Monetary gain, status or prestige were not the motivating factors for the apostles. Instead, it was passion for the mission that they had been called to that inspired them and the early church. "Go and make disciples of all nations."

Leanne then asked the question, "If we couldn't pay people, how many would work for us?" As I have thought about that question I praise God for the commitment of our "members in ministry" throughout this conference. Recently, I had the privilege

of speaking in one of the prisons in Oregon and discovered a group of our church members committed to visiting the prisoners every Friday evening. That one ministry is happening all over our conference. Not paid, but motivated by the mission. Just last week one of our veteran members in prison ministries was killed in an auto accident. Who will answer the call to continue where this member left off?

What happened?

After all, research shows that at least 174 million people in North America alone will use the Internet for faith-related reasons this year. Why aren't at least some of them coming to your site?

What happened is that you probably weren't told the rest of the story. It's not enough to just create a website from a template, use the same content all of the other Adventist churches are using, and then sit back while visitors flow to your website and church services.

To be effective,

- A church website must have relevance to its local community.
- Be updated with current, accurate information
- It must be user-friendly.
- And, it must play by specific rules created by the major search engines if it is going to be found by people searching for truth.

What makes this even more challenging is that now that you do know the rest of the story, your church may lack the resources to fix the issues. Maybe your webmaster is good at creating pages that are useful to the community, but may need some help to learn what the search engines want. Maybe you don't even have a webmaster. Maybe no one has time or desire to learn another skill.

Fortunately, there is a solution. Good News Advocates (GNA) specializes in "the rest of the story." GNA's process for giving your website a "tune up" will resolve many of the issues that are killing the site's effectiveness.

Good News Advocates is a non-profit organization formed to help Adventist churches and schools develop the most effective websites possible, and to make Bible truth more prominent online.

The best part? GNA's services are FREE to Adventist churches and schools. Visit <http://www.AskGNA.org> or <http://www.GoodNewsAdvocates.org> to learn more.

We're thrilled with all of the ministries that are going on throughout our conference. There are Sabbath School teachers, children's division leaders, Bible workers, community service programs, members sharing evangelistic series, trips outside of our conference on mission trips, the volunteers at our churches and schools - all designed to draw people to a loving Savior. Not a dollar is given in compensation; instead, the motivating force is the mission. God has called all of us to something bigger than ourselves, to a task that takes all our skills, talents and, in fact, our whole hearts.

As I visit throughout our conference, I am blessed to hear stories of members in ministry and see the passion for the mission. Leanne wondered about how many would volunteer. In our conference we have over 35,000 members in ministry! In Paul's words "I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." Phil 1:3-6



## NOTE WORTHY...

### HOOVER ACCEPTS PRESIDENTIAL CALL

Elder Paul Hoover accepted the call to serve as president for the Upper Columbia Conference of Seventh-day Adventists in January. He will serve as president following Elder Bob Folkenberg, Jr.'s move to the China Union Mission. Hoover, vice president for administration for the Georgia Cumberland Conference, served as pastor in the Kentucky-Tennessee, Oklahoma and Georgia-Cumberland Conferences. In 1991 he accepted a call to the Georgia-Cumberland Conference and pastored the Smyrna-King Springs Church and Calhoun, GA Church. Hoover enjoys running, golf, road biking and spending time with his family. His wife Patti is a registered nurse. They have two grown sons.

### UPDATED NPUC WEBSITE

The North Pacific Union Conference online presence has recently been updated. Find links to resources around the union and the current calendar of union events. In addition to an updated look, the site has been designed to make resources easier to find. Take a look at the new site at [www.NPUC.org](http://www.NPUC.org).

### CRUISE WITH A MISSION HEADED TO ALASKA THIS SUMMER!

Cruise with a Mission, an annual mission trip designed for young adults 18 and older, is offering an all new mission adventure this summer along the Alaskan coast, September 15-22. Mission projects are still being defined, and more details will be soon coming. Registration is now open, and early-bird rates are available through April 15. Learn more by visiting <http://bit.ly/Wzq8NR>.

### PREST ELECTED TO ANTI-GAMBLING GROUP'S BOARD

David Prest Jr., Idaho Conference president, was recently elected to serve on the board of Stop Predatory Gambling, Idaho (SPG Idaho). SPG Idaho is a non-profit advocacy organization that tracks gambling activities, educates about gambling issues, and researches the effects and costs of gambling. Prest's involvement with SPG Idaho has been encouraged by the Northwest Religious Liberty Association as a way to provide a significant Adventist voice.

### CHIP PROGRAM RELAUNCHES

The Coronary Health Improvement Program (CHIP) has undergone a complete refresh and has been relaunched as the Complete Health Improvement Project (CHIP). The new CHIP program is being relaunched by the church-owned food company Sanitarium Health and Wellbeing in Australia. The program, founded 25 years ago by Hans Diehl, has updated materials and a new co-presenter, Darren Morton, a physiologist from Avondale College. The program has been used extensively in North America and is an excellent community outreach for churches. "The new CHIP resource is phenomenal," said Dr. Brian Will, medical doctor and CHIP leader in the Meadow Glade Church in Battle Ground, Wash. "It will be simpler to run, but will be more professional and will come across well in the community." Read more about the new program at <http://bit.ly/WzqlAJ>.

### NEW SUPERINTENDENT/YOUTH DIRECTOR FOR MONTANA

Phil Hudema has accepted the offer to be Supt/Youth/etc. director for the Montana Conference. He and his wife Kristie, along with a college-age son and academy-age daughter will be a great addition to the conference family. Phil will be finishing out his year as principal for Newberry Park in California. He plans to arrive in Montana in time for Camp Meeting.

### NPUC SUMMIT TO ADDRESS ISSUES OF SAME-SEX ATTRACTION

The North Pacific Union Conference Family Life department has announced plans to hold an open meeting to discuss how Northwest members can best relate to issues of same-sex attraction within their families and churches. The weekend seminar is scheduled for April 5-6 at the Holden Convention Center (Gladstone Campgrounds) in Gladstone, Ore. Visit [www.gaysinthefamily.com](http://www.gaysinthefamily.com) for more information.

### ADVENTIST HEALTH FEATURES NEW CANCER TREATMENT

Adventist Medical Center in Portland, Ore., is the first clinical facility in the Northwest to provide the Agility technology system for cancer patient radiation therapy. This complex system allows a radiation beam to be directed with extreme accuracy to a tumor. The more accurate the treatment, the less potential for damage to surrounding tissues, allowing higher dose rates and improved patient outcomes with reduced side effects. Learn more about this new treatment option at <http://bit.ly/WdGCyU>.

### IDAHO PASTOR SWORN IN AS SENATE CHAPLAIN

Jim Wibberding, Cloverdale (Idaho) Church pastor, was officially sworn in Jan. 9 as the Idaho Senate Chaplain for the 2013-14 legislative session. Idaho Senator Grant Ipsen and the Northwest Religious Liberty Association staff, directed by Greg Hamilton, facilitated Wibberding's ultimate selection. This important post puts an Adventist pastor at the forefront of each daily session, in a position to help counsel legislators in their spiritual journey.

### GYC ANNUAL CONVENTION WRAPS UP IN SEATTLE

More than 2,500 young missionaries boarded 50 buses on Dec. 30 and blanketed Seattle, one of the most secular cities in North America, with more than 25,000 flyers. This outreach activity was part of the grassroots gathering of the annual Generation of Youth for Christ (GYC) convention which drew thousands to Seattle, Dec. 28, 2012 to Jan. 1, 2013. This conference, characterized by its leaders as the largest youth-led movement within Adventism, took the theme of Revolution to encourage Christ-filled believers to define culture rather than letting it define them — hence the large scale community outreach effort on Dec. 30. The youth were encouraged to take the same spirit home with them to their communities throughout North America and around the world. Read more at <http://bit.ly/TUGMs7> and <http://on.fb.me/XeyziJ>.

### WGTS GENERAL MANAGER JOHN KONRAD DIES

John Konrad, vice president and general manager of Washington D.C.'s contemporary Christian music station, WGTS 91.9, passed away January 2nd after a short illness. Konrad, 43, died at the University of Maryland Medical Center in Baltimore surrounded by friends and family. He had been battling bilateral pneumonia since mid-December. Konrad, who became WGTS General Manager in 1996, led the station through a transition from classical music to a contemporary Christian format in the late 1990s and doubled the station's coverage area. Under his leadership, the station grew from 10,000 weekly listeners to over 600,000. The station ranks among the top 10 in the Washington D.C. market.

### FLASH-MOB OF JOY

On the Friday before Christmas, and mere days after the fatal shootings at the Clackamas Town Center in Portland, Ore., Portland Adventist Academy (PAA) students visited the mall to spread faith, not fear. This student-organized "flash mob" brought 70 students, staff, parents and alumni together to deliver an encouraging note and long-stemmed rose to each store. "It was moving to walk through the mall and see rose after rose propped up in the kiosks with a card from PAA attached to each one," said Stephen Lundquist, PAA Bible teacher. "What a great way to enter into the Sabbath."



# Events

## PACIFIC UNION COLLEGE ORCHESTRA IN CONCERT

*When: February 9, 5:30 pm*

*Location: Sunnyside Adventist Church*

You are invited to hear the Pacific Union College Orchestra, under the direction of Rachele Berthelsen Davis, perform vespers at Sunnyside Adventist Church on February 9, at 5:30 pm. Join us for a worship experience as these students share their God-given talents and their love of classical music to God's glory and honor.

## SUSTAINABLE PREPAREDNESS SEMINAR

*When: February 16-17, 2013*

*Location: Whipple Creek Adventist Church*

Learn how you can be part of the solution, rather than part of the problem. In this seminar, learn why a simpler, prepared lifestyle is so important, not only from a physical perspective, but also from a spiritual standpoint. With that foundation, we offer practical "how to" classes. We explore: canning/breadmaking (live demo), vegetable gardening, renewable energy, natural remedies (live demo), independent water systems, wood heating, and where to make your home. For more info [www.EndTimePreparedness.com](http://www.EndTimePreparedness.com) or contact Tami 503-698-4622 for further information. Start time for seminar is Sabbath 2:30 pm and Sunday 10:00 am. This seminar will be held at the Whipple Creek Adventist Church

## THE EVIDENCE SEMINAR SERIES

*When: February 16, 23, and March 3, 2013*

*Location: Stone Tower Adventist Church*

God never asks us to believe without giving sufficient evidence upon which to base our faith. His existence, His character, the truthfulness of His word, are all established by testimony that appeals to our reason; and this testimony is abundant. Jed Daniel Lee, J.D., M.B.A., will be presenting evidence for the existence of God, the truthfulness of the Bible and the historicity of Jesus Christ. There will be free gifts to the first 50 attendees at each meeting. Stone Tower Adventist Church (3010 NE Holladay, Ore.). Saturdays at 4:00 pm, Feb 16, Feb 23 and Mar 3.

## 2013 OREGON PRAYER RETREAT

*When: March 15-17, 2014*

*Location: Grove Christian Camp*

Come join us for a weekend of powerful spiritual fellowship at Grove Christian Camp in Cottage Grove, Ore. Our presenters this year include the team of Jim Moon, Rocky Mountain Conference Prayer Ministry Coordinator. Email [waldheim1934@hotmail.com](mailto:waldheim1934@hotmail.com), or go to <http://bit.ly/13AaB5z> for more information. To register visit <http://bit.ly/11LnCq4>.

## LOVE IN ACTION CHILDREN'S CHURCH

*When: February 16, 11:15 am-12:35 pm*

*Location: Sunnyside Adventist Church*

All children aged 4-12 (and their parents) are invited to join us on Sabbath, February 16 for a special children's church program called Love in Action. The program will begin at 11:15 am and end around 12:25 pm. Call 503-252-8080 to pre-register, or for more information.

## JAMIE GEORGE ANNIVERSARY TOUR CONCERT

*When: February 16, 5:00pm*

*Location: Adventist Community Church of Vancouver*

Jaime has played in settings from high school auditoriums to Carnegie Hall, on five continents and in over 35 countries. Come and listen to his marvelous music and his captivating personal story of how God has led him. This free concert is a benefit for Project Patch. Adventist Community Church of Vancouver is located at 9711 NE St. Johns Rd, Vancouver, Wash.

## JOHN LOMACANG TO SPEAK AT ALBANY

*When: February 15 & 16, 2013*

*Location: Albany Adventist Church*

Come and join us for this time of spiritual renewal and revival. Our focus will be "What must we do to survive the crisis of the end time?" with guest speaker John Lomacang. Friday, Feb. 15, 7:00 pm, Saturday, Feb 16, 11:00 am, and a gospel concert at 4:00 pm. The Albany Adventist Church is located at 3085 Grand Prairie Road SE Albany, Ore. Call 541-928-9555 for more information.

## ISLAM & CHRISTIANITY IN BIBLE PROPHECY SERIES

*When: February 22-March 3, 2013*

*Location: Rockwood Adventist Church*

Invite a friend to join you for Pastor Tim Roosenberg's ten part series, Islam and Christianity in Bible Prophecy at the Rockwood Adventist Church beginning February 22 and going through March 3rd. Each meeting will begin at 7:30 pm. Visit [www.IslamandChristianity.org](http://www.IslamandChristianity.org) for more information or call Rockwood Adventist at 503-661-4100. The Rockwood Adventist Church is located at 1019 SE 182nd Ave. Portland, Ore.

## PARENTING IN A HOSTILE WORLD SEMINAR

*When: February 22-23, 2013*

*Location: Adventist Community Church of Vancouver*

On Feb. 22-23, we invite you to attend this information-packed seminar presented by Project Patch for parents of both young children and teens. Learn about communication, boundaries, discipline, and technology, and come away feeling even more confident in your parenting. There is a \$10 registration fee and FREE childcare. Visit <http://projectpatch.org/parenting> for more information and to register, or call them during regular business hours at 360-690-8495.

## PRISM CHRISTIAN WEIGHT LOSS PROGRAM

*When: February 10 - June 30, 2013*

*Location: Adventist Community Church of Vancouver*

Christian oriented PRISM® Weight Loss Program is based on the belief that people with weight problems and poor eating behaviors can be restored to emotionally whole, right-weighted individuals. This 24-week program is divided into four or more six-week phases. There will be a minimal charge for materials at the introductory meeting. Join us beginning on February 2nd as we begin this journey. We will meet in the Fireside Chapel at the Adventist Community Church of Vancouver at 6:00 pm on Sundays. For more details call Tiffany Wageman at 360-573-8117, Darlene Eckert 360-887-5565, or [www.pwlp.com](http://www.pwlp.com).

*All links are clickable here and elsewhere in the eCommunique.*

# Transitions

**Jonathan Pawson** (Tobi) – have transitioned to the La Pine/Cascade district.

**Jeff Kimmel** – has joined the Oregon Conference of-  
fice as Associate Director of Member Ministries.

**Marvin Clark** (Judi) – has retired from his pastoral  
position in the Grants Pass district.

**Christian Martin** (Heidi) – has taken the position of  
interim pastor for Grants Pass.

**Kim Tourville** (Carson) – has resigned her position at  
the Gladstone ABC.

**Ralph Neidigh** (Gloria) – has retired from his full-time  
position, but will be continuing as Director of Trust  
Services on a part-time basis.

**Ron du Preez** (Lynda) – is joining the Oregon Con-  
ference from Michigan to pastor the East Salem church.

**Jon Griebel** (Rachel) – is transitioning from his pasto-  
ral position with the Kelso-Longview congregation to  
the Corvallis/Junction City district.

**Lee Larson** (Erma) – has ended his interim pastoral  
assignment in the Corvallis/Junction City district and  
will return to retired life.

**Paul Kuizinas** – has resigned his position as Associ-  
ate Director of Communications (at the Forest Grove  
Media Center).

**Mark Cockerham** (Monica) – has ended his pastoral  
assignment with the Salem Central congregation.

**Phil Dunham** (Evelyn) – has stepped out of retire-  
ment to fill the position of interim pastor for the Salem  
Central congregation.

**Dan McCulloch** (Mary) – has retired from his posi-  
tion as pastor for the Medford congregation.

**Lisa Rodriguez** (Moises) – Conference Office Ad-  
ministrative Assistant for Hispanic Ministries has tran-  
sitioned to full-time for camp meeting planning.

**CORRECTIONS:** We mistakenly noted **Jonathan  
Pawson's** wife as "Sue" in the January issue of the  
Communique insert in the Gleaner. Mrs Pawson's  
name is actually Tobi.

**Fonda Cox's** title has been finalized as Director of De-  
velopment and Marketing for Education.

Registration opens March 6!



[www.biglake.org](http://www.biglake.org)

## SUNSET CALENDAR

	Feb 2	Feb 9	Feb 16	Feb 23	Mar 2	Mar 9
Bend	5:16 PM	5:26 PM	5:35 PM	5:45 PM	5:54 PM	6:03 PM
Eugene	5:23 PM	5:33 PM	5:42 PM	5:52 PM	6:01 PM	6:10 PM
Hood River	5:13 PM	5:23 PM	5:33 PM	5:43 PM	5:53 PM	6:03 PM
Longview	5:17 PM	5:28 PM	5:38 PM	5:49 PM	5:59 PM	6:08 PM
Medford	5:26 PM	5:35 PM	5:44 PM	5:53 PM	6:02 PM	6:10 PM
Newport	5:26 PM	5:35 PM	5:45 PM	5:55 PM	6:04 PM	6:14 PM
Portland	5:18 PM	5:28 PM	5:38 PM	5:48 PM	5:58 PM	6:08 PM

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