

GLADSTONE GAZETTE

The Daily Voice of the Gladstone Camp Meeting » Friday, July 17, 2026



OUT ON A LIMB: FALLING TREE BRANCHES IN THE PLAZA

BY SETH PIERCE

On Wednesday morning, a dangerous situation befell the Plaza next to the Pavilion as several loud cracks were heard. One of the large oak limbs had cracked, leaving it leaning across the tree next to it. The result was two large limbs held up by a third. The tree-carious situation hovered directly above the Blood Donation Registration tent!

The Gladstone grounds team quickly sprang into action, working with Security to create a perimeter so that camp meeting goers would remain safe while they worked to remedy the situation. The teams worked intentionally to alleviate the complicated knot of cracked and broken branches, while keeping as much of the shade-giving trees as possible. A huge thank you to our grounds and security teams!

As the teams spruced up the area, reports of attendees hearing creaks and cracks the night before sprouted up. – Disturbing indeed! In light of this week’s event, here are few important camp meeting safety reminders:

- If you hear or see something strange, please report it to Security or Locations.
- In our outdoor environment here, please always be aware of your surroundings.
- Please do not cross yellow “Caution” tape. Instead, make like a tree and leaf. ☺
- Watch out for golf carts. – The electric ones are pretty quiet.
- And of course...Stay hydrated!

Have a wonderful Sabbath and please don’t go out on a limb when it comes to your health and safety!

MATT BALLARD RETIRES AFTER MORE THAN 20 YEARS SERVING GLADSTONE

BY KRISSY BARBER & KALEB EISELE

After more than 20 years serving on the grounds of Gladstone Park, Grounds Manager Matt Ballard retired this spring.

Arriving in 2006, Matt not only spent countless hours repairing, remodeling, rebuilding, and re-landscaping, he has innovated dozens of new systems for operations on the grounds, many that reduce the amount of labor it takes to set up for events like camp meeting and implement better ways to care for the equipment and materials used on campus.

Grounds Director Kevin Smith shared why Matt has worked so hard over the years, “He’s all about making life better for people. It’s why he builds things the way he does, it’s not be-

cause it’s fun or cool, it’s because he’s thinking about how everything affects people and how to make life better for them.”

Athena Gray, Oregon Conference events coordinator, shared how appreciated she felt working with Matt, and that his influence even led to her daughter becoming an electrician. “From trimming the trees to carpentry to welding and making all the fence rails uniform to plumbing and electrical – Matt has done that for this campus. His mark is on everything here.”

Beyond his work on the grounds, Matt has been a Sabbath school teacher, a speaker at many churches, and a contributing writer for several Adventist publications. He loves the outdoors, and has participated in numerous mission trips. “I guess my wish is like many other people’s,” he confided, “and that’s to leave something better for the people behind you. You want to leave a place better than when you got there. The recognition isn’t important; you just want to be able to know that you made a difference and made things better.”

We are so grateful for the years of service and care that Matt Ballard has invested into this church family. Though he has officially retired as grounds manager, you’ll still see him working here a few days a week. Say hi and thank him for the difference he’s made!



ABC’S NEW MANAGER ALSO AN AUTHOR

BY SETH PIERCE

The Oregon Conference is excited to welcome new ABC Manager, Karen Carlton who came from Alaska earlier this summer. This week, Gazette reporter, Seth Pierce had a chance to talk to Karen about coming to the ABC, her book, and what she does in her off-time.

Before becoming our new manager, what was your professional background? – *I’ve been a teacher and school administrator in Adventist schools for the past 17 years. I graduated from Walla Walla with a BA in Business Administration and a M.Ed in Educational Leadership.*

In addition to all you’ve done, you are also an author. Can you tell us about your book *The Lost Kitten and Other Stories of Answered Prayer*? – *I grew up hearing answered prayer stories and wanted to share some of those amazing stories in a book format so that more children and families could be reminded that God is in the business of answering prayers whether it’s a lost kitten, a tornado, or car accident—He is always eager to hear our prayers! I wrote the book as a way for families to connect and talk, then share their own stories as well. Each chapter has a question that families can use to apply the story or connect to their own experiences. I’m working on a second book with more stories for kids. If you have an answered prayer story, I’d love to hear it!*

What would you like our Oregon Adventists to know about the ABC? – *I would love for people to feel like the ABC is a place for resources that will help them grow in their walk with Jesus. I see the ABC as a ministry of our church to our members as well as our community.*

What’s the biggest difference between Alaska and Oregon? – *It’s dark at night in Oregon and it’s much warmer. I also haven’t seen any moose or bears yet in Oregon.*

Finally, when you’re not managing the ABC, what do you like to do? – *I love the mountains and looking for wildlife to take pictures of. Especially bears!*

Stop by the ABC to stock up during the Camp Meeting Sale be sure to welcome Karen while you’re there!



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Gladstone Camp Meeting 2026

Attention church treasurers! The Conference treasury and risk management team will host a Q&A session on Friday at 10:30 am for general treasury and insurance questions, followed by a specific time for answer questions related to the Jewel software suite. Find them in Cascade A in the Holden Center.

Veterans: Everyone is invited to join us in honoring our veterans and their families on Friday afternoon at 2:30 in the Holden Convention Center. Refreshments will be served and fellowship with other veterans and their families will abound.

Ladies: Join us this morning, 10:00 am-12:00 pm, for a special Women's Ministries get-together in the Conference Office Boardroom. We will look at the new song God places in our hearts and how living it out draws others to Jesus and His transforming grace. There will also be food, fun, and prizes! (Space is limited to 50 ladies.)

Union College Alumni Gathering - Alumni, family, and friends of Union College/Union Adventist University are invited for a time of fun, fellowship, food, and a bit of the good ol' Union spirit Sabbath afternoon at 5:00 pm in the Conference Office Board Room. Union reps, Jennifer Rieke Schall '05 and Walteson Souza will be joining us to share how Union is doing.

Tad Worku Concert: Enjoy a concert on Sabbath afternoon at 3:00 pm by Tad Worku. Tad's career has taken a rather unconventional path, yet God has led him to share hope and healing. You will be blessed and inspired by his style of weaving music and story!

Singles Ministry Fellowship Lunch - Bring haystack ingredients for potluck. Beans, olives, plates, cups, napkins, and plasticware will be provided. Join us downstairs in the Holden Center Laurelwood Room after church.

FLOWERSFORSALE!

The hanging baskets in the Garden of Prayer are available for a suggested donation of \$35 this year. The proceeds will go towards the Garden of Prayer.

To buy a basket, simply fill out the tag hanging on the basket (unless it's already been claimed) and bring the tag to the Treasury Building. Once you've donated, bring your tag back to your basket and reattach it. You may take the basket home Saturday evening.

GLADSTONE GAZETTE

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Announcements submitted for publication are not guaranteed inclusion in the Gladstone Gazette and are subject to editing for space, clarity, & suitability.

TODAY	SAB	SUN
		
80°	83°	87°
LOW 55	LOW 56	LOW 59
 0%	 0%	 0%

SMALL ACT, BIG IMPACT



ONE PINT OF BLOOD CAN SAVE UP TO 3 LIVES!

We're super short on blood donors this year! Sign up to give TODAY!

HOLDEN CENTER LOBBY
10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

International Festival

JULY 17 | 3:00-5:00 PM | PLAZA

ENJOY GREAT MUSIC, CONVERSATION, AND SAMPLE FOODS FROM AROUND THE WORLD!

TODAY'S CAFETERIA MENU

Full menu at www.OregonAdventist.org/cafeteria

Breakfast 7:30-8:30AM Biscuits & Gravy O'Brien Potatoes Hot Cereal Cold Cereal Breads & Fruit	Lunch 12:00-1:30PM 4-Cheese Lasanga Roasted Vegetables Garlic Bread Salad Bar	Dinner 5:00-6:15PM Pineapple Fried Rice Stir Fry Salad Bar
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Gluten-free, Dairy-free and vegan options available.

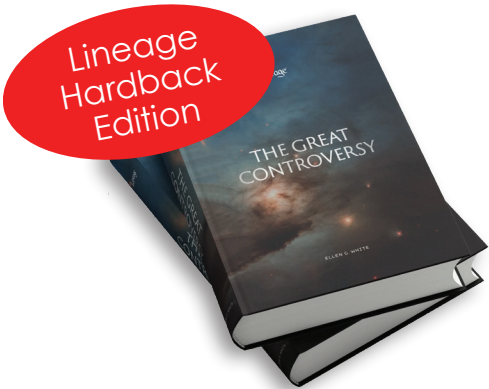
Adventist Book Center's

CAMP MEETING

SALE

Store Hours

Tues.-Thurs. | 9:00 AM to 7:00 PM
Friday | 9:00 AM to 6:30 PM
Sabbath | 9:15 PM to 10:30 PM
Sunday | 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM



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