

# Blaine Thompson Hanks

Pendleton

August 13, 1926-June 16, 2013

Blaine Thompson Hanks was born August 13, 1926, in Twin Falls, Idaho, to parents Blaine Addison Hanks and Terri Pfeifauf Hanks. He died in Pendleton on June 16, 2013, at the age of 86.

When Blaine was about six years old, he moved to Salem with his mother and his sister to live with his grandparents. He graduated from Sacred Heart Academy in Salem and then attended Willamette University for one and a half years, where he met his future wife, Wilma Gorton. They were married in 1947.

While still in school, Blaine worked part-time in an electrical repair shop. In those days, small appliances were not thrown away as they are now, so Blaine repaired hundreds of toasters, irons, coffee pots, radios, etc. Part of his job at this shop was to drive the "sound car." In those pre-television days, he drove through the streets of Salem in a car with a large speaker on top, announcing news flashes and special events. The manager of KSLM, the local radio station, liked the sound of his voice and offered him a job. Blaine worked at KSLM as an announcer and newscaster for about four years. In late 1949, he accepted a job with KMCM in McMinville, where he worked approximately two and a half years.

In 1952, Blaine received a major boost to his career when he was offered a job at KOIN in Portland. He became well-known as an announcer, newscaster, interviewer and host of several live music and variety shows, including KOIN Klock and the "Come and Get It Show."

By this time, Blaine and his wife had three children, so in order to support his growing family, he took on a variety of part-time jobs in addition to his full-time radio job. He taught speech classes at Multnomah Junior College, announced the dog races and the Rose Festival Parade, recorded many commercials for various companies and narrated special events and training films.

When television first came to Portland, KOIN-TV came into being. Blaine did a stint as the TV weatherman and appeared several times on the cooking show. A

high point for the family came when Blaine, Wilma, their five children, their Dachshund Peanuts and their VW bus all appeared in a commercial for the Volkswagen Company.

In 1968, Blaine was recruited by Blue Mountain Community College in Pendleton to start a two-year radio broadcasting program. The family moved to Pendleton in September of 1968 and Blaine developed the curriculum and started the arduous task of setting up an on-campus radio station. Thus, KRBM was born, with only 10



Hanks

watts of power. By 1987, the station had grown to 25,000 watts and covered a large portion of Eastern Oregon. This increase led to a merger with Oregon Public Broadcasting. Although the radio program at BMCC ended in 1992, OPB is still heard on KRBM.

In addition to teaching the classes and managing the station, Blaine also taught speech at Eastern Oregon Correctional Institution, worked with the inmates recording "books on tape" and did commercials and narrations for various agencies and businesses.

Blaine retired in 1992. His special enjoyment after retirement was co-hosting the "Big Band Show" with Butch Thurman every Sunday morning on KUMA for the past 33 years.

Blaine is survived by his wife, Wilma of Pendleton; daughters Nancy Hanks Kroy (Patrick Kroy) of Ojai, Calif., Mary Hanks (Donna Hudson) of Seattle and Carol Hanks (Ken Schulberg) of Pendleton; son Stephen Hanks of Weston, Colo.; sister Rose Anne McClellan of Walla Walla; grandsons Blaine Ryan Hanks of Caldwell, Idaho, and Addison Hanks Schulberg of Pendleton; daughter-in-law Tammy Hanks and her son Mitchell Card of Caldwell, Idaho; and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by a son, David Michael Hanks.

An informal "Celebration of Life" in memory of Blaine will be held on Sunday, July 14, 2013, from 1:00 until 4:00 at the Great Pacific Wine and Coffee Company in Pendleton.

Online condolences may be shared with the family at [www.pioneerchapel.com](http://www.pioneerchapel.com)



**BOARDMAN** — Blast off to north Morrow County as Boardman Thunder offers family activities at Boardman Marina Park.

The event begins Thursday with a pancake feed from 7-10 a.m. (suggested donation of \$4 for kids and \$6 for adults) at the park pavilion and the Thunder Run/Walk with registration at 7 a.m. (\$10 or \$20 with a T-shirt) and the starter's gun at 8 a.m. at 206 N. Main St.

The parade begins lineup at 10 a.m. on Main Street, with a start at 11 a.m.

The fun continues at Boardman Marina Park with kid's games, a horse-shoe tournament and bingo. Bring a hearty appetite, as vendors will offer up a feast as people enjoy park activities.

The talent show, which begins at 3:30 p.m., provides cash prizes. Jason Ropp and the Dragon Theater Puppets will entertain the crowd beginning at 5 p.m. with princess characters, along with crafts, face painting and animal balloons.

Singing hits of the 1950s and 1960s, Tony Madrigal will perform at 7 p.m. The evening will explode at dusk with the Boardman Thunder Fireworks show.

For more information, call 541-481-3014.

**HERMISTON** — The Stars & Stripes Celebration features live music, family games, bouncy houses, face painting, vendors, crafts and a classic car show.

The family fun is Thursday from noon to 10:30 p.m. at Butte Park, 1245 N.W. Seventh St., Hermiston.

Family-friendly competitions include a tug-of-war and sponge relay race. A watermelon smashing contest is at 7 p.m.

Live entertainment includes Jamie Nasario Band at 2 p.m., Big Top the Clown at 5:15 p.m. and Keith Ramsey, a ventriloquist/magician, at 7:45 p.m. The Shades will provide live

music at 6 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.

The park activities are free and will crescendo with fireworks shot from Hermiston Butte.

For a splashing good time, make plans to participate in the Stars & Stripes Pool Party. It runs from 7-10:30 p.m. at the Hermiston Family Aquatic Center, 879 W. Elm Ave. The cost is \$12 for 17 and older, \$8 for ages 2-16 and free for ages 0-2. The event includes swimming, a barbecue and a premiere view of the fireworks show. For more information, call 541-667-5018 or 541-289-7665.

**MILTON-FREEWATER** — An Old-Fashioned Fourth of July Festival is planned Thursday in Milton-Freewater, with most activities at Yantis Park.

The day begins with Firefighters Breakfast from 7-10 a.m. in the parking lot at Henry's Ace Hardware, 175 S. Main St.

A 5k run begins at 8:30 a.m. and supports Operation Home Front. The Kid's Patriotic Parade starts at 10 a.m. Grab your red, white and blue, and dress up the kids — with a winner chosen as the most patriotically dressed.

The public is invited to bring a picnic and hang out in the park. Ice cream will be available, and old-fashioned games, including three-legged races and water balloon toss.

Stage programming begins at 3 p.m. Anyone interested in sharing a special song or speech can call Gerry Seagrave at 541-938-3731. For parade or 5k details, call Sharame Marlatt at 541-938-8235.

**PENDLETON** — In its second Fourth of July extravaganza, Pendleton's activities kick off Wednesday with all things rodeo — free barrel racing at noon and PBR (\$25-45) at 7:30 p.m., which also includes the PGG Mutton Bustin' ac-

\* See the community page for Fourth of July events occurring Wednesday and Thursday

**TUESDAY, JULY 2**

**TERRIFICALLY FREE TUESDAY**, all day, Children's Museum of Eastern Oregon, 400 S. Main St., Pendleton. Free admission all day. (541-276-1066).

**PRESCHOOL STORY TIME**, 10:30-11 a.m., Stanfield Public Library, 180 W. Coe Ave. (541-449-1254).

**HOMEBUYERS WORKSHOP**, 6-7 p.m., Wells Fargo Home Mortgage, 130 N.E. Second St.,

Wildhorse Blvd. (off Highway 331 near Wildhorse Resort & Casino), Pendleton. Free admission all day. (541-966-9748).

**HEPPNER FARMERS MARKET**, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Heppner City Park. Food, craft and garden vendors.

**STORY TIME**, 10:15-11 a.m., Hermiston Public Library, 235 E. Gladys Ave., Hermiston. (541-567-2882).

**TODDLER STORY TIME**, 10:15-10:45 a.m., Pendleton Public Library, 502 S.W. Dorion Ave., Pendleton. (541-966-0380).

**PENDLETON FARMERS MARKET**, 4 p.m. to dusk, 300 block