

# Stanfield celebrates its annual Fourth of July bash

By JAYATI RAMAKRISHNAN  
East Oregonian

Stanfield residents didn't mind getting up early on a holiday for one of the city's traditions: the annual Fourth of July celebration at Bard Park.

Many came decked out in patriotic colors and celebrated the nation's birthday by being with their family and friends, and participating in events many locals have come to look forward to each year.

By 8 a.m., the 3-on-3 bas-

ketball tournament was in full swing, drawing a crowd that grew for the parade later that morning, and other activities like a footrace and a pie contest.

"I've been doing this 30 years, and it's been going on longer than that," said Scott Morris, a city of Stanfield employee, of the event.

Stanfield's main street was lined with families eagerly awaiting the floats in the parade, and children scattering to collect the candy that accompanied it. This year, parade entrants included a homemade Bat-



Staff photo by Jayati Ramakrishnan  
**Children scatter to pick up candy tossed from the Echo Fire Department float at the Stanfield Fourth of July parade.**

mobile, horses and riders from the "Glory Riders of Oregon," and a Stanfield Library float.

Gurpal Singh, owner of Stanfield's Center Market, stood at the sidelines handing out free water and corn dogs to parade participants.

"It's always the best," he said of the parade. "Every year we do this."

Daniel and Lacey Sharp have organized the 3-on-3 tournament for the last 10 years.

"We've topped out at 34 or 35 teams," Daniel Sharp said, adding that most years

there are at least 30 teams.

Lacey Sharp said many teams come down from the Tri-Cities, and that winners of the contest receive gift certificates to local restaurants.

Rose Johnsonglen of Umatilla came to the Stanfield celebration for the first time this year, invited by her relatives who were having a barbecue.

She said her favorite part of the holiday is getting everyone together.

"It's where family and friends can meet up and enjoy everybody," she said.

## PARADE: 'Nobody should forget why this is important ... what started it'

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ing out turf at Aaron's, 2225 S.W. Court Place, to watch the nearby fireworks show.

"I really hope everyone realizes why we're having a fireworks show this year," she said. "Max Driskell's little boy."

That boy, Pendleton mid-

dle school student Devan Driskell, worked with Rotarian Jerry Imsland to raise more than \$10,000 to deliver a big show this year after there was no public show last Fourth. Devan rode in the parade with Imsland while Max Driskell was among the throng watching.

The elder Driskell said the

parade and fireworks display are good community bonders, but there is room for more.

"I think it's important to get the community together like when we were kids," he said.

Driskell recalled Pendleton's day-long celebrations of the Fourth some years ago at Community Park, which

ended with family and friends stretching out on blankets and lawn chairs to gape at the fireworks show overhead.

Fire safety concerns ended those shows, but Driskell said maybe someone could help next year to create that kind of get-together.

His friend Tim Clark agreed. The Fourth should

be about community, he said. Clark said he saw the parade as an educational opportunity.

He brought his daughter and her friend downtown and asked them why Pendleton was having a parade. They gave all sorts of answers, he said, from getting candy to the Pendleton Round-Up. He said he set them straight.

"It's about Independence Day and why that matters," he said.

Baird, a member of the National Guard, said that's the kind of thinking he is on board with.

"Nobody should forget why this is important," he said. "Nobody should forget what started it."



Left: A group of children wait for candy to be thrown their way while watching the Fourth of July Parade on Wednesday in Pendleton. Right: Happy Canyon director Kenzie Hansell, center, throws a handful of Tootsie Rolls into the air while riding in the Fourth of July parade on Wednesday in Pendleton.



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

## PERDUE: Optimistic about passing new Farm Bill

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tographs, Perdue focused his comments first on the administration's looming trade war with China. Starting Friday, the U.S. is set to impose a 25 percent tariff on roughly \$50 billion worth of Chinese goods. In turn, China has pledged retaliatory tariffs on 545 American products — especially targeting agriculture.

As one farmer pointed out, cash bids for hard red winter wheat have dropped from around \$7 per bushel to \$6 per bushel amid the turmoil. Between 85-90 percent of Oregon wheat is exported overseas.

"I'm well aware of what percentage of crop here in the Northwest goes overseas," Perdue said. "We are mindful of that, not only in your wheat crop but in your specialty crops."

Perdue added that U.S. soybeans have taken a 20 percent hit over the last few weeks. Other farm imports subject to increased Chinese tariffs include everything from fresh fruit to beef and pork.

Perdue said the USDA is working on "some sort of compensatory mitigation strategy" for farmers, but did not offer specifics.

"(Trump) knows that you all are great patriots. He knows that you stand behind him when he calls out China for cheating for years," Perdue said. "But he also knows the bank is going to need more than patriotism to pay the bills."

Perdue said he is more optimistic about passing a new Farm Bill before the

current package expires Oct. 1. Both the House and Senate have passed their own versions of the bill, and though there are differences between the two, Perdue said he believes they can be resolved.

Sherman County farmers also spoke up for changes in regulations they would like to see, including provisions in the National Organic Program requiring organic farmers to comply with all state and local weed ordinances.

That request stems from an incident last year between Azure Farms, a 2,000-acre organic operation near Moro and neighboring wheat farms. Growers had complained for years about weeds blowing into their fields from Azure Farms, prompting the county to intervene.

Alan von Borstel, a wheat farmer near Grass Valley and vice president of the Oregon Wheat Growers League, asked Perdue about the USDA Transition Incentives Program, which is designed to help new farmers get started while also taking land out of the Conservation Reserve Program, or CRP, and putting it back into production.

The program works by paying retiring farmers or ranchers two more years on their CRP contracts, on the condition they sell or rent the land to a beginning grower — someone who has not been a farm or ranch operator for more than 10 years.

However, the transition cannot be made between direct family members, such as father to son, which von



Staff photo by E.J. Harris  
**Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue shakes hands with Moro wheat farmer Bryan Cranston on Tuesday during a visit to a farm outside of Rufus.**

Borstel criticized as being discriminatory.

"They want these guys to succeed, yet they build this kind of wall between family members," von Borstel said.

Logan Padgett, a neighboring Grass Valley wheat farmer and member of the Oregon Farm Bureau's Young Farmers & Ranchers committee, said he got his start in farming thanks to the Transition Incentives Program, taking on a neighbor's former CRP ground.

The program is a valuable risk management tool, Padgett said, especially since it takes two years for a grower to harvest that first wheat crop in a dryland fallow rotation.

"I'd like to see that same opportunity if it arose with my own family," Padgett said.

For his part, Perdue said he is not convinced the program's rules are discriminatory, but would be open to further discussions.

Jenny Freeborn, whose family farms in the mid-Wil-

lamette Valley, said she would like to see more of a safety net to accommodate Oregon's diverse specialty crops.

"How you do that, I don't know," said Freeborn, chairwoman of the Oregon Young Farmers & Ranchers. "But I do know, as a member of a family farm, I've barely followed the Farm Bill at times because it's not going to have an impact on our farm."

Perdue said it is his job to make sure these ideas and concerns are heard back in Washington, D.C.

"I'm not (Henry) Kissinger, but I want to be an unapologetic advocate for American agriculture, farmers and ranchers to the president's administration," he said.

Later on Tuesday, Perdue visited the site of the Eagle Creek fire in the Columbia River Gorge with Walden, Oregon Gov. Kate Brown and local officials. His tour wraps up Thursday in Alaska with Republican Sen. Lisa Murkowski.

## WYATT: Started working with the Forest Service 28 years ago

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nothing." made a huge impact on all of us."

Oregon State Police completed its end of investigating the collision that claimed Ann's life.

Lt. Mike Turner, commander of state police in Pendleton, said troopers assisted the Umatilla Tribal Police Department with investigating the crash. Rather than a full crash reconstruction, he said, state police created a diagram and sent that to tribal police.

Chuck Sams, communications director for the Confederated Tribes, said he was not aware of any update on the crash investigation from tribal police.

Turner said he would not be surprised if tribal police were continuing to investigate. The crash was fatal, so he said police have to treat it like a criminal investigation. He said he has seen cases like this take a month.

Ann was born Ann Hordynski on Feb. 1, 1956, in Surrey, England. In addition to her husband, she is survived by son Michael Barz, daughter Rebecca Canalez, and brother Stephen Hordynski, all in Southern California. Michael said his mom was always athletic and loved life. Typical Saturday mornings as a teen growing up in Big Bear, California, included him and his mom bicycling "100, 125 miles like it was

nothing."

His mom began with the Forest Service 28 years ago in Big Bear on a trail crew and fought wildfires. He said some of her old colleagues recalled at her recent memorial service how she and a good friend outworked the younger men on the fire line with nothing more for lunch than a Jolly Rancher.

Ann moved four years ago to Flagstaff, Arizona, on the Coconino National Forest. She headed north about a year later to John Day on the Malheur National Forest and then to Pendleton on the Umatilla National Forest. Michael said he heard from her friends in Eastern Oregon about how she touched their lives, even in the brief time she was here.

They felt an instant connection with his mom, he said, and that sounded right because that was who she was.

Michael, a police officer in Los Angeles for the last 20 years, also supports the memorial ride. He said he has spoken with state and tribal police. The location where his mom died has no obstacles to block the view, he said. Maybe the ride could raise awareness about sharing the road, maybe make a difference in one person's life, maybe make the road safer, he said.

He said his mom would be for that as well.

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