

ASSAULT: Fenton received 23 stitches, may need facial surgery

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he grabbed one attacker’s leg and brought him to the ground. That man produced a knife. Fenton said he struggled with the man, pinned his hand and managed to scurry under a trailer to escape.

Roberts said police have a different version of the event. He said it appears Fenton caused a disturbance and “was sent out” from the arena, but returned. When he did, he bumped into a biker.

“This guy started thumping him,” Roberts said. “And all his buddies put the boots to him.”

Roberts said a lone security officer jumped into the melee and someone else pulled Fenton under a trailer to safety.

John Fenton, Riven’s father, said Mills tried to intervene, but some bikers hauled him outside the arena where he pulled out a pocket knife and kept them at bay. The men shut the gate and kept out Mills. John Fenton also said he did not witness the assault, which took place near the front of the stage, but pieced together what happened from talking to Riven and others.

Jeff Bob of Beaverton said he and his wife had a view of the clash and that Riven Fenton started it.

Fenton looked drunk, Bob said, and got into a hassle with bikers, who were “pretty professional” in how they escorted Fenton and

his friend from the area. He said the bikers ambled back toward the stage, and Fenton barreled toward the group and “flailed away” at them. He landed some good shots before the men took him to the ground and Fenton rolled under the trailer.

“It was like a magic act and he disappeared,” Bob said.

Riven Fenton said he came out from under the trailer, saw security staff and bolted through the back doors of the convention center. He said he hurried through the hallway to the restrooms in the front. He was bleeding, he said, and wanted to clean up.

Moments later, four bikers strode into the restroom, ready to continue the beating. Riven said he asked them if they didn’t think the first beating was enough.

Others also rushed in, he said, including the man who tried to stop the attack earlier. Faced with new opposition, the bikers backed off.

Mere moments later, he said, Pendleton police officer Chase Addleman filled the door frame. Fenton said Addleman might have brushed shoulders with the men who carried out the assault.

Police Chief Roberts expressed frustration that no one who saw or knew anything called 911.

Roberts said convention center manager Pat Beard received a phone call Saturday night from a friend who

witnessed the assault. Beard in turn called an off-duty Pendleton police lieutenant, who then called the on-duty supervisor who then sent officers to the venue. That inefficient phone tree, Roberts said, cost valuable time. Police did not show up at the scene until about 30 minutes after the assault.

Roberts said Riven Fenton was unable to tell officers how many men attacked him or what any looked like — “other than there was a lot of leather.”

John Fenton said the ambulance arrived and rushed his son to St. Anthony Hospital, Pendleton, which transferred him to Providence St. Mary Medical Center, Walla Walla, because of his injuries. Doctors stitched the cuts in his face and wanted him to stay overnight, John Fenton said, but his son wanted to be home in Pendleton.

A bruised Riven Fenton said Monday that his whole body aches. He goes back to the doctor Friday to find out if he needs some facial reconstruction and to remove the 23 stitches in his head.

Police started investigating that night, but Roberts said officers had to “deal with a whole bunch of garbage” because everyone they spoke to did not cooperate with police. Roberts said that included event volunteer Al “Capone” Rafferty of Hermiston, who is president of the new Brotherhood United

Motorcycle Association and has been a representative for Bike Week. Roberts said the police supervisor had to get nose to nose with Rafferty before he would say anything.

Rafferty on Monday morning said he was working and could not talk until later in the afternoon. But Bike Week organizers Brandon Packman and Eric Folkestad said Rafferty does not speak for Bike Week and is not an employee of the company, which is cooperating with police and working to provide video and photographs in hopes of identifying suspects.

Folkestad said he was in the stands and noticed a “tussle” near the stage as Foghat was playing “Slow Ride.” He said Bike Week paid Rovers Security to take care of such issues and security moved the fracas outside the venue. Yet he emphasized he did not see or know what really happened. He said he did not know anyone was injured.

“We want to have a full investigation to make sure it was an isolated incident and figure out what else happened,” Folkestad said. “But we do really appreciate the Pendleton Police Department and first responders, of course.”

Folkestad also urged others who know anything to contact police.

Roberts said police gathered information pointing to the Badgers MC Brother-

“There will be conversations about that venue, that facility, that event.”

— Stuart Roberts, Pendleton Police Chief

hood out of Albany as being involved in the fight. The group left the convention center right after the attack and police tracked them to Crabby’s Underground Saloon and Dance Hall, 220 S.W. First St., Pendleton.

“They refused to even acknowledge the officers,” Roberts said.

That left police to take down vehicle information and obtain driver’s license photos from the state motor vehicles division. The investigation remains stuck in the mud of biker silence.

But Roberts said he is going talk with Beard, Rafferty and Folkestad.

“I guarantee you there will be conversations about that venue, that facility, that event,” he said.

The police chief also said Oregon law is part of the problem with these big events. A certain number of security staff must have the proper credentials, he said, but vendors can supplement those with staff who have no security experience.

Bike Week, which con-

cluded its fourth year Sunday, has had “minor hiccups in the past,” Roberts continued, and resolved those internally without involving police. But the department won’t tolerate a situation where organizers cause problems for police and people involved just take off without cooperating. He said when these situations arise he expects someone will be there to answer questions and they will be sober. And if no one wanted to call police, he said, they should have clearly called for medical attention.

“None of that happened,” Roberts said.

Shutting down Bike Week is not the point, he said. Most of the people attending are not members of outlaw motorcycle clubs, but he said Bike Week has that element and does not need it.

“Its been a balancing act to this point,” he said. “But I’m done.”

Bob said he and his wife attended all four days of Bike Week and had a great time. The fight was the only blemish, he said, and bikers were not blame. He said he hopes the event continues.

John Fenton said he is over Bike Week. He blamed the organizers for what happened to his son and said he is considering a lawsuit.

But Riven Fenton said he didn’t blame the annual gathering. He said the event has been a boon to the community and he blamed just one group of attendees.



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Samantha Hernandez, Ilana Castillo and Victoria Erevia-Garcia work on making a Mexican vegetable-beef skillet Thursday during a family cooking class for the OSU Extension Service’s nutrition education program in Hermiston.

FOOD: Encouraging the whole family to join in

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care,” Treadwell said.

She noted that scientific research has shown that eating a healthy amount of vegetables can help prevent, and even address, common diseases.

For the “Fruits and Vegetables for Families” program, people were screened for food insecurity, and had to qualify in one of three areas: meeting CDC guidelines for obesity, or being diagnosed by a healthcare provider with diabetes or hypertension. Those who qualify are asked to come to at least four cooking classes, and get a bag of fresh produce to take home with each class. Classes are funded by an \$85,000 grant from Eastern Oregon Coordinated Care Organization. In June, 122 people attended one of the six classes offered.

Though the classes target women and children, Treadwell said they encourage the whole family to join in.

Silvia Castillo came to Thursday’s class with her children.

“I am not big on cooking,” she said. “But as a family we had lots of fun.”

As she grated carrots, her son made dressing and her daughter chopped tomatoes. She said she plans to come back for other classes, and hopes to cook more at home with her kids.

Victoria Erevia-Garcia stirred brown rice into the

vegetable-beef skillet.

She said she loves to cook and has done it for years. But the class introduced her to some new things. She’d never cooked with squash before, and wasn’t used to cooking with carrots.

“I’m diabetic, so it helps me learn what to do,” she said of the class. “Maybe it will help me get rid of my diabetes as well.”

In another room, Head Start employees arranged bags stuffed with fresh produce including zucchini, potatoes, carrots and cantaloupe.

Treadwell said most of their produce is donated from CAPECO, and they supplement it with products from local growers.

“We’ve been budgeting about \$40 per month per family, but we’ve been coming in under that,” she said.

Treadwell also showed people how to use the WIC shopper app, which connects them to a monthly newsletter and recipes. They can search for recipes using specific vegetables or different types of meals.

Selene Rosas, a Head Start Health Resource Specialist, said many families are initially hesitant to come when they’re first contacted about the class, but reception has been positive.

“Once they’re here and hands-on, making a meal, they want to come back,” she said.

BIKE: Chance to meet riders from afar

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stretch of pavement runs through Shelton Wayside on the John Day Highway as a memorial for fallen riders from all across the country.

Future plans, Markusen said, include a visitor’s center featuring computerized indexing of those remembered. Visitors will be able to access a computer database that features photographs of the fallen riders and information about who they were. There is no charge, Markusen said, to have a brick placed in memory of a fallen rider. The association seeks donations from riders, riding groups, businesses and others to provide funds needed to honor individual riders.

A group of Blue Mountain Community College volleyball players took advantage of the crowds and offered a bike wash throughout the week. Clad in black event tank tops, members of the team soaped up and rinsed off motorcycles five hours a day Wednesday through Friday and eight hours on Saturday.

With no set price for their services, Nicole Warren, a BMCC freshman who graduated from Clackamas



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Who needs leathers? A motorcyclist keeps cool during Pendleton Bike Week.

High School, said donations will go toward team travel expenses. In addition to raising money, Warren and fellow BMCC freshman

Emily Beebe, a graduate of Oregon City High School, said the event has provided an opportunity for further bonding.

“Being together as a team has been really fun,” Beebe said.

In addition, they’ve enjoyed meeting bikers who traveled to the event from across the region and beyond. And, for the most part, Warren said the bikers are happy to have their rides shined up.

“Some of them want a certain soap, but they’ve been great,” she said.

Straddling his 2018 Harley-Davidson Softail Heritage, Richard Brittain was all smiles during the event. Although there’s plenty of room on the Umatilla man’s bike for his wife Kathy, she prefers to hop into her F-150 pickup for the journey.

“I follow them,” she said. “Those guys like to take day trips and sometimes they like doing poker runs and the Echo Toy Run. They ride and I just follow along.”

Pendleton Bike Week, Richard Brittain said, is always a must attend.

“I like all the vendors, but mostly the brotherhood,” he said.

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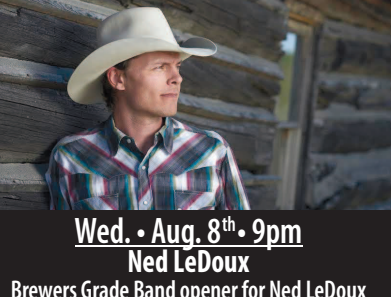
Thurs. • Aug. 9th • 9pm
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