

Bike: Gangster-themed bike steals the show at Bike Week

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tions and talk to me about it," Dillinger said of his one-of-a-kind 2013 Harley-Davidson street glide. "I kept telling them, 'Just come into the show!'"

With two large tail bags on either side of the bike's back and a 30-inch wheel at the front, it's easy to see how it stands out to onlookers. But what truly sets Dillinger's bike apart from the rest is what covers the rest of it. With a black base color, the bike is expertly designed with portraits and art of the Americas' most notorious gangsters, such as Jesse James, Pablo Escobar, and most notably — John Dillinger.

John Dillinger was an American gangster that operated during the early 1930s with what was known as "The Dillinger Gang." In total, Dillinger and his gang were accused of robbing 24 banks and four police stations along with a number of other crimes.

The aesthetic was an easy choice for Chad Dillinger, who's always been associated with and interested in the stories and legends of the infamous criminal thanks to his last name. Dillinger said it just made sense for him to purchase the bike in Florida when he



This gangster-themed Harley bike belonging to Chad and Tamber Dillinger was displayed during last week's Pendleton Bike Week at the Pendleton Convention Center.

Staff photo by Kathy Aney

found it at a custom dealer.

Along with the black and white art of the bike, there's a batwing shape around it's front light that Dillinger said is also a one-of-a-kind piece.

Once he got the bike placed near the center of the convention center, the crowds of people interested in it didn't abate. The sixth

bike to be staged yet that morning, nobody passed it by whose eyes didn't wander and make them stop at least momentarily for a longer inspection.

None of which is new to Dillinger.

"I can't go anywhere without people stopping me," he said, laughing.

Dillinger owns two

other bikes, both of which have tail bags like his 2013 street glide, though neither has the 30-inch front wheel. He and his wife, Tamber, came to their first Bike Week from Battleground, Washington, after he heard of the event on a motorcycle forum called cyclefish.com.

While Dillinger said

that he rides the bike all the time, his prized bike was seemingly spotless at Saturday's show.

"It's a lot of shining and upkeep in the shop," he said. "It takes a lot of elbow grease."

Just to properly clean the 30-inch wheel Dillinger said it takes about an hour on each side of it.

When he's not riding or caring for his bike, Dillinger runs a construction company in Battleground. But he and his wife often climb onto the back of one of his bikes together and escape when they can.

"She's more excited to ride the bike than I am usually," Chad said, laughing.

Though she doesn't ride any bikes herself, Tamber has fully embraced her husband's hobby and joined in.

"I love everything about it," she said. "No cellphone, the scenery, I just love it. And I really love the biker community."

The Dillingers had plenty of opportunities to converse with and experience the biker community in Pendleton on Saturday. Even as more and more bikes were set up within the convention center, the largest crowd could almost always be found around Dillinger's gangster bike.

When they weren't at the convention center taking in Bike Week's festivities, the Dillingers enjoyed some time dining and gambling at the Wildhorse Casino & Resort at the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation. All in all, the couples first trip to Pendleton and Bike Week left an impression on them.

"We'll definitely be back," Chad said.

Housing: Stanfield to break ground on affordable housing development next spring

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puter lab and recreational space for private events.

"It was the addition of the community center with Headstart that put us over the top," Stradley said.

A resident services manager will provide residents with referrals for child and health care, as well as workforce development.

It can be more difficult, Stradley said, for rural affordable housing to land near services like child care and health care, which makes a funding application more likely to pass.

"Other areas get more points for the availability of services," he said.

Originally, the development was set to include 53 apartments, rather than the 40 single-family homes. But because most verified contractors who build apartments come from more metropolitan areas — Portland, Salem and Medford, for instance — details like lodging for the contractors can make building apartments more costly, Stradley said.

Stradley said the switch shaved \$4 million off the application for funding.

"We're able to provide a



Staff photo by Ben Lonergan

A vacant parcel of land along Highway 395 in Stanfield will soon be home to a 40-home federally funded housing development called Patriot Heights.

lot to our tenants, but we've worked with a developer to keep costs low," Stradley said.

Stradley said Patriot Heights will be the first affordability-focused development in Stanfield.

City clerk and interim city manager of Stanfield Sandy Endicott said she was unsure how the development will compare to previous developments in Stanfield.

"This will definitely be a

much needed addition to our housing," she said.

In 2018, Oregon Housing and Community Services released a five-year plan looking to improve housing prospects for Oregonians. One of the goals is to increase OHCS-funded housing developments in rural areas by 75%.

The plan states that small towns and rural communities face unique housing challenges, including

low house and rental prices failing to cover construction costs, lack of funding for small-scale projects and lack of suitable land for development.

According to the Oregon Housing Alliance, one in six renters in Umatilla County pay over half of their income to rent. For every 100 families with "extremely low" incomes, there are only 32 affordable housing units available.

Newspaper: EO Media Group submits high bid for Bend Bulletin

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District Court.

"We would be foolish to think we're the only party that can be successful next week," Wright said.

One other company, Adams Publishing Group, also bid on the Central Oregon newspapers.

"We think it's a good product and a good community with a great reputation," said Eric Johnson, western division president for Adams, which owns the *Herald & News* in Klamath Falls and *Lake County Examiner* in Lakeview. "We think it fits well with the Adams footprint."

Adams owns 27 daily and 100 non-daily newspapers across the country. CEO Mark Adams started the publishing company in 2013 and began acquiring newspapers the following year. Members of the Adams family also own billboard, radio, wine and recreational vehicle businesses.

EO Media Group has been publishing newspapers since 1905. The company recently bought two other Western Communications newspapers, the

Baker City Herald and *The Observer* in La Grande, out of bankruptcy.

"There are a lot of reasons this makes sense for our company," Wright said of acquiring the *Bulletin*.

EO Media Group's offer includes the Bend printing press at 1777 S.W. Chandler Ave. The press would be removed from the building within 90 days, according to a proposed lease agreement filed with the court. Wright said she doesn't know yet where the press would move.

Rhode Island Suburban Newspapers has also acquired a former Western Communications publication, the *Union Democrat* in Sonora, California, out of bankruptcy. RISN offered \$1.15 million for the newspaper and its downtown office building.

EO Media Group would deliver offers of employment to identified employees no later than five business days before the deal closes, according to an asset purchase agreement filed in court. The closing date will be no later than five days after the court enters an order of sale.

Security: Unlike last year's fight Bike Week wrapped up with no major incidents

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fizzled out.

"By the time we got the call and got down there, they already left," Roberts said.

Folkestad said security was tighter this year, and other changes also benefited an event that is becoming a summer staple in Pendleton. One of the more significant differences, he said, was moving the Saturday night closing concert from the Happy Canyon arena to a parking area on the west side of the Pendleton Convention Center.

"You could roam around and see the vendors while the concert was going on," he said. "So more of a festival feel. We thought we'd try that, and I think it went pretty well."

Folkestad said he didn't have registration or attendance figures available off-hand but perhaps 2,000 people attended the concert, and Bike Week revenue looked to be up 5% over

last year. The new Ride with the Raiders memorial ceremony for the Doolittle Raiders also proved a success, with hundreds of bikers turning out.

"That was more motorcycles than we've ever had on the first day," he said.

And 97 out of 106 participants finished the Rattlesnake 400, the 400-mile ride through Oregon, Idaho and Washington. Folkestad said he ran the math, and in the span of 12 hours the 106 Rattlesnake riders racked up 42,400 miles, about 1.7 times the circumference of the earth.

Folkestad is among the finishers. He said Monday he was recuperating from another invigorating Bike Week.

Local law enforcement are getting a bit of down time as July's three biggest events — The Fourth of July, Pendleton Music Whisky Fest and Bike Week — are done. Roberts said some of his officers are going to take some vacation but the department is



A biker roars onto the tarmac at the Eastern Oregon Regional Airport during Wednesday's "Ride with the Raiders" event that was part of Pendleton Bike Week.

Staff photo by Kathy Aney

in full-on planning mode for Round-Up.

But the department

also is feeling the pinch from losing two officers in recent months.

JD Lambert was a member of the SWAT team and left in May

to work for the Umatilla County Community Justice Department, which handles parole, probation and related programs. And Sgt. Paul Wolverton moved over to the fill an opening with the Umatilla County Sheriff's Office.

Lambert left for a job that allows him to spend more time with his family, Roberts said, and Wolverton will work out of Hermiston, where he lives. The police chief said the moves make good sense for both men. And now the department is working to find their replacements.

Roberts said back in the 1990s and 2000s, a department opening might result in as many as a 100 applicants, and certainly 60-70 was par.

"But when you're getting 10 or 11," he said, "then finding qualified applicants is tougher."

He added this is not just a problem for Pendleton but a problem affecting law enforcement agencies from the small to the large.