



S. John Collins / Baker City Herald, File

Bicycle racers compete in the criterium in downtown Baker City during the 2016 Cycling Classic.

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Former Baker City resident Jason Hardrath, second from left, competed in the 2016 Cycling Classic in Baker City.

BICYCLES

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The event features four stages stretched across three days: a road race on Friday, June 25, a time trial and Criterium on Saturday, and a final road race that ends at Anthony Lakes on Sunday.

Registration opened Wednesday, April 7. Cimmiyotti said many riders — about 100 registered for the 2020 race — rolled their entry fees to 2021.

“It’s an awesome race. I just want to keep it going.”

—Brian Cimmiyotti, director, Baker City Cycling Classic

“Most of them didn’t request a refund,” he said.

He’s still working out logistics, but hopes to put on a similar race that has happened every year (except 2020) since 2001.

“We can do it in a modified way, but my goal is to put on the race people expect,” he said. “It’s the hardest stage race.

There’s nothing like it. That’s the draw.”

Fields are limited to 100 racers but have never filled, he said. Several draw only 20 or 30 entrants.

Packet pickup will likely look different, with face coverings required and a one-way entry and exit.

“You handle it just like a

grocery store,” he said.

Cimmiyotti lives in Umatilla and helps run his family’s bicycle shops — one in Hermiston, one in Kennewick, Washington. He said he’s well accustomed to the health guidelines.

He’s also not a stranger to bike races — he put on the Echo Red 2 Red mountain bike race a few weeks ago.

Cimmiyotti participated in the Baker City race four or five times in its early years.

When Brian Vegter, the former BCCC director, told the Oregon Bicycle Racing Association he was ready to hand the reins to someone else, OBRA contacted Cimmiyotti. He agreed to be director.

“It’s an awesome race. I just want to keep it going,” he said.

Although late June is officially summer, he knows from experience that Eastern Oregon weather can throw a curveball — he raced the year it snowed.

“The hardest thing about bike racing is you can’t control the weather,” he said. “You set the date and hope the weather is good.”

Registration information is available on the website, www.bakercitycyclingclassic.com. Entry is \$180 through May 5, then increases to \$225. Registration closes June 23.

Information is also posted on the Facebook page for Baker City Cycling Classic.

Legislative committee approves police reform bills

By Andrew Selsky
Associated Press

SALEM — Republicans and Democrats on the Oregon House Judiciary Committee unanimously approved almost a dozen bills on police reform, a show of bipartisan unity in a Legislature that has been bitterly divided.

The bills approved Tuesday evening, April 6, involve regulating use of tear gas, requiring a publicly accessible database that names officers disciplined for misconduct, and limiting arbitrators’ decisions on officers’ misconduct cases.

Gov. Kate Brown congratulated the committee for pushing forward

so many reforms in the wake of the death of George Floyd last May in Minneapolis. Black Lives Matter demonstrations were held in cities across Oregon after Floyd died in police custody. In Portland, protests went on for more than 100 straight days.

“During this past year, more than ever, we’ve seen Oregonians, urban and rural, standing up to make their voices heard in calling for racial justice and police accountability — even in the middle of a pandemic — because the need for change is so pressing,” Brown said.

Sandy Chung, executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union

of Oregon, said the committee’s action represents “important, bipartisan steps to make necessary reforms for Oregon communities.”

Rep. Christine Drazan, the Republican leader in the House, came on as a guest speaker to praise the committee for its bipartisan cooperation. Over many weeks, the committee’s six Democrats and four Republicans had debated and heard public testimony on the bills. They also hammered out dozens of amendments.

The committee then proceeded to unanimously approve nine police reform bills. Another bill, requiring police to be trained in airway and circulatory anatomy and physiology,

was unanimously passed on April 1.

The bills, which go to the House floor for a vote or to the Ways and Means Committee for funding, would, among other things:

- Set the groundwork for equity training as part of basic training for police officers, and add at least one member from a marginalized or historically underrepresented community to the Board on Public Safety Standards and Training.
- Regulate use of chemical agents, impact projectiles and sound devices by law enforcement.
- Have the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission establish a detailed statewide database on

use of physical force by police and deaths in custody. The database must be searchable and available to the public.

- Require the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training to create a uniform background checklist for law enforcement agencies to use when hiring, and to include applicant’s tendencies and opinions toward diverse cultures and races.

- Require police working in crowd management to have identifying information on uniforms or tactical helmets, either their first initial and last name or a unique identifier assigned by the officer’s law enforcement agency.

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