

Oregon, Washington to sue over family separations

States to challenge Trump's executive order

By LAUREN DAKE and CONRAD WILSON
Oregon Public Broadcasting

Washington State Attorney General Bob Ferguson and Oregon Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum plan to sue the Trump administration to ensure children who were separated from their parents at the U.S.-Mexico border are reunited.

After intense political pressure, President Donald Trump signed an executive order Wednesday that ends the separation of families by placing parents and children together in detention centers together.

But the Democratic attorneys general said the president's move doesn't go far enough.

"The president's order says that children will be held with parents 'indefinitely,' but where? Children certainly do not belong behind bars — even with their parents," Rosenblum said in a statement.

The multistate lawsuit is expected to be filed as early as next week.

The debate over the Trump administration's practice of separating children from their parents has infiltrated politics at every level. The public outrage has also prompted the two candidates vying for Oregon's top job to call for the reunification of families and an end to what they both consider an inhumane practice.

On Thursday, Gov. Kate Brown took on a familiar role, blasting the Trump administration for what she called the president's "reign of terror."



Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

Elk graze at the state-run Jewell Meadows Wildlife Area. An experimental fence on private property next door could become a way to manage herd movements and reduce human-elk conflicts.

PROTOTYPE FENCES COULD KEEP ELK AT BAY

"THE PRESIDENT'S ORDER SAYS THAT CHILDREN WILL BE HELD WITH PARENTS 'INDEFINITELY,' BUT WHERE? CHILDREN CERTAINLY DO NOT BELONG BEHIND BARS — EVEN WITH THEIR PARENTS."

Ellen Rosenblum | Oregon attorney general

"We've heard small children crying out for their parents and relatives. Crying out for comfort, love and safety. It's appalling to me that these children are being used as political pawns by the White House," Brown said. "And it's abhorrent that the president should promote his executive order as some sort of victory. This shouldn't happen here."

Brown said she's still hoping to receive more information from the federal government as to how many children separated from their parents are in Oregon and where they are located.

"As you know, we have four youth here in Oregon that we are aware of," Brown said. "We are working very hard to find out if there are any additional children or babies in the state of Oregon. We want to make sure they are safe and we want to make sure they have adequate services."

Her GOP opponent in the gubernatorial race, state Rep. Knute Buehler, also called on Trump early to end the zero tolerance policy of splitting families, calling it "un-American."

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Double design might make elk reconsider

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ
The Daily Astorian

When it comes to keeping elk out of gardens, backyards, fields or golf courses, North Coast residents have a couple of options.

They can barricade themselves behind tall sturdy fences elk won't jump and can't push over. Maybe they startle the elk away with lights or sounds, techniques that usually have a short shelf life as the animals, like horror movie fans, get used to the scare tactics. Or maybe they just move to a land free of these large, determined creatures.

But with growing concerns about conflicts between elk and people in cities like Gearhart and Warrenton, state wildlife biologists are working on another option: Double fences.

The system consists of two short, wooden post-and-plank fences spaced about 3 feet apart and parallel to each other, with lines of barbed wire running down the track between them; the type of barrier biologists hope might make an elk pause and reconsider.

As far as wildlife officials can tell, double fences have never been used to manage elk movements before. The only studies they found addressed regular-sized deer in Ontario, Canada, and extra-large red deer in Scotland. But a deer is whole different kind of



Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

A new type of fence built near Jewell is designed to ward off elk.

'SO FAR THEY SEEM TO BE AVOIDING IT ALL TOGETHER.'

Herman Biederbeck | biologist with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

critter, wildlife biologists say.

"We just decided, well, if nobody's done any work on this, we're just going to build an experimental fence prototype," said Herman Biederbeck, biologist with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

The state installed a double-fence segment on a rancher's land off Highway 202 in March, down from the protected Jewell Meadows Wildlife Area and elk herd viewing sites.

There are about 280 elk in the wildlife area itself, and around 350 in

the area total that could possibly come in contact with the fence. But the true number of elk crossing the fenced area regularly is probably closer to 120, according to employees at the refuge.

A typical elk fence is usually around 8 feet tall and is often constructed with wood posts and wire, giving off a whiff of prison camp. A double fence may cost more but could be made to look more decorative. If the prototype in Jewell succeeds in

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Former riverboat host starts Astoria tour company



Edward Stratton/The Daily Astorian

Bob Vinatieri will often start his walking tours of downtown Astoria near the large anchor outside the Columbia River Maritime Museum.

Walks, hikes and bike rides on offer

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

As a former host on the riverboat SS Legacy between Lewiston, Idaho, and Astoria, Bob Vinatieri remembers local historians coming aboard to lecture about the region's history.

"It was easy to get people interested in Lewis and Clark ... but there was not that much information about the city of Astoria," he said.

When he moved to Astoria in the spring, Vinatieri started

his own company, Astoria Tours, offering guided educational tours around the city.

Vinatieri takes groups for walking tours through downtown, bicycle rides to historic filming locations and hikes from the Cathedral Tree Trail to the Astoria Column.

"I'm doing this all as tours for tips," Vinatieri said.

The downtown walking tours, his favorite, often start near a large anchor in front of the Columbia River Maritime Museum. Vinatieri focuses his talks on people who lived in the area, from Native Americans before European colonization and early settlers to the Ku Klux Klan in the 1920s and how people came together after a dev-

astating fire in 1922 to rebuild.

He studies books and visits museums to learn more about Astoria, regularly consulting local historians such as Liisa Penner at the Clatsop County Heritage Museum.

"I've been selling Astoria as a tour operator out of Portland since 1993," Vinatieri said.

He helped operate the Lewis and Clark Explorer, a subsidized passenger rail service that operated around Astoria's bicentennial celebrations, and worked for several years on the SS Legacy.

Vinatieri advertises his tour company at local hotels and on incoming cruise ships. He still runs a company, GroupActive, connecting seniors with local tours.

