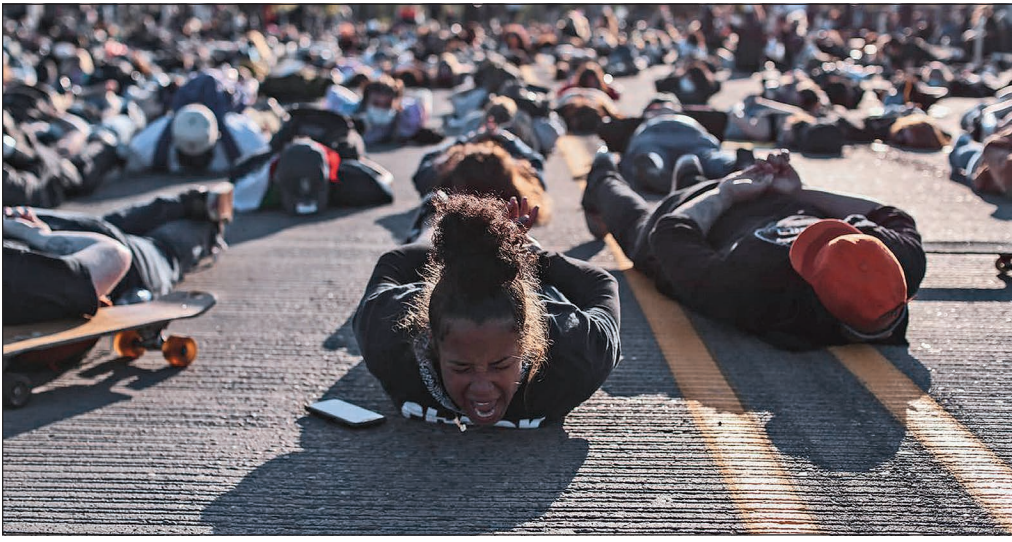


LOCAL, STATE & NATION



Beth Nakamura/The Oregonian file

Protesters prepare to observe nine minutes of silence on the Burnside Bridge in Portland on June 1, the fifth night of protests against the death of George Floyd, a Black man killed by police in Minneapolis.

Floyd murder prompts Oregon, other states to target chokeholds

BY FARNOUSH AMIRI, COLLEEN SLEVIN AND CAMILLE FASSETT
Report for America/Associated Press

Democratic Rep. Leslie Herod had no luck persuading her colleagues in the Colorado Legislature to ban police from using chokeholds after the death of a 23-year-old Black man in suburban Aurora in 2019.

She couldn't gather enough support to even introduce a police reform bill that included a ban. That changed when George Floyd died after being pinned under the knee of a Minneapolis police officer and the video set off a summer of protests over police killings and racial injustice.

Within a month of Floyd's death, Colorado lawmakers took the step they had avoided after the death of Elijah McClain and approved a ban on chokeholds as part of broader police reform legislation. The law overrode more limited chokehold restrictions that were put in place four years earlier.

"Making it clear that is completely banned in all circumstances has the potential to save lives," said Herod, who is Black.

Colorado and Oregon are among at least 17 states to prohibit or severely limit the use of chokeholds and neck restraints by police officers in the year since the world watched Floyd plead for air as he was pinned under the knee of former officer Derek Chauvin, who was convicted of murder and manslaughter last month.

Before Floyd was killed, only two states, Tennessee and Illinois, had bans on police hold techniques that restrict the airway or blood flow to the brain when pressure is applied to the neck.

A majority of the bans enacted over the past year are in states controlled by Democrats, as Colorado is. But the efforts also have generated support among some Republicans.



Jim Mone/AP file

A mural of George Floyd in the Minneapolis square now named after him. Tuesday marks a year since Floyd's death.

Just a month after Floyd's death, Utah lawmakers voted to ban knee-to-neck chokeholds, though the legislation stopped short of a ban on all types of neck restraints. The bill was sponsored by the only Black member of the Utah Legislature.

Consequences

Many of the new laws include criminal penalties for officers if a chokehold or neck restraint leads to death or injury, unless they can show it was necessary to protect their life or someone else's. In Vermont, officers can face up to 20 years in prison and a fine of up to \$50,000.

Those consequences are important to gain compliance, said Lorenzo Boyd, director of the Center for Advanced Policing at the University of New Haven in Connecticut.

"If we say chokeholds are prohibited, police will still use chokeholds," he said. "If we say, 'Chokeholds are now felonies and if you use a chokehold we can now prosecute you,' I think that would change the narrative."

Floyd's death was not the first police case involving a neck restraint to capture wide public attention.

In 2014, a New York City police officer put Eric Garner in what appeared to be a chokehold while arresting him on suspicion of illegally selling cigarettes on Staten Island. On amateur video, Gar-

ner can be heard saying "I can't breathe." When asked to speculate why the Legislature didn't act after the Garner death, state Sen. Brian Benjamin said there was room for detractors to give the officer the benefit of the doubt. He said what happened in Minneapolis was different.

"With the Floyd video, there's absolutely no wiggle room of any kind around the evilness of what was happening there," he said.

Broader police reform

Since May 2020, at least 67 police reforms have been signed into law in 25 states related to specific topics the National Conference of State Legislatures analyzed at the AP's request. In addition to neck restraints and chokeholds, the laws address police-worn body cameras; disciplinary and personnel records; independent investigations of officer conduct; use of force restrictions; qualified immunity; and no-knock warrants.

At least 13 states enacted restrictions on officer use-of-force and at least eight have implemented laws beefing up officer reviews and investigations, according to the NCSL data. Legislatures elsewhere took no action or went the other direction and gave police even more authority. City police and county sheriff's departments also have wide leeway to set many of their own rules, including around use-of-force.

Rumors fly after adventurous wolf goes missing in California

BY LOUIS SAHAGÚN

Los Angeles Times

California's most adventurous wolf has not been heard from since biologists lost track of the "pings" emitted by OR-93's radio collar on April 5 in San Luis Obispo County, about three hours' drive north of Los Angeles.

Deepening the mystery: Officials have not picked up a "mortality signal" from the young male's collar, indicating that OR-93 had not moved for at least eight hours.

Where could he have gone? In search of an answer, state biologists in Oregon and California on Friday said they are collaborating on a plan to fly over his epic path in a plane equipped to detect the faintest signals emitted by its GPS and radio transmitter.

"OR-93 hasn't pinged since April 5 — and that's been awful tough on us," said Jordan Traverso, a spokeswoman for the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. "We're trying to keep hope alive."

"It's not beyond the realm of possibility that OR-93 found some other wolves down there," she said, "and is running with a Central Coast pack that no one knew existed."

"Or it could be that the radio collar is broken or malfunctioning due to dead batteries," she said. "Then, too, this (wolf) may have been killed."

There's no shortage of theories among wolf advocates and wolf haters who have been keeping their eyes peeled for one unusually large long-legged canine predator — and they're getting wilder by the hour.

Recent claims of sightings reported to state authorities and wildlife organizations



California Department of Fish and Wildlife
The gray wolf known as OR-93 was spotted here near Yosemite, California, in February.

include photos of "wolfish" looking paw prints in the wet sand at San Luis Obispo County's Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Area suggesting that OR-93 is still alive and enjoying the surf.

Other blurry photos of a grayish dog-like image in the distance suggest the resilient, mobile and efficient hunter may be following his nose to his next meal, raising concerns among ranchers who regard wolves as four-legged killing machines.

OR-93's official story began in June, when biologists fitted him with a GPS tracking collar near where he was born, south of Mount Hood.

He left the pack and headed south, traveling swiftly and leaving a scented trail past Northern California lava beds, over snowy passes in the Sierra Nevada, along the outskirts of Yosemite National Park, into an agricultural area near Fresno. From there, he headed west toward the Central Coast, successfully crossing the 99, 5 and 101 freeways — three of the most perilous

roads in the nation.

The GPS collar gave Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife biologists a few downloads of data about its location each day that were shared with California wildlife authorities.

In California, wildlife authorities have been reluctant to reveal details about the 2-year-old wolf's precise locations out of fear that it might make it easier for hunters to track him down and kill him.

The California Cattlemen's Association, which has been keeping track of the wolf's progress in weekly bulletins, has decided not to announce that OR-93's radio collar has gone silent. "That fact doesn't give us much new information that is beneficial to our members," said Kirk Wilbur, the association's vice president of government affairs. "For all we know that wolf is still running around in the place where the collar quit sending signals."

"That's too bad," he added, "because it would be great to be able to alert folks in, say, Santa Barbara County that a gray wolf moved into their neighborhood."

Beth Pratt, California regional executive director for the National Wildlife Federation, was only half-kidding when she mused, "I keep hoping that someone will grab a photo of OR-93 that is clear and definitive — not fuzzy like the ones offered up as evidence of the existence of the Loch Ness monster and yeti."

"The ultimate Hollywood ending of this mystery," she added with a laugh, "would be for OR-93 to settle down with a surfer girl canine in Malibu and raise a pack of cute pups."

We're all part of
Central Oregon history.

SHARE
YOUR
PHOTOS



The Bend Bulletin is proud to announce its partnership with Deschutes Historical Museum and our readers on a new pictorial history book, "Hello Bend! Central Oregon Reinvented — 1950–2000: A Pictorial History."

YOU'RE INVITED

We are excited to invite you, our readers, to participate in this unique project. Please bring your photos to one of our scanning sessions listed here — and be sure to check our submission guidelines. Photos will be scanned on-site and given right back to you. In order to keep things speedy, please fill out our simple photo submission form prior to the session. Forms can be downloaded at HelloBend.PictorialBook.com. Please plan to fill out one form for each photo you'd like to submit.

Download submission forms and pre-order at

HelloBend.PictorialBook.com

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

- General interest photos, such as: commerce, industry, transportation, rural life, public service, etc.
- Photos taken between 1950 and 2000.
- Photos taken in Central Oregon.
- If you're a private collector, call 360-723-5800 to set up an appointment.
- Not all photos submitted or used in ads will appear in the final book.
- Photos will become part of the Deschutes Historical Museum's archived collection.

SCANNING SESSIONS

- Thursday, June 10 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
- Friday, June 11 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
- Saturday, June 12 9 a.m. – 11 a.m.
- Saturday, June 12 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.
- Bend Bulletin
320 SW Upper Terrace Dr.
Ste. #200, Bend

The Bulletin
EMPOWERING OUR COMMUNITY

Awbrey Dental Group is giving away Free Teeth Whitening



Awbrey
Dental Group

If you're looking for a new dentist, claim your FREE
Whitening by scheduling a New Patient Exam!

Exams are typically 100% covered by most insurance plans!
Don't have insurance? We offer 0% financing with approval.
Come see why we're one of Bend's top-rated dental practices!

* This offer is limited to New Patients * Limited supply available

965 SW Emkay Drive, Suite 100, Bend
Call 541-383-0754 or visit www.awbreydental.com