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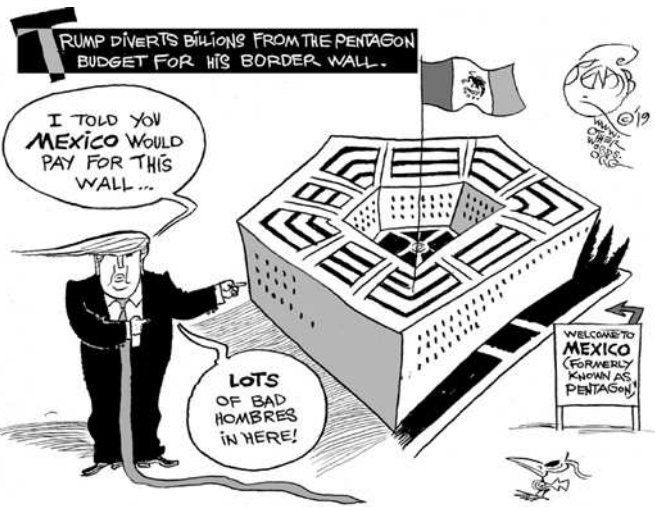
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# LOCAL NEWS

## New Leader in Justice

### Erika Preuitt to oversee community corrections

Erika Preuitt, a longtime probation and parole officer from Portland's black community, and a nationally recognized leader in community corrections, has been named the new director of the Multnomah County Department of Community Justice.

Preuitt has come up through the ranks of the department over the past 25 years. She served as interim director for the last 11 months and with last week's appointment by the Multnomah County Board of Commissioners, she now officially oversees the 600-person department made up of parole and probation officers, juvenile court counselors, custody service specialists, corrections technicians and administrative staff.

Multnomah County has won praise for its innovative corrections practices for juveniles and adults and for its alternatives to incarceration. But because of recent public safety cuts made by the Oregon Legislature, the department is expected to face some of its most challenging times in the months ahead.

County officials say Preuitt is known for fighting to keep caseload sizes at levels that allow



PHOTO BY MOTOYA NAKAMURA/MULTNOMAH COUNTY COMMUNICATIONS  
Erika Preuitt, a longtime community justice advocate and nationally recognized leader from Portland, is the new director of the Multnomah County Department of Community Justice.

parole and probation officers the necessary time to work with people involved in the justice system — focusing on high-risk individuals as well as addressing racial and ethnic disparities in the public safety system.

"I have been honored to grow up in this agency," Preuitt said Thursday.

"It gives me a unique perspective of our strengths and where we need to improve. I look forward to

working with our beautiful tapestry of staff as we implement the Workforce Equity Strategic Plan, recover from devastating budget reductions and affirm our commitment to evidence-based practices, reducing racial and ethnic disparities within our system."

Preuitt grew up in northeast Portland. She was raised in a family entrenched in public service.

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## OLCC Urges Caution on Vape Pens

### Cannabis retailers, vape pen users advised

BY BEVERLY CORBELL  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

With a handful of recent deaths and hundreds of people becoming ill from using vape pens, Margo Amala, owner of Urban Farmacy, is taking no chances.

"We are scrutinizing every product on our shelves and asking clarification from each vendor as to what's exactly in their product," she said. "We're taking this pretty seriously."

That's exactly what the Oregon Liquor Control Commission, which oversees legal cannabis sales in the state, wants people to do.

OLCC Executive Director Steve Marks is asking processors



PHOTO BY BEVERLY CORBELL/  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER  
A licensed cannabis retailer in Portland shows a marijuana vaping pen. Authorities are warning distributors and licensed marijuana processors to scrutinize their vape pen products for possible harmful additives.

and retailers to take voluntary steps to review vaping devices and cartridges that may contain additives.

Marks is asking licensed processors to report any previously undisclosed additives, including Vitamin E oil, tocopheryl acetate or alpha-tocopherol. Retailers are asked to review their vaping products and to check with manufacturers about ingredients.

Six people nationwide — including one in Oregon — have died of lung disease because of vaping either marijuana or tobacco, and more than 450 in 33 states have been diagnosed with illnesses related to vaping, with an average of 19 years old.

The Oregonian recently reported that Drs. Jason Wells and David Hotchkin of the Oregon Clinic warned that "vaping is dangerous"

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