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Carole Smith

Carole Smith Retires Immediately

Announcement comes immediately after damning lead report

By Christen McCurdy
Of The Skanner News

Carole Smith, who served as superintendent for Portland Public Schools for 10 years, announced Monday that she would retire immediately — not in one year as previously announced.

Smith's announcement came on the heels of the release of a report by the law firm Stolle Berne, which was hired by PPS to investigate the district's handling of lead in drinking water. That report found that the district knowingly misled the public about the safety of drinking water in schools.

The report also cited budgetary constraints — which prevented the district from upgrading decaying infrastruc-

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Mike Perry, with the Cure Violence group, looks at his phone as he patrols the Stapleton Houses area in the Staten Island borough of New York June 8. His team works to defuse arguments that can lead to shootings and match people with job training and counseling.

Bridging the Gap Between the Police and the Policed

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Kam Reviews the New 'Ghostbusters' Movie

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JUBILEE PARADE



PHOTO BY SUSAN FRIED

The PNW Drumline marched in the White Center Jubilee Parade July 17. The parade was held on the final day of the 93rd Annual Jubilee Days, a four-day event which included a street fair, garden tour, fireworks display and carnival.

Wyden Seeks to End Prison Tax Breaks

Bill would change tax status of two largest private prison companies

By Arashi Young
Of The Skanner News

Last week Oregon Sen. Ron Wyden introduced legislation that would end a very lucrative tax break used by private for-profit prison companies.

The Ending Tax Breaks for Private Prisons Act of 2016 would overturn an IRS classification that allows the two largest private prison companies, the Corrections Corporation of America and the GEO Group, to operate as Real Estate Investments Trusts

(REITs).

Sen Wyden said that these for-profit prison companies are taking advantage of a "broken tax code."

"As part of rethinking our criminal justice system, particularly as it results in the mass incarceration of low-income and minority individuals, the tax rules for REITs must be changed so we are not encouraging companies to unjustly profit from prison detention services," Wyden said.

In January of 2013 the Corrections Corporation

of America and the GEO Group announced plans to restructure their companies as REITs. These trusts are normally reserved for companies that generate income from real estate — apartments, warehouses, hotels, shopping centers, etc.

CCA and GEO petitioned the IRS, claiming that their prisons are real estate and their profits constitute real estate income. This change allows these corporations to avoid paying U.S. federal income tax, and requires them to pay at least 90 percent of their taxable

income to their shareholders.

According to Enlace, an organization behind the campaign to end these tax breaks, CCA and GEO Group, had a combined reported income of over \$3.6 billion in 2015 — and almost all of that income was tax-free and paid to stockholders.

The legislation introduced by Wyden would reclassify the income as prison operating profits and not real estate profits, which would eliminate the REIT status.

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NAACP: Trump, Clinton Need Black Support to Win

Police brutality a major focus of convention

CINCINNATI (AP) — Police brutality has been a major focus of the five-day NAACP national convention that wrapped Wednesday for thousands of participants in Cincinnati.

Cornell William Brooks, the NAACP's president, pledged Monday to end "lynching in the 21st century ... practiced not with sheets and ropes but with defiled uniforms, defiled badges and defiled oaths."

Black voters cast some 13 percent of presidential ballots in 2012, according to exit polling, and are particularly pivotal in Ohio, Florida and

other swing states.

Directing his remarks to Republican Donald Trump and Democrat Hillary Clinton, Williams said, "Don't think you're going to measure the (White House) drapes without us."

He called on the next president, whether Trump or Clinton, to commit to taking actions as president such as cutting off federal funding to law enforcement agencies found to have a pattern of discrimination and increasing federal investigative powers into police agencies.



CARA OWSELEY/REUTERS VIA AP/ THE CINCINNATI ENQUIRER VIA AP

In a July 1 photo, Bishop David Thomas, Sr. leads a gospel song during the NAACP national convention at the Duke Energy Center in Cincinnati.