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such as demographics, reasons, and results,” reads a Tuesday-night press release accompanying the reports. Auditors also recommend the team set goals to measure the success of such

report reads. Both audit reports close with correspondence between the auditor’s office and the police bureau outlining a list of recommendations, all of which the bureau has

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stops in order to demonstrate whether they’ll be effective.

The bureau’s decision last fall to discontinue its gang affiliate designation was both celebrated and met with skepticism. Shortly after the announcement, *The Skanner* spoke with individuals who’d been on the gang member list who said they suspected police would find more covert ways to surveil communities of color.

The city’s audit appears to support that prediction.

“While the Bureau has discontinued gang designations, it continues to create most active lists, which includes a notation of people’s gang affiliations. At the time of our audit, the Gang Enforcement Team used informal conversations among employees, police reports, and gang designations to compile a list of some 1,000 people who were associated with gang incidents. The team then assigned scores to each person based on the number and type of contacts the person had with police and created a list of the people with the top scores – usually about 30 people. The types of contact included shootings and gun seizures, but also non-criminal events and being victims of crime. The document was updated every month,” the audit

agreed to and either says are in place or in process. The recommendations are:

- The bureau should regularly analyze and publish demographic data regarding Gang Enforcement Team traffic stops;
- The Gang Enforcement Team should monitor stops data and the percentage of encounters recorded as “mere conversations”;
- The Gang Enforcement Team should require officers to document the investigative reason for traffic stops;
- The Gang Enforcement Team should set goals to measure the effectiveness of traffic stops;
- The bureau should evaluate the effectiveness of the Gang Enforcement Team by reviewing crime trends and arrest outcomes;
- The bureau should adopt detailed official policies and procedures for documenting gang relationships;
- The bureau should review the legality of current practices for creating the “most active” gang list;
- The bureau should track clearance rate and caseload and maintain accurate records for Gang Enforcement Team investigations.

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ing people that can best represent us, then we can make that change.”

Inslee, who spoke to a cheering crowd yards from the Space Needle, reiterated his support for more restrictions on guns. He said he would be in favor of enhanced background checks, raising the age limit for ownership, and banning assault weapons. He was joined on stage by Democratic state Sen. David Frockt, whose bill raising the minimum age to buy assault rifles to 21 at this year’s legislative session failed to get a floor vote. Democrats control both chambers of the Legislature.

“I don’t think this issue is going to

go away,” Frockt said. “Gun violence is a daily thing that we have to deal with in this country. We’re not going to prevent every instance of violence, but we

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Throughout the event, students and teachers shared their experiences with gun threats at their respective schools.

Maya Chavez, a 16-year-old sophomore at Garfield High School, said her school locks all doors as a security measure due to frequent threats. In one instance

this year, a student was expelled after making threats on social media to shoot others at the school, she said.

Much of the protest was directed at

the National Rifle Association, which opposes tighter gun regulation, and its political allies.

Naa’Rai Tilson, a 19-year-old student at Cornish College of the Arts in Seattle, chanted “vote them out” with others as he marched.

“I’m talking about the NRA. I’m talking about Trump. I’m talking about all the people who allow kids to get hurt at the hands of profit,” Tilson said. “I know that there are things in our culture, The Second Amendment, that people won’t let go of. But we can hold on to our traditions without having to lose lives.”



PHOTO COURTESY OF ROYAL ROSARIANS

Royal Rosarians Recognize Patricia Welch as a Newsmaker of the Year

The Royal Rosarian Foundation last week recognized its 2017 Newsmakers of the Year at a March 21 dinner and ceremony. Newsmakers were nominated and presented with awards by their nominating organizations. The Skanner’s Newsmaker of the Year, Patricia Welch, is a Flemming Award recipient and served for more than 20 years as administrator at the North Portland branch of the Multnomah County Library. Her award was presented by Jerry Foster, sales and advertising manager for *The Skanner News*. Pictured here are: friend Johnette Easter (left), friend Sallie Stevens, Jerry Foster, Royal Rosarian Susan Simpson, Patricia Welch and granddaughter Aleshia King.

Tobacco cont'd from pg 1

panies are required to run verbatim: “More people die every year from smoking than from murder, AIDS, suicide, drugs, car crashes, and alcohol, combined.”

- **The addictiveness of smoking and nicotine.** Example: “Cigarette companies intentionally designed cigarettes with enough nicotine to create and sustain addiction.”

“These tactics of the tobacco industry haven’t stopped

- **The lack of significant health benefit from smoking “low tar,” “light,” “ultra light,” “mild” and “natural” cigarettes** (which have been marketed as less harmful than regular cigarettes). Example: “All cigarettes cause cancer, lung disease, heart attacks, and premature death – lights, low tar, ultra lights, and naturals. There is no safe cigarette.”
- **The manipulation of cigarette design and composition to ensure optimum nicotine delivery.** Example: “Cigarette com-

panies control the impact and delivery of nicotine in many ways, including designing filters and selecting cigarette paper to maximize the ingestion of nicotine, adding ammonia to make the cigarette taste less harsh, and controlling the physical and chemical make-up of the tobacco blend.”

- **The adverse health effects of exposure to secondhand smoke.** Example: “Secondhand smoke kills over 38,000 Americans each year.”

“This move dates back to 2006, when a U.S. judge found that tobacco companies violated civil racketeering laws and defrauded people in America for decades,” said Jonathan Modie, a spokesperson for the Oregon Health Authority.

The Skanner was one of 50 newspapers in the country to receive the ads, and the only one in the state of Oregon; the new campaign includes a rollout of television ads as well.

While the push to correct the record about the effects of tobacco use and to offset the long-term public health effects of smoking dates back decades, public health officials say the industry’s tactics haven’t stopped.

“These tactics of the tobacco industry haven’t stopped. These

products are sweet, cheap and easy to get here in Oregon and across the country and world,” said Luci Longoria, manager for community mobilization for policy, systems and environmental change, Oregon Health Authority’s public health division.

And tobacco’s effects are disproportionate, in part because tobacco marketing has targeted communities of color and Black Oregonians are more likely to smoke than White Oregonians. Longoria said in Oregon 80,000 people died last year from causes linked to tobacco use, and 1,100 of those deaths – more than one-eighth – are African American.

“While we’re glad to see these corrective statements out there we need to keep in mind out there that the tobacco companies make these products sweet cheap and easy to get particularly to our youth and vulnerable communities,” Longoria said.

Public health officials also worry about the effect of ads compelled by a ruling made in 2006, when the media industry was very different than it is now. Young people are more likely to consume news online and to encounter advertising through social media than in print publications or even television, Longoria said.