

Alert: System would function like an Amber Alert

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At times, the sensor stations misplace an earthquake, miscalculate the shaking effect or simply miss an event.

The fully funded system would function like an Amber Alert, the notification system that uses radio, television, road signs and wireless technology to broadcast information regarding serious child abductions to the public. The system would send alerts to stop trains, shut down factories and get emergency vehicles out of garages.

"We have a lot of smart scientists. They are trying to optimize (the system) to minimize mistakes and maximize speed," Given said.

History of early warning

Earthquake early warning systems have been used around the world for decades. In the 1960s, Japan began testing a system for its bullet train. Mexico built its first public system in the 1980s. The United States first started investing in 2006.

"Early warning has been around internationally for quite some time," Given said.

There are no plans for early warning systems on the East Coast. According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the West Coast has a 77 percent risk of earthquakes, much higher than the East Coast.

Between the San Andreas



Crews work to install the earthquake sensing equipment in California.

U.S. Geological Survey/Department of the Interior

Fault and the Cascadia Subduction Zone, Given said, the focus is on the three states along the West Coast.

Pilot projects

As the early warning system is being developed, the

Geological Survey and four universities are researching other pilot projects at the local and state levels.

Doug Toomey, professor of geophysics at the University of Oregon, said he is working with the Eugene

Water & Electric Board, Oregon's largest customer-owned utility service, to install sensors on its watershed. Toomey is also forming a partnership with the state Department of Transportation to put warning lights on bridges.

"We are trying to get the federal funding, but also approaching local municipalities and the state of Oregon, as well," Toomey said. "We have had great support from the state."

The Pacific Northwest

Seismic Network — operated by the University of Oregon and University of Washington — received \$670,000 in state funding to purchase high-quality sensors.

"We are heading in the right direction," Toomey said. "There is good tracking at the local, state and federal level. At the same time, we are only halfway there."

Offshore sensors

While the immediate focus is on launching the early warning system along the West Coast, scientists are looking ahead at what other technology could be possible.

The early warning system is being built onshore. Scientists would like to see offshore sensor stations, but the cost and technical support is too high.

Offshore sensors are a goal, Toomey said, especially with the Cascadia Subduction Zone that threatens to cause a magnitude 9 earthquake in the Pacific Northwest.

If the Cascadia event is a threatening as believed, Toomey said, it would be wise to invest in the research. Offshore sensors put scientists closer to the threat, he said.

"If you have a threat, and you don't know the magnitude of it, that makes it more difficult to plan for," Toomey said. "We would have to go out and spend billions; but if we better learn the system, we are using the public money more wisely."

Judge: McIntosh has raised more than \$11,000 for her campaign

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"She is smart, she is analytical, and she knows the law," Brownhill said in an email. "We should take advantage of this opportunity to elect a skilled lawyer who can hit the ground running."

Brownhill, who took over from Nelson as presiding judge this year, said it has become increasingly difficult to attract highly qualified judicial candidates since Oregon judges often earn less than the lawyers who appear before them. McIntosh is pursuing the judgeship even though it means a pay cut, she said.

Judge Nelson is regarded as one of the hardest-work-

ing judges in Oregon, Brownhill said, since he is always willing to do extra work so cases are heard on time and people can get into court to resolve their disputes.

"Ms. McIntosh has a similar work ethic," Brownhill said. "This is especially important in Clatsop Circuit Court, a very busy three-judge court."

Campaign contributions

McIntosh has raised more than \$11,000 for her campaign, state campaign-finance records show, including more

than \$6,400 in cash contributions.

Some of McIntosh's largest contributors include Blair Henningsgaard, the Astoria city attorney and Brownhill's husband, who gave \$1,000; the law office of Kristopher Kaino, a defense attorney and Astoria Municipal Court judge, which contributed \$1,000; the law office of Joe DiBartolomeo, which donated \$1,000; and Mary Ann Murk, a defense attorney who gave \$500.

Goldthorpe has collected more than \$3,000 for his cam-

paign, campaign-finance reports show. Woltjer, who is married to Judge Matyas, has not reported any donations.

Goldthorpe's support

Marquis has put his support behind Goldthorpe.

The district attorney has a unique view of all three candidates, since all



Ronald Woltjer

three applied for and were hired as deputy district attorneys. Marquis points to Goldthorpe's ability as a skilled trial lawyer, his assistance in child support enforcement and his leadership in the District Attorney's Office participation in Judge Nelson's drug court.

Goldthorpe exhibits com-

passion, fairness, commitment to equal justice and decisiveness, Marquis said in an endorsement letter.

Goldthorpe has also secured the endorsements of Clatsop County Sheriff Tom Bergin, Clatsop County Board of Commissioners Chairman Scott Lee and Warrenton Mayor Mark Kujala.

Judges run for election every six years on a nonpartisan basis.

The primary election is May 17.

Gardner: Firefighter led effort to get a brush truck

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"In my short time here, Matt was absolutely critical to making my transition easy," interim Fire Chief Jim Stearns said.

Other than the chief, Gardner was the department's only paid, full-time staff member.

"The department is very supportive of Matt and we wish him the absolute best in his future effort," Stearns said. "He left on very good terms. We would welcome him back."

Stearns said Gardner was knowledgeable and familiar with the district, personnel, policies and procedures. "He was my resource, my go-to guy for everything," Stearns said. "He will truly be missed."

After starting as a volunteer, Gardner became a training officer in 2010, providing training for firefighters, community emergency response

ELECTION TODAY

Gardner's departure came just prior to a vote to oust three directors of the Cannon Beach Rural Fire Protection District Board, Sharon Clyde, Garry Smith and Linda Beck-Sweeney. Ballots must be submitted by 8 p.m. at any Clatsop County Elections site.

If Clyde, Smith and Beck-Sweeney prevail in the recall election, they will retain their positions as directors. Should the vote call for a recall, the remaining board members would appoint new directors.

and surf rescue teams.

Gardner spearheaded a 2014 effort to obtain a brush truck so the Cannon Beach Rural Fire Protection District could fight wildfires more effectively.

In 2014, Gardner and Police Chief Jason Schermerhorn were first at the hotel crime scene where a toddler lay dead and a second child savagely attacked. Their mother, Jessica Smith, was later charged with the crime.

Gardner took on daily operational tasks to help fill the void left when Balzer was fired in October.

In February, Gardner was given the Clatsop County's High Angle Rescue Team Member of the Year award.

Schermerhorn said he was "very saddened" by Gardner's resignation. "Capt. Gardner was a great partner between the Fire Department and the Police Department," he said in a statement. "We consider him part of our law enforcement family. Matt helped me on so many different projects and is such a great asset for Cannon Beach. He was a very dedicated and self-sacrificing employee."

Pinwheels: They're meant to encourage positive parenting

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The pinwheels are meant to remind the community of happy childhood days and to encourage positive parenting. The garden will be planted each week during April in various locations around the county, including the court-

house this week, the traffic median near 15th Street in Astoria next week, the intersection of Harbor Drive and Main Avenue the third week and in the yard in front of the Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District the last week of April.

Northwest Parenting will

walk in partnership with the advocates and The Harbor at 4 p.m. April 28 in recognition of Sexual Assault and Child Abuse Prevention month. The walk begins at the Barbey Maritime Center, marches through the streets of Astoria and ends at the courthouse.

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