

Little chance of false alert in Oregon, officials say

By **CLAIRE WITHYCOMBE**
Capital Bureau

SALEM — An incident such as Hawaii's false missile alert Saturday is unlikely to happen in Oregon, according to a state emergency communications official.

The Hawaii Emergency Management Agency sent an erroneous text message alert through the cell phone network on Saturday morning stating that a ballistic missile threat was inbound toward that state. It took 38 minutes for the agency to correct it.

Hawaii's emergency management system allows a choice of messages from a set of prewritten templates. In Saturday's case, the employee intended to send a "test" message that contained different language, but selected and confirmed the wrong prewritten template.

That's different from Oregon, where statewide text alerts are written anew and have to get supervisor approval, said Chris Murray, chair of the State Emergency Communications Committee.

"It's not a situation where one person's gonna push the



Claire Withycombe/Capital Bureau

Oregon Emergency Management officials say because of the way statewide alerts are produced, it's unlikely the agency could send out a false alert such as the erroneous notification of a missile attack last weekend in Hawaii.

wrong button," Murray said.

Emergency communications with the public exist at the local, state and federal level.

Hawaii also has a more integrated system than Oregon, and fewer checks

and balances. The island state was criticized by the Federal Communications Commission for having insufficient safeguards after Saturday's incident.

Additionally, in Oregon, most emergency responses

are handled at the local level, Murray said.

Even if the "Big One" — an approximately 8.0 magnitude Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake that could strike western Washington, Oregon and British Columbia — hits, the environmental situation and information about shelters and other resources in the aftermath are likely to vary across the state.

Cities and counties can issue emergency alerts according to emergency communication plans developed locally. The National Weather Service can send out statewide alerts.

Statewide emergency messages are created by the Oregon Emergency Response System (OERS), which is a 24-hour dispatch center in Salem, according to Oregon's 2017 emergency communications plan, which is maintained, along with other state plans, by the FCC.

Either the Oregon State Police or the Oregon Office of Emergency Management typically write statewide alerts.

For example, AMBER Alerts, which are sent when

a child is suspected to have been abducted, are written by OSP. Those alerts are distributed via text message, radio and television.

If there's a national emergency, such as a nuclear attack, the president or other federal authorities can use the national Emergency Alert System to send out what's called an Emergency Alert Notification, which is authenticated by the Federal Emergency Management Administration, or FEMA.

The notification means the president could address the American public over radio and television airwaves within 10 minutes.

Recent statements from President Donald J. Trump regarding North Korea — including a tweet last week that his nuclear button was "much bigger and more powerful" than that of North Korea leader Kim Jong-un — have renewed public concern about a possible nuclear threat to the United States, decades after the end of the Cold War, when fallout shelters were commonplace.

Several buildings in Salem still have the Fallout Shelter designation on

external walls, including North Salem High School.

Since 9/11, the office of emergency management has prioritized readiness for an act of non-nuclear terrorism over nuclear events, said Paula Negele, a spokeswoman for the agency. That said, the agency recommend Oregonians plan ahead for a wide range of contingencies.

"Creating awareness about the importance of having (an) emergency kit and plan is an important part of our mission," Negele wrote in an email Tuesday. "We recommend being ready for at least two weeks rather than the traditional 72-hour model in case there were even a major disaster like Cascadia or a nuclear attack."

The Oregon Health Authority and the federal Department of Homeland Security maintain information online about what to do if there's an act of "radiological terrorism." And Oregonians can typically sign up for mobile alerts through the county emergency management office, according to the Oregon Office of Emergency Management.

COUNCIL: Streets will be another hot topic

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While Pendleton public works was forced to punt street repairs last year to take care of the underground water infrastructure, the city was able to use the loan to begin replacing the miles of century-old water lines that run through the town.

Turner was also encouraged by the increased activity at the Pendleton airport and was confident that the city would surpass the \$257,000 it had budgeted for Pendleton Unmanned Aerial Systems rental and services revenue. Through December, the test range has generated \$87,505.

With increased demand for the range's services, Turner said the city is applying for a \$3 million grant from the U.S. Economic Development Administration to bolster the airport's infrastructure.

Despite the progress made this year, many of the council's goals — infrastructure, economic development, land development and housing — remain up in the air.

Turner was doubtful the city had reached its goal of building 50 housing units in 2017, but city data shows that 55 houses were built last year thanks to a 26-unit multi-family housing splurge in December.

The mayor was much more keen on 2018's prospects, referencing the 20-unit first phase of a planned 100-unit apartment complex at Pendleton Heights, 10 single-family homes at Sunridge Estates and other smaller projects.

Turner said Pendleton is still lacking a large-scale

development from a large developer, but the demand remains.

"The history of this town is that everything sells and everything rents," he said.

Streets will also be another hot topic for 2018.

The city's current \$781,000 budget is slowing the degradation of Pendleton's road system, but isn't stopping it. While city officials are expecting an increase in the state's gas tax to add another \$200,000 to the budget, the council has to figure out how to increase the street budget to \$1.1 million to stabilize road quality.

Although it didn't make the council's top four goals, the council spent much of 2017 trying to improve council communication and city customer service.

Fairley helped develop the council's "communications bureau," a group of councilors that go to various groups and clubs and talk about city issues on a regular basis. He said the council is a natural "convening authority" to talk about community problems.

"It's surprisingly challenging to communicate complex issues to a broad community," Fairley said.

Even though it might be challenging, the councilors said they've encountered strong support and have changed some minds, an important factor in helping them pass a \$10 million bond for a new fire station last May.

This kind of direct contact with constituents created unexpected benefits.

During a door-to-door

campaign for the bond, Cambier said he and Turner met a man who was being billed for both his own home and an attached apartment that was no longer occupied, a fact that was becoming more cumbersome as the city is in the midst of a water rate hike.

Camber said they put him in touch with the city, who were able to solve the problem.

Primmer reflected on some of the tough decisions the council made in 2017, extending all the way back to the first meeting.

In closely contested votes, the council approved funding the Pendleton Downtown Association executive director position for one year and agreed to begin enforcing the nuisance ordinance against old city hall.

Both issues are still ongoing, with the downtown association now pushing for a more permanent source of funding from the city.

Either way, Primmer said the council's future decision could be met with derision: approve funding and be accused of funneling money toward an organization friendly with the city or deny it and deal with assertions that the city is letting the downtown area die.

Although the councilors said they don't operate in lockstep, they're generally agreeable with one another. Turner said the council has "cohesiveness" and a "sense of unity."

Contact Antonio Sierra at asierra@eastoregonian.com or 541-966-0836.

Ex-CIA officer arrested, charged with keeping documents

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (AP) — A former CIA officer has been arrested and charged with illegally retaining classified records, including names and phone numbers of covert CIA assets.

Jerry Chun Shing Lee, 53, was arrested Monday night after arriving at JFK International Airport. He made an initial appearance Tuesday in federal court in New York, but will face charges in northern Virginia, where the CIA is located.

According to court documents, Lee, a Hong Kong resident, served in the CIA from 1994 to 2007 as a case officer. He worked in a variety of overseas offices and was trained in surveil-

lance detection, recruiting and handling assets and handling classified material, among other things.

A court affidavit states that in 2012, after Lee had left the CIA, he traveled from Hong Kong with his family to northern Virginia, where he lived from 2012 to 2013. When he flew to Virginia, for reasons that are not explained, the FBI obtained a warrant to search Lee's luggage and hotel room. Agents found two small books with handwritten notes containing names and numbers of covert CIA employees and locations of covert facilities, according to the affidavit.

A CIA review of the information in the books

found information at Secret and Top Secret levels of classification, according to the affidavit.

The eight-page FBI affidavit makes no allegations of espionage against Lee, only alleging illegal retention of documents. Any conviction on that offense carries a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison.

The affidavit indicates Lee was interviewed five times by FBI agents in 2013, but never disclosed that he possessed the books.

Court records do not list an attorney for Lee.

Dean Boyd, a CIA spokesman, declined comment on the case Tuesday, citing Lee's ongoing prosecution.

ACT: Next course for 2018 starts Jan. 22

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"People come in and they feel like they have a poor quality of life," she said. "They're in a lot of pain and have a lot of chronic conditions and they feel overwhelmed with trying to manage them."

With one-on-one meetings supplementing the group classes, ACT can be individualized for people who are already fairly healthy, too. Jenny Sullivan, an executive assistant at Good Shepherd, said she decided to participate in ACT after hearing co-workers talk about it in the cafeteria.

"I had considered seeing a nutritionist last summer because any time I ran more than about 6 miles, I seemed to feel awful afterwards," she said. "I had a hunch I was eating and drinking the wrong things at the wrong times to fuel, recover and rehydrate."

She also thought it would be a fun class to take with

her mother. She said one of the most surprising things she learned in the class was that there were ways to exercise that encourage the body to burn fat instead of sugar.

"When it comes to exercise, I've always thought that harder, faster and longer was better, but I've learned that's probably not the best approach," she wrote in an email. "High intensity exercise is fun and you get a sense of accomplishment, but you might not see improvements if you don't focus on gradually improving your aerobic function by monitoring your heart rate."

Ida Martin said she did ACT twice, to reinforce what she had learned the first time around.

"There's just so much information," she said.

She said she realized she had truly changed her lifestyle when she found herself in the cereal aisle at the grocery store and realized she wasn't going

to buy a single thing on the aisle.

"I looked and said there is nothing I'm going to buy, because it's all processed," she said.

She said she appreciated the ACT facilitators preached self-forgiveness too.

"If you get off the program and you're not going in the right direction, just get back on it. No self-recrimination, no saying 'Oh, I failed,'" she said.

ACT courses for 2018 start Jan. 22, April 2, July 2 or September 10. The program is \$116 (payment plans available) and Good Shepherd covers the other \$980 it takes to pay for staff time and materials, including a binder of information to take home at the end of the nine week course. For more information or to register call 541-667-3517.

Contact Jade McDowell at jmcdowell@eastoregonian.com or 541-564-4536.

MARIJUANA: Industry has added more than \$130,000 in tax revenue to Pendleton

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Pendleton is an "oasis in an otherwise dry county."

He noted that the industry has brought more than 40 jobs to Pendleton and marijuana-related employment is expected to increase nationwide to 250,000 jobs by 2020. The industry has also added more than \$130,000 in tax revenue to Pendleton since shops opened.

Krenzler said he is not worried about a federal crackdown on the burgeoning industry because tax dollars are helping fill municipal coffers and public opinion now favors legalization.

"I don't think anybody should be afraid of (Attorney General Jeff) Sessions," he said.

Steve Hardin, manager of emergency services at St. Anthony Hospital, said the two most common cannabis-related emergency room visits have been for anxiety issues and cyclical vomiting.

Anxiety issues brought on by marijuana use are often temporary and

shouldn't require an emergency room visit, but Hardin said sufferers who do go to the hospital are given anti-anxiety medication.

St. Anthony has also seen increased numbers of cannabinoid-induced cyclic vomiting, though Hardin noted the syndrome is not well known and better information is needed to understand the problem.

Hardin said the substances that cause the most health problems in the area, in order, are: tobacco, unhealthy food, alcohol, methamphetamine, heroin and marijuana. He said an emergency room employee has never been assaulted by anyone using marijuana, which does happen when people have ingested too much alcohol or other drugs or are having a mental health crisis.

David Conant-Norville, a child and adolescent psychologist who works out of Hillsboro and Pendleton, said his doctors are seeing much more open discussion about cannabis both in adolescents and adults. He said that marijuana does

damage growing brains, but a lack of research hampers the medical community.

"Docs really feel more pressure now than ever to prescribe cannabis as a therapeutic agent," he said.

Yet, because solid scientific literature on marijuana is so scarce, doctors are hesitant to give straight answers — to tell patients to use or to refrain.

"Our frustration is we don't know what to do," he said.

Conant-Norville said he has seen some benefits from legalization, including that the quality of cannabis is better so users know what they are getting, as well as medicinal use as a pain control, to combat sleep issues, nausea and anxiety. He also said legalization has helped keep users out of the criminal justice system, which is a benefit to them and society.

Yet the lack of information is something that all three hope changes soon.

"The ability to run through good clinical trials ... is information we need," said Conant-Norville.

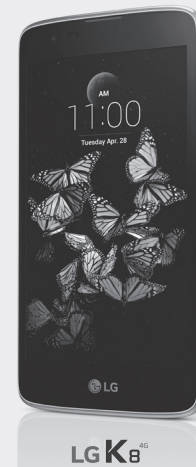


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