

# Man tells of false missile alert

**HONOLULU (AP)** — A former Hawaii state worker who sent a false missile alert last month said Friday he's devastated about causing panic but was "100 percent sure" at the time that the attack was real.

The man in his 50s spoke to reporters on the condition he not be identified because he fears for his safety after receiving threats.

He says an on-duty call that came in Jan. 13 didn't sound like a drill. However, state officials say other workers clearly heard the word "exercise" repeated several times.

"Immediately afterward, we find out it was a drill and I was devastated. I still feel very badly about it," he said. "I felt sick afterward. It was like a body blow."

He's had difficulty eating and sleeping since, he said: "It's been hell for me the last couple weeks."

The Hawaii Emergency Management Agency fired him after the incident.

The man's superiors said they knew for years he had problems performing his job. The worker had mistakenly believed drills for tsunami and fire warnings were actual events, and

colleagues were not comfortable working with him, the state said.

His supervisors counseled him but kept him for a decade in a position that had to be renewed each year. The ex-worker disputed that, saying he wasn't aware of any performance problems.

While starting a Saturday shift at the emergency operations center in a former bunker in Honolulu's Diamond Head crater on Jan. 13, the man said, a co-worker took a phone call over the U.S. Pacific Command secure line that sounded like a real warning, he said.

"When the phone call came in, someone picked up the receiver instead of hitting speaker phone so everyone could hear the message," he said.

The man said he didn't hear the beginning of the message that said, "exercise, exercise, exercise."

"I heard the part, 'this is not a drill,'" he said. "I didn't hear exercise at all in the message or from my co-workers."

Federal and state reports say the agency had a vague checklist for missile alerts, allowing workers to interpret the steps they should follow differently. Managers didn't require a second

person to sign off on alerts before they were sent, and the agency lacked any preparation on how to correct a false warning.

Those details emerged

Tuesday in reports on investigations about how the agency mistakenly blasted cellphones and broadcast stations with the missile warning.

It took nearly 40 min-

utes for the agency to figure out a way to retract the false alert on the same platforms it was sent to.

Hawaii Emergency Management Agency administrator Vern

Miyagi resigned as the reports were released. Officials revealed that the employee who sent the alert was fired Jan. 26. The state did not name him.

# Good gravy!



Duane Sherrill photo

**Steve Sliger from the Warren County Rescue Squad dishes out some gravy on a to-go order Saturday during the squad's country ham breakfast. The breakfast is held every two weeks at the squad building on Sparta Street. The next one is scheduled for Feb. 17 from 6 to 9:30 a.m.**

*We would like to thank St. Thomas Rutherford, Adam's Place, Raintree, Webb House, AceraCare Hospice and all of their staff for the excellent care they provided. We also thank everyone who brought flowers, food, made memorial donations, visited the funeral home and offered kind words during this difficult time.*

*We are so appreciative of you all,  
The Family of Benny "Ben" Roberts*

24814

May we take this method of thinking our neighbors and friends for their kind expressions of sympathy in our bereavement. These expressions have been deeply appreciated.

The Family of  
**JAMES LEWIS "WINDY"  
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24799



In Loving Memory Of  
**ANTHONY  
"CRUSHER"  
MORRIS**

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We're so thankful for the memories, and we will always cherish the joy and love you bestowed in our lives.

*Sadly missed today and every day!*

*Love,  
Bernie & Family*

25007

## Man not lovin' it after drugs found in McDonald's cup

BY **DUANE SHERRILL**  
Reporter for the Southern Standard  
(McMinnville, Tennessee)

A man had more than McDonald's sweet tea inside his beverage cup when he was pulled over by police.

The suspect, Phillip R. Brown, 32, is charged with possession of methamphetamine and driving on a suspended license after a search following his traffic stop turned up drugs. The officer, Justin Colwell, had pulled him over, knowing he did not have a driver license but was going to give him a break.

"I issued a citation in lieu of arrest," the officer said,

noting he then got consent to search the vehicle. "I found digital scales and a bag of white, crystal substance in a cigarette box on his person."

Colwell then turned his attention to a McDonald's beverage cup that had liquid inside it. "I opened the lid to the cup and discovered a white crystal substance and a bag with a small bag with green, leafy substance, and an additional bag with unknown contents due to the saturation of the bag."

Brown and his passenger, Cody Cagle, were placed under arrest after they both denied knowledge of how the drugs got inside the McDonald's cup.

## OBITUARIES

### Shanna Martina Redmon, 22

Shanna Martina Redmon, 22, of McMinnville died Wednesday, Jan. 31.

She was born in Nashville on May 20, 1995, was a 2013 graduate of Warren County High School, and a member of Faith Missionary Baptist Church. She was preceded in death by her grandfather, Paul Ferrell.

Survivors include her parents, Thomas and Crystal King Redmon, paternal grandparents, Earnest and Linda Redmon, maternal grandmother, Rita (Karey) Kennedy, maternal grandfather Kenneth (Joyce) King, special aunt Tina (Terry) Green, uncles Daniel King and Justin (Loretta) King, aunt Benita (Tim) Lewis, special cousin Shayla (Brian) McGee, and special friend Brian "L.B." Freeman.

Funeral service will be at 1 p.m. Monday, Feb. 5, at McMinnville Funeral Home Chapel. Bro. Carl Crowe will officiate. Interment will follow at Concord Cemetery. The Redmon family will receive friends Sunday from 4 to 8 p.m., and again Monday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the parlors of McMinnville Funeral Home. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the funeral home to assist with funeral expenses. Online condolences may be made at [www.mcminnvillefuneralhome.com](http://www.mcminnvillefuneralhome.com).

McMinnville Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

*Southern Standard*  
(McMinnville, Tenn.) Feb. 4, 2018



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**ALVIN C.  
PARKER**

We would like to thank everyone who took the time to visit with us, send flowers, bring food or just say a prayer for our family. We knew you loved our Pa and he was a blessing in so many lives. A special thanks to Jerry Finney and Roger Comstock for conducting the celebration of his life, and to the pall bearers who carried him to rest. Thank you to NHC for taking care of him and our mother over the years and to High's Funeral Home. Thank you to those who visited Pa while he was at NHC who were a special blessing to him. Again, thank you all from the bottom of our hearts for remembering our family.

The Loving Family of Alvin Parker

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