

Person detained in mail-bomb investigation

■ **Florida resident Cesar Sayoc detained**
By Michael Balsamo, Eric Tucker and Colleen Long
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Federal authorities have detained a person in connection with the mail-bomb scare that widened to 12 suspicious packages, a Justice Department official said Friday.

The name of the man detained in connection with the pipe bomb scare is Cesar Sayoc, 56, of Aventura, Florida, according to law enforcement officials.

Additional information on the subject was not available at press time.

Department spokeswoman Sarah Isgur Flores said authorities planned to announce more information at a press conference.

Earlier Friday, authorities said suspicious packages addressed to New Jersey Sen. Cory Booker and former National Intelligence Director James Clapper — both similar to those containing pipe bombs sent to other prominent critics of President Donald Trump— had been intercepted.

The discoveries — making 12

so far — further spurred a coast-to-coast investigation, as officials scrambled to locate a culprit and possible motive amid questions about whether new packages were being sent or simply surfacing after a period in mail system.

The devices have targeted well-known Democrats including former President Barack Obama, former Vice President Joe Biden, Hillary Clinton and former Attorney General Eric Holder.

The FBI said the package to Booker was intercepted in Florida. The one discovered at a Manhattan postal facility was addressed to Clapper at CNN's address. An earlier package had been sent to former Obama CIA Director John Brennan via CNN in New York.

Attorney General Jeff Sessions said Friday the Justice Department was dedicating every available resource to the investigation “and I can tell you this: We will find the person or persons responsible. We will bring them to justice.”

Trump, on the other hand, complained that “this ‘bomb’ stuff” was taking attention away from the upcoming election and said critics were wrongly blaming him and his heated rhetoric.

Investigators were analyzing the innards of the crude devices to reveal whether they were intended to detonate or simply sow fear just before Election Day.

Law enforcement officials told The Associated Press the devices, containing timers and batteries, were not rigged to explode upon opening. But they were uncertain whether the devices were poorly designed or never intended to cause physical harm.

Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen, in an interview Thursday with Fox News Channel, acknowledged that some of packages originated in Florida. One official told AP that investigators are homing in on a postal facility in Opa-locka, Florida, where they believe some packages originated.

Most of those targeted were past or present U.S. officials, but one was sent to actor Robert De Niro and billionaire George Soros. The bombs have been sent across the country — from New York, Delaware and Washington, D.C., to Florida and California, where Rep. Maxine Waters was targeted. They bore the return address of Florida Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz, the former chairwoman of the Democratic

National Committee.

The common thread among the bomb targets was obvious: their critical words for Trump and his frequent, harsher criticism in return.

Trump said Friday he was being blamed for the mail bombs, complaining in a tweet sent before dawn: “Funny how lowly rated CNN, and others, can criticize me at will, even blaming me for the current spate of Bombs and ridiculously comparing this to September 11th and the Oklahoma City bombing, yet when I criticize them they go wild and scream, it’s just not Presidential!”

The package to Clapper was addressed to him at CNN’s Midtown Manhattan address. Clapper, a frequent Trump critic, told CNN he was not surprised he was targeted and he considered the actions “definitely domestic terrorism.”

Jeff Zucker, the president of CNN Worldwide, said in a note to staff that all mail to CNN domestic offices was being screened at off-site facilities. He said there was no imminent danger to the Time Warner Center, where CNN’s New York office is located.

At a press conference Thursday, officials in New York would not

discuss possible motives or details on how the packages found their way into the postal system. Nor would they say why the packages hadn’t detonated, but they stressed they were still treating them as “live devices.”

The devices were packaged in manila envelopes and carried U.S. postage stamps. They were being examined by technicians at the FBI’s forensic lab in Quantico, Virginia.

The packages stoked nationwide tensions ahead of the Nov. 6 election to determine control of Congress — a campaign both major political parties have described in near-apocalyptic terms. Politicians from both parties used the threats to decry a toxic political climate and lay blame.

Trump, in a tweet Thursday, blamed the “Mainstream Media” for the anger in society. Brennan responded, tweeting Trump should “Stop blaming others. Look in the mirror.”

The first bomb discovered was delivered Monday to the suburban New York compound of Soros, a major contributor to Democratic causes. Soros has called Trump’s presidency “dangerous.”

Oregon governor joins other states in offshore drilling ban

By Andrew Selsky
The Associated Press

SALEM — Oregon Gov. Kate Brown issued an executive order Thursday blocking offshore drilling, joining several other states trying to shield themselves from the Trump administration’s plan to drill for oil and gas off the U.S. coast.

The order directs state agencies to protect Oregon’s coastal economy by prevent-

ing activities associated with offshore oil and gas drilling. It comes as President Donald Trump’s administration seeks to expand offshore drilling and has scrapped an Obama-era policy to protect oceans and the Great Lakes, replacing it with one emphasizing economic growth.

Brown, a Democrat, sought a federal exemption for Oregon but has not received one, unlike Florida’s Republi-

can governor.

Brown said her executive order will make it clear to oil and gas speculators that Oregon is not for sale. States control 3 miles of ocean closest to shore. To deter drilling further offshore, the executive order prevents the development of any infrastructure associated with drilling.

Oregon’s coast supports 22,000 jobs in a \$2 billion tourism and recreational

industry and provides more than 5,500 jobs in a \$320 million commercial and recreational fishing industry, Brown noted. It is also vulnerable habitat for plants and animals that could be decimated by an oil spill.

Her order comes a day after U.S. regulators announced approval of the first oil and gas production wells in federal Arctic waters. A conditional permit has been issued for the

Liberty Project, a proposal by a subsidiary of Houston-based Hilcorp for production wells on an artificial island in the Beaufort Sea.

In September, California Gov. Jerry Brown, also a Democrat, signed legislation aimed at blocking new offshore oil drilling in federal waters of the state’s coast. It bans docks, pipelines or other onshore infrastructure needed to support new

offshore drilling rigs. Like other states, California can’t directly block drilling in waters controlled by the federal government but hopes to make it unprofitable.

New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy signed a measure in April prohibiting oil and natural gas drilling in state waters, as well as preventing infrastructure like pipelines that could support drilling in more distant federal waters.

OREGON IN BRIEF

From wire reports

Man sentenced to 10 years for sexually abusing child
CORVALLIS — A 40-year-old man has been sentenced to 10 years in prison for sexually abusing a child.

The Corvallis Gazette-Times reports Richard Knudson of Philomath was sentenced Wednesday in Benton County Circuit Court.

Knudson pleaded guilty to one count of unlawful sexual penetration, two counts of sexual abuse and one count of public indecency for abuse of a girl between September 2017 and February of this year.

He initially had been charged with more than 40 counts of sexual abuse and unlawful sexual penetration.

Knudson was also sentenced to 20 years of post-prison supervision and will have to register as a sex offender.

Knudson apologized to the victim, who is now 14 years old, in court.

Oregon man burned after explosion at possible hash oil lab
PORTLAND — Authorities say an Oregon man received burns to more than half his body following an explosion in an illegal hash oil lab.

KOIN-TV reports 26-year-old Nicholas Helms was taken to the hospital Tuesday after the explosion at a trailer home in Lebanon.

The Linn County Sheriff’s Office called in the Linn Inter-agency Narcotics Enforcement Team to investigate the scene.

Authorities say investigators found marijuana, cash and guns as well as evidence indicating an illegal butane hash oil lab.

They also discovered blasting caps, causing authorities to bring in the Oregon State Police Explosives Unit.

Judge appoints new lawyers for defendant in murder retrial
EUGENE — A judge has appointed new attorneys for

an Oregon death row inmate in a retrial.

The Register-Guard reports Judge Charles Zennache ordered a stay in Jeffrey Dale Tiner’s aggravated murder case after another judge allowed Tiner’s defense team to withdraw.

The decision was made in connection with what one of Tiner’s now-former lawyers described in court documents as an unspecified conflict of interest.

Tiner’s trial is scheduled to begin in February, but his new attorneys likely will need additional time to prepare.

Tiner was sentenced to death in 2000 in connection with the 1993 killing of Springfield resident James Salmu. Authorities say Salmu had been beaten, stabbed and shot before his body was buried.

The death sentence was overturned in 2011 when a

judge ruled Tiner was not given a proper defense during the sentencing hearing of his trial.

Washington state nuke site workers ordered to stay inside
SPOKANE, Washington — Officials have ordered some workers at a sprawling Washington state nuclear waste site to go inside and stay there because steam has emerged from a tunnel filled with waste that was being filled with cement.

The U.S. Department of Energy says in a statement Friday that there is no indication that the steam seen at the Hanford Nuclear Reservation contains radiation or any other hazardous material and that the workers were ordered inside as a precaution.

The site near the Columbia River in eastern Washington state produced plutonium for use in nuclear weapons for

decades.

The steam came out of a tunnel that stores nuclear waste in railroad cars left

over from the Cold War.

A tunnel is in danger of collapsing and cement is being used to stabilize it.

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