

Man detained in Florida in mail-bomb case

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Associated Press



WPLG-TV

FBI agents cover a van parked in Plantation, Fla., that federal agents and police officers have been examining in connection with package bombs that were sent to high-profile critics of President Donald Trump.

WASHINGTON — Federal authorities took a man into custody today in Florida in connection with the mail-bomb scare that earlier widened to 12 suspicious packages, the FBI and Justice Department said.

The man was identified by law enforcement officials as Cesar Sayoc, 56, of Aventura, Florida. He was arrested at an auto parts store in the nearby city of Plantation.

Court records show Sayoc has a history of arrests.

Law enforcement officers were seen on television examining a white van, its windows covered with an assortment of stickers, in the city of Plantation in the Miami area. Authorities covered the vehicle with a blue tarp and took it away on the back of a flatbed truck.

The stickers included images of American flags and

what appeared to be logos of the Republican National Committee and CNN, though the writing surrounding those images was unclear.

President Donald Trump said he expected to speak about the investigation at a youth summit today.

The development came amid a coast-to-coast manhunt for the person responsible for a series of explosive devices addressed to Democrats includ-

ing former President Barack Obama, former Vice President Joe Biden and Hillary Clinton.

Law enforcement officials said they had intercepted a dozen packages in states across the country. None had exploded, and it wasn't immediately clear if they were intended to cause physical harm or simply sow fear and anxiety.

Earlier today, 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.

Investigators believe the mailings were staggered. The U.S. Postal Service searched their facilities 48 hours ago and the most recent packages didn't turn up. Officials don't think they were sitting in the system without being spotted. They were working to determine for sure. The officials spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity to discuss an ongoing investigation.

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 today 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 that 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.

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 claimed today 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!'"

Students: 'There is more work that needs to be done'

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to release the already completed report cards until after the November election. Gov. Kate Brown, a Democrat who appointed Gill, is in a hotly contested race with state Rep. Knute Buehler, a Republican who has criticized her response to the state's chronically poor academic performance.

Brown ordered the release of the report cards on Wednesday.

Warrenton was the only school district in the county to post a high rating in terms of the academic progress of students between the third and eighth grades. That included high marks for low-income students and average academic progress for Hispanic and multiracial students.

"While we are pleased with

the data, and excited about the trends, we agree there is more work that needs to be done and that our numbers, which are close to or exceed the state average, still have plenty of room for improvement," said Mark Jeffery, the school superintendent in Warrenton.

Warrenton's academic prowess was most pronounced in math, where half of the district's eighth graders met or exceeded grade-level competency, compared to 41 percent statewide, 33 percent in Seaside, 32 percent in Astoria, 22 percent in Knappa and 21 percent in Jewell.

Tom Rogozinski, principal of the Warrenton Grade School, said the district has over the past three years shifted its schedules and doubled the time spent in math. Every student in third-

through-eighth grade now receives 90 minutes of math instruction daily.

"Our philosophy was we wanted to make sure kids had the foundational skills they needed," he said. "We really also wanted to make sure we had time for the application side of things."

CC Travers, an eighth-grade math teacher, said the longer classes allow her to get creative, using activities like Rubik's Cubes and computer coding to apply students' education to the real world.

Travers also credits the younger grades for focusing on fact fluency and problem-solving, better preparing students before they reach her class. The district also identifies advanced learners and allows them to take a math class one or more grade levels

up. About one-third of the district's eighth graders take high school algebra classes.

Warrenton's third graders also vastly outperformed their peers in the county and statewide in English language arts competency, with 69 percent meeting or exceeding state standards, compared to 51 percent in Astoria, 47 percent statewide, 42 percent in Seaside, 18 percent in Jewell and 11 percent in Knappa.

Academic competency is based on students' scores in the Smarter Balanced annual statewide exam. The district tries to embed good test-taking skills into its curriculum while also striking a balance toward diverse academic offerings, Rogozinski said.

"We're not teaching students to learn to the test, but to respond to any academic chal-

lenge," he said.

Despite Knappa students' struggles to meet math and English competency, they were by far the most on-track toward completion in the ninth grade — 89 percent — and most likely to finish high school on time — 91 percent — in the 2016-17 school year. The district graduated all Hispanic students on time that year, along with three-quarters of those considered low-income, and 71 percent of students with disabilities.

Knappa's graduation rate was the only one to outstrip the state average of 77 percent in 2016-17, compared with 75 percent in Warrenton, 75 percent in Jewell, 67 percent in Seaside and 63 percent in Astoria.

Paulette Johnson, the school superintendent in

Knappa, said the district has focused on checking students' attendance and grades every quarter to ensure they are on track.

There are also multiple assessment options the district uses to help students meet the requirements for graduation, she said.

"The function of school is to get our students ready for the real world no matter the pathway," Johnson said. "We are doing that."

Jewell, a rural school district, had the highest attendance rate at more than 95 percent. Astoria, which has placed a focus on attendance with a publicity campaign, reached 87 percent, compared to 83 percent in Warrenton, 83 percent statewide, 76 percent in Knappa and 74 percent in Seaside.

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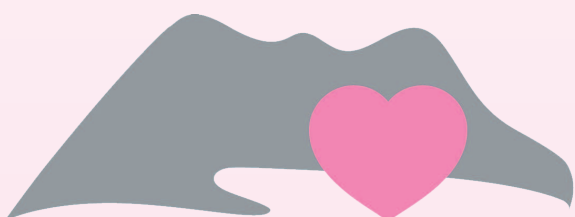
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Clatsop Distributing held its 38th annual
golf tournament on Sept. 5th at the
Astoria Golf and Country Club.

The tournament is a fundraiser for local
sports and scholarship foundations
including Astoria Youth Athletics, Seaside
Kids, Warrenton High School Sports,
Knappa High School sports, and Ilwaco
Golf.

The tournament raised \$5,700 with the
participation of 92 players and from
donations by previous participants.
An additional \$1,000 was raised by
Clatsop Community Bank, Jack Ficken
and Joe Schulte.

Special thanks to Astoria Golf and
Country Club, PGA Pro John Kawasoe,
Greens Superintendent John Whisler
and tournament chairman Fred Hamel.