

Daughter accidentally shot by mother

ST. CLOUD, Fla. (AP) — A woman fatally shot by her mother in central Florida after being mistaken for an intruder had been visiting for the holidays, police said Wednesday.

The mother was asleep when she heard someone enter her home late Tuesday, St. Cloud police Sgt. Denise Roberts said Wednesday. The mother told police she heard footsteps approaching quickly so she fired a single shot.

She then discovered the person was her 27-year-old daughter, according to a news release from police. The daughter had been visiting from North Carolina and didn't live in the home, Roberts said.

The daughter was taken to a hospital where she died. The mother also was taken to a hospital for treatment.

St. Cloud police officials said the mother is a 911 dispatcher for Osceola County and her husband is a St. Cloud police corporal. The Associated Press isn't naming the family members because of the husband's past work as an undercover narcotics officer, as well as the fact that no criminal charges have been filed.

Detectives were investigating the case but say the mother's story matches the evidence so far.

"At this time, the incident appears to be an accidental shooting," the news release said.

The state attorney's office will review the shooting to decide whether charges should be filed after the St. Cloud Police Department has completed its investigation.

Because the shooter wasn't a law enforcement officer, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement will not be investigating.

NEIGHBOR: Family is excited to make new friends

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her sister would visit their grandmother.

"All my friends in that village came from farmers," she said.

Barroso later earned her doctorate in weed ecology from the Polytechnic University of Madrid. She was always interested in biology, and took an interest in weed management while working with professor César Fernández-Quintanilla of the Spanish National Research Council.

"Weeds compete for the same resources as crops," Barroso said. "Every plant needs sunlight, nutrients, space and water. If the weeds take those resources from the crop, you'll have less yield."

The biggest invaders in Eastern Oregon go by names like cheat grass, feral rye, tumble mustard and prickly lettuce. Barroso knows these weeds better by their scientific names, but has quickly mastered the regional lingo.

Before she arrived in the Beaver State, Barroso came to the U.S. on a Fulbright Scholarship as a post-doctorate research associate at Montana State University. When it came time to return to Spain, the country's economy fell into a second recession and research jobs

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— Judit Barroso, assistant professor and weed scientist for the Columbia Basin Agricultural Research Center

became scarce.

Barroso's supervisor at MSU invited her to stay, which she accepted.

"I was happy in Montana. I said, 'Bueno,'" she said.

After another two years, Barroso decided she was ready to move on in her career. At CBARC, she felt ready to take on a promotion and lead the station's weed research program, replacing longtime weed scientist Dan Ball who retired in 2013.

Finally in August, she was joined by her husband, Javier, and their two young daughters. Javier and the girls had remained behind in Montana while he continued working toward his master's degree in mechanical engineering from MSU.

Barroso said the family is excited to make new friends and enjoy everything Pendleton has to offer. The Pendleton Round-Up was especially exciting in September, she said.

"In Montana we've been to rodeos, but nothing like here," she said. "I haven't seen so many horses in my life."

BRIEFLY

U.S. says Iran launched 'provocative' rocket test near ships

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — The U.S. on Wednesday accused Iran of launching a "highly provocative" rocket test last week near its warships and commercial traffic passing through the Strait of Hormuz, exposing how tensions between the two countries could escalate even after a landmark nuclear deal.

The strategic Persian Gulf waterway, which sees nearly a third of all oil traded by sea pass through it, has been the scene of past confrontations between America and Iran, including a one-day naval battle in 1988.

But Saturday's incident brought no immediate response from Iranian officials or media, while French authorities downplayed its danger.

Military vessels taking part in the war against the Islamic State group in Iraq and Syria also pass through the narrow waterway between Iran and Oman. On Saturday, the USS Harry S. Truman aircraft carrier, the USS Bulkeley destroyer and a French frigate, the FS Provence, were passing through it, said Cmdr. Kyle Raines, a U.S. Central Command spokesman.

As they passed, Iranian Revolutionary Guard vessels, hailing other ships in the strait over maritime radio, announced they'd be carrying out a live fire exercise, Raines said in a statement. After 23 minutes, the Iranian boats fired "several unguided rockets" about 1,370 meters (1,500 yards) from the warships and commercial traffic, he said.

While the rockets weren't fired in the direction of any ships, Raines said Iran's "actions were highly provocative."

'Affluenza' teen remains in Mexico, mom deported

MEXICO CITY (AP) — The Texas teenager known for using an "affluenza" defense in a fatal drunken-driving accident likely won't return to the U.S. anytime soon because of a Mexican judge's decision to delay his deportation Wednesday, but a Mexico immigration official said his mother was being flown to Los Angeles.

Richard Hunter, chief deputy for the U.S. Marshals Service in South Texas, said during a news conference in Houston that a three-day court injunction granted to Ethan Couch will likely take at least two weeks to resolve.

Later in the day, however, the teen's mother, Tonya Couch, was put on a plane to be flown from Guadalajara to Los Angeles, an official with Mexico's National Immigration Institute told The Associated Press. The official said she would be turned over to U.S. marshals.

The official, who was not authorized to discuss the case and spoke on condition of anonymity, said the woman was sent to the United States because immigration authorities

Turks, Belgians report foiling plans for holiday attacks

Associated Press

ANKARA, Turkey — With less than 48 hours left in 2015, Turkey on Wednesday became the latest country to announce the foiling of a holiday attack plot, detaining two suspected Islamic State militants believed to be planning suicide bombings during New Year celebrations in the capital city's heart.

"They were caught before they had the opportunity to take action," said the office of the chief prosecutor of Ankara, Turkey's capital.

The men were detained in a raid on a house in the low-income Mamak neighborhood, where police seized a suicide vest armed with a bomb, a second explosive device that was fortified with ball bearings and metal sticks and concealed inside a back pack, as well as bomb-making equipment, according to the prosecutor's office.

The two men, Turkish nationals identified only by their initials M.C. and A.Y., were being questioned by anti-terrorism police. The prosecutor's office said the men had staked out possible locations in Ankara where they could carry out the attacks.

The state-run Anadolu Agency, quoting unnamed police and judiciary officials, said the would-be bombers had intended to blow themselves during holiday festivities at bars and a shopping mall in the central Kizilay district.

In Belgium, an investigation was continuing into what authorities characterized as a "serious threat" of holiday season attacks directed at police, soldiers and popular attractions in the capital city of Brussels. The arrest of two suspects was announced Tuesday by the Federal Prosecutor's Office, along with the seizure of military-style training uniforms, computer equipment and propaganda materials from the Islamic State. No weapons or explosives were found.

Brussels officials, however, were sufficiently worried about the remaining risks that Mayor Yvane Mayeur announced Wednesday evening that a New Year's Eve fireworks display and related festivities planned Thursday in the city center are being canceled.

Last year, Mayeur told RTBF French-language television, 100,000 people turned out, and in current circumstances, he said, "we can't guarantee that we can check everyone."

On Thursday, the arrested men, whose names have not been made public, are due to go before a magistrate, who will decide whether to hold them for another month. An official close to



AP Photo/Geert Vanden Wijngaert

An armed policeman patrols at the Grand Place in Brussels on Tuesday. Two people have been arrested in Belgium on suspicion of planning attacks in Brussels during the holidays, the federal prosecutor's office said Tuesday. A source close to the investigation said the Belgian capital's main square, thronged this time of year with holiday shoppers and strollers, was one of the suspected targets.

the investigation, speaking on condition of anonymity because the case is ongoing, told The Associated Press both suspects belong to a motorcycle club, the Kamikaze Riders, which is known for illegal stunts on public roads.

At least one other member of the Kamikaze Riders is known to have been investigated in the past for possible links to Islamic radicalism, but his former lawyer said Wednesday nothing was ever proven.

Abdelouafi Eloussaki, a founding member of the Kamikaze Riders who died in a motorcycle crash in May 2013, had two younger brothers who were members of the radical group Sharia4Belgium. The group recruited fighters for the Islamist cause in Syria and has been designated a terrorist organization in Belgium. Both brothers also went to Syria, were one was killed and the other badly wounded. Attorney Abderrahim Lahlili told the AP his former client was jailed for a time in Belgium after going to Turkey to fetch his wounded sibling and bring him home. But he said Belgian authorities never definitively linked the older Eloussaki to extremist causes.

Belgian media accounts said Eloussaki had once boasted about being caught in France driving at a speed of 146 mph (235 kph). He reportedly showed no signs of radical extremism, but was a childhood friend of the biker group's founder, who has been convicted of several holdups and has been named by some Belgian media as one of the attack suspects arrested this week.

Four other people have been questioned in the case but released, Belgian authorities said without providing details. Lahlili said all four were members of Kamikaze Riders, and called their release proof the club itself was not suspected of being a hotbed of radical Islamic sentiment.

"This is a group of youngsters from different — and that's important to

know — nationalities, and different beliefs," Lahlili said. He said the club, founded in 2003, may have as many as 100 members — including bikers from Italy, Spain, Netherlands and Morocco as well as Belgium — but that it's hard to know since they have no real organization, membership roll or leadership.

"They have barbecues, go riding," Lahlili said. "It's possible some members, some individuals, have a personal agenda, but not the bigger part of the group. They have no connection with Islamic State or another terrorist organization."

Belgium has been one of Europe's leading recruiting grounds for foreign jihadi fighters, and was home to four of the Nov. 13 attackers who killed 130 people in Paris, including suspected ringleader Abdelhamid Abaaoud and fugitive Salah Abdeslam. Nine other people have been arrested in Belgium in investigations linked to the Paris attacks, which were claimed by Islamic State.

On Wednesday, another police search linked to the Paris attacks was carried out in the Molenbeek area of Brussels, and a person detained for questioning, said Thierry Werts, a spokesman for the Federal Prosecutor's Office.

In France, authorities were also clearly preparing for a possible worst-case scenario on New Year's. About 60,000 police and troops were to be deployed throughout the country Thursday. "The same troops who used to be in Mali, Chad, French Guyana or the Central African Republic are now ensuring the protection of French people," said Defense Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian.

A previously scheduled New Year's Eve fireworks show in Paris has been canceled; instead, there will be a five-minute video display at the Arc de Triomphe that, in Mayor Anne Hidalgo's words, is aimed at "sending the world the message that Paris is standing, proud of its lifestyle and living together."

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