



AP

A Sudanese man reads a newspaper fronted by a picture of the American diplomat killed on New Year's Day. John Granville, 33, an official for the U.S. Agency for International Development, was being driven home at about 4 a.m. Tuesday when another vehicle cut off his car and opened fire before fleeing the scene, the Sudanese Interior Ministry said.

Witnesses questioned in diplomat slaying

By MOHAMED OSMAN
The Associated Press

KHARTOUM, Sudan — Authorities questioned witnesses Wednesday in the killing of a U.S. diplomat shot in a drive-by attack as he returned from a New Year's Eve party in the Sudanese capital. The U.S. sent its own investigators to the country.

One woman said she rushed to help the badly wounded American, who pleaded, "I am dying, I need help," the independent Al-Rai Al-Amm newspaper reported.

John Granville, 33, an official for the U.S. Agency for International Development, was being driven home at about 4 a.m. Tuesday when another vehicle cut off his car and opened fire before fleeing the scene, the Sudanese Interior Ministry said.

The diplomat's driver, Abdel-Rahman Abbas, was also killed. Granville, who was hit by five bullets but initially survived, died after surgery, said Walter Braunohler, a public affairs offi-

cer at the U.S. Embassy in Khartoum.

Sudanese officials insist the shooting was not a terrorist attack, but the U.S. Embassy said it was too soon to determine the motive. There has been no claim of responsibility, and U.S. and Sudanese officials investigating the shooting have not specified any suspects.

The Sudanese government often drums up anti-Western sentiment in the media. But attacks on foreigners are rare in Khartoum, where a U.S. diplomat was last killed in 1973.

In Washington, the State Department said investigators from its Bureau of Diplomatic Security and the FBI were heading to Khartoum, a routine measure when U.S. officials are killed in uncertain circumstances overseas.

"They will be sending a joint team to Sudan to investigate the murders, collect any evidence they possibly can, work closely with the Sudanese government to determine who is responsible for these murders and bring them to justice," spokesman

Sean McCormack told reporters.

He said the Sudanese government had agreed to admit the team, the first members of which will come from U.S. diplomatic missions in the region but will quickly be joined by investigators from Washington.

The acting U.S. Charge d'Affaires in Khartoum, Roberto Powers, met with Sudanese Foreign Minister Deng Alor to review developments in the investigation. "We are working closely with Sudanese authorities," Powers said.

The Foreign Ministry said Sudanese security services are "working actively to pursue the culprits, identify them and bring them to justice," the official SUNA news agency reported.

The driver's family said the two victims were heading home from a New Year's party at the home of a British diplomat when the attack occurred.

Nimat Malik, a woman who lived nearby, said she rushed to help Granville.

Violence: Single officer patrols 589 housing units

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ties. That includes Monday's shooting death of Katillus Rhyson Middlebrooks, 34, at Brooklyn Homes. (Middlebrooks had been identified initially as Raeshon Middlebrooks.)

The shooting remains under investigation, and police are offering a \$5,000 reward for tips leading to the arrest of the gunman.

This past Sept. 13, a 28-year-old woman was stabbed to death outside McIntyre Court, like Brooklyn Homes a public housing facility.

That public housing community, home to hundreds of low-income individuals and families, has also seen its share of aggravated assaults.

On Aug. 19, a 24-year-old

Brunswick man was shot in the upper thigh, at the intersection of P and Stonewall streets, in front of the Brooklyn North apartments.

Almost one week later, about a dozen shots were fired within 25 feet of the Boys & Girls Club in the McIntyre Court housing project.

Four police officers are supposed to be assigned to patrol Brooklyn Homes, McIntyre Court and the city's other public housing complexes — Glynnville, Mercer-Altama and Abbot Andrews.

But due to a manpower shortage in the Brunswick Police Department, there is only one for the 589 public housing units in the city.

Angela Strickland, director of the Brunswick Public Housing Authority, said the patrols are

made available through a partnership with the city police known as Citizens and Police Against Crime.

Other officers patrol the apartments on a regular basis, but CAPAC officers are assigned only to patrol the public housing communities, she said.

"They are the ones we go to if we have questions or if something is going on," Strickland said.

Even though public housing is three officers short, Strickland said she is not aware of any significant increase in criminal activity.

Wright is apt to disagree. She just doesn't feel safe at Brooklyn Homes.

"Brunswick is a crazy place," Wright said. "I'm thinking about packing up and moving back to Tampa."

Goal: Results have big impact

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The next opportunity will be Feb. 8 at the Jekyll Island Convention Center for Comedy for a Cause a show. It will feature comedian Rick Roberts from Nashville, Tenn..

"It's our signature event," Oplinger said. "People can have fun and make a contribution."

Sylvia Geisler, executive director of United Way of Coastal Georgia, encourages residents to make donations before the campaign ends March 31.

"We need everyone's help to

Give a donation

To help the United Way reach its goal, send tax-deductible donations to 1311 Union St., Brunswick, GA 31520.

reach the goal," Geisler said. "Their donations really makes a difference."

The results of this year's annual campaign will have a major impact on the lives of thousands of people in McIntosh and Glynn counties, she said.

"I have personally heard stories of success and talked to participants who have changed their lives," she said.

Geisler says she was touched when she attended the Star Foundation graduation last month.

The foundation teaches computer and other job-related skills to enhance employability.

"It was rewarding to hear two women stand up in front of the crowd, share their struggles and tell how training helped them," Geisler said. "It's what motivates us to keep working."

Festival: Big names will perform

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"People just have a good time," he said.

The festival, in its 32nd year, will feature 19 acts from different bluegrass singers and bands.

To Melanie Barnes, a bluegrass fan, Rhonda Vincent, International Bluegrass Musicians Female Vocalist of the Year, will be the highlight of the event.

Barnes, who lives in Beaufort,

If you go

Adult tickets to the Bluegrass festival cost from \$30 per day to \$85 for three days. Tickets are available all three days of the event — today through Saturday.

S.C., says she comes every year to enjoy music from the best artists in the industry.

Other acts include the gospel

group The Inspirators, The Grascals, CherryHolmes and bluegrass music legend Ralph Stanley and the Clinch Mountain Boys.

Tony Anderson, co-organizer of the event, said everything was ready for the event Wednesday, including the vendors.

"All we are waiting for is the audience to get here," he said. "I encourage everyone to come on down and have a fun time."

'Graphic' audiotape forces Tennessee judge to resign

By BILL POOVEY
The Associated Press

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. — A Tennessee judge resigned last month after making a recording of fantasies so lurid that when the tape fell into the hands of the police and FBI, they thought they were listening to a torture session and believed it might be linked to a murder case.

Ultimately, investigators brought no charges against Circuit Judge John B. Hagler, and police said Wednesday he is not a suspect in any investigation.

But the sensational case has led to allegations of professional retaliation, interdepartmental intrigue and strategic news leaks.

The recording was investigated by authorities more than two years ago, but its existence did not come to light publicly until just a few weeks ago, and details on the contents are only now coming out, at a hearing that began Wednesday on whether police must release the tape.

During those two years, the judge remained on the bench, hearing mostly family court cases like divorces and child custody.

Among the mysteries: Why did he make such a recording? Why is it coming to light just now? And what, exactly, is on the tape?

The tape was briefly examined by Chattanooga police and the FBI in late 2005 after a secretary who had just been fired by Hagler turned it over, authorities said. She told them she

judge's voice on a tape that also contained legal dictation.

"It sounded like someone being tortured," Chattanooga police Sgt. Alan Franks testified Wednesday, offering the first details of what is on the tape.

Franks said the recording was investigated in relation to a still-unsolved 1997 murder. He gave no other details on the murder case.

"The content was so shocking. I have been a police officer for 24 years," Franks said before his testimony was cut off by an objection.

Investigators ultimately concluded the recording consisted only of fantasies.

Two years later, the tape made its way to the prosecutor in Hagler's Tennessee district, District Attorney Steve Bebb. Then, last month, the Chattanooga Times Free Press learned about the recording from an unidentified source, and Hagler confirmed it and resigned.

Hagler said that he had done nothing wrong but that the recording had caused great embarrassment to friends, family and the courts. Hagler, who is 65 and married, has been a circuit judge in Cleveland, Tenn., since 1990 and served three terms as president of the Tennessee Trial Judges Association.

"The description of it as containing 'graphic fantasies' ... is an accurate and sufficient description and all any decent person would want to hear of it," the judge said in a statement.

Bebb, the district attorney, said he, too, concluded the recording was not connected to

any crime, but what he heard led him to persuade Hagler, whom he describes as a longtime friend, to resign.

"This would disturb a human being who heard it," Bebb said.

The judge strongly suggested the leak was committed by someone with a grudge against him, perhaps someone he ruled against.

"In my opinion, the real story here, so strongly expressed by an alert and outraged public, is not about me or my sins, but about whether one of our essential public institutions, the judiciary, has been the victim of a retaliatory attack," Hagler said in his statement. He did not elaborate but alluded to a dispute within the local bar association.

The district attorney has disputed speculation the leak was related to the judge's recent ruling against a local sheriff's department's request for more funding.

Members of the local bar have asked federal prosecutors to investigate how the existence of the tape became public. Police said FBI agents are asking them questions about the leak.

The judge is fighting a request by the Chattanooga Times Free Press, The Associated Press and other news organizations that the tape be released. The hearing resumes on Thursday.

Hagler was relaxed and smiling at times during Wednesday's hearing. He said during a break that he had not heard the tape in the hands of police and could not be sure it was the one he recorded. "I hope it's my voice," he said.

New study finds natural causes for Arctic warming

By SETH BORENSTEIN
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — There's more to the recent dramatic and alarming thawing of the Arctic region than can be explained by man-made global warming alone, a new study found. Nature is pushing the Arctic to the edge, too.

There's a natural cause that may account for much of the Arctic warming, which has melted sea ice, ice sheets and glaciers, according to a study published Thursday in the journal Nature. New research points a finger at a natural and cyclical increase in the amount of energy in the atmosphere that moves from south to north around the Arctic Circle.

But that energy transfer, which comes with storms that head north because of ocean currents, is not acting alone either, scientists say. Another

upcoming study concludes that the combination of both that natural energy transfer increase and man-made global warming serve as a one-two punch that is pushing the Arctic over the edge.

Scientists are trying to figure out why the Arctic is warming and melting faster than computer models predict.

The summer of 2007, like the summer of 2005, smashed all records for loss of summer sea ice in the Arctic Ocean and ice sheet in Greenland. In September, the Arctic Ocean had 23 percent less sea ice than the previous record low. Greenland's ice sheet melted 19 billion tons more than its previous record.

The Nature study suggests

there's more behind it than global warming because the air a couple miles above the ground is warming more than calculated by the climate models.

Climate change theory concentrates on warming of surface temperatures and explains an Arctic that is warming faster than the rest of the world as mostly because reduced sea ice and ice sheets means less reflecting solar rays.

Rune Graverson, the Nature study co-author and a meteorology researcher at Stockholm University in Sweden, said a shift in energy transfer explains the thawing more, including what's happening in the atmosphere, but does not contradict consensus global warming science.

Tim and Liz Cawthon
of
Four His Glory Ministries
will be in concert at
The Brunswick Church of God of Prophecy
370 Old Jesup Hwy.
Saturday, January 5, 2008
at 7:00 pm
Come and join us in some good Country and Bluegrass Gospel Music.

PROMENADE
~First Friday of the YEAR~
January 4th 5-8
Historic Downtown Brunswick
Take a stroll through our beautiful downtown district!
-Sponsors-
Hattie's Books : Gallery 109 : Inspirations Home Decor
Hazuma Gallery : Lady In White
Art Downtown : Artsy Studio & Gallery : Color Me Happy
DISCOVER BRUNSWICK!