



IN THE NEWS

Top stories from the state, nation and world

Officer to plead innocent to charges of spying

WASHINGTON — CIA officer Harold Nicholson plans to plead innocent to charges of spying for Russia and today won additional court-appointed legal help to fight the case.

At a surprise hearing, U.S. Magistrate Thomas R. Jones Jr. granted the request by Nicholson's attorney, Jonathan Shapiro, to appoint an additional defense lawyer to help him. Jones also said Shapiro would be allowed to submit a request for a budget for defense investigative purposes. Shapiro, who was appointed to represent Nicholson on Monday, is in a two-attorney law firm, and said he had never tried a spy case before.

Shapiro asked the judge for the right to subpoena a tape-recording of a CIA polygraph examination of Nicholson and to subpoena an unidentified CIA official. Both would help the defense refute a portion of the government's case against Nicholson, Shapiro said.

The subpoena request was dropped when Assistant U.S. Attorney Rob Chesnut said the government would not raise those aspects of the case at a hearing Monday to determine whether Nicholson is released on bail.

Nicholson's formal plea of innocence likely would come later at an arraignment sometime after a grand jury returns an indictment. In an interview before the hearing, Shapiro said, "We will be pleading not guilty and we intend to fight the case very hard."

Initially, surprised prosecutors feared that Jones had moved up a hearing scheduled for Monday to determine whether there is enough evidence to send Nicholson's case to a grand jury. That hearing also will examine whether he should be denied bail because there is a risk of flight or because he may pose a danger to the community. The government also will call witnesses then, seeking to establish probable cause to believe Nicholson has committed espionage.

Prosecutors will argue that his CIA training makes him a risk to flee from prosecution. They also will say he is a danger to the community because he could go to Russia and spill any secrets in his memory, said government officials who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Shapiro said the subpoenas of CIA officials are needed "to get information from the government for Monday's hearing."

Additional bodies found in Illinois airplane crash

QUINCY, Ill. — Investigators removed 14 bodies and the cockpit recorder Wednesday from the wreckage of a runway crash that has raised questions about the thousands of U.S. airports with no control tower to guide pilots.

The charred bodies were left on the runway of Baldwin Municipal Airport overnight and removed after investigators examined the wreckage of Tuesday's collision between a United Express commuter plane and a small private plane.

"It was a vicious fire. There's really not too much left," said the National Transportation Safety Board's George Black. "We know very few facts about the accident."

Clues to what caused the accident could come from the cockpit voice recorder taken from the commuter plane.

The United Express Beech 1900 from Burlington, Iowa, carrying two crew members and 10 passengers, had just landed when it collided with the smaller plane taking off with two people. The crash came at the intersection of two runways at about 5 p.m., when it was overcast and nearly dark.

Bruce Chandler, an airport maintenance worker, said he rushed toward the blazing planes but was unable to help anyone. "I could hear people inside screaming and yelling, and that's when both tanks exploded," Chandler said.

Hurricane Marco floods Honduras, leaves 9 dead

KINGSTON, Jamaica — A Caribbean hurricane lost speed and strength Wednesday and was downgraded to a tropical storm, while related rain caused the worst flooding in decades in Honduras, killing at least nine people.

Rain associated with tropical storm Marco saturated the Dominican Republic, where a man drowned Tuesday night and 200 families evacuated their homes Tuesday and Wednesday.

After beginning the day as a hurricane with sustained wind of 75 mph, Marco waned by afternoon, according to satellite images interpreted by the National Hurricane Center in Coral Gables, Fla.

By Wednesday afternoon, Marco's wind had eased to under 70 mph and the storm was expected to weaken further. The storm was nearly stationary 215 miles south of Kingston, the Jamaican capital, but was projected to begin moving to the northeast at about 6 mph by Thursday, the center said.

Jamaica was under a tropical storm warning late Wednesday. Cuba and Haiti replaced hurricane warnings with tropical storm watches.

FROM WIRE REPORTS

Sangam teaches middle school students about South Asia

BY SHENG LEE
STAFF WRITER

RALEIGH — Seventh-graders at Leesville Middle School received a hands-on social studies lesson Wednesday about South Asian culture that no textbook could teach them, courtesy of Sangam's Project Outreach program.

The presenters began by mapping out some countries, languages and religions in South Asia. Ajay Ojha, co-chairman of Sangam's community service com-

mittee, said India had more spoken languages than the United States. "India itself consists of 16 dominant languages."

Project Outreach member Nirav Shah said the hundreds of dialects hindered communication between ethnic members. "There are over 500 dialects, which makes communication very difficult."

The middle school students were given the opportunity to find out more about the opportunity to find out more about South Asia during a question-and-answer session following the presentation.

A student asked if cows were wor-

shipped in Hinduism. Shah explained that cows were not worshipped, but revered. "One of the premises is that everything that is living has a soul," he said. "It is believed that if you did something bad in your previous life, then you are reincarnated as an animal. Therefore, animals are not eaten because you could be eating someone who was related to you."

Another middle schooler asked why Sangam wanted to educate others.

Ojha said he wanted to keep close ties with the lifestyle that he was raised in.

"I chose to be associated with Sangam because when I was growing up in my house, at an early age I started to learn about Hinduism and I had been to India several times so it was just a connection that I grew up with," he said.

Shah said he wanted to make a connection with his own culture, which he did not have the opportunity to do in his predominately white high school. "When I went into college, I had the opportunity to enter this organization where there were a bunch of different people that

were the same as I was," he said.

After the presentation, middle schoolers tasted authentic Indian food, participated in a traditional dance, viewed native Indian costumes and listened to Indian music in various workshops.

Thaa Peters, a seventh-grade social studies teacher, said she thought the middle schoolers had received a worthy hour of instruction. "I think our children were very interested. I think it's amazing to see people be so enthusiastic about their culture."

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