



At a Glance

News briefs compiled from the Associated Press

Hani family lawyer: no mercy!

Communist Party leader Chris Hani is shown outside Rand Supreme Court in South Africa in this March 1991 file photo. George Bizos, the lawyer representing the family of the popular black South African leader Hani who was murdered in 1993 during the apartheid era, said Monday the two men convicted of the killing do not deserve to be forgiven for the crime.



(AP Photo)

Brown was no saint, Hill claims

Nolanda Hill talks with a reporter during an interview in Washington Friday, July 25, 1997. The one-time confidante, business partner and self-described lover of former Commerce Secretary Ron Brown is in a confessional frame of mind, and no one is sure what she knows, what she'll tell or what to believe. In a series of interviews, Hill has lobbed allegations against Brown ranging from illicit drug use to political payoffs. And she claims she knows more things that ought to make current government officials nervous.



(AP Photo/Doug Mills)

Lyons lied on marriage license



(AP Photo/Chris O'Meara)

The Rev. Henry Lyons, pastor of Bethel Metropolitan Baptist Church and president of the National Baptist Convention USA, makes a point while surrounded by supporters during a news conference in this Friday, July 11, 1997 file photo, in St. Petersburg, Fla. Lyons had been married twice before he wed his wife Deborah in 1972, but he indicated on his marriage license that he had never been married, a newspaper reported Sunday. Lyons has remained at the head of the nation's largest black denomination despite questions about lavish spending and his marital fidelity. Lyons' wife, Deorah, is charged with allegedly trying to burn down a \$700,000 house Lyons bought for another woman.

Los Angeles gets new police chief



(AP Photo/Los Angeles Times, Paul Morse)

New Los Angeles Police Department Chief Bernard Parks is sworn in by City Clerk Mike Carey in the downtown Los Angeles City Hall Council Chambers Tuesday, Aug. 12. Los Angeles City Council President John Ferraro is left.

COUNCIL

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candidates in the Oct. 7 primary election. Love has represented the east-central High Point community since 1993. He is founder and pastor of Greater New Hope Baptist Church, where he operates a day care center and after-school program.

In addition, businessman Peter Mason Sr. and retired police officer Benjamin Collins have filed for the Ward 1 race. Retired builder Aaron Lightner and political newcomer Shelly Hardin are also running.

Collins will push for downtown economic development, affordable housing, the eradication of substandard housing, and more recreation alternatives for youth. "These young kids need

someplace to vent their energies. (There's) no organized recreation or entertainment here in High Point for them. Establishing a route for them to cruise would be my first priority." Collins also supports increasing city employees' pay to make their salaries commensurate with city workers in Winston-Salem and Greensboro.

Mason heads Mason Infinity Inc., which owns and operates several retail stores. He also teaches criminal justice at Shaw University's High Point satellite campus. He formerly worked in High Point's community development department. He held a similar position in Jacksonville, Fla. "I've got my finger on the political pulse of what goes on behind closed doors and in open

public meetings. That gives me a distinct advantage." As a council member, he would focus on economic development in the inner city and home ownership for moderate-income citizens. "I think we need to take a broader more comprehensive approach, working with the private non-profit sector in addition to the public sector to provide innovative leveraging techniques," said Mason.

Three candidates are running for the Ward 2 seat. Among them are substance abuse case manager Penny Mack, former city employee Ron Wilkins, pastor of East Grimes Avenue Baptist Church, and incumbent Eddie Ables, who has served on council since 1991.

Mack plans to tackle the

issues of drugs, crime and youth recreation. "I want to get a community watch started so we can prevent drugs and crime," she says. She is also concerned about the lack of recreational outlets for youth. "The kids," she notes, "don't have anywhere to go." She believes that makes them easy prey for drug dealers.

As the city's community action liaison, Wilkins helped fuel the Washington Drive revitalization effort. He resigned that post to throw his hat in the ring. "For the last 14 years, I have been trying my best to improve upon all of the circumstances that face the people in this ward," he indicates. "I plan to empower (community residents) by keeping them well-informed and eliciting their responses."

BAPTIST

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the course of negotiations with Baptist. The medical center and the county worked out a deal to assure that all of Reynolds' 150 employees would retain employment. The employees will be first in line for the 100 positions available at the new center, and the rest will work for either Baptist or the county.

The commissioners were also impressed by the quality of health care Baptist could offer the East Winston community, as well as the input that patients could have with the community advisory board.

"Every concern that we had on the list, they've addressed," said Marshall.

The next step will be convincing the public. The controversy over Dr. Ralph Wall's resignation from Novant Health Inc. has left some African Americans wary of large-scale health providers.

"The recent episode with Dr.

Wall showed the vulnerability of the community with the overwhelming power of health care companies," said the Rev. Carlton Eversley, pastor of Dellabrook Presbyterian Church. Eversley's church hosted at least two community forums on Baptist's proposal, and allowed Reynolds Health Center administrators to publicly present their action plan.

Eversley is also a member of the Minister's Conference, a group of African-American spiritual leaders who convene on issues affecting the community. Several months ago, the Minister's Conference asked that the medical center appoint representatives to Baptist's board of directors.

Community involvement in the medical center's upper levels has yet to be addressed, said Eversley, but he did offer cautious praise for the medical center. "Baptist Hospital is a huge force in the community, and some good could come out of it,"

he said.

"You will not see a situation like the one that occurred with Dr. Wall," said Gerald Finley, Baptist Hospital's vice president of operations. "That just won't happen."

Finley has played a key role in presenting the proposal to both the community and the county, and looks forward to sharpening Baptist's image in East Winston. "We have to earn the trust of all of the staff of Reynolds Health Center, and all of the African-American community," said Finley.

"We think we've been doing that for 50 years, but maybe not as well as we could or should," he added.

When asked what they thought of the takeover, several Reynolds patients said they

either don't mind or look forward to the change.

"It's fine, considering I've been here for 45 minutes to get a green card," said Sherri Newson. A green card is used as patient identification by the health center, like a social security card or driver's license. "I don't like it here," Newson declared.

One of the first areas Baptist will tackle at the health center is the flow of patients, said Finley. With an updated computer system installed, patients "should see less hassle in getting in and out," Finley said.

Commissioners will vote on the final contract sometime in the next two months. Baptist expects to assume control of the health center the first of either October or November, said Finley.

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