



RACE FOR THE WHITE HOUSE



JAE C. HONG Associated Press

Democratic presidential hopeful Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., arrives at a primary election night rally Tuesday in Raleigh, N.C.

Obama wins N. Carolina; close race in Indiana



DARRON CUMMINGS Associated Press

Democratic presidential hopeful Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, D-N.Y., acknowledges her supporters during her primary night rally Tuesday in Indianapolis.

Obama edges closer to nomination but superdelegates tight

BY DAVID ESPO AND LIZ SIDOTI
Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Barack Obama swept to victory in the North Carolina primary Tuesday night and declared he was closing in on the Democratic presidential nomination. Hillary Rodham Clinton led narrowly in Indiana, struggling to halt her rival's march into history.

"Tonight we stand less than 200 delegates away from winning the Democratic nomination for president of the United States," Obama told a raucous rally in Raleigh, N.C. — and left no doubt he intended to claim the prize.

He said it appeared Clinton had won Indiana's primary. Thousands of votes had yet to be counted, principally in Lake County, a heavily black area not far from Obama's home city of Chicago.

Returns from 62 percent of North Carolina precincts showed Obama was winning 56 percent of the vote to 42 percent for Clinton, a triumph that mirrored his earlier wins in Southern states with large black populations.

Obama won at least 40 delegates and Clinton at least 31 in the two states, with 116 still to be awarded.

That made Indiana a virtual must-win Midwestern state for the former first lady, hoping to counter Obama's persistent delegate advantage with a strong run through the late primaries.

There, returns from 79 percent of the precincts showed Clinton with 52 percent of the vote to 48 percent for Obama.

MORE INSIDE

Nuns without photo IDs denied ballots in Indiana.

John McCain criticizes Obama for voting against John Roberts for Supreme Court chief justice.

Stories, A7

Voters in both states fell along racial patterns long since established in a marathon race between the nation's strongest-ever black presidential candidate and its most formidable female challenger for the White House.

The economy was the top issue by far in both states, according to interviews with voters as they left their polling places.

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Georgia executes prisoner

Lynd receives lethal injection for kidnapping, killing of girlfriend

BY SHANNON MCCAFFREY
Associated Press

JACKSON, Ga. — A Georgia man who killed his live-in girlfriend was executed Tuesday, the first inmate put to death since the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of lethal injections.

William Earl Lynd was pronounced dead at 7:51 p.m. EDT, Georgia Department of Corrections spokeswoman Malie McCord told The Associated Press. It came less than an hour after the U.S. Supreme Court rejected efforts to block it.

The roughly three dozen states around the country that use lethal injection held off on carrying out any executions for more than seven months while the U.S. Supreme Court reviewed the constitutionality of the three-drug cocktail that's used. It was the longest pause in U.S. executions in a quarter century.

The Supreme Court last month upheld the legality of lethal injections.

Lynd, 53, was sentenced to die for kidnapping and shooting his live-in girlfriend, Ginger Moore, three times in the face and head two decades ago. After he buried Moore's body in a shallow grave near a south Georgia farm, authorities said Lynd fled to Ohio, where he shot and killed another woman who had stopped along the side



WHY IT'S IMPORTANT

Georgia's lethal injection of **William Earl Lynd** is the nation's first since the U.S. Supreme Court in April upheld Kentucky's use of the execution method. Executions nationwide had been postponed for 7 months in lieu of the ruling.

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CSU PRESIDENT SEARCH

Candidate list narrows

3 front-runners emerge from search committee's four picks

BY CHUCK WILLIAMS
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There appear to be three front-runners in the Columbus State University presidential search:

Charles F. Harrington, provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs at the University of North Carolina at Pembroke; Timothy S. Mescon, dean of the Michael J. Coles College of Business at Kennesaw State University; Jane T. Upshaw, chancellor of the University of South Carolina Beaufort; and Patrick Schloss, president of Northern State University in Aberdeen, S.D. were submitted to the Board of Regents by the local search committee, according to numerous sources. But Schloss said he has withdrawn his name from consideration.

This was first reported Tuesday at Ledger-Enquirer.com.

The CSU presidential search and advisory committee, which has been working since late last year, submitted the names to the University System of Georgia chancellor's office Friday. The Board of Regents, which governs the state's 35 public colleges and universities, will make the final decision, likely by the end of the month.

John Millsaps, associate vice chancellor for media and publications for the Board of Regents, said Monday his office was not prepared to release a list of finalists.

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Civic Center rebooks T.I. performance

Hip-hop artist will be here June 13

BY BRAD BARNES
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Rapper T.I., who was forced to cancel a planned Columbus concert last fall after an arrest on weapons charges, is set to perform at the Columbus

Civic Center on June 13.

And part of his entourage: a court-appointed marshal.

"He's a big act," promoter Mike Blackwell said. "We're calling this 'The Return of the King'" — a nod to T.I.'s 2006 album called "King" and the rapper's tendency to call himself the King of the South.

T.I., whose real name is

Clifford Harris Jr., pleaded guilty in March to three gun charges following a firearms sting last October during which he was caught purchasing machine guns. His arrest forced promoters to cancel a planned Nov. 3 concert at the Civic Center that was scheduled as part of the annual Fountain City Classic football game.

The plea placed him in a home detention program during which he is to work 1,000 hours of community service this year, followed by a year and a day in prison, then more community service. If he doesn't comply, his sentence can be upped to eight years in

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Today's Forecast

Partly to mostly sunny skies. High: 85. Overnight low: 63.

WEATHER, A2



In today's newspaper

Chef's Corner: Instructional Web series

Learn how to prepare dough for a French baguette.

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Our opinion

EDITORIAL, A15

Cyclone death toll passes 22,000

Another 41,000 are missing after Myanmar storm.

WORLD, A13

Kia courts dealers

Automaker is showing off its Borrego midsize SUV as well.

BUSINESS, B6

'Ad-in' tennis

CORTA teaches disabled, physically handicapped players.

SPORTS, B1

Classified

B9
Comics C4
Deaths A4-5
Legals B7
Movies C2
Stocks B8
Taste C1
Television C2