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The Carolina Times

THE TRUTH UNBRIDLED

VOLUME 96 - NUMBER 47 DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA - SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2017 TELEPHONE (919) 682-2913 PRICE: 50 CENTS



DR. JOHN HOPE FRANKLIN
Duke University Photo

**The N.C. Department of Transportations
Invites to the public to attend a
dedication ceremony for the
Dr. John H. Franklin Highway
Monday, Nov. 27, 1 p.m.
Hayti Heritage Center
804 Old Fayetteville St.
For more information call 919-707-2681
Ms. Sazia Bashar at sbashar@ncdot.gov**

Civil rights attorney running for North Carolina high court

By Gary D. Robertson

RALEIGH (AP) - A longtime civil rights attorney who successfully sued in striking down North Carolina legislative district boundaries for excessive racial bias announced Nov. 15 she's running for the state Supreme Court next year.

Anita Earls of Durham, who is seeking the position currently held by Associate Justice Barbara Jackson, also helped challenge North Carolina's 2013 voter identification law and has sued counties over other voting rights matters. The successful redistricting lawsuit forced Republican lawmakers to redraw dozens of General Assembly boundaries last summer.

Earls' candidacy comes as Republicans who control the Legislature canceled next May's partisan primary elections for trial and appeals court judgeships up for re-election because lawmakers are debating whether to remap judicial election districts. The cancellation means there will only be a November 2018 election that could attract multiple candidates to each race.

GOP lawmakers also are considering whether to do away with head-to-head court elections all together, replacing them with retention elections that could include some General Assembly involvement with judicial nominees. Democratic Gov. Roy Cooper and others accuse Republicans of scheming to hijack the judiciary, citing previous judicial election changes as proof. GOP legislators dismiss such allegations.

Speaking outside state Democratic Party headquarters, Earls said she's running now because it's "important to stand up for the right to vote and for the importance of the independent judiciary, and those are things that I see under attack."

Earls, founder and executive director of the Southern Coalition for Social Justice, said her 30-year legal career working for the poor and disenfranchised shows her how important an independent court is to carry out laws fairly to all, not just to the wealthy or politicians.

"I believe my record demonstrates that I have unflinching dedication to the principle of equality before the law," Earls said. Elected in 2010 and seeking re-election, Jackson is one of three Republicans on the seven-member Supreme Court, which currently has a Democratic majority for the first time in almost 20 years.

Earls, 57, previously worked in private practice and at the University of North Carolina Center for Civil Rights. She also served briefly on the State Board of Elections.

To focus on campaigning, Earls plans to withdraw by year's end from representing plaintiffs in the legislative redistricting case and in another lawsuit alleging excessive partisanship in how North Carolina's congressional districts were drawn.

In the legislative remapping case, a three-judge federal panel this month ordered an outside expert to propose fixing several House and Senate districts they worry are still unlawful. The partisan gerrymandering trial went to trial last month but no ruling has been issued.

FBI report on black `extremists` raises new monitoring fears

Black Panthers, NAACP, SCLC Previous Surveillance

By Sadie Gurman and Russell Contreras

WASHINGTON (AP) - An FBI report on the rise of black "extremists" is stirring fears of a return to practices used during the civil rights movement, when the bureau spied on activist groups without evidence they had broken any laws.

The FBI said it doesn't target specific groups, and the report is one of many its intelligence analysts produce to make law enforcement aware of what they see as emerging trends. A similar bulletin on white supremacists, for example, came out about the same time.

The 12-page report, issued in August, says "black identity extremists" are increasingly targeting law enforcement after police killings of black men, especially since the shooting of Michael Brown roiled Ferguson, Missouri, in 2014. The report describes cases in which "extremists" had "acted in retaliation for perceived past police brutality incidents." It warned that such violence was likely to continue.

Black leaders and activists were outraged after Foreign Policy revealed the existence of the report last month. The Congressional Black Caucus, in a letter to FBI Director Christopher Wray, said the report "conflates black political activists with dangerous domestic terrorist organizations" and would further erode the frayed relationship between police and minority communities.

"I have never met a black extremist. I don't know what the FBI is talking about," said Chris Phillips, a filmmaker in Ferguson.

Before the Trump administration, the report might not have caused such alarm. The FBI noted it issued a similar bulletin warning of retaliatory violence by "black separatist extremists" in March 2016, when the country had a black president, Barack Obama, and black attorney general, Loretta Lynch.

But black voters overwhelmingly opposed Donald Trump. And they are suspicious of his administration, which has been criticized as insensitive on racial issues, including when Trump was slow to condemn white nationalist protesters following a deadly rally in Charlottesville, Virginia.

Attorney General Jeff Sessions, a former Alabama senator whose career has been dogged by questions about race and his commitment to civil rights, did not ease lawmakers' concerns when he was unable to answer questions about the report or its origins during a congressional hearing this past week.

Sessions said he was aware of "groups that do have an extraordinary commitment to their racial identity, and some have transformed themselves even into violent activists." He struggled to answer the same question about white extremists.

It wouldn't be unusual for an attorney general not to have seen such an FBI assessment, which the FBI creates on its own to circulate (Continued On Page 2)



REV. JESSE JACKSON

Rev Jesse Jackson discloses Parkinson's disease diagnosis

By Sophia Tareen

CHICAGO (AP) - The Rev. Jesse Jackson disclosed publicly Nov. 17 that he has been seeking outpatient care for two years for Parkinson's disease and plans to "dedicate" himself to physical therapy to slow the progress of the disease.

In a letter to supporters, the 76-year-old civil rights icon said family and friends noticed a change in him about three years ago, and he could no longer ignore symptoms of the chronic neurological disorder that causes movement difficulties.

"Recognition of the effects of this disease on me has been painful, and I have been slow to grasp the gravity of it," he wrote. "For me, a Parkinson's diagnosis is not a stop sign but rather a signal that I must make lifestyle changes and dedicate myself to physical therapy."

Jackson, who declined to be interviewed, also released a letter from Northwestern Medicine confirming his diagnosis and care.

He vowed to use his voice to help find a cure for the disease.

About 60,000 people in the U.S. are diagnosed with Parkinson's annually, according to the Parkinson's Foundation.

It can start with tremors, and symptoms generally worsen over time. The exact cause is unknown. Treatments include medications, surgery and physical therapy.

The disease itself is not fatal but people can die from complications. Jackson said Parkinson's "bested" his father. Noah Lewis Robinson Sr. died in 1997 at age 88 after suffering a heart attack.

It was unclear how his treatment would affect his leadership of the Rainbow/PUSH Coalition, the Chicago-based civil rights group he founded more than two decades ago. Jackson has remained active in his advocacy and travels, including traveling to Puerto Rico last month for a hurricane-relief mission and hosting a symposium in Washington, D.C., earlier this week.

A protégé of the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jackson was instrumental in guiding the modern civil rights movement on a wide variety of issues, including voting rights and education.

Twice a candidate for the Democratic presidential nomination in the 1980s, he has remained a strong voice in numerous anti-discrimination efforts, including advocating for affordable housing. He's often seen at protests nationwide and has continued regular forums at Rainbow/PUSH's headquarters.

He said Nov. 17 in the letter that he is also working on a memoir.

"I will continue to try to instill hope in the hopeless, expand our democracy to the disenfranchised and free innocent prisoners around the world," he wrote. "I steadfastly affirm that I would rather wear out than rust out."

The Rev. Al Sharpton said he spent the last few days with Jackson in New York City.

Jackson "has changed the nation and served in ways in which he never got credit," Sharpton said in a statement. "We pray for him, just as he fought for us."



ATTY. ANITA EARLS

Earls also will resign from leading the Southern Coalition. While she's been in the spotlight recently fighting laws and maps passed by Republicans, Earls said she knows wearing a robe would require a different role: "I understand the difference between being an advocate and being a jurist."

On Nov. 15, Earls' campaign quickly announced endorsements from top Democrats such as former Gov. Jim Hunt and current U.S. Rep. G.K. Butterfield, an ex-state justice. The state Republican Party said in a release that adding Earls to the court would "be catastrophic for our state" and criticized her unsuccessful effort to get judges to order special General Assembly elections this fall under new districts.

Country's oldest black college to remain accredited

PHILADELPHIA (AP) - The nation's oldest historically black college will remain accredited after a state commission decided to work with the school, citing "significant progress" after a two-year probationary period.

Cheyney University has grappled with financial and administrative woes in recent years. In August, Pennsylvania's state-owned university system agreed to forgive \$30 million in loans if the school maintained a balanced budget over the next four years.

Losing accreditation would likely have signaled the death knell for Cheyney, founded in 1837 as the Institute for Colored Youth.

President Aaron A. Walton began his tenure in May. The Middle States Commission on Higher Education says Cheyney is "making a good-faith effort to remedy existing deficiencies" in its letter Nov. 17. The school must continue to make improvements and report back to the commission next September.