

News at a Glance

Trial postponed in plot to kill Mandela

PRETORIA, South Africa (AP) — A judge decided last week to postpone for a second time the treason trial of 22 white men in connection with a plot to kill then-President Nelson Mandela and overthrow the country's first democratic government.

Judge Eben Jordan postponed the trial — the first treason trial in post-apartheid South Africa — until June 9 to give the Legal Aid Board time to reconsider applications for legal assistance from the defendants. The judge had originally postponed the case to Monday to allow defense lawyers to sort out state-paid attorneys for some of the accused.



Mandela

Seven of the men were granted legal aid but objected to having to share one legal representative, saying they had conflicting interests. One man said he had run out of funds and now required legal aid.

The men face 43 charges, including high treason, murder, attempted murder terrorism and the illegal possession of arms and ammunition. They made an initial court appearance last week amid tight security in the recently restored Palace of Justice, where Mandela and others had been sentenced to life imprisonment in 1964.

The alleged members of the extreme right-wing group called Boeremag, or Farmers Force, are charged in the murder of Claudia Mokone, who was killed in a bomb blast in Soweto in October 2002.

Prosecutors also alleged the group conspired to kill Mandela with a plan to blow up a car transporting the president to a public event. Mandela foiled the alleged plot by choosing to travel by helicopter.

The state alleges that the 22 men plotted to kill all blacks or drive them from the country and to set up an Afrikaner state.

After decades of racial oppression under the apartheid regime, South Africa had its first multiracial election in 1994. A small group of conservative whites remain opposed to democratic rule.

Events planned to remember Evers

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) — At least two events are planned for the 40th anniversary of the death of civil rights leader Medgar Evers.

On June 16, friends, family and fellow activists will gather at Arlington National Cemetery, said Barry Bradford, who is helping coordinate the event.

Bradford was 8 years old when Evers, field secretary for the NAACP, was assassinated June 12, 1963, in Jackson.

"My dad sat down the three of us," recalled Bradford, who was living in suburban Chicago. "He was shaken by it. He told us Medgar was trying to do the right thing for the right reasons and that whoever killed him had great evil in his heart, which we later found out was true."

The other event takes place in Newton County, where residents are recognizing their native son, born in Decatur on July 2, 1925.

Delores Bolden-Stamps, executive director of the Medgar Evers Institute, said the institute hopes Congress will recognize this National Week of Remembrance.

Both events came about through grassroots organizing, she said.

"We never intended to try and do this by ourselves," Bolden-Stamps said, "but rather to generate continued interest in legacy and things that Medgar Evers stood for, the challenges his work still presents to us and the things we must address if we are to fulfill the promises written in the Constitution."

On June 10, Newton County residents will host a homecoming for the Evers family at East Central Community College.

They will announce a historical marker at the courthouse, where Medgar and his brother, Charles Evers, were once turned away from registering to vote.

"It's an opportunity for our county to express to his family our appreciation to them for his life and his legacy and to remember and reflect," said Bill May, one of 10 people on a planning committee for the event.



Evers

Tycoon joins Republican race for Senate

ATLANTA (AP) — A famed black restaurateur from Atlanta is joining Georgia's crowded race for U.S. Senate.

Herman Cain, who once ran the Nebraska-based Godfather's Pizza chain, wants Zell Miller's Senate seat. But he has never run for office before, and he must beat two sitting congressmen and another black businessman to get the Republican nomination in 2004.

The race is the first statewide election in post-Reconstruction Georgia to pit two black Republicans against each other. Cain will face fellow Atlanta businessman Al Bartell, who ran unsuccessfully for lieutenant governor last year.

Cain, 57, had a hardscrabble childhood in Atlanta, but worked his way through Morehouse College. He worked for Burger King and The Pillsbury Co. before taking the helm of a struggling pizza chain in 1986.

Within two years, Godfather's Pizza was out of debt, and he bought the Omaha, Neb.-based pizza chain from Pillsbury for \$50 million.

Cain's résumé includes a short time as chairman of the Federal Reserve Bank in Kansas City, Mo., and co-chairman of Steve Forbes' 2000 presidential bid. He's also a motivational speaker and author of three leadership books.

Also in the bidding are U.S. Reps. Johnny Isakson and Mac Collins, both seasoned state politicians from Atlanta's Republican-leaning suburbs. But Georgia Republican Chairman Alec Poitevint said the two black candidates have a decent shot.

"It's wide open," Poitevint said. "We have been proactive for a long period of time to let people know our party is open."

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Jackson collides with NASCAR fans

Some disapprove of Jackson's involvement in trying to make sport more diverse

BY STEVE WILSTEIN
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NASCAR is caught in the middle of a relentless attack by a dogged critic of the Rev. Jesse Jackson.

At stake are NASCAR's commitment to diversity and the allegiance of some fans who are riled by Jackson's opposition to the war in Iraq, resentment him for other reasons, or simply don't want the complexion of the sport to change.



Jackson

So far, NASCAR has done the smart thing. It has avoided the political issues without backing down from support for Jackson in their joint efforts to draw more minorities to auto racing at all levels — as fans, drivers, crew members and owners.

"NASCAR does not endorse political views," president Mike Helton said. "NASCAR endorses diversity."

Dora Taylor, hired by NASCAR to head its diversity program after she helped turn Denny's from worst to first in its industry, said NASCAR

remains serious about going after new markets by attracting minorities.

"It's a win-win scenario all the way around," she said.

Not if it involves Jackson, countered one of his most vehement critics, activist Peter Flaherty.

Flaherty is president of a tiny outfit with a pretentious title, the National Legal and Policy Center, in Falls Church, Va., which purports to promote "ethics in government" while exposing the "hypocrisy of the left."

To this end, Flaherty, conservative cohort Ken Boehm, and their staff of three have been waging a campaign against NASCAR's relationship with Jackson on the Internet, radio, television and in newspapers.

"We have an ongoing campaign to dissuade corporate America from supporting Jesse Jackson," Flaherty said.

They have been trying to bring down Jackson for a couple of years, alleging his non-profit Citizenship Education Fund is crooked and that the \$250,000 NASCAR has donated to it over the past two years — among the contributions of many — is going into his pockets.

"It's basically a slush fund for Jackson," Flaherty said. "One thing that is indisputable is that it has nothing to do with broadening the base of NASCAR. This is not a non-



KRT photo by Davie Hushaw

Cars make pit stops at the recent Pole Coca-Cola 600.

profit; it's an entity that's run to push the financial benefit of Jesse Jackson, his friends and family, some of whom have become quite wealthy."

That's a charge that Charles Farrell, director of Rainbow Sports, a division of Jackson's Rainbow/PUSH

Coalition, called "an absurd accusation ... ridiculous."

"Mr. Flaherty's attacks have no basis in fact," Farrell said.

Farrell works closely with NASCAR, as well as with major league baseball, the

See NASCAR on A11

Plaintiffs want court to overturn results of McKinney's 2002 election

BY ERIC TURE MUHAMMAD
FINAL CALL

ATLANTA (NNPA) — As a lawsuit challenging the validity of the vote that unseated Rep. Cynthia McKinney (D-Ga.) winds through the courts, plaintiffs are hopeful that an opinion by conservative U.S. Supreme Court Justice Anthony Scalia actually will help their cause.

The suit charges the state of Georgia, the Board of Elections and Registration of DeKalb and Gwinnett counties and the Georgia Democratic Party with interfering with the rights of voters on account of race. The suit further declares that



McKinney

Republicans engaged in a "malicious crossover" when they voted in the Democratic primary.

The suit seeks to declare the crossover vote of more than 47,000 votes unconstitutional. Named as defendants are Gov. Sonny Perdue, who assumed office on Jan. 13; Secretary of State Cathy Cox; Linda Latimore and Lynn Ledford, board of election supervisors in the counties of DeKalb and Gwinnett, respectively. The Georgia Democratic Party is included in the suit because it is responsible by state law for conducting democratic primaries.

While first-term Congresswoman Denise Majette would not comment on the lawsuit during a recent meeting before the Richmond Democratic Party breakfast in Augusta, and later during a town hall meeting of supporters in DeKalb, plaintiffs of an amended suit filed in March said they are hopeful there could be a re-election. Those plaintiffs include Rev. E. Randal Osborne, Linda Dubose, Brenda Lowe Clemons, Dorothy Perry and Wendell

Muhammad, the Southern regional protocol director for the Nation of Islam.

The controversial Aug. 20, 2002, election saw a massive White Republican crossover that practically equaled an all-white state primary. Democrats and blacks overwhelmingly voted for McKinney. White voter turnout was calculated at 38 percent with 90 percent of that crossover vot-

ing for Majette. Blacks represented a 32 percent turnout.

Majette was included in the original suit filed shortly after the election in 2002, but has since been dropped as a defendant.

In her loss, McKinney joined former Rep. Earl Hilliard of Alabama as the second black lawmaker targeted by crossover votes and tremendous opposition from

pro-Israeli groups in support of their challengers. Hilliard lost in a special runoff to Artur Davis.

The suit, in part, relies on the opinion of Justice Scalia and the cases outlined by the high court in "California vs. Jones" and "Gore vs. Bush."

"A single election in which the party nominee is selected by nonparty members could

See McKinney on A9

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