



Linda Garrou is one of only a few women in the Senate.

Taylor sets sights on Garrou's Senate seat

BY LAYLA FARMER
THE CHRONICLE

Forsyth County will be getting a new senator this year.

Controversy erupted last year when Republicans in the General Assembly rolled out new Congressional and Legislative districts that critics say were designed to empower the GOP.

Longtime Forsyth County State Sen. Linda Garrou wasn't happy with the new districts. Her home was drawn out of the 32nd District, which she has represented since 1999, making her ineligible to run for reelection this year.

Garrou is one of more than 40 plaintiffs who have filed legal challenges, claiming the new districts are unconstitutional. Though she is not spearheading the lawsuit, which was filed in November, Garrou said getting involved was an easy decision for her.

"I was certainly willing to participate because I believe that the Republican party are doing what they can to marginalize minorities and women and I certainly do not think that this is what the intentions of redistricting should be," said the UNC-Chapel Hill alumna. "...I'm dismayed that they are short sided and that they are overreaching in such a way because I don't think that in the long run it's helpful."

Garrou, who says she won't run in her new District, is one of only six women in the NC Senate, three of whom have announced they will not seek re-election in 2012. Debbie Clary and Jean Preston, both Republicans, have also opted not to run again.

On Monday, a panel of three Superior Court judges threw out several of the challenges. But groups like the state NAACP, which has filed its own challenge, are happy that the panel saw merit in several of the other complaints.

While Republicans say many of the new districts - including Garrou's - were redrawn to make it easier for black candidates to win seats, the NAACP is not buying that.

"We continue this fight because we know the maps adopted by the General Assembly are a scheme to increase the political power of the ultra-conservative leadership in the General Assembly at the expense of the power of the African American vote," NAACP leaders said in a statement. "Once all the evidence is heard, we believe the court will ultimately find the newly adopted maps unconstitutional."

Despite the controversy, interest in Garrou's seat is heating up. At least four people have expressed interest in running for the 32nd District seat, but only City Council Member James Taylor has said that he will definitely run. Though he said he doesn't agree with the redistricting plan, Taylor said it could also bring about



James Taylor and his wife monitor election results in 2009.

some good changes for the black community.

"I do believe the redistricting in several districts does minimize the black vote," he stated. "But at the same time, I do think this is a chance for us (African Americans) to have some representation in Raleigh. I don't think there's ever been a black senator representing Forsyth County."

Taylor, a Democrat, was elected in 2009, beating incumbent Evelyn Terry in the process. He said he appreciated Garrou's leadership during her more than decade-long career in the N.C. Senate.

"Senator Garrou has done a great job for our community, but there is still work left to be done," said Taylor, who represents the city's Southeast Ward. "Hopefully, I can take the mantle ... and do what's best for the people of the 32nd District."

During his stint on the Council, Taylor said that he has advocated for an anti-graffiti ordinance, secured upgrades for all the playgrounds in his ward and landed a district office for the Winston-Salem Police Department, which is slated to be complete later this year. He said he wasn't motivated by the recent redistricting alone.

"I had been thinking about running in the last election two years ago, but I knew I had a lot to learn on the City Council and there was a lot of work that needed to be done," said the North Carolina Central University alumnus. "There's still a lot to be done, but I feel like we've accomplished a lot."

If elected, the 30-year-old will be among the state's youngest legislators. He believes his willingness and ability to work with colleagues across party lines will be one of his greatest assets as a state senator.

"If you look at what's going on in Raleigh, there is a large amount of divisiveness. There is very little getting done because people are focused on being Republican or Democrat," said Taylor, a married father of three. "...I want to go to Raleigh to focus on things that unite us."

Taylor said he is confident about his chances of making it to Raleigh, though he likely will face challengers.

"I am only as confident as the people who will be electing me," he said. "And based on what I've heard and what I feel, I've done a good job representing them and I will be the next senator of Forsyth County."

NEWS CLIPS

Compiled from staff, wire and submitted reports

Restaurants Being Accepted for Hope du Jour
The 22nd annual Crisis Control Ministry Hope du Jour is looking for restaurants to participate in its May 1 event.

Hope du Jour is Crisis Control's signature event and one of its largest fundraisers. Participating restaurants agree to donate 10 percent of their sales on May 1 to support the mission and programs of Crisis Control Ministry.

The Hope du Jour web site (www.hopedujour.org) provides a list of participating restaurants, both alphabetically and by city. Changes have been made to the website so that symbols designate restaurants that cater (C), those that have on-site meeting space (M), and serving times (B) (L) (D). There are also links to the restaurants' web sites and Facebook pages.

News, updates and daily menu specials from participating restaurants are also posted on Facebook at www.facebook.com/hopedujour.

Radio program focuses on money

"Your Money's Worth," a weekly radio show aired on WSNC-FM, the public radio station at Winston-Salem State University (WSSU), will feature programs on retirement funds and flexible spending accounts this month.

During the week of Feb. 7, the show will focus on Roth IRAs and the following week, the program will discuss converting a traditional IRA to a Roth IRA. The week of February 21, the

topic will be healthcare flexible spending accounts and the program will discuss dependent care flexible spending accounts during the week of Feb. 28.

"Your Money's Worth" airs on WSNC 90.5 on Tuesdays at 4 p.m. and again at 10:30 a.m. on Thursdays and Saturdays. Nick Daves, director of the Center of Excellence in Financial Services in WSSU's School of Business and Economics, writes and hosts the program.

McDonalds to offer commemorative CIAA cups

The Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA) has announced an unprecedented in-store commemorative cup promotion with McDonald's and long-time official CIAA partner Coca-Cola to celebrate the CIAA's 100th Anniversary in Charlotte from Feb. 28 - March 4.

The CIAA, its Board of Directors, member institutions, alumni, students and fans are proud to have the support of McDonald's and Coca-Cola in celebrating our 100th anniversary," said CIAA Board of Directors Chairman Dr. Mickey Burnim.



Burnim

"This is a great time for the CIAA as we celebrate 100 years of history and success. This partnership not only raises the awareness of the CIAA, but it also showcases the strength of our brand."

The CIAA commemorative cup promotion began Feb. 1 and will conclude on Feb. 29. More than 12 million keepsake commemorative cups will be produced featuring the official CIAA 100th anniversary logo, McDonald's and Coca-Cola's logos and the tagline "Come Celebrate 100 years of history."

The promotion will encompass 681 McDonald's restaurant locations in three regions in the Mid-Atlantic. Those markets include the Richmond, Va. area; Charlotte, Raleigh, Atlanta, Chattanooga, Tenn., Columbus, Ga. and Augusta, Ga.

For more information about the CIAA conference or the 2012 Tournament - 100th anniversary celebration in Charlotte, please visit www.theCIAA.com or www.ciaatournament.org.

Report: Use arts to drive economy

North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources Secretary Linda A. Carlisle has released recommendations from a statewide task force that calls for arts and cultural districts planning and funding for arts-driven economic development pilot projects.

The recommendations were from the SmART Initiative Task Force appointed by Carlisle last year. She charged the Task Force with using arts-driven economic development as a catalyst in North Carolina communities. Jim Goodman, CEO of Capitol Broadcasting, served as chairperson of the Task Force.

"The SmART Initiative reinforces Cultural Resources' work in the creative economy," said Carlisle. "Investment in arts and culture makes North Carolina a place where businesses want to live, and where visitors want to explore."

Goodman added that in his experience in recruiting new businesses to the Triangle, the arts are a very effective tool for bringing new companies to the area. "The big payoff is economic development, including the creation of new businesses and restoration of vacant or underutilized buildings," said Goodman.

Historic

ST. PHILIPS HERITAGE CENTER

in Old Salem Museums & Gardens

February 18, 2 to 4 p.m. - 4 to 6 p.m.

HERITAGE FAMILY FEST

A special day highlighting the history, art and culture of African Americans

ACTIVITIES WILL INCLUDE: Live Music, Family Programs Symposium, Storytelling, Art, Crafts, and more!

Special Activities include: African American History, NAACP Gospel Showcase, Puppet Shows, Calligraphy, Walking Tours, Art Exhibits, and more!

SPECIAL GUESTS INCLUDE: Dr. James Spivey, N.C. African American Heritage Center, Dr. James Spivey, N.C. Assoc. of Black Storytellers and more!

Specialty Vendors: African Storytellers, St. Anne's Church, African Storytellers, and more!

Students and adults welcome. Free admission. Free will donation.

February 11, 10 to 11 a.m. - 2 to 4 p.m.

MESDA Saturday Seminar: "TELL ME YOUR NAME"

IMAGES AND ARTIFACTS OF THE AMERICAN STORY

Speakers include: Freddie J. Parker, Professor of History, North Carolina Central University; Fred Robinson, Associate Professor of History, Salem College; and other named authors. Registration required.

February 10, 4 to 6 p.m.

FREDERICK DOUGLASS ORATORICAL CONTEST

Annual contest for students in grades 4-12.

Friday, Saturday in February, 4 to 6 p.m. (on advance apply)

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Rep. Larry Womble
NC House of Representatives

71st District
Tel (336) 784-9373
Fax (336) 784-1626
E-Mail: LWistm@aol.com

Home Address
1294 Salem Lake Road
Winston-Salem, NC 27107



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