



SOFTBALL CLINIC

Former UCLA player shows Diamond Fever a few techniques » **SPORTS**

MEDICARE FINANCES IMPROVING, SOCIAL SECURITY STABLE » A4



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US judges reject marriage ban

Decision likely to be appealed to the US Supreme Court

2-1

The Associated Press

RICHMOND — Virginia's same-sex marriage ban is unconstitutional, a federal appeals court ruled Monday in a decision that could overturn similar prohibitions in the Carolinas

and West Virginia. The 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Richmond is the second federal appellate court to overturn gay marriage bans, and is the first to affect the South, where states' rights have held particular sway for genera-

tions, but politicians are under increasing pressure to give up the fight. The judges ruled 2-1 Monday that Virginia's constitutional and statutory provisions barring gay marriage and denying recognition of such unions performed

» Vote count for the decision from the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of appeals lifting the gay marriage ban in Virginia.

in other states violate the U.S. Constitution. The defendants are likely to ask for the ruling to

be stayed pending more appeals to the full 4th circuit and the U.S. Supreme Court; otherwise, marriage licenses to same-sex couples could begin to be issued in 21 days. Virginians voted 57 percent to 43 percent in 2006 to amend their constitution to ban gay

See **MARRIAGE**, Page A10

McDonnell jury seated as trial opens formally

Opening statements expected today in federal court hearing

Richmond Times-Dispatch

RICHMOND — After opening statements today, the first government witnesses are expected to begin testimony in the federal corruption trial of former Gov. Bob McDonnell and his wife, Maureen.

It took more than eight hours to select an eight-man, four-woman jury and four alternate jurors out of a jury pool of more than 140 Monday. Moments after the panel was seated, however, one juror was excused to be replaced by one of the four alternates.



B. McDonnell

U.S. District Judge James R. Spencer thanked the prospective jurors for their service and joked he was aware that many considered themselves lucky not to have been called. "Pray for the rest of us," Spencer joked.



M. McDonnell

The McDonnells were charged in a 14-count indictment alleging they conspired to use the governor's office to aid former Star Scientific CEO Jonnie Williams Sr., who feted them with more than \$165,000 in gifts, trips, golf outings, loans and cash payments.

In exchange for the gifts and loans, prosecutors contend the McDonnells helped Williams and his company with various "official" acts.

Williams, who has immunity, is expected to be a key prosecution witness, but outside experts believe he will not be the first witness the government puts on the stand.

McDonnell was mobbed by reporters as he left the courthouse Monday with attorneys, his sister, the family priest and supporters. "We're glad we got a jury picked, and we're looking forward to starting the defense tomorrow," he said.

"I'm just glad to get started with the defense

See **McDONNELL**, Page A10

'AT THE MERCY OF THE ELEMENTS'



STEVEN MANTILLA/REGISTER & BEE

Tim Shelton's tobacco harvest has been impacted by the dry weather. For Shelton, who has farmed full-time in Dry Fork since 1982, this has been one of the driest years. He has received about 1.6 inches of rain since May 15 — at least four inches below normal — and anticipates a 25 percent decrease in tobacco production this year.

Farmers: Rain, rain come this way

Hit-and-miss showers hurt growers; crop production expected to suffer as result

BY JOHN R. CRANE
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DRY FORK

Dry weather has delayed Tim Shelton's tobacco harvest and forced him to feed hay to his cattle since the last week of June.

"I've lost 30 days of our winter-stock hay," Shelton said during an interview on the front porch of his home on Dry Fork Road.

For Shelton, who has farmed full-time in Dry Fork since 1982, this has been one of the driest years in the last two decades. His farm land includes 275 acres of flue-cured tobacco — which he sells to Philip Morris USA — and 300 Black Angus

“The crop is not maturing on schedule because of the drought condition.”

— Tim Shelton, tobacco farmer

beef cattle, which he sells to processors and at auctions, including the Lynchburg Cattle Market.

He has received about 1.6 inches of rain since May 15 — at least four inches below normal — and anticipates a 25 percent decrease in tobacco production this year.

"The crop is not maturing on schedule because of the drought conditions," Shelton said.

In a normal year, Shelton irrigates two-thirds of his tobacco once.

"We have completed our third and getting ready to start our fourth application [of irrigated water]," he said.

The non-irrigated part of his tobacco crop is even worse.

"Non-irrigated acres could be a total loss if it doesn't rain soon," Shelton said.

Stephen Barts, extension agent with the Virginia Cooperative Extension Office in Pittsylvania County, said rainfall has been inconsistent throughout the county this season, leaving some areas parched.

See **RAIN**, Page A10

North Danville neighborhood to get new gas lines

3.9 miles of cast iron gas pipe will be replaced during the next year

44.5 miles

BY DENICE THIBODEAU
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A neighborhood in North Danville will get new gas lines this year as part of the city's ongoing efforts to replace the old cast iron mains.

Allen Wiles, director of water

and gas for Danville Utilities, said most of the city's 356 miles of gas pipes — some installed as long ago as the 1920s — have been replaced since the project began in the 1990s.

The 44.5 miles of pipe left to replace will see 3.9 miles chipped off the total over the next year as North Main Street,

from Fagan Street to Northmont Boulevard, have lines replaced.

Side streets, including Fagan Street, Guilford Street, Parkland Drive, Brentwood Drive and Northmont Boulevard, will be included in the project.

About a mile of water lines also will be replaced in the same area, Wiles said — another

» Total length of gas lines left to replace in Danville.

er series of pipes that covers 337 miles serving 18,229 water customers and 2,073 fire hydrants.

Cast iron pipes are subject to corrosion, cracking and leaks, Wiles said. The replacements

done to date have been responsible for reducing the number of calls about gas leaks from about 345 in 2009 to 189 in 2013, he said.

Wiles also told commissioners an upcoming project he would like to see happen is to set up a second connection to the Transcontinental Gas Pipeline.

See **LINES**, Page A10



80 Partly sunny in the region today. **A10**



Annie's Mailbox.....	B6	Lottery.....	A2	Region & State.....	A2
Classifieds.....	B8	Obituaries.....	A4	Sports.....	B1
Comics.....	B7	Opinion.....	A8	Stocks.....	B5
Horoscope.....	B7	Puzzle.....	B7	TV.....	B6

COMING TOMORROW: While odd, bale gardening can work if done properly.