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# Richmond Times-Dispatch

Tuesday, July 29, 2014

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## Gay marriage ruling upheld

U.S. appeals court strikes down Va. ban on same-sex unions

BY MARKUS SCHMIDT  
Richmond Times-Dispatch

A federal appeals court panel in Richmond on Monday upheld a ruling from a lower court that struck down Virginia's ban on

same-sex marriage.

In a 2-1 decision, the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals judges agreed with U.S. Judge Arenda L. Wright Allen's ruling in February that the 2006 amendment to the Virginia Constitution defining marriage as between a man and a woman violates the equal protection clause and due process clause of the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

The decision goes into effect in 21 days, unless the defendants file a motion to appeal — which they are likely to do. The case will then head to the U.S. Supreme Court for review.

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“Civil marriage is one of the cornerstones of our way of life. It allows individuals to celebrate and publicly declare their intentions to form lifelong partnerships, which provide unpar-

alleled intimacy, companionship, emotional support and security,” Judge Henry F. Floyd wrote in his majority opinion.

“The choice of whether and **MARRIAGE, Page A5**

### McDonnell Trial: Day 1

## Jury seated; first witnesses set



BOB BROWN/TIMES-DISPATCH

Former Gov. Bob McDonnell heads into the federal courthouse in downtown Richmond. He and his wife are charged in a 14-count indictment.

### Opening statements today in federal corruption case of ex-governor, wife

BY FRANK GREEN AND JIM NOLAN  
Richmond Times-Dispatch

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-

**More online**

Go to TimesDispatch.com to read PDFs listing the prosecution and defense exhibit list and to keep up with the latest from the trial.

woman jury, and four alternates, out of a pool of more than 140 on Monday. Moments after the panel was seated, however, one juror was excused to be replaced by one of the four alternates.

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

“Pray for the rest of us,” Spencer joked.

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 pay- **McDONNELL, Page A7**

## New city jail opens with beds to spare

Richmond project set to stay within \$134M budget

BY JOE MACENKA  
Richmond Times-Dispatch

Richmond's mayor and sheriff on Monday formally opened the city's new jail, a structure that is on budget and — unlike its predecessor — sporting a significant number of empty beds.

Sheriff C.T. Woody Jr. said deputies finished moving the last of the 945 inmates to the 1,032-bed Richmond City Justice Center on Saturday.

The six-story, 430,000-square-foot jail along Fairfield Way replaces one roughly half its size that was built in the 1960s. That facility had long suffered from significant maintenance. **JAIL, Page A10**

**City jail's stages**

See this story on TimesDispatch.com for a time-lapse video of the new facility's construction.

**WORLD HOT SPOTS**



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**UKRAINE:** Residents flee their homes near Donetsk as Ukrainian troops recapture three cities and fight their way nearer to the wreckage of a jetliner.

**ISRAEL-GAZA:** As four more soldiers are killed, Israel warns its citizens to get ready for a long fight in the Gaza Strip.

**IRAQ:** When Islamic State militants came to destroy a centuries-old minaret, residents of Mosul pushed back.

**SYRIA:** More than 2,000 Syrians are killed in just more than two weeks as Islamic State militants step up attacks.

**LIBYA:** Two oil depots are set ablaze as militias fight for control of Tripoli's airport and foreigners flee the capital.

Stories on Page A6

## Lawmakers agree on \$17B fix for VA health system

Bipartisan deal could pass by end of week

BY MATTHEW DALY  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A bipartisan deal announced Monday would authorize about \$17 billion to help veterans avoid long waits for health care, hire more doctors and nurses to treat veterans, and make it easier to fire executives at the Department of

Veterans Affairs. An agreement announced by the chairmen of the House and Senate Veterans Affairs committees is intended to fix a health program scandalized by long patient wait times and falsified records covering up delays. The bill includes \$10 billion **VETERANS, Page A10**

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