

AG won't defend gay marriage ban

Cooper says opposition 'futile' after federal court strikes down Virginia ban

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

RALEIGH — North Carolina's attorney general said Monday his office will no longer defend the state's voter-approved ban on same-sex marriage in court after a federal appeals court ruled a similar prohibition in neighboring Virginia unconstitutional. At a news conference little

more than two hours after the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruling was announced in Richmond, Virginia, Attorney General Roy Cooper said the ruling made it highly likely North Carolina's ban will be overturned. North Carolina is part of the 4th Circuit.

Cooper, a Democrat, said further opposition to the four federal lawsuits challenging

his state's constitutional ban on same-sex marriage would be "futile."

"Our attorneys have vigorously defended North Carolina marriage law, which is their job," Cooper said. "But today we know our law almost surely will be overturned as well. Simply put, it is time to stop making arguments we will lose and instead move forward, knowing that the ultimate resolution will likely come from the U.S.

Supreme Court."

Cooper had previously stated his personal opposition to the marriage ban, but said it was his duty as an elected official to defend the state constitutional amendment approved by voters in 2012. He said his decision Monday doesn't mean same-sex marriages in North Carolina can begin immediately. That would take a judge's ruling. But since the 4th Circuit includes North Carolina, he said any federal

judge in the state would be bound by the ruling out of Virginia

The 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Richmond is the second federal appellate court to overturn gay marriage bans, and the first to affect the South, a region where the rising tide of rulings favoring marriage equality is testing concepts of states' rights that have long

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Tiffany Russell, second right, and Lynda Bass, second left, cheer as they listen to the Rev. William Barber on Monday during the Moral Monday March to the Polls Rally in downtown Durham.

Moral Monday comes to the Bull City

Voting rights the focus of downtown rally

BY DAWN BAUMGARTNER VAUGHAN
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D U R H A M

Moral Mondays came to Durham Monday evening, with a rally at CCB Plaza downtown. The N.C. NAACP-organized Moral Mondays were held in Raleigh the past two years when the North Carolina General Assembly was in session, to protest policies of the Republican-majority legislature. Moral Mondays are now being held in cities across the state this summer as part of the NAACP's "Moral Freedom Summer" initiative to get out the vote for fall elections.

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The Herald-Sun | Christine T. Nguyen

The Rev. William Barber speaks during the Moral Monday March to the Polls Rally in downtown Durham on Monday, July 28, 2014. Hundreds of people took part in the effort to register and mobilize voters ahead of the November 4 election.

County raises incentives offer to drug maker

BY RAY GRONBERG
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DURHAM — County Commissioners have raised their business-incentive offer to a Durham-based pharmaceutical company that's developing new treatments for kidney cancer, HIV and lupus.

The 5-0 vote on Monday pledged \$925,000 to Argos Therapeutics, \$325,000 more than the commissioners initially agreed to offer the company.

The extra money is coming because Argos is willing to invest \$10.3 million more in a combined new headquarters, research and development lab and manufacturing plant. The county's initial \$600,000 offer was tied to a \$47.3 million investment by Argos.

"They're putting in more money and are wanting us to up

the ante," Commissioner Fred Foster said, summarizing the essentials of the new deal.

Greater Durham Chamber of Commerce Vice President Ted Conner said a parallel request for an incentives increase will reach the City Council soon.

"It's an equal partnership," Conner said, noting that the city and county were splitting the costs of the deal 50-50 and had each pledged \$600,000 when the initial proposal surfaced over the winter.

Deputy County Manager Marqueta Welton voiced confidence Monday that the increased offer will produce into a decision by Argos to remain in Durham. The company is currently based in north Durham near Duke Regional Hospital.

Welton added that officials are

also upping the offer because of "the competition," namely four other North Carolina counties, a community in Florida and another in Canada that have also been in the running.

The deal will retain for Durham 100 existing jobs and bring 236 new ones, she added.

Argos is one of the companies that's trying to tailor its drugs to the genetic profile of the tumors or diseases they're supposed to fight.

It's gearing up to produce them on the assumption a clinical trial of one cancer drug involving 100 patients is successful. The company's also using the proceeds of a \$39.3 million grant from the National Institutes of Health to pay for intermediate trials of an HIV drug.

Jury deliberations resume today in Lovette trial

BY KEITH UPCHURCH
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DURHAM — Jury deliberations resume today in Durham County Superior Court in the robbery and first-degree murder trial of Laurence Lovette.

During closing arguments Monday, prosecutors painted Lovette as a cold-blooded killer who cut short a promising future of Duke University graduate student Abhijit Mahato, who was fatally shot at his Durham apartment Jan. 18, 2008.

But Lovette's attorneys said the prosecution fell far short of proving that Lovette murdered Mahato. Defense lawyer Karen Bethea-Shields said the state's case was full of "sound and fury" built with "hot air and cotton candy."

Shields said the state promised the jury

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CORRECTION

An article on A1 Sunday Herald-Sun should have said the Human Relations Commission member Misty Odell, a field director with Americans for Prosperity, is also a chemist and once owned a pharmacy.

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