



ALL-AREA BASEBALL

BUILDING A LEGACY FROM THE MOUND

Zach Clinton helped lead LCA to glory » SPORTS



Driven to keep kids safe

Kenya Fowler urges smart choices behind the wheel » LIFESTYLE

The News & Advance

NEWSADVANCE.COM | TUESDAY, JULY 29, 2014 | LYNCHBURG, VA.

Medicare to remain afloat a bit longer

Program to be solvent until 2030; Social Security holds steady

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Medicare's financial stability has been strengthened by the Affordable Care Act and other forces that have been subduing healthcare spending, according to a new official forecast that says the fund covering the program's hospital costs will remain solvent until 2030 — four years later than expected a year ago.

The annual report, issued Monday by trustees overseeing the government's two largest entitlement programs, found little change overall in the finances of Social Security. However, the trustees warned that the part of Social Security that pays monthly benefits to people with disabilities is especially fragile and, without changes, will start to run short of money for benefit checks in 2016.

Taken together, the findings provide a nuanced portrait of the fiscal futures of these two programs, which act as cornerstones of social insurance — and a buffer against poverty — for older people and other vulnerable Americans. The trustees

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Ebola fears grow after virus victim took plane

Airlines impose tighter screening; ill American worsens

The Associated Press

DAKAR, Senegal — No one knows for sure just how many people Liberian Patrick Sawyer came into contact with the day he boarded a flight in Liberia, had a stopover in Ghana, changed planes in Togo and then arrived in Nigeria, where authorities said he died days later from Ebola, one of the deadliest diseases known to man.

Now health workers are scrambling to trace those who may have been exposed to Sawyer across West Africa, including flight attendants and fellow passengers.

Health experts said it is unlikely he could have infected

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Gay marriage scores another Virginia win

» **Federal appeals court** agrees with earlier ruling that state's ban is unconstitutional

Richmond Times-Dispatch

RICHMOND — 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 state Constitution defining marriage as between a man and a woman violates the equal protection clause and due process clause under the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

The decision goes into effect in 21 days, unless the defen-

» **Decision stayed for 21 days** pending an appeal; also affects similar bans in NC, SC and WV

dants file a motion to appeal — which they are likely to do. The case then will head to the U.S. Supreme Court for review.

"We recognize that same-sex marriage makes some people deeply uncomfortable," Judge Henry F. Floyd wrote in his majority opinion. "However,

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“We recognize that same-sex marriage makes some people deeply uncomfortable. However, inertia and apprehension are not legitimate bases for denying same-sex couples due process and equal protection of the laws.”

— **Judge Henry F. Floyd**, in his majority opinion for the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals

WHAT'S NEXT » The 4th Circuit's 2-1 ruling is likely to be appealed. If it is, the case would then head to the Supreme Court.

Jury chosen in McDonnell trial



Surrounded by attorneys and members of the media, former Gov. Bob McDonnell and his wife, Maureen, arrive at the federal courthouse in Richmond on Monday. "We're glad we got a jury picked, and we're looking forward to starting the defense tomorrow," Bob McDonnell said.

Over 100 witnesses to be called; opening statements, testimony to begin today

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.

Nine of the jurors appear to be white;

three appear to be black. One juror told the judge his father was a military police officer during Vietnam, and his aunt retired from the Virginia Department of Transportation. Another juror said his wife was a project manager at the Federal Reserve Bank. Another said she was a neighbor to Kathleen Scott, a former staffer to the governor's wife.

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

"Pray for the rest of us," Spencer joked. "We need it."

The McDonnells were charged in a 14-count indictment alleging they conspired

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DEVELOPMENTS

JURY SEATED » Eight men and four women, along with four alternates, were chosen after more than eight hours of questioning Monday.

WITNESSES » The defense plans to call 121 witnesses and the prosecution 61, though many names are likely to overlap. Notably absent from both lists: Todd Schneider, the former executive mansion chef who first alerted authorities to the relationship between Jonnie Williams Sr. and the McDonnells.



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COMING WEDNESDAY

All things gardening in Don Davis' weekly column.

