

4H prep
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FAIR

See Page B1



Thursday, August 15, 2013

4 Sections • 20 Pages | Volume 146 • Number 33

Index	
Opinions.....	A4
Just 3 Words.....	B4
Yesterday's.....	C3
Classifieds.....	D1
Puzzle Page.....	B2

75 cents PAGE NEWS and COURIER

Lurray,
Virginia

Page County's Newspaper Since 1867

Belton gets \$110,000 in lawsuit settlement

By Joe Farrugia
Staff Writer

County pays \$60,000; insurance pays \$50,000

Former Page County Administrator Mark Belton will walk away from the table with \$110,000 as the settlement in a federal lawsuit he filed earlier this year against Page County.

Board of Supervisors Chairman Johnny Woodward said the county will pay \$60,000 and the insurance coverage provided by the Virginia Association of Counties will pay \$50,000. The county's portion will

come from the contingency fund, according to County Administrator Mark Lauzier. Woodward and County Attorney Nathan Miller disclosed the settlement on Friday, Aug. 9.

When the supervisors adopted a resolution on July 24 authorizing Woodward to complete the settlement negotiations, Miller said a provisional order dismissing the case had been drawn up on July 12, but it would not

be officially entered, and the terms of settlement could not be disclosed, until lawyers on both sides agreed to the terms.

The order, signed by U.S. District Judge Michael Urbanski, declares the case dismissed with prejudice, meaning it cannot be reinstated. When asked if there were any other terms of the settlement, Woodward said no. "The settlement was not anywhere near what he [Bel-

ton] asked for, and the board would not agree to any other terms," Woodward said.

Belton's complaint, filed in U.S. District Court on March 11, claimed he was unlawfully dismissed because of frequent absences due to his obligations with the U.S. Navy Reserve. The suit did not seek a specific monetary settlement, but requested that the court order the county to pay "compensation, in the amount

to be proven at trial, for all damages ... including back pay, front pay, lost benefits of employment, pre- and post-judgment interest, negative tax consequences and liquidated damages." It also sought payment for all "reasonable attorney, expert fees and costs."

On May 21, both parties were ordered by a U.S. Magistrate to sit down face-to-face to resolve the complaint through mediation. Talks

began June 24, with the parties reaching a tentative agreement on July 12.



BELTON

Town objects to partial judgment in

THIS WEEKEND

TRIATHLON

Daley secures lawyer in sex crimes case