

PANAMA CITY NEWS HERALD



LOCAL
Hathaway still under warranty
1B

BUSINESS
TDC panel hears funding requests
7C

SPORTS
Mosley looks for its third victory
1C



1C
50 cents

THURSDAY September 20, 2007

Complete details on **8C**

Today	Friday
Partly cloudy	Storms likely
HIGH 83	HIGH 86
LOW 72	LOW 73

AT A GLANCE

LOCAL & STATE, 1B

Relocation opponents threaten new lawsuit

A month has passed since the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers issued the final environmental permit to the West Bay airport, and though a promised lawsuit over it has not materialized, those opposing relocation say it is in the works.

NATION & WORLD, 4A



The Associated Press

Troop bill fails on Senate vote

Following a heated debate on the Senate floor, lawmakers failed to require the Pentagon to give U.S. troops as much time to rest at home as they spend in theater overseas.

BUSINESS, 7C

Port eyes future needs in workshop

As the Panama City Port Authority held its first workshop Wednesday on the port's new master plan, much of the discussion among board members turned to the port's available space, or lack of it.

YOUNG ARTIST



Today's artwork is by Austin Brock, a student at Merriam-Cherry Street Elementary School.

INSIDE

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TRIM deadline extended again

Property owners have 21 days to file petitions with county appraiser's office

By Jeremy Morrison
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PANAMA CITY

The extension has been extended.

The two-week extension for property owners to file petitions with the county appraiser's office has been upped to 21 days. The extra time was requested by both the Bay County Commission and Sen. Don Gaetz, R-Niceville, and granted by the Florida Department of Revenue.

The Commission initially made the two-week extension during its regular meeting Sept. 18. County Attorney Terrel Arline told the commissioners they "probably" held the

Inside

Rubio pledges tax relief effort **4B**

authority to make such a move.

Commission Chairman Mike Nelson said the legitimacy of the move wasn't an issue, since the Value Adjustment Board, the group that hears appeals the property appraiser rejects, had the leeway to hear petitions filed after the dead-

line. Nelson sits on the board with two other commissioners and two School Board members.

Gaetz said Wednesday that neither the commission nor the adjustment board had such authority. The senator said an extension request must be made with the Department of Revenue; he made such a request. "The department has assured me they'll approve it," Gaetz said,

See TRIM **2A**

Students replace drama teacher's stolen bicycle



Andrew Wardlow / The News Herald

Bruce Taws rides his new bicycle around students in his advanced drama class at Mosley High School in Lynn Haven on Wednesday. Some of Taws' students pitched in and purchased him a new bike after his was stolen.

'An unselfish act'

By Donna Vavala
News Herald Writer
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LYNN HAVEN

Mosley High School drama teacher Bruce Taws bought a new bicycle last month for transportation to school and to run errands.

His wife was using their only car to travel to Millville, where she teaches.

Last week, Taws parked the bike on the porch of a portable classroom where he teaches and forgot to lock it.

"It was stolen off the back porch," said Taws. "Most of the kids know me. If they

knew it was mine, they wouldn't take it."

"He was really upset by it," said student Lydia Ferry, 17.

Another student, Sarah McCormick, 16, noticed her teacher's frustration.

"We had a practice the day it was stolen," said McCormick. "I said, 'We should get him a new one.'"

Before long, Taws' students emptied their wallets. Word spread to his other classes and more students chipped in.

"We started collecting last Thursday and got the bike Tuesday," said McCormick, adding that \$140 was collected.

Taws said he thought it was strange

'Sometimes, students give me a \$40 or \$50 gift certificate at the end of the year, but I never got anything like this.'

Bruce Taws
Mosley High School drama teacher

See UNSELFISH **2A**

Trial details take shape

Judge says jury sequester unlikely in boot camp case

By David Angier
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PANAMA CITY

Circuit Judge Michael Overstreet resolved details, both large and small, on Wednesday as the boot camp death case closes in on Monday's jury selection.

One-time boot camp drill instructors Henry Dickens, Charles Enfinger, Patrick Garrett, Raymond Hauck, Charles Helms Jr., Henry McFadden Jr. and Joseph Walsh II, along with former camp nurse Kristin Schmidt, face charges of aggravated manslaughter of a child and 30 years in prison each if convicted as charged.

They're accused of culpable negligence in the death of Martin Lee Anderson, 14, who died Jan. 6, 2006, after collapsing during his initiation into the camp.

Trial begins Oct. 3, with jury selection starting Monday.

Overstreet, in a meeting with the case lawyers, designated parking spaces and seating arrangements but

Inside

Tacoma lawyer withdraws from boot camp case **1B**

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See BOOT CAMP **2A**

Consultant: Insurance should be cheaper

By Bill Kaczor
The Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE

Property insurance rates have not dropped as much as expected under a new law partly because some companies have increased profit rates, a state consultant Wednesday told Gov. Charlie Crist and the Florida Cabinet.

Bob Hunter, a former Texas insurance commissioner, said another of several factors is a failure to pass

along savings from lower-cost reinsurance — backup coverage companies can get from the state or private sources.

The Legislature passed the law, which expanded reinsurance available through the state's Hurricane Catastrophe fund, in January. It was an attempt to halt premium increases that followed a series of hurricanes in 2004-05.

Hunter, now insurance director for the Consumer Federation of America, said he is sticking with his estimate

of a 24 percent average reduction for homeowners. So far, premium cuts have averaged half as much.

"The smaller companies and the Florida-based companies are basically passing through the savings," Hunter told the panel. "It's the large national companies that are fighting this."

He compared the situation to industry resistance in the late 1990s that followed passage of an insurance rollback proposition in California.

"There is the potential for

collusion working here among members of the industry," Crist later said. "Potential, I'll emphasize at this point, because I don't like to draw any conclusions before they're proven, but that's very serious."

Sam Miller, spokesman for the Florida Insurance Council, a trade association, said such speculation is off-base.

"There's no collusion," Miller said. In some cases, national companies

See INSURANCE **2A**