

Bushranger

Ph: 8944 9767 Email: sunday@ntnews.com.au



Give 'em a rise

GEORGE Hood of Karama reckons this is proof that pilots need a pay rise ...



A FANCY PRISON?

THE NT Government is spending about \$800 million – or \$1.8 billion, depending on which number you believe – to build a 1000-bed prison on the outskirts of Darwin. We presume it's going to be a pretty flash joint at that price. In Greensboro, North Carolina, work is just finishing on a \$115 million project to build the eight-storey, 1032-bed Guilford County Jail and that price includes the renovation of the existing jail next door. In Nebraska, they are building the 779-bed Lancaster County Adult Detention Facility expandable to 1000 beds – for a tidy \$65 million (down from \$84.5 million thanks to competitive bidding).

REAL COST OF EACH BED

NT Treasurer Delia Lawrie claimed this week that the cost per bed at the new prison is "about \$365,000" – a bargain for an Aussie jail, she reckons. However, using the Treasurer's own figures of \$798 million to build the 1000-bed lock-up, it seems to be \$798,000 per bed. So what's the real cost?

GETTING HER OWN BACK

IN unrelated news, Ms Lawrie was spotted bidding on her own items at a charity auction in Darwin Railway Club last Saturday.

SEAT FLIES OUT DOOR

JETSTAR flight JQ74 passengers flying from Sydney to Darwin on

Wednesday arvo were warned against theft by a very upset cabin manager. "If anyone is thinking about stealing a seatbelt and a seat cushion – somebody did yesterday and they got a very hefty fine and escaped a jail term," he said. When a passenger asked him later to elaborate, he said: "It's not good – just don't do it."

LOOKING STRAIGHT AHEAD

A FEW drag queens dropped into the Cav Hotel in Darwin for refreshment after one abseiled off the 28-storey Mantra Pandanas building for a Darwin Pride Festival media stunt on Wednesday. A few of the old guard at the bar didn't know where to look. "There were no bulges," one said.

MAKING A STRONG POINT

SPEAKER Jane Aagaard banged the gavel so hard in Parliament on Thursday the decorative plaque fell off the front of her lectern.

POLITICIANS IN DARK

AND if you are not following the NTNewsAtParly on Facebook or Twitter, you should. A taste: "Parly in a tizz. No one knows what Bill they're supposed to be debating next. Elf, Aagaard, Hendo, Burnsy ... all in the dark. Fixed by all agreeing to have a small break. P'raps all will be clearer after tea and scones".

TIME OUT FOR TEA

MORE on scones. Darwin Prison health manager Joanne Michel told a

coronial inquest that understaffing means prison nurses don't have time to eat. A sympathetic Coroner Greg Cavanagh responded: "I like my tea breaks, otherwise I get grumpy."

FREEDOM OF SPEECH

FORMER Administrator Tom Pauling makes his first public appearance at the NT Library Eric Johnston Lecture on Thursday evening. His address is titled "Now I'm Free to Speak".

DIFFERENT NATIONALITY

US-BASED NT News reader Joe Roberts had this to say about the bogged German tourists at Corroboree Billabong: "If these tourists had been Japanese, you could have called them disoriented".

Bushwhacked

A THOUGHT: More people would go to Clinic 34 on Mitchell St for sexual health treatment if it wasn't in the main street of Darwin



Amelia has travel bug

THIS week's stunner is a Darwin girl through and through. Amelia Weber, 18, was born in D-Town and said she is glad she never left. This blonde bombshell said she loves backyard barbecues with friends, and burning up the dance floor in Mitchell St. She said her favourite thing about the Territory was the Mindil Beach markets. "And the fact that you can dress so casually every day is awesome," she said.

Ms Weber currently works as a mail sorter for Australia Post and, while she said she loved it, her dream is to be strutting her stuff on the catwalk. "I would love to go to Italy – Milan, and get on the catwalk," she said. "There is no specific designer I want to work for, but just the thrill of being there would be awesome."

Does she have any plans for the next couple of years? "I'll just be trying to save some money, and buy a new car and do some travelling. I've always wanted to travel through Italy," she said.

A dirty side of policing

By MEAGAN DILLON

TWELVE Territory police officers had to come to the rescue of a colleague after a paddy wagon got bogged in a river in Darwin's rural area.

Darwin student Haydon James, 21, said he was trying to find a new fishing spot with his sister when he came across the "hilarious" incident on Wednesday afternoon.

"I wasn't sure whether I was going to catch a fish or a cop car," he said.

Mr James said he wasn't sure what the police officers were doing but it would be pretty stupid to try to cross the Howard River – 25km southeast of Darwin – when there was a bridge nearby.

"There were 12 coppers and two or three troopies trying to get the wagon out," he said, adding the water level was higher than normal because of recent rain.

"The water was up to the wagon's window," he said.

But Mr James, from Palmerston, said the officer at the wheel of the wagon made matters worse when he was being pulled out of the bog.

"He put his foot on the accelerator and got himself in deeper," he said.

He said there were officers watching from the river bank who could see the funny side. "(They) were laughing," he said.

Mr James said it was good entertainment for onlookers.

monsoons MITCHELL STREET DARWIN CITY 25TH ANNUAL SILVER ANNIVERSARY

HOO-KERS BALL 2011

HOSTED BY THE STARS OF THE CULT TV SENSATION – HOUSOS SHAZZA AND FRANKIE (Elle Dawe) & (Pauli Fenech)

STRICTLY R RATED SUNDAY 4TH DECEMBER

BEST DRESSED WINS \$1000 CASH FULLY AIR CONDITIONED STREET MARQUEE means Monsoons is Double its normal size for this silver anniversary hookers ball

DOORS OPEN 7PM \$30 IN THEME LOTS MORE IF NOT

RACHAEL BURR

Check out more Stunners at www.sundayterritorian.com.au