



C of C facing challenging times

Big-time basketball has its cost, plus more on the search for a new coach. **Sports, 1C**

The Post and Courier

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Briefly

Parkway project passes key federal hurdle

The Federal Highway Administration issued a finding that the Berlin G. Myers Parkway expansion would not significantly hurt wetlands or water quality. However, opponents will continue their fight. **1B**



Teens bring brighter days in McClellanville

Things are looking better in McClellanville, with the help of some out-of-state teenagers. Sewee to Santee is hosting the Colorado-based Group Workcamps Foundation, which is making much-needed home repairs. But for some of the teens, the job goes beyond repairs. **1B**

Top Anglicans press for gay bishop ban

Top British Anglican leaders are bringing new pressure on the Episcopal General Convention to enact a ban on electing gay bishops before the assembly ends next week. **4A**

Stocks fall slightly after dramatic gains

Stocks fell at the end of a week of zigzag trading that saw a steep sell-off followed by a dramatic rebound. The Dow Jones industrial average lost 0.64 points to 11,014.55. The Nasdaq composite index fell 14.20 to 2,129.95. **7B**



Coming Sunday

James Island, with its deep Gullah roots, begins its five-day Island Heritage Festival on Thursday as a commemoration of the island's history and culture. Read more about this celebration Sunday.



Today's outlook
Sunny and warm.
High 88. Low 65.
Complete 5-day
forecast, **12B**.

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Family goes from bleak to hopeful

Immigrants find better life in Lowcountry

BY ADAM PARKER
The Post and Courier

Kennet started kindergarten at North Charleston's Midland Park Elementary School in March, even though he's been living in the area with his mom since last August.

Last year, the 6-year-old left Honduras with his mother, Dunea Zeron, passed through Guatemala, traversed the length of Mexico, mostly by bus, crossed the Rio Grande on his mother's shoulders, spent a little time in Texas and Florida, then was brought to South Carolina.

Zeron, 32, had been abandoned by her husband. The man had come to the United States years before, made a new life and stopped sending money home, she said through a translator. She was working in a Honduran supermarket that didn't pay her enough to support her family. Her mother required medical care.

So Zeron was faced with a terrible choice: Stay and struggle economically, or abandon her mother and sisters but with the prospect of providing them more financial help.

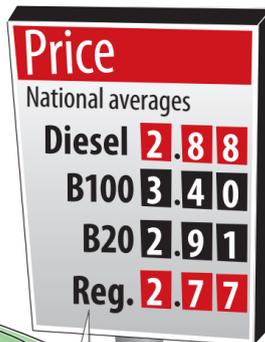
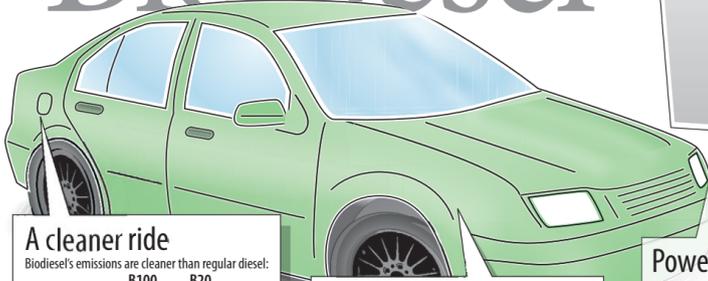
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Maria Onate reads to her 10-month-old son Abel in the library of Midland Park Elementary School. Onate's daughter, Maria Celeste, is a 7-year-old who attends the school.

ADAM PARKER/STAFF

Lowcountry Biodiesel



SOURCE: SEPTEMBER DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY REPORT

A cleaner ride

Biodiesel's emissions are cleaner than regular diesel:		
	B100	B20
Carbon monoxide	↓48%	↓12%
Hydrocarbons	↓67%	↓20%
Particulates	↓47%	↓12%
Nitrogen oxides	↑10%	↑2%
Air toxics	↓60-90%	↓12-20%
Mutagenicity	↓80-90%	↓20%
Sulfur	↓100%	↓100%

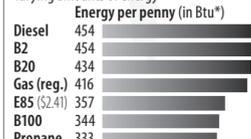
A slick fuel:

Though biodiesel's lubricity can help cars' parts run smoother, particularly when compared to ultra-low sulfur diesel, it can also loosen existing fuel-line deposits in older cars, potentially collecting in the fuel filter, requiring the filter to be changed.

KEN HAWKINS/STAFF

Power per penny

A fuel's price per gallon does not reflect how much "fuel" you're buying as they contain varying amounts of energy



*British thermal units values can vary from batch to batch, especially in fossil fuels whose formulas are adjusted seasonally
SOURCES: NATIONAL BIODIESEL BOARD, DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY, NATIONAL ETHANOL VEHICLE COALITION

Harvesting a green car

Biodiesel is made from plant oils and can run in nearly all diesel cars. It holds many advantages over fossil fuel diesel and is becoming more attractive as the price tag of oil skyrockets and the Earth warms. Biodiesel is commonly sold blended with regular diesel fuel; some common variants are B5, B20 and B100.

Plant to turn waste vegetable oil into fuel

BY CHRIS DIXON
The Post and Courier

The Lowcountry's first biodiesel plant will be built in an unused warehouse on the former Navy base, creating a local source of nontoxic, low-cost fuel that can be used in nearly any diesel engine and marking a further advance in what's been a largely backyard industry in South Carolina.

While one biodiesel plant already is being operated in the Upstate by Carolina Biofuels, the North Charleston plant will be unique in that it will use waste vegetable oil from hundreds of area restaurants to eventually fill the tanks of school buses, automobiles, trucks and even shrimp boats.

The lease agreement was signed Thursday between the Noisette Co. and Charleston-based Southeast Biodiesel. Plant owner Dean Schmelter, who owns several chemical processing businesses throughout the Southeast, said the idea for the Noisette plant came about accidentally. "Last summer I was talking to my diesel mechanic at Black Forest Imports in Mount Pleasant," he said. "I was complaining about the high

Please see BIODIESEL, Page 14A



WADE SPEES/STAFF

James Peeler, of Gray Court in the Upstate, hooks his camper to his cooking oil-powered truck as he prepares to leave James Island County Park after camping with his family. His diesel truck is powered by cooking oil which he says burns 80 percent cleaner than diesel fuel, has easier starts, more power and better fuel mileage.

Official: Woman knew girls in peril

Grandmother charged with two counts in deaths of twin sisters

BY NITA BIRMINGHAM
The Post and Courier

MONCK'S CORNER — The woman entrusted with the care of her twin granddaughters in September allowed the children to return to their mother's unfit and unsafe home just six months later, according to an affidavit from a Berkeley County sheriff's detective.

Warrants for the arrest of Carolyn Wilson accuse her of committing a felony by allowing her granddaughters to have contact with their mother, an act that ended in tragedy June 8. The 2-year-



Wilson

olds died in a fire at their mother's mobile home in Cross, where an estimated 300 feet of extension cords powered everything from lamps to the refrigerator.

The mother, Susan Elizabeth Smith, admitted that she had contact with or custody of the twins as early as March, Berkeley County sheriff's Detective Bobby Shuler said in an affidavit. Witnesses saw her drop off and pick up the girls at day care, he said.

Smith knew she wasn't supposed to have the twins and still kept them in a mobile home with no electricity, Deputy Solicitor Blair Jennings said.

Wilson signed an agreement to take custody of the girls, yet allowed them to be with their mother while knowing the condition of the mobile home, he said.

The state calls that unlawful conduct toward a child, a crime punishable by up to 10 years in prison.

Dae Jaria Smith and Dae Nedjai Smith were buried Monday.

Detectives arrested their mother Thursday on two counts of unlawful conduct, one charge per child. Wilson, 38, of Pineville, surrendered Friday morning on the same charges

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After contentious debate, House votes to back war

BY JONATHAN WEISMAN
AND CHARLES BABINGTON
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The House voted 256-153 Friday to back President Bush's policies in Iraq after two days of passionate and partisan debate that saw Republicans try to recast an unpopular conflict as part of a broader war on terrorism and totalitarianism.

Forty-two Democrats bucked their

How they voted

DEMOCRATS: Clyburn, N; Spratt, Y; Inglis, Y; Wilson, Y.

leadership to join a virtually united Republican Party and declare that the United States must complete "the mission to create a sovereign, free, secure and united Iraq" without setting "an arbitrary date for the withdrawal or redeployment" of

U.S. troops.

Three Republicans — Ron Paul of Texas, John Duncan Jr. of Tennessee and Iowa's Jim Leach — joined 149 Democrats and one independent to oppose the resolution. Five others — three Democrats and two Republicans — voted present in protest.

Public opinion polls continue to show the Iraq war is deeply unpopular, even in the wake of the recent death of al-Qaida leader Abu Musab al-Zarqawi. But, convinced they cannot avoid the issue in an

election year, Republicans tried to put Democrats on the defensive with the first extended debate on the war since Congress authorized the use of force nearly four years ago.

House Republicans sought to frame the conflict in the broadest possible terms, linking it to not only the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks and the war on terrorism but also to what they

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