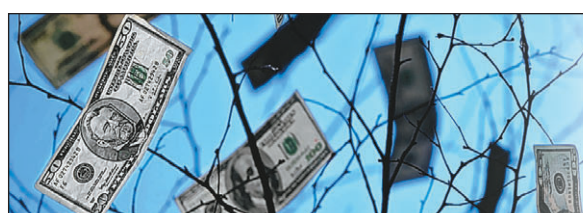


Fighting for 1st
Cougars battle with Georgia Southern for top spot in conference. **Sports, 1C**



Cash for College
Get early start on finding, saving money. **Ed.101, 1D**

The Post and Courier

THE SOUTH'S OLDEST DAILY NEWSPAPER

February 14, 2006 • Charleston • North Charleston, S.C.

TUESDAY

Founded 1803 ★★ 50 cents

Briefly

Happy Valentine's Day

THE CANDY: Chocolate cafes or lounges are sprouting up nationwide, presenting themselves as a sweet and cozy alternative to coffee shops and bars. They expect to see a boost in business today. **7B**
THE FLOWERS: Lowcountry florists have their hands full today — and tomorrow. **1B**
THE INDEPENDENT SINGLES: Celebrate anti-Valentine's Day with a night out with friends and no pressure for perfection. **3D**



Coming Wednesday

Collaborative divorce is gaining traction in Charleston County. Advocates say it's easier on both parties, is significantly cheaper and is easier on the children than a courthouse divorce.



Explosion to drop piece of the Grace Bridge

A seconds-long blast today is designed to break a roughly 350-foot-long, 450-ton section of the old bridge into 14 pieces, dropping them mostly onto Drum Island. The Arthur Ravenel Jr. Bridge will close while the blast is completed. **1B**

Saddam, co-defendants forced to attend court

Saddam Hussein appeared in court in a traditional Arab robe and bedroom slippers instead of a suit, arguing vehemently with the judge and shouting, "Down with Bush!" Prosecutors tried to link Saddam directly to torture and executions. **6A**

Interest rates, inflation hold investors' interest

The Dow Jones industrial average lost 26.73 to close at 10,892.32. The Nasdaq composite index lost 22.07, finishing at 2,239.81. **7B**



Coming Thursday

Preview offers a complete guide to help you plan your walk on the wild side at this year's Southeastern Wildlife Exposition.



Today's outlook
Mostly sunny. High 56. Low 35. Complete 5-day forecast, **12B**

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A bitter distinction for girls

More teen girls using drugs than boys

BY HOLLY AUER
The Post and Courier

Note to parents of teen girls: If your daughter spends all her time holed up in her room listening to weepy music and would rather slam the door in your face than tell you how her school day or her date went, don't just assume raging hormones have taken her hostage. Experts say those maudlin moods also could be signs of drug or alcohol abuse. And according to a new national report, teenage girls for the first time are using drugs and alcohol more

often than boys. In South Carolina, statistics indicate that, although boys still outpace girls for drug and alcohol use once they hit age 16, girls report using more often as younger teens. So pay attention to what's happening with your teen, says Dr. Patricia Hutchison, who runs the Medical University of South Carolina's Girls 2 Women program for girls and women ages 8 to 21. "Parents say 'She's locked in her room, she's crying,'" said Hutchison, a co-author of the book "Girlology: A Girl's Guide to Stuff that Matters," which

discusses topics including sex and dealing with parents. "Well, parents need to know what they're doing in their room."

Barely able to keep up

The National Survey on Drug Use and Health, released last week by federal drug czar John Walters, found that, among teens ages 12 to 17, more girls reported drinking, smoking, marijuana use and prescription drug misuse than boys did. Although teen drug use is lower overall than in past years, drug treatment professionals and school staff say they're still barely able to keep up with those who need help.

Please see **DRUGS**, Page 13A

Daughters on drugs

National and state statistics now show that teen girls are more apt to use drugs and alcohol than boys. But because the signs of drug abuse are often more subtle in girls, experts worry many of those substance abuse problems go undetected. Parents are urged to be on the lookout for the following signs:

- Anxiousness
- Strange sleeping habits
- Slipped grades
- Dropping out of activities she used to enjoy
- Abrupt changes in social groups
- Crying jags or frequent "blue" moods
- Secretive behavior (locked bedroom door, refusal to say where she's going)

— Source: www.adolescent-substance-abuse.com



BRAD NETTLES/STAFF

The Doc Williams SPCA floor supervisor holds Madison, a 12- to 14-week-old Labrador-doberman mix.

SPCA, flea market at odds

Animal group wants halt to dog, cat sales

BY YVONNE M. WENGER
The Post and Courier

MONCK'S CORNER — Vendors at the Coastal Carolina Flea Market sell and give away boxes of puppies and kittens, but Berkeley County animal rescuers say the animals often are sick and end up discarded at their doorsteps.

Pearl Sutton, executive director of the Doc Williams Society for the Prevention of

Cruelty to Animals, and about 40 advocates from various animal rescue groups came to hear Berkeley County Council discuss its pet ordinance Monday. The group wants the law regulating the sale of animals at the flea market to be enforced.

"We had to have a strong showing," Sutton said. "It is important from the beginning they know the forces are strong."

The county's chief animal control officer, John Nutter, said the portion of the

ordinance that deals with people selling and giving away animals at the flea market has not been enforced since it was passed because the county's legal department continues to research the issue.

County Council revised its pet ordinance last May, including the change that made the practice illegal, but Dan Davis, who owns the flea market in Ladson, said it is discriminatory.

"I don't believe we are the illegal ogre they make us out to be," Davis said. "I

Please see **PETS**, Page 13A

Panel rejects biology model

Debate erupts over way evolution taught in 10th grade

BY CHRIS DIXON
The Post and Courier

COLUMBIA — The state Education Oversight Committee voted 10-2 Monday to reject standards for teaching evolution in 10th-grade biology classes and sent a proposed compromise to the state Board of Education that calls for adding critical analysis of the theory to the curriculum.

The panel voted against adopting language previously approved by the Board of Education, and the vote was made over the objection of Education Superintendent Inez Tenenbaum, who sits on the committee as a nonvoting member.

But the decision could lead to a stalemate between the two panels over the controversial issue.

Tenenbaum has said the Board of Education already has adjusted wording in the standards in response to concerns presented by state Sen. Mike Fair, R-Greenville.

In a contentious debate, committee members Fair, Rep. Bob Walker, R-Landrum, and Karen Iacovelli, a governor's business appointee, sparred with Tenenbaum over including the term "critically analyze" in state biology standards in sections that teach students about

Please see **EVOLUTION**, Page 12A

Iran enriching uranium, Western diplomats say

Negotiations with Russia put on hold

BY ALISSA J. RUBIN
Los Angeles Times

VIENNA, AUSTRIA — Iran began enriching uranium on a small scale at its Natanz plant Monday, defying pleas by the international community that it not carry out such activities, according to Western diplomats.

The uranium could be used either to generate fuel for civilian power plants or, if more highly enriched, to make a nuclear weapon.

Iran also announced Monday that it was delaying any further negotiations with Russia, which had offered a joint venture to enrich uranium on Russian soil for use at Iranian power plants.

The moves capped a weekend of conflicting signals from Tehran over whether it would moderate its stance or continue to pursue a strategy of brinkmanship.

On Monday, a government spokesman reiterated President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's earlier warning that Iran might withdraw from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, even though a Foreign Ministry spokesman on Sunday had vowed that the Iranians were "still committed" to the treaty.

Western diplomats in Vienna confirmed Monday that the Iranians fed uranium gas into the centrifuges, a step toward creating enriched fuel, and expressed disappointment over the move.

"The last IAEA board resolution clearly called on Iran to re-establish full suspension of all enrichment-related activities, including research and development," a

Please see **IRAN**, Page 13A

U.S. air



FRANK GUNN/AP

Hannah Teter of the USA soars through the air on her way to winning the gold medal in women's halfpipe snowboard competition Monday at the Olympics in Bardonecchia, Italy. Full winter games coverage in **Sports**.