

More than just a mom

Some mothers and daughters have a closer relationship. **Ink, 1D**



Family Circle nets big names

High-profile pair commits to play. **Sports, 1C**

The Post and Courier

THE SOUTH'S OLDEST DAILY NEWSPAPER

January 31, 2006 • Charleston • North Charleston, S.C.

TUESDAY

Founded 1803 ☆☆ 50 cents

Briefly

Cruise up for 3 Razzies

Tom Cruise was among the top nominees for the annual spoof awards for the worst of Hollywood. The awards will be announced March 4. **2A**



Playwright Wasserstein dies of cancer at 59

Wendy Wasserstein was best known for her chronicles of feminist struggles and successes of the baby boomer generation in "The Heidi Chronicles" and "The Sisters Rosensweig." **2A**

Surgery may offer infant a more normal life

Medical University doctors re-formed Nashia Gause's jaw to allow her to breathe on her own, the first step toward a normal life for the infant. The surgery had never been performed on a baby before. **1B**

U.S. journalist appears on new videotape

Jill Carroll wept in a new video aired Monday on Al-Jazeera. The newscaster said she appealed for U.S. and Iraqi authorities to free all women prisoners to help "in winning her release." **9A**

Markets mixed on eve of Fed's meeting

The Dow Jones industrial average lost 7.29, or 0.07 percent, to 10,899.92. The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 1.48, or 0.12 percent, to 1,285.20. The Nasdaq composite index gained 2.55, or 0.11 percent, to 2,306.78. **9B**

Fritz Hollings inducted into S.C. Hall of Fame

Fritz Hollings served his state for more than half a century as state lawmaker, lieutenant governor, governor and U.S. senator. **3B**



Today's outlook
Mostly sunny; breezy, cooler. High 60. Low 34. Complete 5-day forecast. **14B.**

Index

Business.....9B **INK**.....1D
Classifieds.....8C Local News.....1B
Comics.....6,7D Movies.....5D
Crosswords.....18C,6D Obituaries.....4B
Editorials.....10A Sports.....1C
Horoscope.....7D Television.....8D

Setting the record straight.....**2A**

On the Web



Info line

Post and Courier free 24-hour news and information service.....937-6000

Contact us

Classified.....722-6500
Home delivery.....853-POST (7678)
General Offices.....577-7111



Sanford OK with intelligent design

Sees theory as alternative to evolution

BY CHRIS DIXON
The Post and Courier

Gov. Mark Sanford sees no problem with teaching intelligent design in the classroom.

In an appearance Sunday on WIS-TV's "Newswatch" program, Sanford said there's nothing wrong with presenting students with alternatives to the theory of evolution.

"I think that it's just ... that there are real

chinks in the armor of evolution being the only way we came about," Sanford told program host David Stanton.

Intelligent design posits that life on earth is too complex to be fully explained by evolutionary theory alone.

Final approval of state biology standards hinges on whether South Carolina's Education Oversight Committee will adopt a set of four teaching "indicators" related to the teaching of evolution for high school biology students.

Inside

Transcript of Sanford's comments on "Newswatch." **8A**

Final approval of these indicators will be taken up Feb. 13 by the full committee. Members — including director Robert Staton, a Republican candidate for state school superintendent; Sen. Mike Fair, R-Greenville, and Rep. Robert Walker, R-Landrum — argue that the state should consider including intelligent design, and in Walker's case biblical Creationism, in the science curriculum.

Please see **DESIGN**, Page 8A



Robert Dukes (left) and Robert Dillon, both College of Charleston professors, assert that intelligent design doesn't qualify as a teachable science topic.

Record prices for you, record profits at Exxon



Gas prices are inching higher across the country, but Catherine Williams says she rarely pays attention to them, as she fills up Monday at the Exxon on Savannah Highway at Wesley Drive.

Service stations aren't seeing any of the windfall

BY JONATHAN MAZE
The Post and Courier

Exxon Mobil Corp. said Monday it made more money last year than any other U.S. company in history, breaking its own record by earning \$36.1 billion, including \$10.71 billion in the past three months.

But don't think any of that has reached Bill Edwards' pocket. "Last week, my gas cost me \$2.18," said Edwards, owner of Harborview Center Exxon on James Island. "I'm selling it for \$2.22. I'm making 4 cents a gallon. I'm not making billions."

High oil and natural gas prices and solid demand helped Exxon, according to Howard Silverblatt, a senior index analyst for Standard & Poor's. Exxon's \$25.3 billion profit in 2004 was the previous record.

Exxon Mobil breaks record

Exxon Mobil reported record profits for any U.S. company on Monday, the latest oil giant to benefit from high fuel prices.

Companies that reported the highest annual net income

COMPANY	YEAR	NET INCOME
1 Exxon Mobil	2005	\$36.1 billion
2 Exxon Mobil	2004	\$25.3
3 Citigroup	2005	\$24.6
4 Ford Motor Co.	1998	\$22.1
5 Exxon Mobil	2003	\$21.0
6 Citigroup	2003	\$17.9
7 Citigroup	2004	\$17.0
8 Bank of America	2005	\$16.9
9 General Electric	2004	\$16.6
10 Exxon Mobil	2000	\$16.0

SOURCES: Exxon Mobil Corp., S&P AP

Last year was stellar for the oil industry. Last week, ConocoPhillips said it made \$13.53 billion in 2005, 66 percent higher than 2004. Chevron Corp. said its annual income jumped 6 percent to \$14.1 billion.

Please see **EXXON**, Page 8A

Katrina induces cost apathy

BY JONATHAN MAZE
The Post and Courier

Something is missing.

Gasoline prices have gone up 16 cents a gallon in the Charleston area in the past month, making a trip to Asheville, N.C., in a Toyota Camry cost \$2 more than it did around Christmas and \$4.50 more than a year ago.

Usually, that kind of increase would be met with a loud chorus of pain from drivers across the country. Cars would inundate "cheap" stations.

But the only sound to accompany this increase has been that of the service station

Please see **APATHY**, Page 8A

Report details districts' finances

Dorchester schools a study in contrasts

BY MINDY B. HAGEN
The Post and Courier

The small, rural school district in upper Dorchester County faces decreasing student enrollment, a stagnant tax base and a high percentage of funds that go toward administrative salaries rather than to the academic needs of students — all major challenges that merit taking a serious look at consolidation, according to a report released Monday.

The study issued by the South Carolina School Boards Association doesn't recommend whether Dorchester District 4 should combine with District 2, a more affluent, growing district in the Summerville area. But in analyzing the economic and financial situation in both districts, the report does express concern about District 4's declining student population. The school system enrolled 2,556 students in 1993-94, but that figure decreased to 2,127 during the 2004-05 school year.

Paul Krohne, executive director of the S.C. School Boards Association, said no "magic number" indicates when a school district is too small to stand on its own. But if District 4 merged with District 2, more funds would go toward academic instruction and technology, as opposed to paying the salaries of administrators, the report states.

"At some point, only to be determined by people in each school district, it may not be cost-efficient," Krohne said. "The more that decline takes place, the more likely it will be that student enrollment becomes an issue that has to be seriously considered when looking at consolidation."

But Cheryl Mushrush, a District 4 school board member, said there's more to consider than the financial impact.

"You can't weigh everything in economic terms," Mushrush said. "There's more personalization here in District 4, and that's something you can't get in a larger district."

Located at opposite ends of Dorchester County, the school districts serve as a study in contrasts. With more than 18,300 students, the suburban District 2 features some of the highest test scores in the state, booming growth and a minority population of

Please see **SCHOOLS**, Page 8A

Bush facing tough sales job in address tonight

BY BILL LAMBRECHT
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

WASHINGTON — By most accounts, President Bush's task as he delivers his State of the Union address tonight will be as daunting as any speech he has given.

The bloodshed in Iraq shows little sign of abating, and the Middle East looks to be further from peace than at any recent

time as a result of the victory by the radical Hamas party in the Palestinian elections last week.

At home, a lobbying scandal in his party might not have peaked, and the administration's counterterrorism wiretapping has generated unease, including among supporters.

With home heating costs and gasoline

prices again shooting upward and rekindled job insecurity triggered by Ford plant closings, many Americans are failing to grasp the prosperity being trumpeted by the administration.

Add the ongoing reports of bureaucratic ineptitude in dealing with Hurricane Katrina and the president faces what analysts are calling an epic job of salesmanship.

"This is the toughest State of the Union address that any president has had to

Please see **ADDRESS**, Page 8A