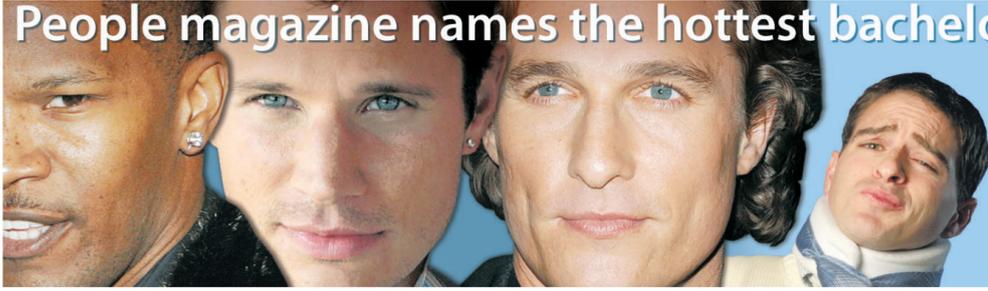


People magazine names the hottest bachelors ...



Post and Courier columnist Bryce Donovan makes the most-eligible list. Learn what makes him so very ... available. **Fashion, 1D**

The Post and Courier

THE SOUTH'S OLDEST DAILY NEWSPAPER

June 16, 2006 • Charleston • North Charleston, S.C.

FRIDAY

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Briefly



Spoleto Festival sells \$2.9 million in tickets

The 17-day festival set a box-office record for the fourth year in a row. **3B**

Search to replace Tom Herrion gears up



As buyout discussions continue between the College of Charleston and Herrion, the Cougars' athletic director fielded inquiries about the next head basketball coach. **1C**

Academics are final straw in decision

Sources say the straw that broke the camel's back and cost Herrion his job was grades. While laws prevent the public from peeking, sources say the basketball team's overall academic performance was pathetic. **1C**

House Dems vote to get Jefferson off committee

Despite objections from some members of the black caucus, Democrats stripped Rep. William Jefferson of his seat on the powerful Ways and Means Committee. The FBI accuses Jefferson of stashing \$90,000 in bribe money in his freezer. **3A**

Wall Street rally pushes Dow back above 11,000

The Dow jumped 198.27 to 11,015.19, while the Nasdaq surged 58.15 to 2,144.15. **9B**

Coming Saturday

Charleston County has the third largest Spanish-speaking community in the state. This growing Hispanic population is challenging area public schools struggling to meet rising demands to serve non-English speakers. Read more Saturday.



Today's outlook
Sunny and hot.
High 90. Low 66.
Complete 5-day forecast, **14B**.

Index

Bridge.....5D	Horoscope.....5D
Business.....9B	Local News.....1B
Classifieds.....1E	Markets.....11B
Comics.....4, 5D	Movies.....3D
Crosswords.....4D, 22E	Obituaries.....4B
Editorials.....12A	Sports.....1C
Fashion.....1D	TV Week
Friday Auto.....1F	Weather.....14B

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

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Fire victims' mother charged

Mobile home blaze claimed twins

BY NOAH HAGLUND AND NITA BIRMINGHAM
The Post and Courier

MONCKSCORNER — A mother who lost custody of twins was arrested Thursday on charges she endangered them in living conditions that one official described as a firetrap.

The 2-year-old girls were killed in a pre-dawn fire June 8 at their mother's

mobile home in Cross. Berkeley County sheriff's detectives arrested Susan Elizabeth Smith, 21, on two counts of unlawful conduct toward a child.

Arrest warrants on the same charges also have been issued for the paternal grandmother of the twins, Deputy Solicitor Blair Jennings said. Carolyn Wilson of Pineville is scheduled to surrender today.

Please see **FIRE**, Page 11A



NOAH HAGLUND/STAFF

Susan Smith was arrested by the Berkeley County Sheriff's Office on Thursday, a week after a fire in Cross killed her twin daughters. Smith is charged with two counts of unlawful conduct toward a child.



The B-24 flew in all theaters of WWII. Its top speed was 290 mph, and it carried 5,000 pounds of bombs. Its range was 1,700 miles one-way. More than 18,000 were built.

Plane crashed in the Mojave Desert about 1.5 miles west of Mojave, Calif.

At old crash site, a new mystery



ALAN HAWES/STAFF

Marcia Shealey holds a photo of her uncle, Sgt. Michael Rudich, who died in a B-24 crash in 1944 during a flight over the Mojave Desert.

60 years later, ground yields unidentified remains

BY CHRIS DIXON
The Post and Courier

On a windy April day in 1944, a B-24 bomber plummeted from the sky above California's Mojave Desert, leaving 10 dead airmen and a crater in the ground. The destruction was so complete that grief-stricken families, such as the Rudiches of Charleston, simply received sealed coffins that they understood held the remains of their loved ones.

But today, on what would have been Sgt. Michael Rudich's 82nd birthday, Marcia Shealey and her family are less certain that the coffin her grandmother cried along-

side for a day and a night actually holds the remains of her late uncle.

Barring an exhumation, which the family already has ruled out, it's a mystery that may never be solved. But Rudich's surviving relatives hope that a recent archaeological dig will provide some new answers.

Shealey's unusual journey began last year when an Internet search showed the young radio operator and former Citadel cadet's name on Don R. Jordan's Web site. An author who has located hundreds of airplane crash sites across California, Jordan had determined where Rudich's B-24

Please see **CRASH**, Page 11A

MAP SOURCE: ESRI, NASA, USGS

GRAPHIC BY KEN HAWKINS/STAFF; B-24 PHOTO BILL JORDAN/STAFF

Police searches get boost

Justices rule on 'no-knock' entry

BY CHARLES LANE
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The Constitution does not require the government to forfeit evidence gathered through illegal "no-knock" searches, the Supreme Court ruled Thursday, in a far-reaching ruling that could encourage police with search warrants to conduct more aggressive raids.

The 5-to-4 decision broke with the court's modern tradition of enforcing constitutional limitations on police investigations by keeping improperly obtained evidence out of court. The "exclusionary rule" has been imposed to protect a series of rights, such as the right to remain silent in police custody and the right against warrantless searches.

But the broadly worded majority opinion by Justice Antonin Scalia, and joined by Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr., Anthony Kennedy, Clarence Thomas and Samuel Alito, suggested that the nation has moved into new era of improved policing in which such strong medicine may

Please see **POLICE**, Page 10A

Bitter debate on war erupts in Congress

BY JONATHAN WEISMAN AND CHARLES BABINGTON
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Congress plunged into a wide-ranging debate over the origins and conduct of the war in Iraq Thursday, with each party excoriating the other for alleged weakness and complacency about the stakes involved.

As the Pentagon announced the 2,500th death of a U.S. service member in the conflict, the House embarked on its first extended discussion of the war since Congress authorized force nearly four years ago. More than 90 members took the floor to applaud or attack President Bush's prosecution of the war in an 11-hour debate that was scheduled to last until nearly midnight.

The debate will culminate Friday

Please see **IRAQ**, Page 11A

Inside



This man is believed to be the new leader for al-Qaida in Iraq. Press access to Guantanamo halted. **AA7**