



The Post and Courier

THE SOUTH'S OLDEST DAILY NEWSPAPER

June 6, 2006 • Charleston • North Charleston, S.C.

TUESDAY

Founded 1803 ★★ 50 cents

Briefly

Overpass plan picked for Johnnie Dodds Blvd.

Ending a year of debate and consternation, Mount Pleasant Town Council chose a flyover instead of a roundabout for the busy highway. **1B**

Study links road rage to mental health disorder

Researchers say up to 16 million Americans might have intermittent explosive disorder, including people who lose their temper on the road or beat their spouses. **3A**



MIC SMITH/STAFF

Three goats now belong to Charleston County.

Charleston County gets custody of pygmy goats

Deputies are still looking for the owner who didn't show up in court for a hearing about the goats. The John Ancrum SPCA says several people have offered to adopt the goats. **3B**

Oil prices, interest rates concerns for investors

The Dow plunged 199.15 to 11,048.72, and the Nasdaq dropped 49.79 to 2,169.62. Investors were worried that oil prices will go higher and that the Federal Reserve will continue to raise interest rates. **9B**

Allstate getting out of earthquake coverage

Last year, Allstate Insurance Co. dropped earthquake insurance coverage for South Carolina homeowners. This year it's dropping the coverage altogether for most policyholders nationwide. **9B**

Coming Wednesday



WORLD CHAMPION BARBECUE
Connoisseurs and cooks meet in Memphis to decide who's best. **Food**



Today's outlook
Thunderstorms.
High 83. Low 60.
Complete 5-day
forecast. **14B**

Index

Bridge.....7D INK.....3D
Business.....9B Local News.....1B
Classifieds.....6C Movies.....7D
Comics.....6,7D Obituaries.....4B
Crosswords.....15C,6D Sports.....1C
Editorials.....12A Television.....8D
Horoscope.....7D Weather.....14B

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



6 36467 10020 7

Capitol Hill 'power trips'

Clyburn, Graham top state delegation in travel paid for by interest groups

BY SCHUYLER KROPP
The Post and Courier

Look! Up in the sky! It's your congressman flying past while taking another free trip paid for by a special-interest group.

A private watchdog report indicates South Carolina's federal lawmakers haven't been shy in using the free travel perk Congress enjoys on the side.

Between 2000 and mid-2005, South Carolina legislators in Washington and

their staffs took nearly 400 such trips, all of which were paid for by private interests.

Their total value: more than \$840,000. The findings, released Monday, are based on a far-reaching examination of official travel reports submitted by the more than 691 current and former members of the House and Senate who served

Please see **TRIPS**, Page 9A



Clyburn



Graham

Race returns to court

Cases challenge school assignments

BY DAVID G. SAVAGE
Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court agreed Monday to take up two cases that could spell the end of official efforts to maintain racial integration in U.S. public schools.

The justices said they would hear appeals from parents in Seattle and Louisville, Ky., who say it is unconstitutional for officials to consider a student's race when making school assignments. Both cities adopted voluntary integration programs in recent years that

Inside put limits on the number of white or black students who may be enrolled in some schools. Significant decisions on the racial makeup of schools. **9A**

Monday's announcement could signal a historic shift on the role of race in education. Just three years ago, the court upheld affirmative action in colleges and universities, but two new conservative justices have joined the court since then, and both have criticized the use of race by the government.

Beginning with the Reagan era of the 1980s, conservatives have insisted it is unconstitutional for the government to use a person's race as a factor in hiring, awarding contracts, admitting college students, or, in this instance, assigning students to public schools.

In 2003, however, the Supreme Court dealt conservatives a defeat in a University of Michigan law school case. The court, in a 5-4 decision, said higher education had a "compelling" need to consider a student's race if it was to maintain diversity in classes.

That decision was written by Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, who retired in February.

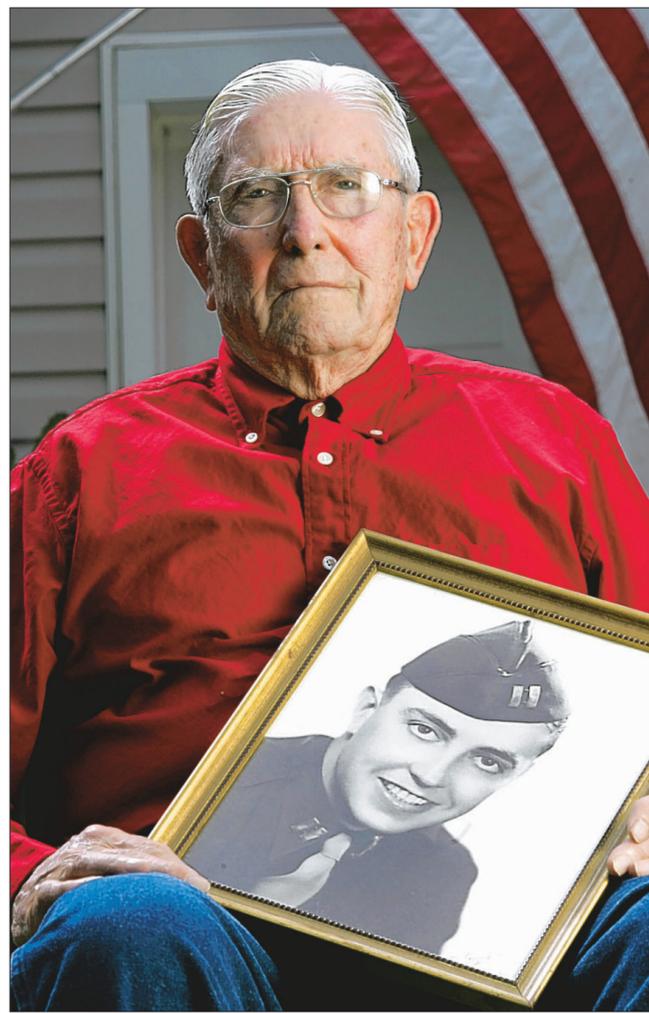
Her replacement, Justice Samuel Alito, is seen as likely to take a more conservative stand on race and affirmative action. In 1985, as a lawyer in President Reagan's Justice Department, he said he was "particularly proud" of the administration's efforts to persuade the Supreme Court that "racial and ethnic quotas should not be allowed."

Chief Justice John Roberts, who also worked in the Reagan administration, wrote memos that criticized the overt use of race by the government.

"The issue here is: Can public schools

Please see **SCHOOLS**, Page 9A

Such men as these ...



ALAN HAWES/STAFF

D-Day veteran Sam Nelson at his Ladson home with a 1946 photo of himself.

Ladson veteran carries vivid memories of war

BY CHRIS DIXON
The Post and Courier

If Sam Nelson of Ladson ever needs a reminder of the invasion of Normandy during World War II, he need only look at his right arm. From hand to forearm runs a long scar a surgeon left after an artillery shell blew up alongside him and a radio operator as they advanced toward Paris following the invasion.

The explosion put then-Lt. Nelson back onto a Normandy beach, where he underwent surgery alongside thousands of other American soldiers.

"I've still got shrapnel in my arm," he said. "And the one that hit me in the head went through my helmet, the liner,

Please see **D-DAY**, Page 9A



FILE/AP

Nelson and other soldiers were carried in tightly packed landing craft toward the shores of Normandy, France, during initial Allied landings on June 6, 1944.

Tuition climbs at C of C

Trustees clear 8.5% increase for in-state students

BY DIANE KNICH
The Post and Courier

COLUMBIA — The College of Charleston's Board of Trustees on Monday approved an 8.5 percent jump in next year's in-state tuition and fees, marking another step up in the cost of attending the school.

The College of Charleston isn't alone in its steady climb in tuition and fees. Public higher education institutions statewide have been raising tuition for the past several years. So far, the College of Charleston and The Citadel have announced expected increases for 2006-07.

The University of South Carolina in Columbia will decide later this month, and Clemson University likely will decide in July on next year's tuition, officials at the schools said.

At the College of Charleston, in-state students who paid \$6,668 in 2005-06 will pay \$7,234 next year. Out-of-state students will pay \$16,800 in tuition and fees in the 2006-07 school year. That represents a 9.5 percent increase over 2005-06 rates.

At a board meeting held Monday in the SCANA board room at the Wachovia Building in Columbia, officials said that although the state appropriation for the college's operating costs for 2006-07 likely will be \$29.9 million, the same as this year, they must boost tuition and fees to cover costs that will increase next year.

Some of the school's expenses will rise dramatically, said Gary McCombs, the

Please see **TUITION**, Page 9A

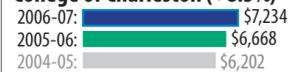
Tuition increase plans

Area schools have revealed plans to raise tuition. Costs are for in-state students.

The Citadel (↑9.9%)



College of Charleston (↑8.5%)



SOURCE: SCHOOL OFFICIALS STAFF

Odds on today being the apocalypse: 10 to 1

BY MICHAEL GARTLAND
The Post and Courier

On July Fourth, people in the Low-country light fireworks and spark up their grills. On 9/11, they remember those who died in the twin towers. But on 6/6/06 — today — many aren't sure exactly what to do.

Stay inside? Dress in all white? Pray? The number 666 has had negative con-

notations ever since the Book of Revelation described it as the mark of the Beast. Some biblical scholars contend it's code for the Roman Emperor Nero. Others describe it as the mark of man.

Carol Desaulniers is a nurse who schedules appointments for birthing procedures and said at least one patient views the number and its corresponding date as just plain unlucky.

"We did have a patient who was sched-

uled for a repeat C-section and changed the appointment because she doesn't want her child to have that birth date," Desaulniers said. "She told me, 'I don't want my child to have a 666 birthday.'"

If you go by what Rapture watchers are saying, it might be the least of her worries. One gambling Web site, betUS.com, posted 10-to-1 odds that the apocalypse would come today. Matt Ross, a spokesman for the site, wrote: "We are in the middle of a war,

there have been earthquakes, tidal waves, and hurricane season is now upon us ... 6-6-06 could be the end of the world."

But Ross made one glaring omission. He did not say how bettors could pick up their money if the apocalypse does occur.

A handful of entertainers are betting it won't and are using the date to promote their art. Today marks the debut of "The

Please see **DATE**, Page 9A