

Madness

Full NCAA tournament coverage. **Sports, 1C**



'Sleeping Beauty'

Charleston Ballet Theatre will perform challenging masterpiece. **Arts & Travel, 1E**



The Post and Courier

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Briefly

Deputies arrest 2 men, woman in 2002 killing

Keith-Renard Bradley and Hans Frazier, both of North Charleston, were charged with murder in the death of Miriam Leeks. Cynthia Major of North Charleston was charged with accessory after the fact of murder. A witness stepped forward last month. **1B**

Military Miniature Club rallies the tiny troops



The annual Toy Soldiers Show allows members to show off their collections in a hobby that blends "a little history, a little art and a little craft." **1B**

Unpaid federal fines, penalties adding up

The amount of unpaid fines and penalties now amounts to more than \$35 billion, according to Justice Department figures. White-collar crime cases account for the largest portion. **2AA**



Wandering annuals offer springtime surprises

No matter where you plant your larkspur, poppies and other colorful annuals, they'll choose places that they find more suitable. Waiting to see where they come up is a time-honored practice among gardeners. **1D**

Employers help workers balance care-giving

Caregivers for elderly relatives frequently are distracted and tend to miss more time from work, so some companies began offering a benefit that pays for its employees to use a professional geriatric care manager. **G1**

S.C. tally

How your lawmakers in Washington voted. **7A**

Legislative action in Columbia. **3B**



Today's outlook

Sun yielding to clouds. High 60. Low 44. Complete 5-day forecast, **10B**.

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Ex-player's return to The Citadel fulfills dream of family reunion



MIC SMITH/STAFF

Marc Buoniconti at Johnson Hagood Stadium during his first official visit to the school since being paralyzed.

Buoniconti's visit first step toward healing 21-year rift with school

BY JEFF HARTSELL
The Post and Courier

Marc Buoniconti steers his high-tech wheelchair by puffing into a straw positioned just in front of his mouth. On Saturday afternoon, he wheeled himself up to a railing overlooking the green grass at Johnson Hagood Stadium, where 21 years ago he ran on the field as a starting linebacker for The Citadel's football team.

"My first start was the Davidson game," Buoniconti said, recalling the 1985

season. "It was just one of those games you remember. I started and had a good game, my family was here in the stands and we won, which was a surprise that year. It was the first shutout The Citadel had had in about five years, and I remember doing an interview with Warren Peper."

Two weeks after that 35-0 win, Buoniconti suffered the injury that would put him in a wheelchair for what might turn out to be the rest of his life. He broke his C-3 vertebra while making a tackle in a game at East Tennessee State on Oct. 26, 1985, leaving him paralyzed from the shoulders down.

More than that, the injury and resulting legal battles separated Buoniconti from

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BUONICONTI FAMILY/AP

An undated photo shows Marc Buoniconti in his Citadel uniform with his father, famed NFL linebacker Nick Buoniconti.

THE PAVILION'S LAST HURRAH



ALAN HAWES/STAFF

The Enterprise at The Pavilion in Myrtle Beach is the gathering point for this group of friends from Oakville, Ont., on Friday, the opening night of the park's last season. Brad Howes (far right) said he has been coming here for 12 years.

Fighting to preserve a long-ago way of life

BY CHRIS DIXON
The Post and Courier

Although Lola Courtney Sims lost her memories one by one, the Myrtle Beach Pavilion never faded from her mind.

Dexter Blakely said his grandmother fought Alzheimer's for 15 years, but she never failed to recall rising high above the breezy Atlantic on the Ferris wheel with her young daughter Cecilia, or joyously spinning on the carousel with Cecilia's own children a generation later.

A 21-year-old volunteer firefighter and native of Georgetown, Blakely said the Pavilion has brought three generations of priceless memories to his family — memories that could be duplicated nowhere else.

He had hoped to one day pass down recollections of bumper cars, Skee Ball, log flumes, cotton candy, haunted mansions, people watching and the hundred-year-old carousel to his own children.

That's why he was heartbroken by the March 9 announcement by Pavilion owner Burroughs & Chapin Co. Inc. of plans to close its 60-year-old amusement park at the end of this summer.

But Blakely's sadness soon gave way to anger. When he learned of a now-burgeoning online petition to save the Pavilion, he contacted its creator, Tripp Carter, and launched a paper petition effort.

A quick pass down Front Street in Georgetown yielded more than 200



JACK THOMPSON

Traffic was everywhere around The Pavilion during its heyday in the 1950s.

On the Net

For more information on the Pavilion, go to: www.mbpavilion.com
Save the Myrtle Beach Pavilion: www.petitiononline.com/mbpav/petition.html
Burroughs and Chapin's press release and documents on the closing: www.charleston.net/webextras
For more voices on the Pavilion's closing, go to www.charleston.net/webextras

signatures. He said he plans to take the effort across the Grand Strand and the state.

"My mom always said, 'Don't bite your tongue when you feel someone is doing something wrong,'" he said.

"The Pavilion is Myrtle Beach. You take the Pavilion away, Myrtle Beach will

die in a sense."

In many ways, much of the gaudy, delightfully tacky Myrtle Beach of old is already dead — remade into an extravagant, sprawling resort town during the past decade by sawblade, bulldozer and

Please see PAVILION, Page 5A

U.S. troops soldier on in Iraq

As war enters fourth year, morale holds

BY ANTONIO CASTANEDA
Associated Press

ROMMANA, IRAQ — The seasons swing from cold and muddy to unbearably hot, the roadside bombs are deadly and the long separations from wives and newborns are more draining as third and fourth deployments loom. Re-enlistment is down, and generals acknowledge victory is uncertain.

Yet morale among U.S. troops in Iraq remains somewhat upbeat — without the frequent fraggings, suicides and insubordination that shook the draft-era army in the last years of the Vietnam War.

Morale in today's military might reflect an American society knit closer after the social upheaval of the Vietnam era — or the fact the Iraq war so far has taken a fraction of the lives lost in Southeast Asia. Many troops also see their efforts here as eroding global terror groups.

It also helps that the restructured military doesn't rely on conscripts, but on a professional corps of volunteers. Indeed, some say conflict is exactly why they enlisted in the first place.

"Why else would anyone join the Marine Corps?" asked Sgt. Maj. Bryan Ward of the 1st Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, a 29-year Marine veteran whose first tour was also in the Middle East during the Iran hostage crisis.

"My take is that they like to deploy — but that they just don't like to deploy so often," the San Diego resident added, pointing to a widespread weariness over multiple tours in the war zone.

Sgt. Jon Beck of Rock Hill, S.C., also considers the combat an attraction.

"I was volunteering to come back. It's

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INSIDE

The Post and Courier honors South Carolina's fallen on the third anniversary of the war.
Nation & World, 1AA

