

METRO

LOCAL / STATE



GREENVILLE CO. SHERIFF'S OFFICE
Authorities need help to identify
this laundry robbery suspect.

Suspect sought in Taylors robbery

The Greenville County Sheriff's Office needs help identifying a suspect after a man was robbed at the Taylors Coin Laundry last week. Sheriff's Office Deputy Drew Pinciaro said the suspect was armed with a knife when he walked into the Laundromat on East Main Street in Taylors about 7 p.m. March 4 and demanded items from the victim. The suspect was given an undisclosed amount of cash and fled on foot, Pinciaro said. Surveillance images released Tuesday show the suspect wearing a black sweatshirt and black mask. Anyone with information about the incident or the identity of the suspect is asked to call Crime Stoppers at 25-CRIME. — Anna Lee

No one injured in school bus collision

A Greenville County school bus was involved in an accident at the intersection of U.S. 29 and State 14 Tuesday morning, according to Greenville County Schools Director of Communications, Oby Lyles. Lyles says no students were on the bus when the accident occurred. Two vehicles collided in the intersection, then hit the bus, according to Lyles. There were no injuries reported. Highway Patrol is investigating. — Elizabeth Sanders

Greenville police get girl's crosses, prayers

The Greenville Police Department received a thank you package from a little girl in Illinois. Eight-year-old Arianna is on a mission to spread her love of God by reaching out to police and firefighters in all 50 states. She makes and sends one inch plastic crosses to departments nationwide, offering a blessing and a prayer, according to her Facebook page. The Greenville Police Department posted a short video on its Instagram page after receiving a package from Arianna. — Elizabeth Sanders

League to hear former Navy Secretary Bell

The Upper South Carolina Council of the Navy League will hold its next meeting the evening of March 24 at the Poinsett Club in Greenville with former Secretary of the Navy William Bell, who held several positions in President Ronald Reagan's administration. Meetings are open to anyone with an interest in the sea services, which are the U.S. Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and Merchant Marines. Call 864-386-6161 or email NavyLeague.UsSCouncil@yahoo.com for more information.

Senate Democrats call GOP roads bill a 'bait and switch'

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COLUMBIA - Senate Democrats are calling the Senate GOP's roads plan a "scam," a "fraud," and a "bait and switch patch bill," but their proposals to change it are being soundly defeated by Republicans who have vowed to pass a bill by week's end.

The GOP plan would use \$400 million in recurring General Fund money for roads instead of hiking the gas tax and restructuring the state Department of Transportation board to allow the governor to appoint highway commissioners.

proposal and suggest changes.

Tuesday was the first opportunity for Democrats to suggest amendments to the GOP plan and the results were predictable. Senate Republicans Tuesday declined to ask questions as Senate Democrats went to the podium to explain their amendments, each of which were tabled along party-line votes.

Democrats grumbled that it appeared the "train had left the station" on the bill and likened Republicans to lemmings rushing to the sea despite flaws in the legislation.

They charged that there were no guarantees that the \$400 million would appear every year because one Legislature cannot bind another and money can only be appropriated in the budget, not by statute.

"I think it's equally unlikely that the General Assembly would say, we just passed that statutory language calling for \$400 million, let's not fund it at all," Sen. Larry

Grooms, author of the GOP plan, said in reply to a Democrat's question. "I don't believe that would happen."

Grooms, a Berkeley County Republican and chairman of the Senate Transportation Committee, took to the podium Wednesday to explain a technical amendment and engaged in some debate with Democrats.

He said his plan came last week as it appeared that any roads bill "would go up in smoke."

Grooms said he believes if the plan is passed and lawmakers in a future year ignored it, "I believe the people of South Carolina would probably would march on the Statehouse with pitchforks."

Democrats have argued the plan does not provide enough funding for long-term roads needs and by relying on General Fund money, aided this year by a \$1.3 billion sur-

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Children's Day Hospital named for benefactors

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The Day Hospital at the BI-LO Charities Children's Cancer Center at Greenville Health System was named in honor of Knox and Priscilla Haynsworth on Tuesday in recognition of their generosity to center programs.

The Haynsworths are the founders of Clement's Kindness Fund for the Children, which provides medical, psychological, social, emotional and financial support to Upstate families who have children suffering from cancer and serious blood disorders. It was launched in honor of their son Clement, who passed away at 24.

Clement's Kindness has provided about \$800,000 in assistance to these families and more than \$1.2 million to support the center since 2002, officials said.

"Clement's Kindness has been an incredible partner of GHS Children's Hospital and our BI-LO Charities Children's Cancer Center for the past 14 years," said Dr. Nichole Bryant, medical director of the center. "It is only fitting that the day hospital be named in their honor."

The Day Hospital provides chemotherapy, blood transfusions and other treatments to these children, treatment that often takes a day to complete,



GREENVILLE HEALTH SYSTEM
Dr. Bill Schmidt, GHS Children's Hospital medical director, chats with Priscilla and Knox Haynsworth, for whom the Children's Cancer Center Day Hospital was named Tuesday.

officials said. It logs more than 8,000 outpatient visits a year while the center sees about 300,000 patients a year from the Upstate, western North Carolina and northeastern Georgia.

The Haynsworths said they were honored by the recognition.

"When we founded Clement's Kindness, we never imagined the impact the organiza-

tion would have on the hospital and the lives of families fighting pediatric cancer or blood disorders," they said. "Clement's Kindness has accomplished so much, and we are proud to honor our late son, Clement, through this wonderful organization."

Among the most recent additions to the center funded by Clement's Kindness are child-

friendly equipment, more comfortable infusion chairs and a built-in fish tank as well as TVs with headphones and tablets to help distract the children, officials said.

"Being a kid with cancer is hard," said Bryant. "Thanks to Clement's Kindness, our patients can receive care in an environment that makes them feel less like a cancer patient."

Conroy recalled as storyteller who touched readers around the world

BRUCE SMITH
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BEAUFORT — Pat Conroy, author of works including "The Prince of Tides" and "The Great Santini," was remembered Tuesday as a "marsh-haunted boy" who battled sorrow and tragedy to create stories set on the South Carolina coast that enriched the lives of readers worldwide.

"He was the best storyteller of our time and quite possibly of any time," longtime friend Alex Sanders, a former president of The College of Charleston, told nearly 1,200 people attending a funeral Mass. "A legion of readers all around the world were enchanted and hung on every word of his characters and the atmosphere of the South Carolina Lowcountry."

Conroy, who sold 20 million copies of his works, died last week at the age of 70 follow-

"If Pat's family didn't have tragedy and sorrow — if Pat did not fight demons — his writings would never have been read."

MONSIGNOR RONALD CELLINI

ing a short battle with pancreatic cancer.

He arrived in South Carolina with his family when he was 16 and his writings would subsequently reflect the vistas of the state's southern coast.

"When he crossed the Whale Branch Bridge and glimpsed the tidal marshes of

the Lowcountry, he was a marsh-haunted boy from that point on," Sanders said. He said Conroy "took us to that magic and unique place on Earth."

Conroy's plain, unadorned wooden casket was brought into the sanctuary while a soloist sang "The Water is Wide," the name of another Conroy novel based on his experiences teaching impoverished children on nearby Daufuskie Island.

The sanctuary, which seats 1,200, was nearly full and several hundred people had gathered an hour before the service. A bagpiper played as the casket was taken outside the church following the Mass. The burial was private.

Conroy's life was marked by an often acrimonious relationship with his father. He also experienced the suicide of his youngest

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