

FRIDAY, MARCH 12, 2004

Culpeper Star-Exponent

www.starexponent.com

A Media General Newspaper

50 Cents

Fund-raiser to benefit cancer patient

By Tracey Ferguson
STAFF WRITER

Like most 4-year-olds, Taylor Hoffman likes to play video games, watch cartoons and play with friends; but unlike most 4-year-olds, her tiny body carries a big burden.

Donna Hoffman, Taylor's mother, said she and her husband noticed an abnormality in Taylor's eye.

"Her right eye was bulging more than the other," said Donna, whose discovery prompted a trip to the doctor.

Taylor's eye exam showed she has Rhabdomyosarcoma, a fast-growing, highly malignant tumor that accounts for more than half of the soft tissue cancers in children.

Since the Hoffmans received the news on Christmas eve, Taylor has been through chemotherapy and three blood transfusions.

"She just finished 25 days of radiation," said Donna, adding that Taylor has good days and bad ones.



Taylor Hoffman fund-raiser

A fund-raiser including music, food and an auction will be held 6 p.m. Saturday at the American Legion Hall in Culpeper to benefit 4-year-old cancer patient Taylor Evon Hoffman.

The cost is \$10 per person; under 12 free.

All funds will be put toward Taylor's medical expenses.

Monetary donations can be sent to Taylor Hoffman c/o Jenkins Aluminum Siding Inc., 7357 Kanes Way, Culpeper, Va., 22701. Call 727-0906 for more information.

Businesses can also donate items for the auction.

Taylor has a Web site that features photos of her and her family, a journal recording her daily progress, and a guestbook for messages: <http://caringbridge.org/va/taylorhoffman/>.

Chemotherapy has made Taylor sick twice.

"Sometimes she is sleepy and weak," she said. Other times, Taylor is simply OK. "Some weeks Taylor doesn't eat as much."

Her appetite is highly affected by the treatments, which she receives at the University of Virginia Medical Center.

Treatment will continue until December, since Taylor is on a 47-week cancer treatment plan. The Hoffmans

have to wait through 11-week periods to find out the status of Taylor's condition, but Steven Hoffman, Taylor's father, is trying to be optimistic about the situation.

"With treatment, there is about a

See **FUND-RAISER A3**

Town Council approves \$318,446 for road study

Inner loop intended to alleviate congestion on Main Street

By Allison Brophy
STAFF WRITER

The Roanoke-based engineering firm of Hayes, Seay, Mattern & Mattern will undertake the final design of a "western inner loop road" for the town of Culpeper.

On Tuesday night, by a vote of 7-2, the Culpeper Town Council approved the \$318,446 job with councilmen Tom Huggard and Michael Olinger voting against it.

Included in the last several versions of the town's comprehensive plan, the approximate .75-mile road would initiate at the intersection of Sperryville Pike and Virginia Avenue, looping around to the intersection of U.S. 29 Business, 229 and Main Street (near McDonald's).

Construction of the project is estimated to cost more than \$3 million.

The proposed four-lane roadway is expected to alleviate some of the traffic at Evans and Main streets by providing an alternate route for motorists heading east and west on Sperryville Pike and U.S. 29/15 Business.

See **STUDY A5**

Committee wants community's support on new high school

By Noëlle Bye
STAFF WRITER

Now that the School Oversight Committee has the support of the Culpeper County Board of Supervisors and Culpeper County School Board, it is seeking the community's backing.

The Oversight Committee has given itself a charge to recruit community members to fill out a "New High School Now" clan.

During their meetings earlier this month, the Board of Supervisors and the School Board endorsed the Oversight Committee's top choices for an architectural firm and a site for the new high school.

The Oversight Committee recommended hiring SHW, a firm out of Dallas, to build the new school on the U.S. 29 bypass and Route 666 — which is also the site for a proposed community complex.

The School Board voted unanimously during its meeting Monday to officially ask the county to use the site.

It also decided to seek assistance from the Oversight Committee with the architect contract negotiations. Community representatives Michael

See **SUPPORT A5**



Staff Photo, Vincent Vala

Board beginnings

Local youngsters check out the beginnings of a section of the expert skateboard area in Yowell Meadow Park Wednesday afternoon. The second phase of the skateboard park is under construction this week.

Bombs kill more than 190 on trains in Madrid

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MADRID, Spain — A series of bombs hidden in backpacks exploded in quick succession Thursday, blowing apart four commuter trains and killing at least 192 people and wounding 1,200. Spain blamed Basque separatists but a shadowy group claimed responsibility in the name of al-Qaida for the worst terrorist attack in Spain's history.

Panicked commuters trampled on each other, abandoning their bags and shoes, after two of the bombs went off in one train in the Atocha station in the heart of

Madrid. Train cars were turned into twisted wrecks and platforms were strewn with corpses. Cell phones rang unanswered on the bodies of the dead as frantic relatives tried to call them.

"March 11, 2004, now holds its place in the history of infamy," Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar said.

The bombing came three days ahead of Spain's general election on Sunday. A major campaign issue was how to deal with ETA, the Basque militant group.

Campaigning for the election was called off and three days of

See **BOMBS A5**



AP Photo

The wreckage of a Spanish intercity train destroyed by an explosion lies on the track at Atocha railway station in Madrid.

Tax increases remain at heart of budget impasse

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

RICHMOND — A fundamental philosophical difference over taxes is at the heart of legislators' failure to make any meaningful progress toward a budget compromise in nearly a week of testy, off-and-on negotiations.

The Senate insists on pumping an additional \$4 billion over two years into its \$61.5 billion budget to meet long-neglected state obligations in public education, transportation and other services. The mix features sales and income tax increases.

The House of Delegates

steadfastly opposes general tax increases, preferring to balance its \$58 billion budget with revenue from economic growth, an assortment of fee increases and repealing various sales tax exemptions.

"The divide is so great and the chasm so enormous that they cannot find room for compromise," said University of Virginia political analyst Larry Sabato. "This is very un-Virginian. Even during the entire two-party competitive era that began in 1969, the parties have always worked together, the House and Senate have

See **BUDGET A3**

SPORTS

Ready for football?

New youth football league to start in Culpeper this fall. **B1**

Cavs survive

Virginia defeats Clemson to advance in ACC tournament. **B1**



LAP BY LAP

Ready to win

A confident Brendan Gaughan is off to a steady start in his rookie season on the Cup circuit. **B8**

IN & AROUND

Risky presentation

Four County Players put on a "not your average" community theatre production. **C6**



STATE

Slayings

Judge denies mistrial for two men in murder case. **A2**

Cashless parking

Metro moves toward using SmartTrip cards to pay. **A2**

DEPARTMENTS

Vol. 123, No. 72
WWW.STAREXPONENT.COM
CLASSIFIED **B3**
COMICS **B7**
COMMENTARY **A4**
IN & AROUND **INSIDE**
FINANCE **B6**
OBITUARIES **A5**

