

Hopper, Shalash earn diplomas

By CHRIS NANNEY
Special to The Herald

Self-fulfillment and the satisfaction that accompanies it can be achieved through hard work and dedication.

That's what two recent adult high school graduates of Cleveland Community College have learned by going back to school.

Grace Hopper of Shelby and Brenda Shalash of Kings Mountain received their adult high school diplomas this spring. Through their personal successes, they hope to encourage others to return to school.

Hopper, 43, realized that doors weren't open to her because she lacked her high school diploma. It was through the encouragement of her youngest child that she returned to school.

While attending school orientation at No. 3 Elementary School in Patterson Springs with her 11-year-old daughter LaShonda, Hopper visited the school's Family Resource Center. While walking through, Hopper and her daughter both saw brochures which asked parents if they had completed high school.

"I talked with the high school instructor, Deborah Ray," said Hopper, "I told her I couldn't do it and she told me that I could."

Hopper knew that finishing high school would pay off by opening the door to more opportunities. It was just a matter of going ahead with the process.

"It was hard to put my pride behind, having others know I hadn't graduated, but I had to go on," said Hopper. "All I had to do was walk in that door and they would help me and that's what I did."

Hopper admits there were times when she thought she wouldn't make it. She credits her instructors at No. 3, Deborah Ray and Gail Ross with helping her through. Her perseverance has paid off with a job that she enjoys and one that she could only have gotten with a high school diploma.

Hopper now works in the Family Resource Center at No. 3 as a parent patron. Her job is to help parents get involved in their children's education.



Grace Hopper, left, and Brenda Shalash recently received their high school diplomas. They encourage others to return to school to complete their education.

"It's lifelong learning," said Hopper. "I never let myself dream. Now I can dream."

Brenda Shalash, 27, said she made a mistake by dropping out of Kings Mountain High School in the 10th grade. Although she later completed the General Educational Development (GED) Preparatory Program, she said it really didn't help toward better job opportunities.

"Basically I went back for the purpose of getting a better job," said Shalash, "A friend talked me into going and I went from there on."

Shalash completed her studies at the West Elementary Parent Center in Kings Mountain. She has overcome sickness in both her family and herself. Her husband has cancer along with other health problems.

"It's been great knowing I've accomplished something in my life," said Shalash. "I want to finish my education out."

Shalash plans to enter the college program at Cleveland Community college in the fall quarter. She hopes to eventually receive a degree in Radiologic Technology.



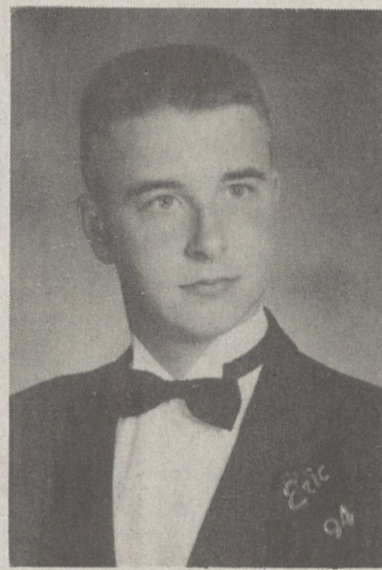
MARY ARISTA BARRETT
Arista Barrett celebrates seventh birthday June 25

Arista Barrett celebrated her seventh birthday June 25. She celebrated with friends and family at a pool party at her home on June 26.

Arista and 30 guests enjoyed a baseball cake with ice cream and snacks. Arista is a ball player on the Red Sox coach-pitch team.

Arista is the daughter of Mary Ann White.

Grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Jim White of Kings Mountain, Mr. and Mrs. Michael Weatherford of Lattimore, and Mr. and Mrs. Ken Barrett of Gastonia. Her great-grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Cook of Shelby and Mrs. Eva Barrett of Kings Mountain.



ERIC ALAN PAGE

"I feel like I had the best teachers I could have," said Shalash. "Everyone has been wonderful to me."

The teachers Shalash gives credit to are Mary Nantz, Barbara Bridges, Ann Martin and Eddie Phillips. She emphasizes that there was no limit to what they would do to help.

"I can't stress enough to everybody, no matter what comes up, you can get through," said Shalash. The teachers will help you as a friend."

Eric Alan Page Enlists in Army

Eric Alan Page has enlisted in the US Army and begins basic training July 15 at Fort Jackson, SC.

He will receive special training as a wire installation technician.

Eric is the son of Billy and Dana Page. He has two sisters, Sarah, 5, and Rachell, 11 months.

Grandparents are Fred and Jean Greene and Ben and Betty Page.

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Scruggs announce arrival of Jared Parker Scruggs

Richard and Tammy Scruggs of Shelby announce the birth of a son, Jared Parker Scruggs, June 4, 1994, Cleveland Memorial Hospital.

The baby weighed seven pounds, six ounces. He was 19 1/2 inches long.

Grandparents are Jerry and Shirley Scruggs of Kings Mountain and Wayne and Vickie Davis of Mooresboro.

Great-grandparents are A.V. and Reba Davis of Shelby, A.V. and Bessie Queen of Shelby, C.G. and Estelle Vanhorn of Mooresboro and Carlos and Ruth McCreight of Lincoln.

Great-great grandfather is Henry Melvin Cash of Shelby.



JARED PARKER SCRUGGS

Evans, Hardin families to hold annual reunion

The Evans and Hardin family reunion will be held July 10 at Patterson Springs Town House.

Lunch will be served at 1 p.m. Friends and relatives are invited.

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