

# Rappahannock Record

Thursday, June 17, 2004 • Kilmarnock, Virginia • Eighty-seventh Year • Number 36 • Three Sections • 50¢



Morgan Fussell is all smiles after receiving her diploma at Lancaster High School Saturday morning. More graduation coverage appears in the school pages.

## 103 LHS graduates urged to 'be good, strong leaders'

by Lisa Hinton-Valdrighi

LANCASTER—Guest speaker Susan Clarke Schaar and valedictorian Catherine K. James urged members of Lancaster High's Class of 2004 to walk, don't run, through life, taking time to cherish both its good and bad experiences.

"I'd like to say if we all try and do our best to succeed, we will; but we will all fail at one time or another," said James. "We can learn from our mistakes. Remember, a failure is only a failure if you quit trying."

James, as valedictorian, and Laura B. Hughes, as salutatorian, led the class of 103 graduates at Lancaster High's commencement exercises last Saturday morning.

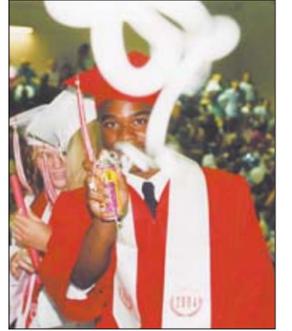
Schaar, Virginia's Clerk of the Senate, addressed the standing-room-only crowd in the LHS gymnasium.

"Changes and challenges are a part of life, but they can be positive," said Schaar.

She acknowledged early in the speech that most of the graduates years from now will not remember her words of wisdom or perhaps even her name. Nonetheless, she offered her advice.

"Be good, strong leaders. Take part in your community and vote," said Schaar.

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After the seriousness of pomp and circumstance was over, Akene Savoy and the other LHS graduates lightened the mood, shooting string foam and throwing confetti.

## 97 NHS graduates face 'bright' future

by Reid Pierce Armstrong

HEATHSVILLE—Northumberland High School graduated 97 seniors last Friday night.

For the first time in 14 years, the ceremony was held inside due to rain.

The Class of 2004 tackled the toughest graduation requirements in the history of Virginia, said superintendent Clint Stables. Not only did every senior have to pass the normal classes and exams, they had to pass four state-mandated Standards of Learning tests.

Many doubted that the students could succeed under such pressure, Stables explained, but they not only succeeded, they triumphed. He said only one student failed to graduate due to the SOL requirement.

"Together as a class, we have faced many challenges and celebrated many triumphs," said valedictorian James Milton Carter III. "We have become closer in the midst of a world threatened by terrorism and war. In a society where youth are constantly labeled as having no morals or being troublemakers, we are proof that the future is in good hands."

Virginia State Trooper John Lee Lewis, NHS Class of 1983, offered some advice to the Class of 2004.

Pulling out a loaf of white bread from behind the podium, he shared a phrase that his father, Paul Lewis, often used: "You're eating white bread now."

Lewis said he never understood what his father meant until he

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The Northumberland High School Class of 2004 takes its place during commencement exercises.



### Friga's got the blues

Cher Friga of Ophelia struggles to hold onto the winning 9.15-pound bluefish in the 21st annual Reedville Bluefish Derby last weekend. She caught the fish on Friday aboard Sam Swink's boat, the Miss Erlene. The derby's record blue was a 19-pounder caught in the early 90s. More derby coverage appears in the sports pages.

## Maternity center proposal to be discussed on June 25

KILMARNOCK—A public meeting to discuss the need for prenatal care and labor and delivery services in the Northern Neck will be held next Thursday, June 24, at Lancaster Middle School in Kilmarnock.

The 7 p.m. forum will include local physicians, nurses, politicians and others as guest speakers.

The event is sponsored by the Family Maternity Center of the Northern Neck. The non-profit organization hopes to locate a maternity center in the Kilmarnock area that will offer prenatal, labor and delivery and pediatric services.

The forum is being held to gauge interest in such a center and get public input.

## Northumberland adopts \$25 million budget

### Utility tax on phone, electric bills also passes

by Reid Pierce Armstrong

HEATHSVILLE—Northumberland supervisors last Thursday approved a \$25,111,115 budget.

The 2004-2005 spending plan represents a \$1.2 million increase over the current year and includes a 4.25 percent salary increase for school employees, a 3 percent increase for county employees and a 4.82 percent increase for law enforcement officials.

It also includes a \$41,000 increase to the

public library to bring salaries there in line with those of the county employees.

Half of the increased spending will cover rising costs of health care and retirement system contributions for county and school employees.

The budget provides \$13,195,530 for the schools, representing an \$850,824 increase over the current year. The county's total share of the school budget will be \$7.8 million, including a \$318,474 increase.

Several last minute reductions helped to knock \$100,000 off the overall school budget, including \$80,000 in group life insurance and \$20,000 in health insurance, saving \$60 per employee per month.

On the revenue side, supervisors approved a new utility tax on telephone and electric bills. The county will levy a 20 percent tax on each telephone bill, as opposed to each line, not to exceed \$3, and 20 percent on each meter base, as opposed to each meter, not to exceed \$3.

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## Steamboat museum plans inaugural run

by Reid Pierce Armstrong

IRVINGTON—Days before the opening of the Steamboat Era Museum, director Diane Jordan is wishing she had three arms.

Standing in the middle of her office, phone cord stretched across a desk of piled papers, she speaks rapidly into the phone.

Two men stand at her door, waiting to consult with her about the placement of exhibits and the whereabouts of certain tools. A delivery man peers through the window with a package.

Surrounded by mayhem, Jordan maintains her cool. She diligently thanks the 12 volunteers who have helped paint display boards and mount tedious diagrams.

She commends curator George Frayne who, now in his 80s, shows as much energy, creativity and inspiration as he did when he helped design the Reedville Fishermen's Museum more than a decade ago.

And she gives credit to the foresight of the three founding members, Jimmy Crockett, Alexander Fleet and Billy Graham, who five years ago dreamed of building a community museum.

Jordan came on board at the beginning of the year and in six short months has moved the museum from dream to reality. The sketches of displays and diagrams that wallpaper her office have come to life on the floors of the museum.

When it opens this weekend, the Steamboat Era Museum will exhibit two rooms of artwork, models, photography, timelines, maps, firsthand accounts, mem-

orabilia and salvaged pieces of steamboats.

Central to the exhibit is a diorama depicting Irvington's steamboat wharf in the 1920s. A model of the steamboat Potomac approaches the landing, where merchants prepare to unload and relatives wait for their loved ones.

The diorama and other models on display offer glimpses of detailed hand work by several talented artisans in the area, most of them volunteers. Many of the paintings and artifacts on display were donated or loaned by area residents.

One of the most intriguing parts of the exhibit is a collection of colorful posters advertising the steamboats. The posters are part of the Eldredge Collection, on loan from the Mariner's Museum in Newport News. Nothing from

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Roy Carter (right) donates John M. Barber's "Moonlight Run," a limited edition print, to the Steamboat Era Museum and director Diane Jordan gladly accepts. The sold-out limited edition print was released in 1991 and is widely sought by collectors of Barber's art. The print features the side-wheel steamboat "Lancaster" and the schooner "Maggie" at Stingray Point, circa 1910.



Colorful original posters advertised the steamships. On loan from the Mariner's Museum, the posters are part of the 100,000-item Eldredge Collection and are on display for the first time.

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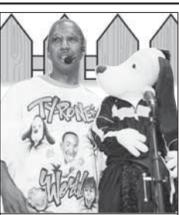
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