

PERSONALITIES!

Social News from the Washington area.

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John Thomas Hardy celebrates 4th birthday

John Thomas Hardy, son of Ashton and Gaynor Hardy, was four years old on Saturday, March 5, and was treated on several occasions.

On Thursday, March 3, John Thomas celebrated at his classmates at First Baptist Church Pre-Kindergarten as all enjoyed cupcakes, cheese puffs, and juice boxes.

On March 4th, he celebrated at Miss Alice's Daycare with his friends. They enjoyed cookie cake, cheese puffs, and juice boxes.

On his actual birthday, John Thomas celebrated at his home with a Paw Patrol birthday party with the basement and patio of his home adorned with Paw Patrol decor.

Guests enjoyed dog-themed snacks as well as cake and ice cream. His cake was a two-tiered Funfetti cake decorated in reds and blues with a Paw Patrol emblem cookie on the front.

John Thomas, along with his parents and big sister, Sarah Quinn, had fun playing outside with his friends. Guests enjoyed taking turns riding on the zipline, playing in the play gym, and trying to hit the "Chase" pinata.

Frances Wheelis Women observe week of prayer

The Frances Wheelis Women of Mission of First Baptist Church met in the Mary Callaway Burton Fellowship Hall Monday evening, March 7, for the observance of the Week of Prayer for North American Missions.

Susan Pope opened the meeting with prayer and members read the WMU Watchword, Hebrews 10:39.

Leslie McAvoy, chaplain, continued with the devotional using Psalm 118:24 as her scripture. She reminded everyone to rejoice and be glad for the day; choose to be glad.

Carol Souther, mission support chairman, led the Week of Prayer program showing videos featuring Traci and Michael Byrd in St. Louis, Missouri, Itamar Elizalde in Guaynabo, Puerto Rico, Jennifer and Jared Huntley in Washington, D. C., Cindy and Steven Martins in St. Catherines, Ontario, Brianna McKenney in Denver, Colorado, and Vicky and Amer Safadi in Cincinnati, Ohio.

A short business meeting followed and included numerous announcements that included the H.E.A.R.T. emphasis with donations still being taken and the White-Out for Penfield in April.

In mission action led by Kay Nelms, members continued their monetary gifts to Real Love Ministries, Hope Chest, and Chris Drinkard in the Philippines. They also made a donation to Samaritan Purse for Ukraine.

Sharon Williamson led the prayer for the missionaries mentioned and those with special needs in the community.

Everyone brought snacks for light refreshments during a time of fellowship.

Present were Leslie McAvoy, Rosemary Hopkins, Susan Pope, Carol Souther, Gail Hunter, Nancy Madden, Kay Nelms, and Sharon Williamson.



Members of the Iris Garden Club gather with Boo Rothman and his son following Rothman's program.

Iris Garden Club members visits local farm

The Iris Garden Club held its March meeting Tuesday, March 8, with a visit to the farm of Boo Rothman located on the Centerville Road outside of Washington.

Rothman was an early organic farmer who, several years ago, sold plants and vegetables at the Athens Farmers Market. Boo, along with his wife, Allison and sons, Benjamin and Elijah, provided club members with a gracious greeting, lemonade, and a most interesting overview of his farm.

The program began as the group walked through the bamboo forest which the ponies, donkeys, and birds enjoy, and learned some amazing facts about bamboo such as its rapid growth - as much as three feet in one day! Some of the bamboo's uses include obstacle courses, tomato cages, fencing, and construction. Rothman shared that he was recently contacted by a Hollywood client to purchase several pieces of the bamboo to be used in the sequel to the movie "Black Panther."

Following the bamboo forest which was about 15 degrees cooler, club members toured the farm seeing chickens, all personalized with special names, and their

chicken house, vegetable patches, tilling tools, flowers, and hoop houses where tomatoes, lettuce, broccoli, onions, kale, spinach, etc. will be planted. Members saw varieties of radishes, and along with garlic and turmeric patches, learned some unique and interesting facts about growth and usages of all. At the end of the tour, Allison Rothman told a little about their therapeutic massage business in Athens. This field trip proved to be a fun and different sort of experience for club members.

The business portion of the meeting was postponed until the April meeting.

Hostesses for the meeting were Jane Bundy and Susan Abramson.

On the field trip were members, Juanita Tyler, Jane Bundy, Trudy Cottone, Barbara Fulbright, Nancy Farris, Diane Jordan, Pat Amrine, Gail Boyd, Susan Abramson, Elizabeth Crabbe, Carolyn Reynolds, and guest, Jen Quantana.

The next club meeting will be Tuesday, April 12, at the Purification Heritage Center in Sharon and led by Betsy Orr. Hostesses will be Barbara Fulbright, Laura Toburen, and Diane Jordan.



Several members of the Woman's Club gather around the fire after their tour of the Purification Heritage Center.

Washington Women's Club tour Purification Heritage Center

Several members of the Washington Woman's Club and their guests traveled to the Church of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Sharon on Friday, March 11, to tour the church and the Purification Heritage Center.

Members met at the church where Betsy Orr gave them a history of the church as well as a history of the Locust Grove community. This community was composed of Catholics who had come down from Maryland because the Georgia Constitution did allow them to practice their faith.

From the church, the group continued to the Purification

Heritage Center (PHC) located across the street from the Locust Grove Cemetery, the oldest Catholic cemetery in Georgia. There they boarded golf carts for a tour of the property, led by Jeff Lansford, Ginger DiMascio, and Ms. Orr.

Following the tour, they returned to the dock house where lunch was provided by the PHC.

Club members and guests participating in the tour were Judy Anderson, Laura Toburen, Kimberly Cork, Diane Jordan, Carol Harris, Nicole Waller, Pat Amrine, Ruth Rogers, Frances Cowart, Nancy Madden, Paula Butts, and Beth Winchester.



DAR Regent Peggy Jones (left) and DAR Good Citizen Essay Chairman Laura Toburen (right) congratulate essay contest winners Amy Sagastume (second from left) and Maggie Marxsen.

DAR honors essay winners

DAR Good Citizen Essay winners Maggie Marxsen and Amy Sagastume were honored at the luncheon meeting of the Kettle Creek Chapter, National Society, Daughters of the American Revolution, Saturday, March 12, at the Woman's Club.

Laura Toburen, Good Citizen Essay chairman, presented the two high school seniors with certificates and monetary gifts for the girls to use toward their college expenses.

Washington-Wilkes Comprehensive High School Senior Maggie Marxsen, daughter of Anissa and Brent Marxsen, won the honor from her school while Oglethorpe County High School Senior Amy Sagastume, daughter of Guadalupe and Marvin Sagastume, was the winner from her school.

This year's essay topic was "Our American Heritage."

During the presentation, the winners expressed appreciation to the Kettle Creek Chapter and told something about themselves and their plans. Maggie plans to attend the University of North Georgia in Dahlonega to pursue a degree in Forensic Science. Amy shared her plans to attend Brewton-Parker College in Mount Vernon to pursue a career in the medical field. In addition she noted she was a recipient of a soccer scholarship to Brewton-Parker.

Mrs. Toburen shared letters each written by two of their teachers commending the seniors on their academic excellence and community service.

Prior to these presentations, Regent Peggy Jones presided, gave the invocation, and continued with the opening ritual. She led the Pledge to the American Flag, the American Creed, the Preamble to the Constitution, and pledges to both the Georgia and DAR Flags.

Fran Thaxton, chaplain, offered the blessing for the lunch.

Following the meal and presentation to the essay winners, Mrs. Jones read the President General's Message followed by the National Defense Message. She noted that March 29 is designated as National Vietnam War Veterans Day.

In her Conservation Minute, she noted there was much discussion concerning Daylight Savings Time and the controversy that some feel it is better for one's health while others feel it is unhealthy.

Jane Burton read the Indian Minute.

Mrs. Jones brought attention to two local Revolutionary veterans, Archibald Simpson, ancestor of DAR member Sniggy Simpson Eskew, and Patrick Jack, ancestor of Nancy Ray Sisson.

In the business meeting that followed, an announcement was

made concerning the national celebration of the SAR and DAR in 2026 commemorating the birth of our nation.

A local celebration is being planned as well.

It was announced the Kettle Creek Chapter plans to distribute pocket-size copies of the Declaration of Independence to eighth and tenth graders in the future.

Following the closing prayer by Mrs. Thaxton, Regent Jones adjourned the meeting.

Special guests at the meeting in addition to the essay winners were Maggie's mother, Anissa Marxsen, and Amy's parents and brother, Omar, and her advisor at OCHS, Melissa McGarity. Other guests were David Chesnut, Thad Broome, and Garvin Aycock.

Members present were Peggy Jones, Laura Toburen, Ginny Broome, Nancy Sisson, Carol Harris, Amanda Aycock, Lizzie Turner, Jane Burton, Mae Dell Huff, Linda Chesnut, and Fran Thaxton.

The next meeting will be Saturday, May 14, and will include the installation of officers.

Washington Personal Mention

In celebration of her last week's birthday, Shirley Gunter enjoyed the Saturday visit of her family, Alicia, Cread, Luke, and Porter Brown of Clermont and Allison, Bill, and Isabelle Hale of Athens. They enjoyed a family favorite lunch of barbecue with all the trimmings with Hall County's well-known "Truelove" cupcakes for dessert.

Dr. Michael Bradley of Wilmington, N. C., visited Emilie and Mark Waters Sunday for a Southern-style breakfast on his return trip from a reunion of members of Delta Chapter Sigma Chi Fraternity at the University of Georgia March 11-12. Dr. Bradley is a retired Professor Emeritus at the University of North Carolina Wilmington. The guys were graduate students and co-workers at UGA and have remained friends over the years.

Joanne Pollock accompanied her daughter, Susan Horn of Watkinsville, to Augusta recently to attend a luncheon and shower at Sugar Magnolia honoring Kailla Baptiste, bride-elect of Joe Reese.

Angela Cooper of Big Canoe visited last Wednesday with her mother, Ruth Rogers.

Quote of the Week

"I can't change the direction of the wind, but I can adjust my sails to always reach my destination."

Jimmy Dean

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