

Around Town

By Bob Ruggiero



Recently celebrating her birthday, Lynne Shawkey, daughter of Pat and Bob Ruggiero, was treated to a weekend at Charlottesville, Virginia, by husband David Shawkey. Lynne's parents, her sisters Tricia and Carol, and Carol's husband Randy Triest, joined them. They toured Ash Lawn, home of President James Monroe who, during the presidency of Thomas Jefferson, negotiated the Louisiana Purchase which doubled the size of the United States. The group also attended the downtown Charlottesville Street fair, visited the beautiful campus of the University of Virginia, and enjoyed a guided tour of the rotunda at the school. All in all the family enjoyed the visit to this lovely city.

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Their son Jeff, daughter-in-law Silke, and grandchildren Luisa and Evelyn visited Lee and Sandy Ivey in September from Deisenhafen, Germany, a suburb of Munich. Jeff met Silke in Charleston, South Carolina, while working for a computer company. Silke was in the United States as an intern and when they met during a work situation became friends. Silke returned to Germany in 1999 and Jeff followed as a guest of Silke's parents. While there Jeff interviewed with two companies and accepted a position with Microdot, a German computer company.

Jeff told his mother he would return in two years to America. Then he and Silke married. That was nine years ago. Three-year-old Luisa is fluent in English and German and, when excited while telling a story, will frequently start in English and unconsciously switch into German. Sandy tells us Luisa sang Happy Birthday to her grandmother and then did an encore with a German birthday song. Granddaughter Evelyn is six months old. The Ivey's have visited Germany many times, a long but rewarding journey.



Former Pine Knoll Shores residents Jack and Maxine Dickerson, who now reside in Hertford, North Carolina, received an e-mail from daughter Susan concerning their granddaughter Taylor's recent trip to New York. Taylor Pandich is a cheerleader on the varsity squad at UNC- Chapel Hill. Taylor was part of the squad when UNC played Rutgers University in football this fall. The cheerleaders were flown to the game by chartered jet and had most of the day to tour Manhattan before the game. The tour included ground zero and took place on September 11, seven years to the day after the attack on the Twin Towers. Taylor told her mom the hours spent on the tour were the "most awesome" of her life. Taylor is a sophomore at UNC and is pursuing a degree in pharmacy studies. She graduated from North Stanley High School in Albemarle and was the class valedictorian at graduation.

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Joseph Culpepper, III, son of PKS Police Chief Joey Culpepper, and Marleigh Byrum last month were crowned King and Queen of Newport Elementary School for 2008. They were the top vote getters in a competition designed to raise funds to help provide supplies for classes at

the school. Students received a vote for every penny they collected and Joseph and Marleigh ran up the highest dollar totals. Launched last year, the program has proved so popular and successful that it is becoming an annual event.