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**DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE
RESEARCH & EXTENSION**
University of Arkansas System

Shirlye Hopkins Is Well Known for Her Cooking and Sewing Talents

Over the holidays, Shirlye Hopkins' cream cheese pecan pies are always in demand.

She made three, along with other treats, on Thanksgiving when she entertained 24 family members at her home in Magnolia. The guest list included her first grandbaby, Annslee Kate, who was born on Valentine's Day this year. Of course, she's not eating pie yet, but chances are, she's going to love her "Ganna's" cooking.

Hopkins is an avid cook, and one of her favorite things to do is create new recipes.

Hopkins also enjoys sewing and still makes many of her own clothes, including suits.

Both of these hobbies are in line with her job duties while working at Extension. Hopkins first went to work for Extension in 1976 in Lafayette County, right after graduating from college. She was the EFNEP trainer there.

Eighteen months later she went to Union County as an Extension agent - home economics. Her specialties were clothing and home furnishings (along with a little nutrition). She taught sewing

and upholstery classes and loved that she left people a little better off each time. They had a newly covered couch or a new outfit to wear, very tangible rewards for their hard work. They could also see how much less expensive it was to do these tasks on their own, Hopkins said.

Hopkins said the classes were so intensive that some people even started their own home-based businesses afterward. She said Extension is known for its in-depth training.

When Hopkins moved to Columbia County, her areas of emphasis were food and nutrition, parenting and budgeting. She found this work rewarding as well.

Several years before retiring, Hopkins was named staff chair in Columbia County. She left in July 2014 and remained in Magnolia.

Her only son, Dewey Hopkins III, lives in Little Rock, so she doesn't see her granddaughter as much as she'd like, but Hopkins makes it a priority.

Hopkins had knee surgery a year ago and has been trying to get it healed since. She said it's finally improving with the help of water aerobics.



Shirlye Hopkins

At the end of November, Hopkins accepted the mayor's request that she join the Economic Development Council for Columbia County. She looks forward to helping the county with future decisions.

Hopkins also works at her church quite a bit, moving from committee to committee. She is currently on the finance committee and she's chair of the kitchen committee, which is fitting.

She has no doubt passed on the cream cheese pecan pie recipe to all her fellow kitchen committee members.

To reconnect with Shirlye Hopkins, contact her at 870-234-2006, 318 S. Cordelia, Magnolia, Arkansas 71753.

— Shannon Magsam

Linda Joyce Whittington Applies Extension Skills to Daily Life

When Linda Joyce Whittington retired nearly 1½ years ago from Extension, she wasn't sure where God would lead her or what her new mission in life would be.

When the opportunity came to homeschool her 16-year-old grandson in the first month she was foot-loose-and-fancy-free retired, she gladly accepted it. A teenager was added to the Whittington household.

Her grandson, Rip, a high school senior, is doing well with his schoolwork. Though he's never lived near his grandma, he always spent summers with her no matter where she was living while working for Extension.

Whittington started out at Extension in 1969 as a "subprofessional" ("great name, huh?" Whittington remarks) in the pilot EFNEP program in Pine Bluff.

In 1972, she left Extension to stay home after the birth of her first child. The family moved to Louisiana, where Whittington was involved as a volunteer in 4-H and the Extension Homemakers Club.

After her children were older, Whittington went back to work at Extension in Pine Bluff in 1987 as county Extension agent - family and consumer sciences. After a few months, she moved to Cleveland County as a family and consumer sciences and 4-H agent and remained for five years.

She wanted to work with the EFNEP program again, so when an opening came up in 1999, she moved back to Jefferson County as a family and consumer sciences agent, but she also served as a staff chair there.

In 2005, Whittington moved to Crawford County and served there in the same double capacity before retiring in 2014. She served 30 years total in Arkansas Extension.

While working for Extension, Whittington and her husband got away to Florida often to relax, sometimes just for the weekend. "That's the place we could really get the bear off our back," she noted. They've been back several times since she retired and also to Tucson and Denver to two of their children and their families. They also travel Arkansas, finding new places to fish and canoe.

Whittington loves spending time with her five grandchildren, knitting, crocheting and gardening. She says her lawn is like a canvas she can repaint (with



Joyce Whittington with her grandson, Rip.

new plants and flowers) any time she gets tired of the view. She enjoys canning the food she raises in her garden and sharing it with others.

She also enjoys cooking. Whittington recently had the whole clan together for Thanksgiving. During this interview, she was busy making banana bread. She was gearing up to make cheesecakes, pecan pies and cookies.

She shares her knowledge from Extension on a Facebook page called "Applied Family and Consumer Sciences – Joyce Whittington." She said it's got the word "applied" in the title because she still applies Extension lessons and information every day.

To reconnect with Joyce Whittington, contact her at 479-632-8290, joywhitt719@gmail.com.

– Shannon Magsam

Louise Evans Dies

Louise Evans, 98, of Little Rock died Nov. 11 in Greenwich, Connecticut. Evans was a long-time Extension employee, beginning in 1941 as a secretary/stenographer and retiring as administrative secretary at the Little Rock state office in 1982.

Evans was an avid Razorback fan, an active member of the Pilot Club of Little Rock and Fort Smith and a member of the Methodist church.

Mark Your Calendar for the 2016 Galaxy Conference

The 2016 Galaxy Conference will be held at the Winthrop Rockefeller Institute March 16-18, 2016. The theme for this year's conference will be Extension – Meeting Our Challenges. The Galaxy planning committee is working to have educational opportunities that will be interesting to retirees.

The Retiree Luncheon will be free for the retiree and one guest, but those attending other activities or meals should register and pay accordingly. More information will be provided in the *Extension Cord* as available.

Looking forward to seeing you at GALAXY 2016.

Registration opens in January 2016. For more details, go to the webpage at <https://uaex.edu/about-extension/professional-organizations/galaxy/>.

– Bobby Hall

Scholarship Donation

The following donation to the Retiree Scholarship fund was received to support professional development opportunities for faculty and staff of the Cooperative Extension Service.

■ -Cooperative Extension Service Retiree Scholarship

James Peachey

Donations to the scholarship fund, including those made in honor or memory of an individual, may be forwarded to the Development Office, Cooperative

Extension Service, 2301 South University Avenue, Little Rock, Arkansas 72204. To ensure that proper notification is sent, please also include in whose honor or memory the gift is made and the mailing address of the person to receive the notification.

January Birthdays

Kelly Gage, January 1
Betty Harrison, January 3
Van Stakemiller, January 6
Alva Ray Siler, January 8
Keith Martin, January 9
Fann Woodward, January 9
Steve Culp, January 11
Helen Nowlin, January 12
Ricky Thompson, January 14
C. C. Schaller, January 15
Shirley Bennett, January 17
Glenna Duffel, January 17
Dianne Knuteson, January 17
Bobby Malone, January 17
Robert Seay, January 17
Shirley Cleek, January 18
Dot Temple, January 18
Jerry Williams, January 20
Marvin Wall, January 21
Ramona Gordon, January 23
Donna Rinke, January 23
Barbara Ball, January 24
Laura LaRue, January 24
Nina Coffee, January 25
Margie Jones, January 25
Don Wiley, January 25
Shirlye Hopkins, January 28
Gary Huitink, January 29
Lois Perkins, January 29

Condolences

To Darlene Millard and family on the death of her husband, Dennis, on Dec. 4. Dennis Millard was an Extension employee from 1973-1994, serving as agriculture agent in Miller and Hot Spring counties and staff chair in Grant County.





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