

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## 10th Annual Art Crawl Is Schedule Oct. 6

The 10th Annual Art Crawl will be held October 6 from 5:30 until 9 p.m., with the after party at Bozarts Gallery. Everyone is urged to make plans to come and join the fun. A map of the Crawl stops will be published in next week's Herald.

## Pets Will Be Blessed At Episcopal Church

The Episcopal Church of Nativity, located on Main Street, Water Valley, will have a St. Francis Day of Blessing of Pets October 20, beginning a 10 a.m. Dogs must be on leashes, with cats, hamsters, etc. in carriers, and fish in water.

## York Rite Bodies Meet Sept. 27

The Water Valley York Rite Bodies will have their next meeting Thursday, September 27, in the Masonic Temple on Champion Circle, beginning at 7:30 p.m. The meeting will be held in the Commandery. A light meal will be served after the meeting.

## Pickin' Shed Hosts Live Music This Weekend

The Pickin' Shed will have live music Friday night, Sept. 28, at 7 p.m. with The Russell Burton Family, Oasis, The House Band, and other locals. The action continues Saturday night, Sept. 29, at 7 p.m. with karaoke. Singers are invited and welcome. A potluck meal is scheduled both nights, so bring your favorite dish and come join the fellowship.

Donations accepted on Friday night and there is a \$5 cover charge on Saturday night. Alcohol is prohibited.

## The Sexton Band Takes The Stage Saturday Night At The VFW

Bingo will be played at VFW Post 4100 on Friday night, September 28. Doors will open at 5 p.m. and games begin at 7. The Sexton Band will provide music for dancing on Saturday, September 29, beginning at 8 p.m. and concluding at midnight. Everyone is invited to come out for a fun night. The Post Home is located at 11535 Highway 315, west of Water Valley.

## Annual Business Meeting Planned At Paris Cemetery

The annual business meeting for the Paris Cemetery will be held at the cemetery on October 6 at 11 a.m. All who are interested in the upkeep of the cemetery should attend. A potluck lunch will be served at the close of the meeting.

## Tri-Lake Water Association Meets On October 1

Tri-Lake Water Association will have their annual meeting October 1, beginning at 7 p.m. The meeting will be held in the Farm Bureau Building.

## School Board Announces Next Meeting

The Water Valley School District Board of Trustees have scheduled a school board meeting on Monday, Oct. 1, 6:30 p.m. in the central office. The public is invited to attend.

## Annual Christmas Parade Will Roll Down Main On December 1

The annual Water Valley Christmas Parade, "Christmas In The Valley," is scheduled Saturday, December 1, starting at 1 p.m. The rain date will be the following Saturday if needed. All churches, businesses, factories, school groups and individuals are urged to participate in the annual tradition.

Contact J.C. Womble at 473-3190 or email jc-womble53@yahoo.com. to register your entry for the Christmas Parade. There is no entry fee. Use your imagination and make plans to participate in the annual Water Valley Christmas Parade. The parade is sponsored by the Tri-Lake Fairground Association.

# Outstanding Black Women: Juanita Bishop-Cox Survived '84 Tornado, Known For Her Cooking

As each story comes my way it brings new revelations and insights into the strength and stamina of the Black Women of Yalobusha County. Below, Tywanda Harden writes about another pioneering woman, her grandmother, Mrs. Juanita Bishop Cox.

If you were to ask natives of Water Valley about this lady, I'm sure her good southern cooking skills would be a major highlight of the conversation. This lady, known by her grandkids as "Bigma," but to others as Juanita Bishop-Cox, was born October 22, 1931, the third of six siblings and lives in Water Valley.

My grandmother is not only known for her extremely good cooking, having been taught by her mother, but grew up as no stranger to her late father's farm. Hoeing, chopping and picking cotton, milking the cows, churning and making homemade butter, stripping sorghum to take to the mills for homemade molasses, and carrying water from springs, wells, and pumps were all familiar chores. It was years later before Juanita experienced what it was like to have running water from any kind of faucet.

My grandmother grew up attending the Rosenwald Bynum Community Center in Batesville Mississippi, where she walked about two miles to school, being taught by local community teachers. She completed eight years at Rosenwald before transferring to Water Valley's Davidson High School for her last four years of school.

While home was in Batesville, Juanita says that she had no choice but to either ride with someone every day or staying with friends or relatives weekly just to attend school, then returning home on weekends.

Working was never questionable for my grandmother, as she embarked

While working those many jobs and furthering her career Mrs. Juanita raised five children. She now has nine grandchildren, 16 great grandchildren and two great-great grandchildren. Makes one wonder about the many other children whose lives she touched, especially while keeping house for the many families mentioned above. It would be great to hear how their lives were possibly nurtured and im-

on the role of housekeeping for numerous well-known families including Charlie Lowe, Jimmie Knight, Barbara Brown, Mary Beth Jones, Ruth Wilbert, Lawyer Troop, Earl Fly, Kate Richardson and a few others.

Eventually she decided to take on employment at the chicken plant, what was then called Motts, Inc., a lo-

cal business in Water Valley since 1989. When asked to

describe her job at Motts, she replied in a laughing manner, "Pulling Guts!" For anyone who knows my grandmother knows that she's also the one for good laughs.

After approximately six years at Motts, she left and decided to use her cooking skills providing meals for patients at Yalobusha Gen-

eral Hospital. Her employ-

ment and services in cook-

ing then and still is today

the nature of her southern

tornado hit the city of Water Valley, and as part of my grandmother's daily moth-

erly routines, she had gone

to Jones Supermarket, and

never made it back home.

Tornado winds hit the store

propelling a sharp object

into her left leg. She suf-

fered a deep wound lacer-

ation to her calf that had to

be skin grafted.

Juanita recalls, "I spent a

total of 74 days in the hos-

ital learning to walk on

my left leg again, 17 days at

Yalobusha General and 57

days at Methodist of Mem-

phis Tennessee."

She created such strong

bonds and kind relation-

ships during her 57 days

of hospitalization at Meth-

odist, she jokingly says,

"when it was time for me to

leave Methodist hospital, I

cried, the nurses cried and

EVEN the doctors cried. It

was the most embarrassing

but heart-felt moment."

Today, some of her most

asked for homemade Dishe-

ses are chicken and dress-

ing, pound and caramel

cake and fried apple pies.

My grandmother has re-

mained a member of the

Water Valley Homemaker's

Club since the 1960s, and a

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Missionary Baptist Church

since she was nine years old.

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