



# McCormick Messenger

True to Ourselves, Our Neighbors, Our Country and Our God

Thursday, March 17, 2022

Vol. 120, No. 11 120 South Main Street McCormick, South Carolina www.themccormickmessenger.com (864) 852-3311 75 cents

## In Brief

### Just in Time for Spring!

Please join the Humane Society of McCormick County on Saturday, March 19. All lamps, pictures, mirrors, and appliances will be 20 percent off from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Every purchase helps a dog or cat in McCormick County. 210 South Mine Street next door to Huddle House and across from Burger King.

### Democratic Party Convention

The McCormick County Democratic Party Convention and multiple Precinct Reorganization Meetings will be held on Saturday, March 26 at the Mims Foundation Building on Mims Drive, McCormick. The precinct meetings will be held at 10 a.m. and the County Convention will begin at 11 a.m. For further information, please contact Chair Alonzo Harrison at 864-602-0381.

### Willington Precinct

The Willington Precinct meeting will be held Saturday, 11 a.m., March 19 at the Mims Community Center in Willington. Call Donald Moss at 864-391-2242 for more information.

### Poll Manager Applications Being Accepted

The county Board of Voter Registration and Elections is accepting applications from individuals who are interested in filling possible poll manager vacancies in the 2022 elections. Applicants must be registered to vote in South Carolina to be eligible. Applications are available by calling the Election Office at (864) 852-2089 or in person at the Voter Registration and Elections office in the County Administrative Office Building, 610 South Mine St.

### Notice of Meeting Town of McCormick Planning Commission

The Town of McCormick Planning Commission will meet Monday, March 21, beginning at 5:30 p.m. at the McCormick One Stop Conference Room, 109 West Augusta Street, McCormick, with regard to a request of McCormick County regarding its property known as the "County Office Building", located at 201 East Augusta Street.

### Meetings

The American Legion will meet twice a month starting in March. The next meeting will be March 21 at 7 p.m. on McCracken Street.

Contact Commander James F. Burt, 864-391-7421 or Mat Hardy for more information. All veterans, past or present members and visitors are invited.

### American Legion Post No. 19

Yard sale April 2, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. To secure a table, contact Mat Hardy, 864-602-0256 or Vivian Jennings, 864-602-0341. Inside table \$20; outside \$15.

### Mardi Gras Street Festival

March 26, 4-9 p.m., downtown Main St. and Peachtree St., Lincoln, Ga. Live band, cajun music, entertainment for all ages, food trucks, food vendors, craft vendors, decorative masks, family friendly costumes are welcomed.

For vendors info, contact JoAnn Ward 609-649-2463 or Tootsie, 910-224-4756.

### Save the Date

Saturday, June 11, "Bob White" 22nd Annual Charity Golf Tournament, Monticello Golf Course. Sponsored by the Lutheran Church By The Lake.

All proceeds go to local charities.



A transplanted Okie, Barbra Mudd moved to Georgia and now lives in Lincoln Co., where she paints, writes and crafts dolls representing the characters in her books. Mudd's creations are on display and sale at the MACK Artisans Guild & Gift Shop at 218 S. Main St. -StocktonPhoto

## An Okie moves to Lincolnton, joins the MACK Artisans Guild

By Bob Stockton

A little girl with a couple of little tubes of oil paints in Dewey, Okla. has taken a long road to become a new artist at the McCormick Arts Council at the Keturah Artisans Guild and Gift Shop.

"Growing up in Oklahoma was fun because we played outside constantly and made everything ourselves," said Barbra Mudd, who is the second of four children. "There was not a lot to do so we just tried to keep out of trouble. I played with my brothers, friends and animals ... daddy always had dogs and puppies. Oklahoma is a good place to be from," she said.

"By the time I was four, I knew I wanted to be an artist. I taught myself to draw and redesigned fashions I saw in the Sears-Roebuck catalogue while sitting on the steps of grandma's chicken house.

"I had so few paints that I taught myself how to mix colors. Where there's a will, there's a way. I sold one of my paintings for \$5 and was on my way."

In her teens, her father's job took the family to Cobb County, Ga., then a daughter went to college in Augusta.

"We chose to live in Lincolnton," she said. "We're out in the country, a big barn converted into a house, with room for our daughter, a studio and a big garden. It's a redneck homestead."

Now Mudd writes and illustrates children's books and makes dolls of the book characters. She's become as good at designing and stitching as painting.

She has done illustrations for Delta Airlines and commissioned portraits – one of Sioux holy man Ben Black Elk.

Last fall she took some of her books and dolls to Willington on the Way. They sold, and Lana Snellgrove suggested she check out the MACK Artisans Guild & Gift Shop.

As she drew as a child, Mudd always imagined stories to go with her art, so she started writing. She's written "Katie Goes to the Chiropractor," "Peck's 80 Acres – The Trickster," and "Peck's 80 Acres – The Picnic" and made stuffed animals to accompany them. The books also sell on Amazon and Barnes & Noble.

"Rudy the Rooster is based on my brother, Leon," said Mudd. "I'm doing illustrations now for a calendar, too. The money is always nice, but it's not always fulfilling."

The MACK Artisans Guild & Gift Shop features quality handcrafted items, including jewelry, cards, pottery, fine art and more. Last year, to support the MACK's rehabilitation efforts at the Keturah, the shop moved to its new quarters at 218 S. Main.

The shop is operated entirely by local artists and volunteers and they welcome new members. The MACK continues to expand opportunities to regional artists and provides access to high quality artisans goods.

The gift shop is open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, call 864-852-3217 or e-mail [mccormickarts@gmail.com](mailto:mccormickarts@gmail.com)

## Narcan Nasal Spray available through Cornerstone

Cornerstone welcomed County Council Chairman Charles Jennings to the McCormick office last week for a meeting with Executive Director Laurie Fallaw. Councilman Jennings was given an agency update from the previous year and their strategies to address substance use for the upcoming year were shared. Cornerstone shared with Councilman Jennings information about Narcan and gave him the kit they are offering to our community free of charge as a community distributor of Narcan Nasal Spray. Narcan reverses the effects of Opioids and can be a life-saving response to an Opioid overdose. Prevention Specialist, Dana Brock, explained how to use the Narcan Nasal Spray, and why it is a great tool to carry in anyone's first aid kit. "Our hope is to reduce the stigma associated with drug use and stress the importance of saving lives. We offer Narcan to everyone, and when we do, we aren't trying to suggest that you have a drug problem or that your family member does. We want to get Narcan in as many hands around our community as possible. You never know when any one of us could run into a situation where you might need to use Narcan and it could save someone's life," said Brock. Narcan is also safe to use on children and pets to reverse accidental Opioid overdose.

Cornerstone is a community distributor of Narcan Nasal Spray. Anyone interested can visit any of their offices in Greenwood, Edgefield, McCormick or Abbeville counties for more information, training, or to receive free Narcan nasal spray at no cost.



County Council Chairman Charles Jennings (center) visited Cornerstone last week for an update on the importance of saving lives with Narcan Nasal Spray. Pictured with him are Cornerstone Executive Director Laurie Fallaw (left) and Prevention Specialist Dana Brock.

## School district ends COVID-19 testing

By Chuck Cook

The McCormick County School District has ended student and faculty testing for the COVID-19 virus, at least for now. The announcement came from Superintendent Jaime Hembree at the March 7 meeting of the district's board of trustees. All members of the board were present for the meeting at the MHS Media Center except trustee Kenny Pucket.

The decision to end testing was a result of new DHEC and CDC guidelines that permit schools and childcare centers to "suspend Test to Stay or quarantine once they have had two consecutive weeks with less than 10 percent of all students and staff having COVID-19." This guidance was effective March 1, 2022. Dr. Hembree reported that there were no positive test results or quarantines of district students and staff as of the day of the meeting or during the week that preceded it. Although schools are required to report new cases to DHEC on a weekly basis, if any, requirements for contact tracing, testing and masking of close contacts without symptoms has also been discontinued, and masks are no longer required on school buses.

Trustees were also treated to additional good news at the meeting when Pamela Turman, Director of Early Childhood and Elementary Education, presented an update on student test results in the district, compared to the average scores they received last year or during fall testing in 2021. Turman reported across the board improvements in virtually all student tests and achievement, and at all grade levels. Although some test results, particularly in math and science, were still below average test scores for all SC students, the trend line for district students was definitely upward. Early learning grades K through 2nd were particularly targeted for improvement. It was also noted that some test results, including pre-SAT scores and career readiness for MHS seniors measured different groups of students in 2021 and 2022 rather than improvements within the same class.

The next steps in the process of improving student test scores, as reported by Turman, include continuing decision-making regarding individual students and classes using achievement data, and targeting learning opportunities that "get the most bang for the buck."

Financial advisor David Loadholt reported on the progress of the ongoing review of the district's facilities and infrastructure. The review is being carried out under contract and has, thus far, included the identification of a number of infrastructure deficiencies requiring attention – HVAC replacements, re-paving within

School Board, see page 3

## MACK groundbreaking set for April 7

A Red Ribbon Ceremony to celebrate the groundbreaking of the MACK Rehabilitation Project is scheduled for Thursday, April 7 at noon, 115 S. Main Street.

The McCormick Chamber of Commerce and The McCormick Arts Council (MACK) will host a ribbon-cutting ceremony for all interested stakeholders to participate in this milestone project. Phase I of the MACK Rehabilitation Project was made possible through a generous contribution from the Yoder Rosenberg Family Foundation.

All are welcome and encouraged to attend. Their team will be onsite to invite you to tour the historic Keturah hotel. You are encouraged to see the facility.

Please contact Heather McNally, Director of Programs and Development for additional information: [mccormickarts@gmail.com](mailto:mccormickarts@gmail.com) / (864) 602-0331.