

In Brief

Fish Fry

The Good Shepherd Men's Club will be holding its second and last Lenten fish fry on Friday, March 25 from 5-7 p.m. at Good Shepherd Life Center. Only \$12 for adults and \$6 for children 12 and under. All you can eat dinner of fried fish, French fries, cole slaw and cookies. Please contact David McKloskey, 391-4445 or Jack Nickol, 391-5556 for tickets.

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.

Widows Connection

Whether newly widowed or have been alone awhile there are challenges, fears, anxieties and loneliness that are better shared. They have begun a new video series of women in the bible going through this journey. This week's video is "Overwhelmed with Isolation". They will meet Monday, March 28 at 5 p.m. at McCormick United Methodist Church. Everyone is welcome.

Questions, call Toni Graham, 391-4257.

Democratic Women

Tuesday, March 29, the Democratic Women will be meeting at noon at the McCormick Library. There will be many post convention plans to discuss. For further information, contact Paula Goldman 864-378-6129.

The public is invited.

Public Meeting

Dr. R.C. Holloway will hold a public meeting at the McCormick County Library on Tuesday, March 29 from 5-7 p.m. The public is encouraged to attend.

CWP Class

Police Chief Bo Willis will conduct a concealed weapons permit class on Saturday, April 2 starting at 8 a.m. at the sheriff's office on Augusta Street Extension. For more information, call 852-2985.

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.

MACK Groundbreaking

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: mcmccormickarts@gmail.com / (864) 602-0331.



Jewel Quarles of Parksville celebrated her 100th birthday March 19, 2022 with a celebration at Parksville Baptist Church. Mama Jewel, seated, is pictured with her immediate family, left to right, Josh Walker, Franky Walker, Clarence Brown, Lynn Walker, Sherry Atkinson, Ferrel Percival, Mark Atkinson, Samantha Walker, Olivia Walker and Tank Walker. -Judy Self photo

Jewel West Quarles celebrates 100 years

By Judy Self

Jewel West Quarles of Parksville celebrated her 100th birthday on Saturday, March 19, with a party at the Parksville Baptist Church Fellowship Hall. The event was held in her honor given by her family, Lynn and Franky Walker, Ferrel Percival and Tank, Samantha, Josh and Olivia Walker. Family and friends attending were close to 200 including cousins, Karen Linz and family, traveling from Bentonville, Ark. and friends Janet and Eric Weatherly all the way from Pittsburg, Penn.

Nephew and Pastor Alan Quarles of Edgefield welcomed everyone and presented Jewel with a plaque from the church which read, "In Honor of Pianist Jewel W. Quarles on her 100th birthday, Parksville Baptist Church 1976 - 2022."

Mama Jewel, as she is known by many, thanked everyone for coming and making her day so special.

After many kind words about his aunt, Alan had the blessing. Following the blessing everyone enjoyed a delicious barbecue and hotdog meal with all the trimmings and wonderful desserts.

One of the many highlights of the day was when Jewel sat down at the piano and began playing some of her favorite hymns. Then she was joined by Alan playing several duets. They both play by ear and would decide on a song, which key to play it in, look at each other and just began playing with no rehearsing at all.

Jewel was born on March 19, 1922, the daughter of John Henry and Olive West of the Antioch community in Edgefield County. She was one of eight children: four sisters and three brothers.

As a little girl she grew up in the country and loved to play with family and friends. One of her favorite games was "Handy Over" which was throwing a ball over the house. She also enjoyed riding horses. In addition to fun and games she helped pick cotton from the fields and vegetables from the garden.

Jewel's Uncle Earl and Aunt Louise Prince lived close to them and their son, Murray Prince, would often come over to play with them. They loved making roads with little cars in the dirt under the house.

She attended Antioch Community School which consisted of only three rooms.

At about the age of seven Jewel developed a love for music. She would bang on her mother's pump organ. Later as her parents realized she had the God given talent of playing by ear they bought a piano of her own.

One of Jewel's sisters, Lizzie Mae, was

born deaf. When she was six years old she went to the School for the Deaf and Blind in Spartanburg which was hard on her whole family. Jewel would always look forward to a trip to the school to visit Lizzie Mae. Her mother would pack a picnic lunch before they headed out because there was no such thing as fast food. At that time cars didn't have heaters so they used lap rolls to keep warm.

Her family would only have meat once a week due to no refrigeration. Most of the time it was fried chicken on Sunday unless her daddy would kill quail or catch fish.

When she was in the eighth grade she attended Edgefield High School. During that time she dated a friend from childhood, John Carroll Quarles. They enjoyed going to movies at the Edgefield Theater. She graduated on May 29, 1939.

On June 17 of that same year she and Carroll were married at the Edgefield Baptist Church parsonage and lived in a small house on Carroll's daddy's farm. On May 29, 1942 they were blessed with a daughter, Sandra Carolyn.

Jewel had been a member of Antioch Baptist Church, but after her marriage she joined Red Hill Baptist Church where Carroll's family attended. She was pianist there

while they were members.

Jewel and Carroll bought two acres of land on Highway 23 from her Aunt Mae and Uncle Sherrod Holmes. She went to work for the Crest Company, a sewing factory in Edgefield, to help make money to build their house in the early 1950s, which was the first time she'd had indoor plumbing.

After their home was complete they built a small country store selling gas, a few groceries, block ice that could be crushed, fishing supplies and minnows which they raised. Carroll and his daddy also ran a corn mill where they'd grind corn to make meal to be sold on a route in the surrounding towns and counties.

Jewel would ride on the route with Carroll and while in Abbeville she discovered a recording studio and decided to have her piano music on a vinyl. It had two of her gospel favorite hymns, with one being "More Like the Master."

Jewel loved her mother-in-law, Cornelia Quarles, like her own mother. One day while washing clothes by an open fire Cornelia's dress caught on fire and she died due to burns on her body. After their mother

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The guests enjoyed listening to Jewel play some of her favorite hymns.

-Judy Self photo