



Photo by Ben Carlson

Edith Phillips prepares to blow out all 81 candles on her birthday cake Monday at the Anderson Senior Citizens Center. Looking on is Bonnie Pozefsky with Comfort Keepers.

Birthday girl's wish comes true

81-year-old blows out every candle during surprise birthday bash

By Ben Carlson
General Manager

She huffed and puffed and huffed a little more, but in the end 81 candles were no match for Edith Phillips.

Phillips, a spry and feisty 81-year-old who has spent her entire life in Anderson County, was the star attraction Monday morning at the Senior Citizen Center as a couple dozen friends and well-wishers threw her a party to celebrate her 81st birthday.

Little did she know that a wish she asked for a week earlier would come true — that she would have a chance to blow out every candle on her cake.

Second Wind Dreams, a non-profit orga-

See **CANDLES**, Page A2



Photos by Ben Carlson

Edith Phillips is all smiles after successfully blowing out all 81 candles on her birthday cake Monday at the senior center.

CANDLES

Continued from Page A1

zation that has teamed up with Comfort Keepers and Frankfort-based senior care provider Ashwood Place, visited the senior center last week and asked local seniors to fill out wish lists of things they'd like to do.

Phillips said she could think of several things she wanted for her birthday.

"I just want a man," she said with a laugh. "That's what I wrote down."

She also included a trip to the Grand Canyon so she could be like seniors in the TV commercial that ride their scooters to the canyon's edge, along with her desire to blow out all the candles on her cake.

The latter was plenty for Phillips, who was equal part tears and smiles as Bonnie Pozefsky with Comfort Keepers carried a chocolate cake with yellow frosting into the senior center dining area, much to Phillips' surprise.

"I never thought they'd be back," Phillips said. "All of this was a surprise. It made me cry."

Unaware that a party was planned, Phillips said she didn't feel well Monday morning and almost didn't bother to visit the senior center. But her senior companion was wise to the party and talked her into going. She was glad she did.

"It was one of the most beautiful cakes I've ever had," she said, "and I've had a few in my lifetime."

"I also received lots of cards and gifts and everyone was just wonderful."

Phillips said blowing out the candles wasn't too difficult, but she did have trouble getting a few pesky ones to go out.

"It wasn't that bad, but one or two stayed lit," she said, adding that she thought for a moment or two that someone had used re-lighting candles as a joke.

Asked if she intends to try for 82 candles next year, Phillips said, "If I live that long, I might."

Comment at theandersonnews.com.



Edith Phillips blows out the candles on her birthday cake. It took several tries, but she was able to accomplish the task. Phillips said blowing out the candles wasn't too difficult, but she did have trouble getting a few pesky ones to go out.