

## In Brief

### CWP Class

Police Chief Bo Willis will conduct a concealed weapons permit class on Saturday, Jan. 22 starting at 8 a.m. at the sheriff's office on Augusta Street Extension. For more information, call 852-2985.

### Widows Connection

The Widows Connection resumes at McCormick United Methodist Church on Monday, Jan. 24 at 5 p.m. Sometimes women feel overwhelmed with everyday frustrations, stress and worry. This is a chance to meet with others in the same situation. They will begin with a six session series, "A Woman Overwhelmed... The Life of Mary, the Mother of Jesus", a video series that will open up discussion on this topic. Come join them. Questions contact Toni Graham 391-4257 or dmgraham@wctel.net

### Democratic Women

The first meeting in 2022 with the McCormick County Democratic Women will be Tuesday, Jan. 25 at 1 p.m. at the McCormick County Library. Please join them as they look forward to the coming year.

For further information, contact Paula Goldman at 864-378-6129.

### Fundraiser

TFC Cafe, 1319 South Main Street, McCormick, will host a Valentine's fundraiser on Feb. 11 at 7 p.m. Enjoy dinner with a performance by Elvis impersonator, Jacob Eder.

The menu includes baked chicken, broccoli casserole, green beans with potatoes, rice with gravy, side salad, roll, red velvet cake and drink. Singles \$20, couples \$35.

Please call 864-852-3755 for reservations.

All proceeds will benefit Meals on Wheels.

### Health Screening Events

Self Regional Healthcare's Full Circle Care Clinic and Community Prevention and Wellness will host community preventative health screening events on the following date:

Sunday, Feb. 20, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at Shiloh AME Church, 405 SC Highway 10, McCormick.

This event is open to the public. Health education, preventative screenings, assistance with MyChart Activation and Telehealth appointments will be offered.

### Exhibit

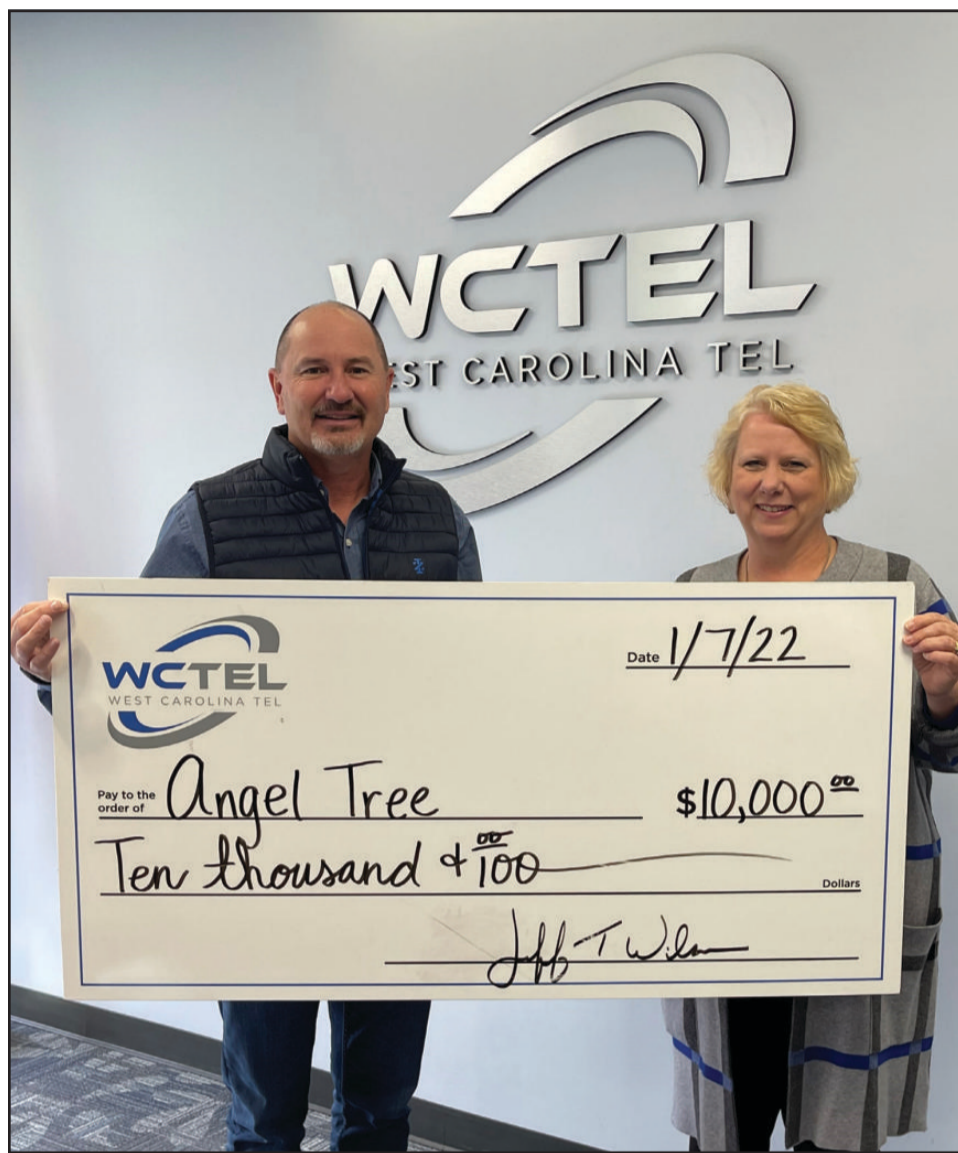
The Aiken County Library is hosting a baseball exhibit on the Negro Leagues and Black Baseball History featuring Jackie Robinson, Larry Doby, Don Newcombe, Monte Irvin, Buck O'Neil, Satchel Paige, Josh Gibson and many others.

The memorabilia is provided by baseball historians Lamar Garrard and Milledge Murray.

### Keep your pets warm

Blankets and straw will be available to the public for free (while supplies last) to help keep your pets warm. Pick up is Friday, Jan. 21 from 8 to 11 a.m. at the HSMC Thrift Store parking lot, 210 S. Mine Street, McCormick. (It is the white building across from Burger King.)

If you have blankets to donate for community pets, please drop them off on Thursday, Jan. 20 from 8 to 11 a.m. at Dave Rollison's office, 4172 US Highway 378 W., McCormick. (Door on the right.) Donated blankets not picked up may later be used at the HSMC shelter, sold at the Thrift Store, or disseminated at our discretion.



Shannon Sears, WCTEL Director of Commercial Operations, presents a check for \$10,000 to Lori Glace, Angel Tree Coordinator. WCTEL employees, retirees and board members have been giving to the Angel Tree since 1993. Donations are used to purchase gifts for children in need at Christmas.

## WCTEL supports the Angel Tree

Each year WCTEL collects money donated by WCTEL employees, retirees and board members to support the Christmas Angel Tree. Since starting this tradition of giving in 1993, WCTEL has gone from donating hundreds of dollars to now donating thousands of dollars with this year being the largest donation yet, with a donation of \$10,000! Jeff Wilson, CEO of WCTEL, stated, "I am thankful to our board members and current and past employees for their dedicated support of the Angel Tree and other impactful programs in the communities we serve."

The Angel Tree makes a significant im-

pact in the Abbeville, McCormick, Iva, and Starr areas, and has continually expanded their outreach. Lori Glace, Angel Tree coordinator, said, "We have been very blessed with the support from our community, donations like the one from West Carolina have a significant impact on the number of families we can bless during the holidays." The Angel Tree provides bikes and gifts to children who are in need at Christmas. Today, 30 years after the Angel Tree was established, they are now providing presents to over 593 children, including 81 bikes this year.

## Upper Savannah staff hosts workshop on CDBG, EDA, Rural Infrastructure funding

Upper Savannah COG sponsored a Community Development Workshop where close to 50 attendees learned details about Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Economic Development Administration (EDA) and Rural Infrastructure Authority (RIA) funding.

Forty-two attended the workshop in person at Ninety Six First Baptist Church on Jan. 12 while five participated virtually.

The counties of Abbeville, Greenwood, McCormick and Saluda; the cities of Abbeville, Clinton and Greenwood; the towns of Calhoun Falls, Due West, Edgefield, Gray Court, McCormick, Ridge Spring, Troy and Ware Shoals; the Greenwood, Laurens, Ninety Six and McCormick commissioners of public works (CPWs); and the Greenwood Metropolitan District, Laurens County Water and Sewer Commission, and Saluda County Water and Sewer Authority were represented.

Many of those represented have successfully applied for CDBG grants and have completed projects. But USCOG Community Development Project Manager Britany Hallman wanted those in attendance to have an overview of all available funding opportunities.

"It was something Keith and I felt was a need for our region," said Hallman, referring to Upper Savannah Community Development Director Keith Smith.

"Keith and I discussed with our CDBG Grants Manager (Nate Foutch) and decided we would incorporate other funding sources to encourage participation and provide exposure to other Community Development

programs," she said.

"With the overwhelming help and support of Shannon Hill and Cason Wright (from the USCOG staff) we were able to make this workshop successful," she said.

Foutch, CDBG Grants Manager from the S.C. Department of Commerce, was one of three presenters at the workshop. Also presenting were Robin Cooley, South Carolina's EDA Representative; and Liz Rosinski, Senior Program Manager/Marketing and Outreach, S.C. Rural Infrastructure Authority.

"The purpose of the Community Development Workshop was to provide information regarding available funding resources to our Upper Savannah Region," Hallman said. "It was important for us to provide our region an opportunity to network with other counties, municipalities and organizations that utilize the programs."

"The workshop allowed organizations to see the impacts of these programs, not just in our region but throughout the state. We hope the exposure to these programs and networking will promote innovative thinking, further utilizing these programs and encouraging community development. This opportunity also allowed us to familiarize them with our role here at Upper Savannah, and our involvement with these funding sources."

Hallman said the guest speakers did a "great job" presenting their funding source information. "Many of the state and federally funded programs can be overwhelming to those who are not familiar. Our guest

Funding, see page 5

## WCTEL providing discount toward broadband service

By Bob Stockton

WCTEL is participating in the Affordable Connectivity Program, a replacement to the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program established by the Federal Communications Commission in 2021 during the pandemic.

The Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) is designed to help households struggling to pay for internet service to provide critical access to education, employment, healthcare services, and more.

Through the ACP, WCTEL will provide a discount of up to \$30 a month toward broadband service. The discount is limited to one monthly service discount per household.

A household is eligible if:

- one member of the household qualifies for the Lifeline program (<https://www.fcc.gov/lifeline-consumers>), including those who receive Medicaid, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Federal Public Housing Assistance (FPHA) or Veterans Pension and Survivors Benefit;
- has an income that is at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty guidelines;
- is approved to receive benefits under the free and reduced-price school lunch program or the school breakfast program, including through the USDA Community Eligibility Provision in the 2019-2020, 2020-2021 or 2021-2022 school year;
- received a Federal Pell Grant during the current award year, and
- meets the eligibility criteria for a participating provider's existing low-income program.

To sign up for the benefit, visit [wctel.com/acp](http://wctel.com/acp) to apply or contact WCTEL for assistance if unable to apply online. Paper applications are available by request. WCTEL internet subscriber eligibility may depend on service location.

For more information, please call (864) 446-2111 or visit [wctel.com/acp](http://wctel.com/acp).

The West Carolina Tel family of companies, including WCTEL, WCFIBER and Upcountry Fiber, combine service with technology. Community-minded employees are committed to building a fiber network that is ready for whatever the future of technology may hold.

The fiber optic network provides voice, data, video, security, and hosted business services in upstate SC to include McCormick and Abbeville counties, the city of Newberry as well as parts of Anderson, Greenwood, Oconee, Pickens, Greenville, and Spartanburg counties in SC and Columbia County, GA.

To find out more about West Carolina Tel, visit [www.wctel.com](http://www.wctel.com). West Carolina Tel is designated as a nationally recognized Smart Rural Community and Certified Gig-Capable Provider by NTCA – The Rural Broadband Association.

## Chamber's annual meeting and dinner set for Jan. 27

The McCormick County Chamber of Commerce will hold its annual meeting and dinner on Thursday, Jan. 27 at the Talmadge Fitness and Wellness Center, 1319 South Main Street, McCormick.

Networking begins at 6 p.m. with dinner to follow.

Guest speakers will be Mark Warner, director of Economic & Community Development, Dr. Jaime L. Hembree, superintendent of McCormick Public Schools and Heather McNally, director of Programs & Development at the MACK.

Tickets must be purchased in advance to guarantee a seat. Deadline is Jan. 24. Contact McCormick County Chamber of Commerce at 864-852-2835 or register online at <https://visit.mccormickschamber.org/events/calendar>. Credit card required.