

SIX-VEHICLE ACCIDENT



Several people were taken to the hospital on Dec. 9 after a six-vehicle accident on Duncan By-Pass near Save A Lot. According to Union Public Safety Department reports, Jennifer Hinnant, 27, of Old Union Road, Union, the driver of a 2016 Kia Forte, was traveling south. Brenda Ann Lawson, 58, of Porter Lane, Union, the driver of a 2004 Dodge, was attempting a left turn from a private driveway. She failed to yield right of way. Hinnant's car struck Lawson's car in the driver's side. Jonathan C. Parker, 21, of Landrum the driver of a 2000 GMC pickup, stopped due to the collision. Bradley Lee Pruitt, 31, of Union was stopped behind Parker in a 2004 Dodge pickup. Penni Allen Manus, 48, of Union was traveling south in a 2010 Chevrolet SUV and her vehicle struck the rear of Pruitt's truck, causing it to travel into the northbound lane. Melissa Ann Payne, 46, of Union was traveling north on the by-pass in a 2002 Mercury and her vehicle struck Pruitt's vehicle head-on. Manus' vehicle, after striking Pruitt's vehicle in the rear, then rolled forward into the back of Parker's vehicle. (Anna Brown photos)



EMS

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and Johnson Ambulance Service. "I have utmost respect for Charlie as a veteran paramedic," one person wrote. Those who nominated Brannon said he provides outstanding service to the community and EMS. "He goes above and beyond to be the best partner he can be," one person wrote. "He will do anything to make Union County EMS better." Brannon, who is also Lockhart Fire Department's chief, said he was honored and humbled to receive the award. "I thought there were probably some more out there who deserved the award more than I did," Brannon said. Brannon said he got interested in becoming a medic when he joined the fire department in 1995 and was working at Exopack. Two of his co-workers, Jonesville firefighters Michael "Mooch" Brewington and Jason Garrett, were going through Emergency Medical Technician training. Brannon took his training at Spartanburg Technical College. He was required to get "ride time" with an EMS service. He went to Wallace

Thomson Hospital, which then operated the service and met with Paul Edwards, who was a supervisor. Edwards introduced him to then-director Ronnie Roberson, who later hired him. "I love helping people," Brannon said. "We can't make everybody feel better every time we go out, but just to go out and help them, even if it is nothing but helping pick them up out of the floor and seeing a smile on their face because they were too embarrassed to call for help but had to have it anyway. It's not about the awards or the thank you's. I just love doing it. I reckon it is a gift from God that allowed me to do it." Gill said he was a military medic in the National Guard and became interested in a career as a paramedic. "Gregory and Johnson was my first EMS job," he said. "From that point on, I continued to go to school." Gill wanted to go to paramedic school but did not have enough money. "I got a hundred dozen doughnuts and went door to door selling doughnuts," he said. "I came across Dr. (Thomas) Young's house. I didn't

know it was his house. He told me he admired what I was doing and if I fell short on how much money I needed to come and see him." The military helped pay for Gill's schooling. He used the money he made selling doughnuts to buy gas for his motorcycle. He rode it to Greenville Technical School no matter the weather. Over the years he has also taught countless CPR and other classes. He has worked with other services and started the ALS program in Newberry County. Gill said he was surprised to receive his award; it was the first time he has won it in his career. "I am very appreciative my co-workers thought enough of me to give it to me," he said. Gill said he loves his job because he is a people person. "I like taking care of people; I like being around people," he said. "I like the camaraderie of all my co-workers. We are a big family as far as the EMS part. Just like brothers and sisters we are going to argue, fuss and fight but at the end of the day we are a big family."

Spencer

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Dorothy was almost 19 when she married Mike on Christmas Eve of 1946. Mike had built a house for his mother. All of the family moved in with Mike's mother, Ethel; grandmother, Cornelia; and three sisters. "They were good Christian people, there wasn't no fussing," Dorothy said. "We all cooked and everybody got around that big round table and everybody ate. They were good Christian people who believed in the Lord and that got me on the road to living the Christian life. Grandma Cornelia was the best grandma. My brother (Pete) called her grandma, too. He talks about how she would call us around that big round table in the kitchen and she would pray and sing this song, 'Come eat, that love the Lord and let your joy be known.' My brother said when he went to Washington and started going to church he could hear Grandma Cornelia's voice singing that song." Later Dorothy and Mike moved to another home and her father, Emanuel Kelly, and all of her brothers moved in with them. "My husband said, yes, we had room for them now," Dorothy said. "We all lived in that one house. They all went to school. My brothers (Robert Lee, Emanuel Jr. and Pete) worked a while and then they went to Washington. Every year they would come down to visit; we would all get together and have a wonderful time." Along with her three brothers she helped raise, Dorothy is the mother of seven children: the late Joe William Kelly, Mike Jr., the Rev. Charles Edward Spencer, Carolyn Hardy, Kathy McConnell, Mark Spencer and Keith O. Spencer. Mike Jr. said the extended family living together was one big happy family. At times they all slept together in one room. "I can tell you this, Mama married a good man," Mike Jr. said. "The best man that God made," Dorothy said. There are now five generations living in Dorothy's family, with her children through her great-great-grandchildren totaling around 100 people. Dorothy joined James Chapel Baptist Church when she married Mike. She is now a member of Outreach Deliverance Church where her son-in-law, the Rev. Eddie McConnell, is pastor. Dorothy said she feels like she is vibrant and sharp because of God. "I started early in life going to church with my Mama," she said, "And after she passed I didn't stop going. My aunts were going to church and I went to church with them. When we married I joined my husband's church. When we dedicated our lives to Christ, we didn't stop. He got to where he couldn't walk and we would have prayer right here in our home. Our pastor would say, 'Don't try to come to church, I will come to you.' I would go to church but I didn't feel comfortable without him being there with me. When I am praying at night and look up and it seems like he just ought to be with me. He was a good father who tried to teach the children the right ways in life. I do thank God. He has truly been good to me."



Dorothy and Mike Spencer in a photo made on their 50th wedding anniversary.

Court

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indicated he had a gun and pushed his way into the station. He took the employee's wallet, took \$80 out of it and handed the wallet back to the employee. He also exposed himself to the employee. The man threatened the employee's life and fled on foot. At Fairforest Apartments on April 23, 2016, the victim said Bishop came into his apartment, threatened to shoot him and took \$25 from him. The victim identified Bishop by his first name. On Feb. 25 the West South Street man was working in his yard when he was robbed. The victim, who was 69, told PSO Kyle Black he was approached by a man and asked if he needed someone to help him work on his car. The victim declined the offer. The man then began telling the victim a story about

his grandmother dying in Spartanburg hospital. He was trying to go see her but was confused about her location and came to Union instead. He asked for money to get to Spartanburg. The victim took out his wallet and gave the man \$10. Before he put his wallet away the man pulled a knife and threatened to hurt him if he didn't give the rest of his money. The victim gave the man another \$7 and showed him his wallet was empty. The man began walking towards South Pinckney Street. Bishop had a lengthy criminal record, including an incident in 2007 when he tried to rob a local business owner and was shot. **Woman sentenced** A Spartanburg woman accused of taking \$95,000 worth of merchandise from Belk Distribution Center was

sentenced to probation on Dec. 11. Sonya Ann Edwards, 45, of 1061 Laurel Glenn Circle pleaded guilty to breach of trust. Judge Dan Hall sentenced her to two years in prison and then suspended the sentence to five years of probation. Edwards has been ordered to pay restitution in the case. According to a report, a loss officer at Belk Distribution in Jonesville told Sgt. Tommy Cudd in August of 2016 that Edwards, who was a supervisor with the center, had 135 shipments of merchandise shipped to her home. This had been going on since January of 2014. Deputy Solicitor John Anthony said the state recommended a sentence of not more than two years active time followed by probation with restitution. Edwards could have been sentenced to 10 years in prison.

Book

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would like to write. He is retired from BellSouth and at 78 continues to work at Kraft Foods in Newberry. He said he plans to retire again later in 2018 to pursue his writing. He stays busy - he is on the Catawba Area on Aging Board and is a member of Corinth Baptist Church and the Sunrise Gospel Singers. He also enjoys singing and leading prayer for the residents of Ellen Sagar Nursing Home and Heartland of Union. "I have a book of poems and hymns I want to do and two children's books," he said. Talley said it makes him happy when people still ask for the book and sometimes strangers approach him and ask if he wrote it. "Why Santa Was Late for Christmas" is available on Amazon for \$25 (including shipping) and \$18 if purchased directly from Talley. He still has copies at his McLure Street home.

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