

EATING CUPCAKES



Each in his own way, 3-year-old Jack Knox (left), 2-year-old Sam Williford (center) and 2-year-old Ayden Eubanks enjoy eating snowman cupcakes provided for them by Amber Ivey, Union County Arts Council coordinator. They are part of the preschool group from Bethel United Methodist Church that visits the arts council on Monday mornings, where they learn arts and crafts projects and eat a snack. Last week they made skiing snowmen and marshmellow snowmen. (Graham Williams photos)

Robbery  
suspect  
gets  
12 years

By ANNA BROWN  
A Union man who was accused of robbing a WBCU employee was sentenced to 12 years in prison last week.  
Tracey Leon Bishop, 36, of 413 South Church St., pleaded guilty on Dec. 13 to strong-armed robbery. Judge Dan Hall gave Bishop credit for the 287 days he has served in the Union County Jail.



Bishop was arrested on March 6, 2017, by the Union Public Safety Department. He was charged with strong-armed robbery and indecent exposure. Lt. Kevin Powers said the WBCU employee who was robbed on Jan. 14, 2017, picked Bishop out of a photo lineup.  
Bishop also was accused of taking money from a man at Fairforest Apartments on April 23, 2016, and with robbing a 69-year-old man on West South Street on Feb. 25, 2017. The victim in the February case has died, causing that charge to be dropped. The other charge was dropped as part of Bishop's plea agreement.  
At WBCU Radio, the employee was at work around 5:50 a.m. when a man banged on the door. The employee opened the door and the man asked if he could borrow \$5 to help fix his broken down car. The employee gave him the money. A short time later the man returned and wanted more money. The employee told the man he had no more money and the station was closed. Chief Sam White said the man put his hand in his pants,

Carlisle Christmas parade marshal

Dorothy Spencer overcame difficult times

By ANNA BROWN  
CARLISLE - You wouldn't know Dorothy Kelly Spencer is 90 years old unless she told you.  
Whether she is talking about being chosen as the Carlisle Christmas Parade marshal or telling you about the hard times she faced growing up, her smooth, beautiful face glows with joy and happiness.  
"I was happy," she said about leading the parade on Dec. 9. "I was very, very, happy. At my age, it is a blessing."  
Dorothy is a lifelong resident of Carlisle and the widow of Mike Spencer Sr. She said God and her good husband are the reasons she survived and thrived during difficult times. When Mike passed away on June 23, 2014, they had been married 67 years.  
Dorothy is retired after working 17 years in the Monarch Elementary School cafeteria.  
When Dorothy was 14 her mother, Leola Jeter Kelly, passed away, leaving Dorothy and her three

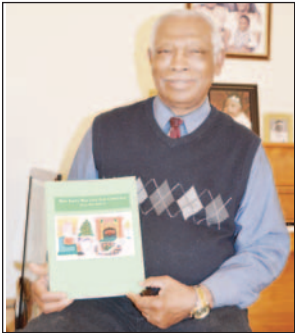


younger brothers.  
"My baby brother (William Ray "Pete" Kelly) was nine months old. I raised him from a baby in my arms."  
Dorothy remembers the day her mother passed away.  
"She had been ailing and that night she got real sick and my daddy had my uncle to take her to the hospital," she said. "He carried her to Whitmire but they sent her on to Newberry. I heard her tell my Daddy and I didn't know what she meant, 'Don't separate my children.' I wasn't thinking about that she wasn't coming back, but that is what she meant."  
Later her father came in and said, "Mama won't be coming home."  
"That was the worst time of my life," she said. "My Mama was gone and here I was with three brothers under me that I had to raise. But praise God, he gave me strength. We were loving and kind to each other."  
Dorothy remembers walking five miles to Jeter Chapel Church and to Oak Grove School.  
"At that time didn't many people have cars," she said. "When we would come from church the road was full of people walking."  
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Dorothy Spencer in a photo her son, Mike Jr., made before she left home to be the marshal of the Carlisle Christmas parade on Dec. 9.

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Ernest Talley Sr. holds a copy of his book.

Christmas book available on Amazon

By ANNA BROWN  
Just exactly why was Santa late for Christmas?  
You can find out by reading Ernest Talley Sr.'s book for children, which he wrote in 2005. For the first time, the book is available on Amazon.com in time for Christmas.  
Talley said he wrote "Why Santa Was Late for Christmas" based on a story he used to tell his children, and later, his grandchildren.  
"Every time they got a chance they wanted me to tell them that story again," he said. "Then my grandkids came along and they did the same thing."  
Talley also illustrated the 40-page book in color.  
Talley, who also enjoys writing poems, said he has three other books in mind he

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TO OUR READERS:

Because Christmas Day comes on a Monday this year, we will not publish a newspaper on Dec. 25. Instead, we will publish another paper on Friday, Dec. 22.  
The advertising deadline will be 12 noon on Thursday, Dec. 21.  
Our office will be closed Monday and Tuesday, Dec. 25 and 26, so we can spend time with our families.  
We hope you have a Merry Christmas.



Union County EMS Director Eric Harold (left) presents the "Medic of the Year" award to Lee Brannon. (Joni Long photo)

EMS honors  
two employees

By ANNA BROWN  
Two veteran Union County EMS employees received top honors during the service's Christmas dinner on Dec. 5.  
Charlie Gill was named "Paramedic of the Year," and Lee Brannon was named "Medic of the Year." Gill has been working with Union County EMS since 1981. Brannon has been with the service for 11 years.  
Union County EMS Director Eric Harold said both men were nominated by and then voted on by their peers.  
"Both are very dedicated and loyal," he said. "Both are hard working and dependable. I know if they are asked to do something it will be done, done correctly in a timely manner and taken care of the right way."  
In the nomination forms it was noted that both men have good attitudes about work. It was pointed out that Gill has been a part of the service since 1981 when it was Gregory

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Union County EMS Director Eric Harold (left) presents the "Paramedic of the Year" award to Charlie Gill. (Joni Long photo)