

# Have you hugged a Santa impersonator lately?

By Danny Tyree

It has been years since my family last dealt with the "pictures with Santa" pageantry, but Saint Nick impersonators remain an integral part of Christmas for Americans.

Parents feel compelled to honor the tradition of dumping tiny tots in Santa's lap, even if they're not emotionally ready for the experience. I wish I hadn't sold my Child Psychology textbook back to the college bookstore, or I would explain why kids who think nothing of sticking a fork in an electrical outlet or inviting a rabid wolverine into the house are suddenly in fight-or-flight-or-wet-your-pants mode over a jovial old man who surrounds himself with elves and candy canes.

Yes, shrieking and bawling are the immediate result of encounters with Kris Kringle, but the traumatizing life event also creates repressed memories that pop up unexpectedly in adulthood. ("The ocean - it's shaking like a bowlful of jelly! I can't help it - I'm going A.W.O.L. from the Navy!")

Some Santa impersonators (motto: "I'm not a morbidly obese peeping Tom, but I play one at the local mall") volunteer for the pure joy of seeing children's faces light up. Other Santa surrogates don the iconic red suit to earn extra money. (Granted, in today's economy, "extra" money is what Bigfoot and Elvis would use to purchase a unicorn for their UFO.)

I'm glad there are still job opportunities for Santa Claus, considering retailers' self-checkout mentality. ("Put on this cap, make yourself a vague promise, make way for the next kid. Buh-bye.")

Physical disabilities are no roadblock to those truly committed to serving as a mall Santa. The agencies that book Santas do, however, frown on applicants with dyslexia. Being upfront about that cuts down on posting a "Santa wanted" sign and having guys with cloven hooves and pitchforks showing up for auditions.

An article in the "New York Post" recommended Santa roleplaying as a side hustle for college students, but I think the job is more suited for seasoned individuals with experience as fathers or grandfathers. Eight hours of putting up with snotty noses, sticky hands, beard-tugging, mile-long lists, mystery smells and awkward questions ("If you can visit every home in the world in one night, how come it has taken my dad more than three years to go to the corner store for a pack of cigarettes?") would make the young guys' reproductive system implode.

Yes, some spoiled brats issue totally unreasonable demands, so it's heartwarming when one is well grounded in reality. Like the little girl who was patient enough to put off a pony until next Christmas. ("I know that THIS year I need to prioritize having Santa make my 10th-story apartment pony-accessible.")

Santa impersonators have to do an amazing job of hemming and hawing when presented with a budget-busting wish list. "I'll check into that." "Let me see what I can do." "I would hate to disappoint a good little boy or girl." Toss in the occasional "I'll have to circle back," "infrastructure" and "democracy," and Santa would qualify for Secret Service protection!

On the other hand, do you know who is the most powerful person in the world? Elon Musk? China's Xi Jinping? Wrong. It's a ready-to-retire Santa who gives parents that reindeer-in-the-headlights look by rubberstamping everything on the little darlings' wish list.

I wouldn't call them evil masterminds, but their "Ho ho ho" sure sounds more like "Bwaha-haha."

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## POLICE BLOTTER

A man accused of displaying a gun to three people in an apparent road rage incident Wednesday night, Nov. 23, has been charged with three counts of aggravated assault.

Jamaric D. Armstrong, 18, of Holly Grove Road is accused of "pulling a gun" on the occupants of a vehicle at the intersection of Franklin Avenue and Fourth Avenue. The driver of the vehicle had allegedly blown his horn at Armstrong's vehicle after he failed to begin moving when a traffic signal turned green.

Armstrong drove beside the victims' vehicle and screamed at them, police were told. A woman in Armstrong's vehicle pulled his arm down and he drove away.

Kailey Brooke Potter, 22, of Decatur, Alabama, a passenger in Armstrong's vehicle, was cited for simple possession when marijuana was found in her possession, police said.

Armstrong was charged with another count of aggravated assault earlier in the day Nov. 23 for allegedly pointing a handgun in the direction of another vehicle during an argument on Woodlawn Street.

## THEFTS

A trailer containing a chain-link dog fence was taken between Sunday, Dec. 20 and Tuesday, Dec. 22 from outside a home on Mayberry Drive in Lewisburg, police said.

A recently-purchased new yellow Cub Cadet zero-turn lawn mower was stolen from beside a residence in the 3000 block of Lynnville Highway last week, a Marshall County Sheriff's Office report said.

The mower had been left beside the home with the keys in the ignition, a deputy was told. More than \$5,000 had reportedly been invested in the mower.

A thief is suspected of driving a green 2004 Honda Rancher 300 ATV away from Red Cedar Farms, in the 2000 block of Highway 99 in Chapel Hill, between 9 a.m. Monday, Nov. 21, and 9 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 22.

Tire tracks show the ATV was driven out the front of the property, a MCSO report said.

Nineteen sheets of stainless steel with a total value of \$3,800 were taken from Talos, Industrial Drive, between Nov. 8-15, according to a Lewisburg police report.

The suspect or suspects appar-

ently made an effort to avoid security cameras, the report said.

An AR-15 rifle was stolen from a home in the 800 block of Snell Road between approximately 3-5 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 16 while the resident was gone, a MCSO report said. The rifle was valued at \$1,000.

A central air unit valued at approximately \$2,500 was stolen from a home in the 1800 block of Fayetteville Highway between Friday, Nov. 18, and Sunday, Nov. 20, the MCSO was told.

## DRUG CHARGES

A Marshall County corrections officer and deputy confiscated 57½ pills from an inmate at Marshall County Jail on Friday, Nov. 18, a report said.

A type of ibuprofen which requires a prescription, propranolol, cyclobenzaprine, and several types of pills which a deputy was unable to identify were found on Sharon Wright Dodgion, 42, of Lunn Store Road, a report filed by Deputy Clarence Gatlin said.

Dodgion was charged with introducing contraband into a penal institution and possession of drugs without a prescription. Bond was set at \$8,500.

Unprescribed medication was confiscated from a woman charged with shoplifting on Thanksgiving Day at the Family Dollar store on Second Avenue North.

Brittany Logan allegedly possessed 37 gabapentin capsules and three clonazepam capsules, a Lewisburg Police Department report said.

Police were initially called after Logan was suspected by store personnel of not paying for several items. Logan, 30, of Caughran Road, told police the drugs had been left in her vehicle by a relative.

Several unprescribed pills were found on a suspect being medically evaluated at Marshall Medical Center on Thursday, Nov. 17, who was in the process of being arrested for two failures to appear warrants.

Emma Christina Rowe, 43, of Mooresville Highway was charged with simple possession of schedule 2 and 4 drugs, police said.

The driver of a vehicle stopped for a lights violation Sunday, Nov. 20, on East Commerce Street faces drug charges.

Larry Banks, 45, was charged with possession of schedule 2

and 6 drugs and paraphernalia, a Lewisburg Police Department report said.

Officer Wyatt Evans searched the vehicle after allegedly smelling marijuana and found approximately .45 grams of crystal methamphetamine, 2.73 grams of marijuana, and bags, scales and syringes, according to the report.

Banks was also charged with driving on a revoked license. Bond was set at \$6,000.

A passenger in a vehicle stopped for a traffic violation Tuesday, Nov. 22, was charged with simple possession after admitting the marijuana Lewisburg officers said they smelled was hers.

Marissa A. Green, 18, of Nashville possessed a bag containing 12 grams of marijuana, police said.

## SHOPLIFTING

Shawn R. Pollock of Columbia is charged with shoplifting \$263 worth of items from Walmart on Thursday, Nov. 17.

Pollock allegedly took the items to a restroom, put them into his clothing and attempted to leave the store.

A shoplifter fled the Lewisburg Walmart with a \$56 heater Saturday, Nov. 19.

A store loss prevention employee told Lewisburg police the suspect, described only as a "white male," can be seen on security video going straight to the heater, then standing in the self checkout and pharmacy lines for a while before going out the door when an employee turned their head.

Cynthia M. Nation, 61, of Franklin Avenue, allegedly took two ribeye steaks and a cigarette lighter from Walmart without paying on Wednesday, Nov. 23, police said. She was charged with shoplifting.

An alleged attempt to walk out of Walmart wearing a pair of shoplifted hunting boots was stopped by store security Monday, Nov. 21.

Jonathan Dean Weir, 57, of Guntersville, Alabama, was charged with shoplifting. Police found Weir also had an outstanding warrant in Robertson County.

Weir was taken to Marshall County Jail. Bond was set at \$1,000.

# Christmas movies at the Dixie

For an extra helping of Christmas Spirit, come to the historic Dixie Theatre on December 10th for two holiday classics: POLAR EXPRESS screens at 2:00 and WHITE CHRISTMAS at 7:00.

Tom Hanks stars in POLAR EXPRESS, the story of a young boy who boards a magical train bound for the North Pole. On his amazing journey of self-discovery, he learns that life is full of wonder for those

who keep an open heart. This fantasy adventure, based on a children's book by Chris Van Allsburg, was the first full-length film to use Motion Capture — the digital process for transferring the movement of human actors to animated characters. Since its release in 2004, POLAR EXPRESS has become a holiday favorite.

Released in 1954, WHITE CHRISTMAS stars Bing Crosby, Danny Kaye, Rosemary Clooney, and Vera-Ellen. After serving in the Army in World War II, Bob Wallace (Crosby) and Phil Davis (Kaye)

form a successful song-and-dance act who cross paths with another duo (Clooney

and Vera-Ellen). When they all travel to Vermont for a Christmas Show, Wallace and Davis find that their old commander owns the lodge where they're performing... and he sorely needs their help. WHITE CHRISTMAS remains one of the most popular musicals of all time. Crosby's recording of the title song has sold over 50 million copies.

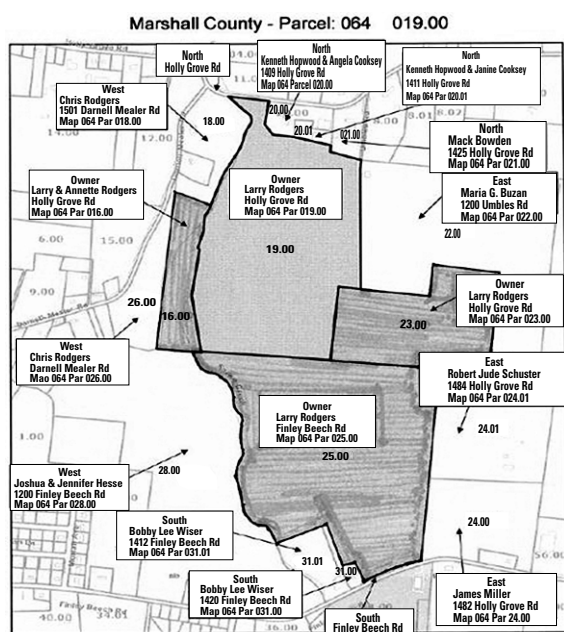
POLAR EXPRESS screens at 2:00 and WHITE CHRISTMAS at 7:00. Tickets for each film are \$5 and the box office opens one hour before showtime. The theatre is located at 110 West Church Street in Lewisburg. Both movies are perfect for the whole family!

## Notice of Public Hearing

The Mayor and Council of the City of Lewisburg will hold a Public Hearing **Tuesday, December 13, 2022, at 5:50 p.m.** at the Lewisburg City Hall, 131 East Church Street, followed by their regular meeting at 6:00 p.m. The public hearing will be to hear comments or opinions concerning the following:

1. Annexation Resolution 22-36, a Resolution approving the annexation and rezoning request by owners' consent of property located on Holly Grove and Finley Beech Roads, Map, 064, Pcl:019.00, Annexation of Approx 146 acres and Rezone Approx 149.92 acres to LDRPUD Low-Density Residential Planned Unit Development. Spring Valley Estates Subdivision. Developer on behalf of owner Triple J. Investments LLC, (Annette Rodgers).
2. Plan of Services for the annexation of property described as Spring Valley Estates (Holly Grove Road & Finley Beech Road) consisting of approximately 146 +/- acres. Owner - Annette Rodgers.

Proposed Plan of Services is available for public viewing at the following locations: Lewisburg City Hall, Marshall County Courthouse Annex, Marshall County Library and City of Lewisburg website, [www.lewisburgtn.gov](http://www.lewisburgtn.gov).



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