

Did someone say... "Shazam"?

By Danny Tyree

Saint Nick wasn't the only man in a red suit that magical Christmas season 50 years ago.

On Saturday December 23, 1972, I walked from my house to Sharp's Drive-In Market and splurged on four 20-cent comic books.

One of my selections was heavily influenced by an ad appearing in DC Comics: "Coming in December...DC's Christmas gift to you! Shazam is coming!"

I could scarcely wait to rush home and open my copy of "Shazam!" #1. Unfortunately, my gut reaction upon seeing the interior artwork was, "What's this cartoony junk???" You see, I had recently sworn off "kiddie" comics. But "Shazam!" grew on me. By the second issue, it was my favorite title.

"Shazam!" #1 featured the triumphal return of "the original Captain Marvel" and his extended family. Introduced in Fawcett's "Whiz Comics" #2 (cover-dated February 1940), Captain Marvel was the alter ego of boy reporter Billy Batson. By speaking the magic word "Shazam!," Billy summoned a mystical bolt of lightning and transformed into a costumed adult super-hero who saved the world from countless threats.

During the 1940s (what comics aficionados refer to as the Golden Age of Comics), Captain Marvel appeared in his own 12-chapter Republic movie serial and even outsold Superman on the newsstands.

But "the world's mightiest mortal" went into limbo in 1953 because of (a) the declining popularity of super-heroes and (b) a long-running lawsuit in which DC accused the good captain of being a rip-off of Superman.

That's why "Shazam!" was such a big deal in 1972, bringing Captain Marvel and the rest of the Marvel Family back to a nostalgia-crazed world after almost 20 years. (The comic had to be named "Shazam!" after the magic word and the wizard who gave it to Billy, because in the ensuing decades rival Marvel Comics had trademarked the name Captain Marvel and introduced the first of a series of heroes bearing that name. Countless fans over the past half-century have gotten the book title and hero name confused, so DC officially changed the hero's name to Shazam circa 2012.)

Still...even though the revival spawned a fondly remembered live-action CBS Saturday morning program and a 1981 NBC animated version, the Big Red Cheese (as arch-villain Doctor Thaddeus Bodog Sivana dubbed him) never matched his former glory.

(When I was writing for "Comics Buyer's Guide" magazine in 1987, I received a letter from Captain Marvel co-creator C.C. Beck, lamenting that the modern handlers had made the character either too silly or too grim, rarely capturing the delicate balance of whimsy and suspense that marked the original incarnation.)

I'm glad DC keeps going back to the drawing board, trying to let the do-gooder live up to his potential. My family enjoyed the 2019 movie and looks forward to next year's sequel, "Shazam! Fury of the Gods."

I hope that this Christmas some lucky child finds Shazam! graphic novels or a DVD of the aforementioned movie under the tree.

We still need to believe in the triumph of good over evil.

We still need some good, clean fun.

And we sometimes need to comfort ourselves with the fantasy that one magic word could endow us with the strength to solve all our problems.

I heard rumors that the concept has even reached the White House, whose current occupant perhaps read the 1940s adventures of Captain Marvel.

"With one magic word...fourscore and seven years ago..."



A man who has been living in a woman's Chapel Hill-area home was charged with attacking her Tuesday, Dec. 5, according to the Marshall County Sheriff's Office.

Roger Dale Christa, 50, whose address is listed as Halls Mill Road in Bedford County, is charged with attempted rape, aggravated assault, and kidnapping. Bond was set at \$22,500.

Christa told deputies he "has wanted to be with" the victim and what he described as a "scuffle" resulted when she resisted. The victim said they were not involved in a relationship but he "stays" at her home.

The assault allegedly began when the victim returned home and Christa threw her on a bed, grabbed her neck and attempted to remove her clothing. The victim fled to a neighboring residence and called 911.

SCAM

Scammers falsely claiming illegal drugs bound for a Marshall County man had been intercepted cheated him out of \$48,000, an MCSO report said.

The victim received a phone call Monday, Nov. 28, from people claiming to be agents with U.S. Customs in Texas at the border of Mexico. They said more than \$1 million of intercepted drugs were addressed to the victim. He was told to "secure your bank accounts" and transfer funds using Bitcoin cards.

Several transfers were made between

Nov. 28-Dec. 1 before a friend told the victim he was being scammed.

THEFTS

*A dirt bike and three drills were stolen from an unlocked shop building at a home in the 1700 block of Holly Grove Road early Sunday, Dec. 3, a Marshall County deputy was told.

The theft was discovered after the owner noticed a plug from the bike in the driveway. Footprints were found nearby, the report said.

*A Smith & Wesson .380 caliber handgun was stolen from the seat of a truck at a Rich Drive home between Nov. 10 and Saturday, Dec. 2, the MCSO said.

*A woman was cited for theft of property after allegedly talking a purse from a cart Tuesday, Nov. 29, in the Lewisburg Walmart.

Sarah Denise Russ, 57, of the Five Points area in Lawrence County, told Lewisburg police she had been planning on returning the purse. Russ is an employee of a Lewisburg medical clinic, according to the LPD report.

The purse belonged to a vendor working in the store. Security video showed Russ taking the purse, police said.

LPD Cpl. Michael Daniels retrieved the purse from Russ and returned it to the owner. An SIM card was missing, the purse's owner said; Russ told Daniels the purse's contents had spilled into her vehicle while she was driving. Daniels searched the vehicle and was unable to find the card. He was also told that Russ had attempted to unlock

a phone that was returned with the purse.

DRUG CHARGES

*Marijuana and a "yellow wax-like substance" were found in a vehicle during a traffic stop Wednesday, Nov. 30, on West Commerce Street, police said.

Ladacia E. Allen, 27, of Nix Road in Belfast, was clocked at 39 mph in a 30 mph zone at 11:50 p.m., Officer Gunnar Southerland's report said.

Southerland searched the vehicle after allegedly smelling pot. He found two containers of the "wax-like substance" which smelled of marijuana, a marijuana cigarette, and "nuggets" of marijuana, according to his report. Amounts were listed as 11.64 grams of the "wax-like substance" and .66 grams of marijuana.

Allen was cited for simple possession of a schedule 6 drug, speeding, driving on a revoked license, and a registration violation (no license tag displayed).

*Police found marijuana in the backpack of a suspect with several active warrants as she was being arrested Monday, Nov. 28, at a Lewisburg home.

Victoria S. Crabtree, 34, of First Avenue North, possessed approximately 1.25 grams, police said. Crabtree was cited for simple possession.

SHOPLIFTING

*Sheila H. Torres, 50, of Nashville Highway, allegedly stuffed \$127 worth of items into her purse and attempted to leave Walmart without

paying Thursday, Dec. 1, police were told by store security.

Torres was charged with shoplifting and banned from the store.

*Three pairs of headphones and a blood pressure monitor were allegedly taken from Walmart in a shoplifting attempt Thursday, Dec. 1.

Dora M. Grosinsky, 46, of Mooresville Highway, was caught trying to leave without paying, security personnel told police.

Grosinsky admitted to, and apologized for, her alleged actions, police said. She was charged with shoplifting and banned from the store.

*A Hohenwald resident was cited for allegedly taking \$40 worth of items from Walmart on Thursday, Dec. 1.

Mykaela D. Napier was seen on security video shoplifting the merchandise, police said.

*A shoplifting suspect allegedly brought a lookout as he attempted to take approximately \$45 worth of merchandise from a Lewisburg supermarket Wednesday, Nov. 30, police said.

Kenneth S. Miller, 32, of Seventh Ave. South, was allegedly putting items in his pockets and jacket at Price Less IGA, Mooresville Highway. Another man, described as "acting as a lookout" by store personnel, was not charged.

Miller was cited for shoplifting. Both men were banned from the store.

State vet urges biosecurity for home flocks

NASHVILLE - The Tennessee State Veterinarian is issuing an alert for domesticated bird owners who also engage in bird hunting. Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) is prevalent in wild birds and is endangering backyard and commercial flocks in Tennessee.

"HPAI detections among domesticated birds and wild birds have been on the rise," Tennessee State Veterinarian Dr. Samantha Beaty said. "We want to alert bird hunters that the risk of bringing this disease to their flock is extremely high. The good news is that

owners can drastically reduce the risk by continually practicing biosecurity and avoiding contact between wild and domesticated birds, alive or dead."

Dr. Beaty recommends that backyard flock owners wash their hands before and after interacting with domesticated birds and dedicate a pair of shoes to only be worn in coops or poultry houses. Those shoes should be cleaned with a 10 percent bleach solution after every visit. Likewise, clothing and shoes used for hunting should not be worn around domesticated birds. The

Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) advises hunters to dress game birds in the field when possible. Remains can be buried at the harvest site or double bagged and disposed with normal household waste.

"It does take effort to sustain biosecurity practices but it's well worth it," Dr. Beaty continued. "Flock owners must be persistent in their efforts to keep birds healthy. If birds appear ill or there's a spike in unexpected deaths, bird owners should notify our office right away."

HPAI is a highly transmissible disease known to be deadly for domesticated fowl. Fowl can be exposed to HPAI through human interactions and through contact with wild birds.

This year, cases in Tennessee have sickened domesticated chickens, geese, and ducks in Obion, Tipton, Bledsoe, and Davidson Counties. According to TWRA, there have been 28 confirmed cases of HPAI in wild birds, including 26 ducks, a Canada goose, and a bald eagle.

Although HPAI does not pose a food safety risk, no infected poultry is allowed to enter the food supply. Poultry and eggs are safe to eat when handled and cooked properly. The risk of human infection with avian influenza during poultry outbreaks is very low. In fact, no transmission to humans was reported during the outbreak that affected commercial poultry farms in Tennessee in 2017.

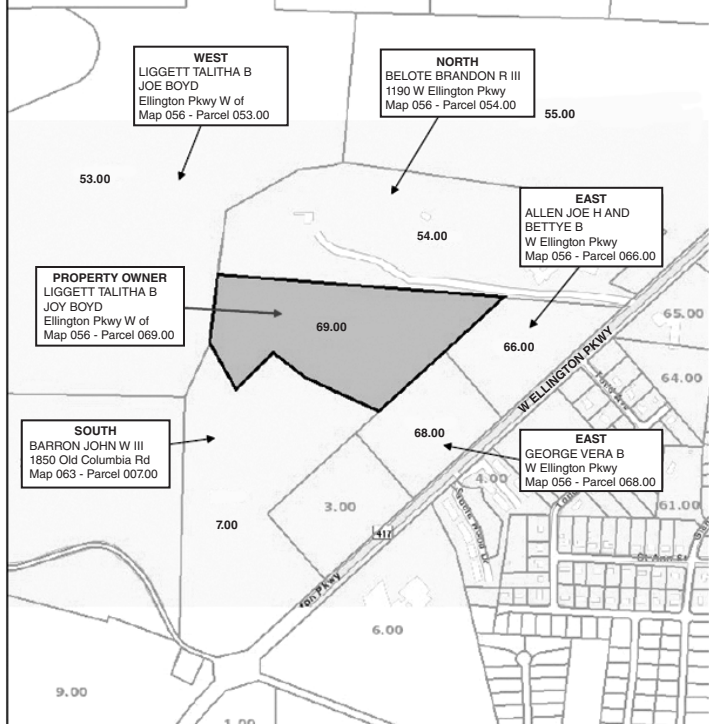
Notice of Public Hearing

The Mayor and Council of the City of Lewisburg will hold a Public Hearing **Tuesday, December 13, 2022, at 5:50 p.m.** at 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 22-22. A request by owner consent to annex 23.85 acres and zone to "R-1" Low Density Residential certain territory and to incorporate a portion of the same into the corporate boundaries of the City of Lewisburg located on West Ellington Parkway, (Map,056, Pcl:069.00.) Owners Talitha B. & Joe B. Liggett, represented by Developer Blake Arnold.
2. Plan of Services for the annexation of property described as West Ellington Ridge Subdivision (West Ellington Parkway) Map,056, Pcl:069.00, approx. 23.85 acres. Record Book: 667; Pg.766, office of Marshall County Register of Deeds.

Proposed Annexation & 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.

Marshall County - Parcel: 056 069.00



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