

Back in the day...

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10 YEARS AGO

Feb. 10, 2009

The Tuscola Community High School Warriorette's hosted the annual IDTA competitions, and the 2009 "Warrior Babes" were Caleb Little, Cody Schum, Justin Hood, Michael Ovca, Brendan Leisner, Auste Shelmadine, Zach Bosch, Jesse Hall, Brent Harris, Dylan Cox, John Ervin, and Kurtis Kinyoun.

As part of a Superbowl promotion, Denny's Classic Diner hosted a free Grand Slam breakfast. The diner began filling up around 6:30 a.m. and was packed throughout the day until the promotion was over around 2 p.m. They served 949 people and "sold" 879 Grand Slams.

Three Lady Warriors made their finale regular season game appearance that included special ceremony honoring the three senior team members: Molly Romine, Rachael Brewer, and Kelsi Hoey, before the game against Argento-Oreana. Making the night one to remember, the Tuscola Lady Warriors came out on top with a score of 46-19.

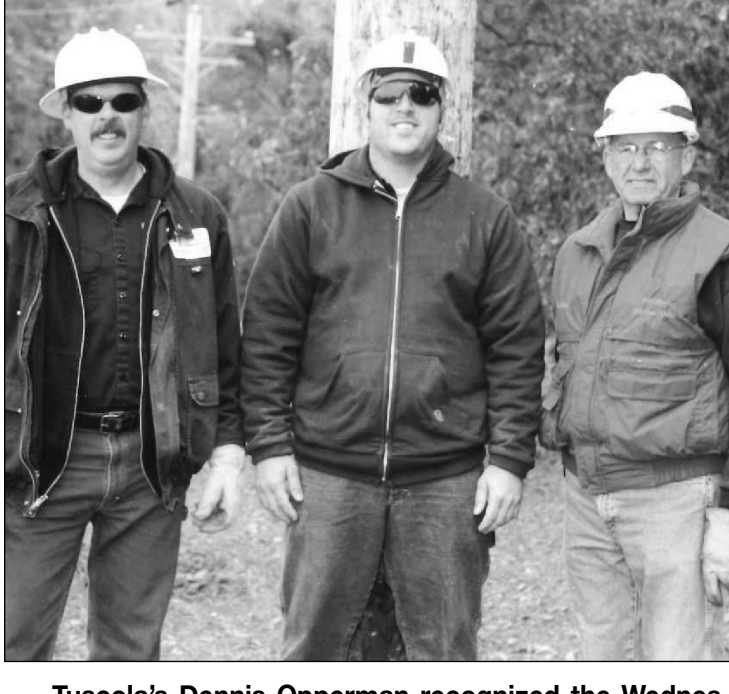
20 YEARS AGO

Feb. 2, 1999

Firefighters from Atwood and Arthur teamed up to battle a blaze at a resident's home on the corner of Second and South streets in Garrett. Emergency personnel received the 911 call at 9:01 a.m. No one was home at the time of the fire, and the cause was still unknown.

Douglas County Sheriff John Chambers was installed as a member of the Illinois Sheriff's Association Executive board at the annual Winter Training Conference held in Collinsville. Chambers had served the Douglas County Sheriff's office since 1982. He would represent the Central Zone.

Navy Fireman Matthew E. Irace, a 1998 graduate of Atwood-Hammond, departed on a six-month deployment to the Mediterranean Sea and



Tuscola's Dennis Opperman recognized the Wednesday, Jan. 6 Back in the Day as new inductees to the Tuscola Kiwanis Club in the 1999-2000 club year. Those pictured included 1999-2000 club president Opperman, Clarice Hausmann, Kim Higgins, Carol Weber, Thelma Hackett, and Kiwanis Lt. Gov. Dave Dobson. The club met at Dixie Truck Stop. Do you recognize this week's photo? If so, let us know at The Tuscola Journal.

Arabian Gulf while aboard the guided missile destroyer USS Gonzales. The USS Gonzales was home ported in Norfolk Virginia.

30 YEARS AGO

Feb. 7, 1989

The Tuscola Post Office celebrated 50 years. The employees were Debbie Whitlatch, Joyce Weaver, Roger Warren, Audrey Groves, Charles Harshbarger, Bill Henderson, Roy Knicley, Bud Weaver, Judy Brannon, Jeff Harris, Tim Johnson, Nancy Bosch, Daniel Liffick, Roger Lauterjung, Carl E. Quinn, Wilbur Wetzell, and Paul Jones.

A freak accident at Hardee's in Tuscola caused considerable damage to two cars. According to police reports the accelerator stuck on a car driven by Brenda Keller. The car had turned onto Pleasantview Drive off Route 36 and jumped the curb surrounding the

Hardee's lot on the West side. Keller's vehicle struck another car shoving it into a fence that bordered the South side of the property. Keller's car continued around the building until it hit a large sign post on the East side of the property.

40 YEARS AGO

Feb. 8, 1979

Disco Night was the chosen theme for the annual ABC auxiliary style show scheduled for March 29. Participating stores were Mitchell's Spinning Wheel, Carpenters, Montgomery Ward and Matinee.

Mary and Tom Haines announced that the Poplar Motel and Café on Route 36 would close. Employees of the Poplar, one of the oldest businesses in town, were Edith Thomas, Ruth Ziegler, Geneva Stabler, and Lorene Conner.

Thelma and Carroll Taylor opened Taylor's Clothing Care, a dry cleaning

and laundry service on South Main Street. The Taylors leased the remodeled grain elevator office from Clyde Sturgell.

50 YEARS AGO

Feb. 6, 1969

Just 178 of the goal of 200 pints of blood were collected at the Blood Drive. Out of the originally scheduled 262 people, 255 showed up. There were a total of 74 rejections, mostly from the common cold or the flu. There were six donors who reached the one-gallon mark—Wayne H Seip, Amos Albritton, Richard Tomlin, Richard Dunlavy, Robert Clapp, and Wayne Adamson. Of the donors, 63 were first time donors, proving the point that new blood is needed all the time.

The groundhog didn't see his shadow in central Illinois. This is supposed to mean that spring weather was not far off. The weather on this week was: January 29- H 48, L 33; January 30- H 53, L 32; January 31- H 33, L 20; February 1- H 35, L 23; February 2- H 36, L 23; February 3- H 35, L 10 and February 4- H 44, L 13.

First semester honor roll and highest honors was announced. Students to receive highest honors must get a 5.0 GPA. Students earning highest honors included: Freshmen—Candy Chrisman, Renee Fortney, Patricia Gallagher, Christine Harsh, Jeanette Iles, Barbara Kellogg, Patricia O'Bryan, John Quinn, Myron Rahn, Susan Raiden, Mary Waite, and Victor Riley; Sophomores—Lynn Beltz, Jim Cox, Jane Mason, and Beth Quinn; Juniors—Bob Betzold, Mona Froman, Judy Kleiss, Debbie McCarty, Carolyn Miller, Richard Miller, Linda Otto, Darrell Price, Carol Scheu, Lyle Tingley, Marjorie Todd, Nancy Townsend, and Peggy Weber; and Seniors—Rita Duensing, Joyce Ochs, Sarah Romine, Janet Strohl, Debbie Summerlot, Cindy Thode, and Madonna Wilhelm.

agents armed like a military strike force broke into Stone's home in the early morning hours while his family was asleep. Roger Stone was taken into custody for this "are you kidding me" crime of maybe saying an untruth. No, no, make no mistake this raid/arrest was a staged political statement directed at the supporters of the President of the United States. That statement tells everyone who dare support President Trump: "look out, you may be next!"

So next came the blame game. The Justice Department say the use of force used to take Roger Stone into custody is on the FBI. Some at the FBI say no, that's not exactly how this was decided, but the FBI have not made an official statement as to why the strong arm tactics were used to arrest Stone. Retired FBI agents comment that this was indeed above and beyond what they would have organized for a non-violent arrest of someone of Stone's history. Nothing released so far would have anyone believe Roger Stone has a violent past or present.

I've been in law enforcement for 38 years and have participated in many high-risk arrest and search warrant executions. Never, never have I ever had the luxury of having 30-plus police officers on scene at the time. It was pistols and shotguns every time and maybe four or five officers. Funny thing is, I never remember any of us looking around and saying; "Wow, I wish we had a helicopter, tank, bazooka, maybe some trip wire, and 20 more offi-

HOMES

Continued from 1

don't have to leave town to get into residential service. That's one of the things I wish folks would understand more is that there are people with developmental disabilities who live here and to be able to stay in a town where they have a family and everyone knows them, that's huge. I know Charleston and Mattoon are not far away. I know Champaign isn't far away, but that's not Tuscola. If they grew up in Tuscola and this is where all their family is, this is where they should be able to stay."

Many times when residents move to a larger city they are moving to a larger house, said Jamie Mayhall, case manager for the homes in Tuscola, while MCH has only four-bedroom houses and everyone has their own bedroom.

"We try to gear each house toward the same population," Houser said. "This allows the employees in each house to have specific training for those individuals, and we will be able to structure our community outings based on what those needs are."

For example the residents at Raymond Drive will be a house of higher-functioning females who are going to enjoy being out in the community and doing different things. Two of them are sisters and the others have similar interests, so they think they are going to enjoy doing things together.

Center Street will have a population of lower-functioning adults, both male and female. They have a mix of disabilities but they aren't that different. The renovations have divided the house into two sections of bedrooms at each end of the home.

The group facilities are governed by several different regulations, including the Community Integrated Living Arrangement rules (or CILA rules), which covers the housing regulations and Rule 116, which covers medication administration in a group home setting. The state fire marshal is also required to give the OK for the sprinkler and alarm systems before the homes can be inhabited.

The sprinkler system has been installed at both homes

and an office for Mayhall will be located at Center Street, where a handicap accessible bathroom, two bedrooms, storage room, and a mechanical room were part of the garage renovation.

Both homes have a fenced-in backyard, and while that is not a state requirement, the company likes to add the fence when possible for privacy.

"We encourage our residents, when it's nice, to sit outside," Houser said. "We will have a swing and patio furniture. We like to have that time and space outside."

The company will also allow pets into the residences, as long as all residents agree and they are not allergic. In fact, they are already talking about a pet at Raymond Drive.

Unless the resident requests otherwise, the facilities offer full size beds to every resident.

"We don't think any adult should have to ever sleep in a twin bed, unless that is what they choose," Houser said.

Once move in is complete, the residents will begin day training programs in a variety of forms.

"They will not typically be at home during the day," Houser said. "They have a choice as to where to go."

Piatt County Mental Health in Monticello has committed to providing services and transportation for the new Tuscola residents, which will also open up the option for others in the area transportation to the area for training program.

The Piatt County program provides independent living classes, cooking classes, and onsite jobs and focuses on volunteering and outings.

"Piatt County works a lot with their folks with getting community jobs, so if we can get folks at the day training trained to do a specific job then we can get them integrated into the community, that would be great," Mayhall said.

"They are always accommodating, and it's smaller," Houser said.

However, there will be residents who choose to stay at the house where they will do at home day training.

"There are certain regulations we have to meet with that too," Houser explained.

See HOMES page 7

my Personal side

By Craig Hastings



I'm going to weigh in on the arrest of Roger Stone last week. Stone, a long time confidant of President Trump, was arrested at his home in South Florida during the early morning hours on Jan. 25. Depending on which news source you watch or read, it has been reported that as many as 30 FBI agents participated in the raid/arrest. Some of those agents included in this count would have been in the helicopters and amphibious vehicles reported to have been part of this operation. So began a debate over the FBI tactics used to arrest Mr. Stone.

The debate surrounding the arrest has to do with the number of agents, helicopters, and amphibious boats reported to have been on scene. First I will admit that I have no idea what the FBI policy and procedure manual has to say about how many agents and what special equipment will be used for what types of arrests. I can say that, like many of you, I have seen televised news accounts of FBI arrests many times.

Recalling those accounts I don't remember seeing the FBI bringing this many agents to an arrest of someone accused of committing a crime such as the one Mr. Stone has been charged.

Someone within the higher ranks of the FBI or the Justice Department or both, felt the need to do a little political grandstanding with Mr. Stone's arrest.

However, it appears the way in which Mr. Stone was taken into custody didn't sit well with Republicans and even some Democrats. Once the on scene CNN coverage went viral many Americans wanted an explanation. These Americans watched this raid/arrest on television and were shocked to see the number of FBI agents on the ground surrounding Stone's home. Not only the number of agents but the weaponry some of those agents were carrying was also of question. Wasn't the mission just to arrest one elderly man who was at home and probably asleep with his elderly wife? FBI agents were seen with short and long automatic/semi-automatic rifles storming the Stone's residence as an FBI helicopter flew overhead and amphibious vehicles patrolled the nearest waterway.

Me; I expected to hear whether true or not, some sort of confidential information the FBI had received that gave them cause to believe that Stone was in possession of an arsenal of weapons and prepared to

use them if threatened with arrest. Nope. What about the helicopter? Would we learn that confidential information caused the FBI to suspect Stone, his wife, and their dogs had an escape plan that would include a getaway vehicle that justified helicopters overhead to track every mile. Nope. What about the amphibious vehicles? Would we learn that the Stones and their dogs had a waterway-based escape route that would allow them a getaway in a speedboat? A speedboat faster than any law enforcement boat allowing them to get away and seek asylum in Cuba? Nope.

And what about the on scene, live as it happened, CNN news crew set up very well positioned to record all of this historical event? Coincidence? Never! Intentional leak? For sure! However, Mr. Mueller, I think you botched your decision to leak this one to CNN, if you did. Even some people that dislike Mr. Stone think this was nothing more than a political power play intended to gain support of the Russian collusion theory being pushed by the Democrats. What has happened though is many Americans began thinking to themselves: "What if this was me and maybe all I did was tell an untruth?" "Would law enforcement break into my home and in front of my wife and children point pistols and rifles at us for such a minor crime?"

Roger Stone has been accused of telling an untruth to Congress. For this OMG allegation 340 some FBI

agents armed like a military strike force broke into Stone's home in the early morning hours while his family was asleep. Roger Stone was taken into custody for this "are you kidding me" crime of maybe saying an untruth. No, no, make no mistake this raid/arrest was a staged political statement directed at the supporters of the President of the United States. That statement tells everyone who dare support President Trump: "look out, you may be next!"

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cers! For example; not that many years ago Tuscola police were tasked with an early morning arrest of a triple homicide suspect out of Kentucky and his roommate. They were holed up at the Tuscola Super 8 Motel and we scrambled a few Tuscola on and off duty officers and on duty county officers. With a total of about 10 of us we managed the arrest of two suspects who had sworn not to be taken alive and known to be heavily armed and dangerous. Pistols and shotguns and no news cameras.

But most importantly here is what I want all of you to think about. It wasn't the decision of most of those 30 FBI agents to storm the Stone residence. I believe most all of these good male and female agents looked around and thought as you have: "are you kidding me, all of us for this arrest?!" They do as they're told, as they should. I have little doubt these professionals could have made this arrest with three or four agents and been just fine. Three or four agents could have made the arrest and secured the interior pending

the arrival of the evidence collection team. However, politics at the upper most level at the FBI continues to blacken the eyes of the professional and talented field agents being used as pawns of Washington, D.C. All of this grandstanding just enabled Roger Stone to draw more followers to his cause. He is a political pot stirrer favoring the Republican party. He digs for dirt on the opposition candidates and how that information is collected is of little consequence.

Lastly, I still believe in the FBI and 99 percent of the people that make the FBI what it has always been known to be. The leadership at the top has to be figured out if this agency is to regain the trust of the American people. The American people have always felt that the FBI will get it right even when nobody else can. Right now that same confidence Americans had three years ago is waning and this latest escapade with Stone isn't helping their cause.

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