



Back in the day...

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my Personal side

By Craig Hastings



I hope everyone enjoyed the holiday season. What will 2023 bring us here in America? The good news is it will not bring us the no cash bail portion of the Democrat drafted Illinois Safe T Act disastrous legislation. This good news came a week before the new year. The timing couldn't have been any better. Strange thing about this ruling. Only in Illinois would this happen but, sixty-five county State Attorneys signed on as part of the suit asking the court to declare the no cash bail part of the Saft T Act unconstitutional which did happen. But someone tell me how can the legislation still go into effect in the other 37 counties?!! If this is a question of what is and what isn't constitutional, the latest opinion by an Illinois judge rules that it is unconstitutional, how is that in these other thirty-seven counties it remains constitutional? What? So two-thirds of Illinois citizens will follow one set of rules and the other one-third a different set of rules? It is my understanding that those thirty-seven counties can elect to follow last week's ruling and hopefully they all will. I'm sure though that disappointment will come quickly. Your Governor Pritzker and his band of me too followers will appeal the ruling to the Illinois Supreme Court. With five Democrats and just two Republicans making up the Illinois Supreme Court, I'm sure they will overturn the lower court's ruling entirely without any special instructions to the legislature to consider any changes in the legislation.

Let me be clear where I stand. I've been doing this cop thing for forty-two years now. I'm not against some sort of bail reform that might make the process more fair. Absolutely does any bond procedure favor those that can afford to pay any price to get out of jail immediately if bond is pre-set according to crimes committed except those that must be set by a judge? Sure it does but how else could bond work? Doesn't most everything in our lives work this way? Not that it's right but, cash is king and that's all of our faults. I'm not against lowering the cash bond on some offenses but the complete elimination of cash bond completely will never work. Don't believe for a second that the fear of having to post bond keeps some would-be criminals from committing crimes because I've been witness to it more times than I can remember. I can also tell you from experience that sometimes criminals post their last \$100 to get out of jail for the night therefore, there is no way they intend to get into any more trouble for a while because they are out of money available to bond on another offense. Cash bond/bail works. But what about those guys that can afford to pay? Those "guys" are usually so embarrassed from being arrested they go into hiding for a while. Something else I know from forty-two years of experience. Whoever is doing these "expert" studies that read to the contrary are just flat wrong or bad liars.

I think lowering the bonds for misdemeanor crimes is something to look at. However, there needs to be a provision to increase those bonds for the same offenses if the offender is currently out on bond for the same offense. So let's say I intentionally broke a window out of your house and I'm arrested and in order to bond out I need to post \$100. A criminal damage crime. Then next week while still out on that same bond I intentionally scratch the paint on your neighbor's car. Now to get out of jail I have to post say \$300. A progressive scale based on the seriousness of the crime and the number of arrests for the same crimes. But you tell me, Governor Pritzker you tell me, why wouldn't I just continue to break and damage any property that belongs to anybody, anytime I get intoxicated or just get a notion to have some fun if there is no fear of being locked up somewhere so I can't commit any more crimes? And don't you think just maybe the system might be doing me a favor by locking me up for a while so as to keep me from further piling on charges that I wouldn't be incurring if someone, somehow would intervene on my behalf? That's an easy "yes" for an answer. I'm no genius here either! I'm telling you this because after forty-two years of doing this job this is exactly how it plays out in a criminal's life of crime. Finally most get tired of not only the jail time but they also start to think about the financial toll it has taken on their lives. They start to think of the good things they could have done for themselves or their loved ones with all the money they threw away in bonds, fines, and court costs, I think we call that maturing in one's life. It happens to most all of us but it just takes more time for some than it does others.

Money talks. We've all been told this and we've all seen it play out in various ways in our lives. Unfortunately, in today's life in America cash is king. Most everyone does what they do only after they consider the cash value or cash costs of what they do. What ever happened to doing something because it is the right thing to do without cash value or cash costs? Criminals are no different. They do what they do only after considering the cash value vs. cash lost consequences. This legislation, once again, was written by a bunch of bleeding hearts looking for political gain (votes). Too bad veteran police officers and prosecutors were left out of the discussions. We have compassion and consideration for those less fortunate than us even if we did just arrest them or prosecute them. And do veteran police officers and prosecutors have a better understanding of criminal offenders than some politicians looking for a headline story that paints them as a defender of the evil crime fighters? Without question we do but instead most of our legislators who live in perfectly safe and sound neighborhoods pretend they know best about something they have little or no knowledge of. This legislation will only hurt the average income families and the below average income families all across Illinois. I do believe Illinois citizens living in less populated rural communities will not suffer as much as those living in more heavily populated communities, closer to large cities, all across the state. Let's all pray for a better 2023.
(The views and opinions expressed in the submitted columns are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the position of The Journal.)



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10 years ago
Jan. 9, 2013

Richard "Rick" Broch was sworn in as an associate judge for the Sixth Judicial Circuit by Chief Justice Rita Garman at the Douglas County Courthouse on Jan. 2

Tuscola Police Department's Butch Hall and Joyce Ragle announced their retirements. Hall was an officer for 32 years and Ragle was a secretary for the department for 34 years. James Ingram also retired as Douglas County Clerk and swore in his successor, Judi Pollock.

Miss Moultrie-Douglas County Fair queen, Kayce Patton, announced she would be competing in the Illinois County Fair Queen pageant on Jan. 18, 2013.

In sports, Freshman/Sophomore boys basketball team placed second in the Paris Holiday Tournament. Tyler Hale led in scoring in most games, including 19 points against St. Teresa, 16 points against Arcola, and 10 points against Hutsonville. The boys secured the second place trophy with a 38-23 win against Paris, with Hale again leading with 9 points.

20 years ago
Jan. 7, 2003

Fred Wakefield, a 2001 free agent signee who just completed his second year with the Arizona Cardinals, just inked a four-year contract with the team. The Tuscola product and his wife, Casey, and their son Jamison recently moved into a new home on the outskirts of Phoenix.

Home Real Estate of Tuscola—first established in 1989 by Kathryn McCumber and pur-

chased in June by Jana Rodmaker--was merging with Boyd Real Estate of Arcola.

Tim Mooney was requesting TIF assistance for a project that included purchasing the former Dairy Queen building, razing the structure and removing all current landscaping, and leveling and resurfacing the area for use as an additional show lot for new and pre-owned vehicles and for customer service parking.

Bob "Footie" Hancock of Villa Grove had the distinction of being the last customer served by longtime DMV employee Bob Matteson, who retired recently from the Tuscola driver's license facility.

Sophomore Anthony Gunnell poured in 48 points and grabbed 17 rebounds during the Monticello Holiday Hoopla Tournament. He and teammate Ryan Bonner (35 points, 29 rebounds) were named to the All-Tournament Team.

The Lady Warriors rolled over a feisty Arthur-Lovington club, 49-34, to improve to 8-6 on the season and 2-1 in LOVC play. Despite fighting the flu, Chambry Gilmore finished with 15 points.

30 years ago
Jan. 5, 1993

Dale and Margaret Bateman were starting out the new year with a newly built home, after an explosion leveled their Tuscola home in July.

Tuscola Community Development Corporation (TCDC) came up with a novel fundraising approach to help fulfill TCDC's contractual agreement with future Tuscola doctor Riley

Hays. The fundraiser, dubbed Cruiseship Tuscola, would take place Jan. 26 in the Community Building.

TCHS students who were chosen to participate in the district music festival at Eastern Illinois University included Casey Clifford, April Mason, Pat Quinn, Stacey Kappes, Danna Bishop, Abigail Middleton, Ronda Hodge, Amber Wilkinson, and Jill Little.

Tuscola Warrior defensive lineman Pat Pierce received yet another award for his outstanding performance on the football field. He was chosen to play in the 1993 Illinois Coaches Association Shriners High School All-Star game at ISU on July 24.

The top-ranked Lady Shoes of Teutopolis walked all over host Lady Warriors by a 76-35 score. Erin Henderson was the leading scorer for Tuscola with 12; Andrea Wax added nine and Becky Sudduth and Heidi Gaddey had five each.

40 years ago
Jan. 11, 1983

Claudia Martin Costa, of Sao Paulo, Brazil, was staying with the Phil Beachy family as part of a Rotary Club student exchange program.

Marlene Newton was hired recently to serve as an assistant state's attorney for Douglas County. She would be joining state's attorney David Bartholomew.

Larry Harbaugh of rural Newman announced his candidacy for director of District 12 on the soon-to-be selected Corn Checkoff Board.

A shot Bill Fruit and Tuscola Warrior fans would remember

for awhile came in the final seconds of the Jamaica Invitational Tourney. Fruit's game-winning goal came off an offensive rebound to give the Warriors a 39-38 tournament victory in what could be the final game played at the 55-year-old tournament.

50 years ago
Jan. 4, 1973

Tuscola City Council members received another financial jolt recently, when they learned the estimated price of investigating the sewer system with cameras and making the necessary repairs to tile joints was \$280,000.

Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Neal were among those invited to attend the inaugural ball of Governor Dan Walker, to be held Jan. 8, 1973 at the Armory Rotunda of the State Capitol and Centennial Building in Springfield.

The City of Tuscola lost one of its finest officeholders with the withdrawal of O.B. Smith as candidate for treasurer. Smith had served a total of 32 years in the position.

Laverl Byers of Tuscola was elected to a three-year term on the Douglas County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation (ASC) committee.

Tuscola reset its sights and took deadly aim on the consolation championship at the Paris Holiday Tournament, dumping a rangy, long-shooting Shelbyville quintet 84-61. This was one day after Teutopolis handed the Warriors a heartbreaking 64-63 loss in the final second of the game to bump Tuscola from championship game contention.

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