

my Personal side

By Craig Hastings



Oops! Breaking news. President Joe Biden is caught with classified documents and at least one Top Secret Document in his possession! And not in one location but three different locations. The first set of documents were discovered in a closet, in an office sneaky Joe was using at the Penn Biden Center located in Washington DC. Allegedly these documents were discovered just before the November 2022 elections by Biden's own attorneys. What? Yes, by his own lawyers and discovered before the elections but just last week disclosed to the public. Then it appears that sometime around December 20, 2022 another set of classified documents were discovered in the President's garage at his Wilmington, Delaware mansion. A third single classified document was later discovered in a room just off of the same garage. Oh but wait, just today it seems another stack of classified documents were discovered in the same location as the last single document. So what about Donald Trump you pout? Yes, President Trump it appears has done the same and is being investigated for his alleged mishandling of classified documents. Let's take a look at the other differences in these two incidents. Understand my position here. If any documents generated during a president's tenure as POTUS are deemed the property of the Federal government, then I believe both men have misbehaved here regardless of whether any documents are classified or top secret. If they don't belong to you then leave them at the White House.

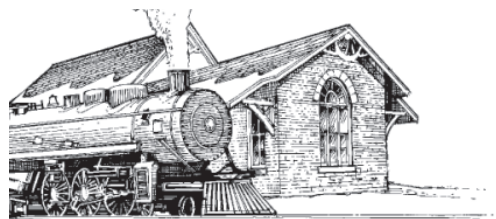
If you believe my representation of both incidents as "misbehavior" is me not taking both seriously enough, here's why. Without question, moving forward on either of these incidents as a criminal investigation will open a Pandora's box this country has no time for. Does anyone reading this story believe for even a second that every president in say at least the last six, haven't taken some documents that were generated under their watch home with them as they exited the White House? I actually believe most of our past presidents have taken documents home that probably were considered property of the federal government. This being the case, is our country ready for FBI raids on all the former living presidents homes to make sure none are in possession of documents they really shouldn't have? Not that any of these documents are of any consequence to national security but, if they belonged to the federal government when they were removed from the White House then.. And of course Democrats will swear that the past Republican presidents removed classified documents and Republicans would swear the same about Democrats if even one document was discovered in President Bush's home or President Obama's home. Even if that document was a lunch menu or guest list at a White House party held by either. This is exactly how ridiculous and petty this whole thing could become if we let it. I say we but nobody in Washington DC cares one onion about what you and I think about any of this. Anyway let's take a look at the differences in both "finds" at each of the President's homes.

It was no secret that President Trump or his staff removed classified documents from the White House and was storing them at his home in Mar a Lago, Florida. He had been asked to return some documents. Some he did, others he didn't. He was subpoenaed to return others and he refused. Sometime in all the back and forth the Attorney General decided it was time to have the FBI force their way into Trump's home and search his home for documents that might belong to the Federal government. A raid/search was conducted and documents were removed and later a Special Prosecutor was appointed to conduct a thorough investigation into any criminal conduct that may have occurred on Trump's part. The documents discovered at Trump's home were located in a locked storage room, in the basement of the home, guarded by Secret Service agents 24/7 with access available to no one but Trump. Probably shouldn't have been there but for sure the documents were safe from prying foreign spies eyes.

On to President Biden's documents. The first set of documents were discovered in an abandoned office Joe used to use at the Penn Biden Center after he left office as Vice President. They were in a locked closet in that office so we are told. The office itself could have been accessed by hundreds of people since 2017. Nobody seems to know for sure or simply won't say. Some of those classified documents have been reported to pertain to both China and Iran. The second set of documents were reported to have been discovered in a box in Joe's Wilmington, Delaware garage, adjoined to the family mansion there. Joe's defense; "They were in the garage with my 1967 Corvette and the garage is always locked." OMG! Did he really say that? Seems Joe never considered the countless parties and gatherings that have taken place at the home and sometimes hosted by his son Hunter Biden! And we all know what Hunter's been up to with China, Ukraine, and countless other foreign adversaries of the United States. Allegedly mind you. Of course grounds keepers and who knows who else that have access to the garage could have been in and out of the garage. And finally document sets three and four were discovered in a room just off of the garage reported as unsecured. Also available to anyone visiting the home since 2017.

But here's the biggest difference between the two incidents with Trump and Biden. Trump could remove some documents legally because he was the sitting president as I understand it. Biden on the other hand had zero authority or ability to remove any documents as a Vice President. Trump's defense has been that he declassified everything he took before he took them. Just how good of a defense that might be I don't know but, for sure Biden has no defense here. He simply can't take anything from the White House. As I sit writing this tonight I believe even more documents will be discovered in Biden's possession in the coming weeks. But here's the most important unanswered question; what caused Biden's own lawyers, of all people, to start a scav-

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Back in the day...

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DO YOU RECOGNIZE this week's Back in the Day photo? If so, drop us a note at The Journal. Your efforts will be rewarded.

10 years ago Jan. 23, 2013

A runaway teen from Arizona was found in Tuscola. After her vehicle was found running and abandoned on a rural road outside of Tuscola, her photo was widely circulated to authorities. She was seen and identified walking down Main Street by officer Cliff Ponder and returned to her home in Arizona.

A local band scored a date on the Grand Ole Opry stage. Country music sensation The Henningsen's, a family trio from Atwood, released their single "American Beautiful" from their debut album, and it created a media frenzy that led to their invitation to the Grand Ole Opry House in Nashville, TN.

Jarman Senior Living Center had its twenty year anniversary. Owners Sally Foote and Tom Wolde hosted an open house in celebration. The center offered 26 assisted living apartments, along with commercial office space.

20 years ago Jan. 21, 2003

A trend by counties to transfer responsibility of highway road maintenance to township road commissioners was being examined by Douglas County Board members.

Former Gov. George Ryan's end-of-term decision on Jan. 11 to commute the sentences of 167 Illinois inmates on death row included Douglas County native William Bradley Kirchner, incarcerated in Menard Psychiatric Center for the 1997 killings of the Brewer family in rural Atwood.

Brett Ochs of Tuscola, a senior crop sciences major at the University of Illinois, was awarded the Max and Sonja Jones Scholarship from the U of I College of ACES.

TCHS senior Amy Warters, daughter of Steve and Carolyn Warters, was named the Tuscola Rotary Club January Student of the Month.

The Lady Warriors avenged an earlier loss to the Atwood-Hammond Rajenes when they drew then for first-round LOVC tournament play. Senior Marissa McCumber was a key component in the victory, turning in a 10-point, seven-rebound, four-steal performance.

Truman State quarterback (and TCHS graduate) Dusty Burk competed in the Cactus Bowl All-Star game in Texas. He was 5-of-11 passing for 85 yards, but his West squad fell by a 19-7 score.

30 years ago Jan. 19, 1993

Charlotte Hausmann was hired by the City of Tuscola to serve in a new position as administrative coordinator, established after the city took over the Douglas County Water Co. water distribution system.

All plans were completed and final stages of construction underway for the Cruise-ship Tuscola fundraiser event planned for Jan. 23 at the Community Building. Proceeds from the evening would be going toward the doctor recruitment fund.

Tuscola Rotary Club members were treated to a presentation from Review reporter Scott Day on his recent six-week stay

in Japan. Day made the trip as part of Rotary's group study exchange for District 6490.

Members of the Lady Warriors 1992 LOVC Tournament championship team included Michelle Brian, Tracy Baird, Ki VonLanken, Heidi Gaddey, Becky Sudduth, Erica Bishop, Courtney Blaudow, Andrea Wax, Shannon Hatfield, Erin Henderson, Heather Thode, Amy Hall, Jennifer Kramer, Patty McDaniel, and Casey Herschberger. Wax had 21 points in the 62-48 win over Atwood-Hammond in the title game.

40 years ago Jan. 25, 1983

Earl Pendergrass was re-elected president of Tuscola Community Development Corporation at the annual meeting of stockholders held recently. Re-elected to serve with Pendergrass were Bill McCarty as vice president, Barb Wills as secretary, and Richard Parker as treasurer.

Tuscola City Council members voted unanimously to issue \$400,000 in sewer revenue bonds toward extending the city sewer system to Meadowview and Southland Acres.

Phil Waters was elected vice president and assistant secretary at the annual meeting of the First Federal Savings & Loan Association. Also elected were directors Melvin Lossman and Richard Parker.

St. Joseph-Ogden and the weatherman teamed up this week to place the OVC boys basketball race into turmoil. The Spartans contributed first by knocking off the front-running Warriors 50-32 in Tuscola; then

the weatherman hit the area with an ice storm that cancelled Friday night's action.

Mahomet-Seymour's pressing defense created problems for the Lady Warriors and the Bulldogs took advantage to bump the Tuscola girls from the OVC Tournament Saturday, 72-39. Sophomore Kim Waugh scored 18 points to lead Warrior scoring.

50 years ago Jan. 18, 1973

Interest in the Tuscola city election was reaching a fevered pitch in some areas, with residents writing four- and five-page letters containing questions and recommendations for better city government and a progressive community.

Joan Cross was the featured homemaker in the newly-installed Tuscola Review column "Favorite Recipe." She shared a recipe for bran muffins, a "regular" in the Cross household.

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Vestal were guests of honor at a potluck dinner and open house held at Pettit Place on Jan. 14 to celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary. Over 100 friends and relatives helped the Vestals mark their anniversary.

A last-second shot with a foul, upheld by one official and disputed by another, resulted in a 55-53 loss for Tuscola against Unity. The game was not one for the faint of heart, as the score was tied on nine occasions throughout the hard-fought contest. Rudy Huber led Warrior scoring with 17 points, followed by Doug Dietrich with 15.

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