

my Personal side

By Craig Hastings



It's Friday night. Five hours ago I returned home after attending a meeting at City Hall and as I prepared my supper this news broke on FOX NEWS. (If you haven't already, try the turkey club from The Candy Kitchen. Not saying someone else in town doesn't have a good one but, I can vouch for this one!) The Manhattan District Attorney, Alvin Bragg, via a Grand Jury, indicted former president, Donald Trump. For what I wondered. There wasn't a formal announcement from the DA's office. No, no. It was a leak of information from Bragg's office. This story has been in the news for at least three weeks now. Bragg has been attempting to indict the former president on, if true, a charge of misuse of campaign funds during the 2016 election. The allegation was that Donald Trump, through his attorney at the time, Michael Cohen, paid a former porn star \$130,000 to keep quiet about an alleged night on the town with the former president I believe in 2008. He denies it and I don't really care. Not that this was a crime in the first place. In fact federal prosecutors looked into the incident and decided to stay away from it. Also, the former Manhattan DA took a look and concluded the same thing, no crime. Then along came Alvin Bragg, a Democrat, who decided he wanted to be the next DA in the Manhattan district of New York. This is the alleged plot that followed. With the coaxing of a million dollar donation from multi billionaire George Soros, Bragg ran campaign ads stating he was the one that would charge Donald Trump with a crime(s). He claimed he had sued the Trump family and Trump organization over a hundred times and because of that he would find a way. But he waited. He waited until Donald Trump announced his bid for reelection before starting his investigation and convening a grand jury to present his "evidence".

Last week we all thought it was inevitable that the indictment was coming down but, at the last minute Bragg stalled the grand jury sessions. Bragg was getting heavy criticism even from some fellow Democrats. The case was weak at best, the allegation didn't fit the charge, Bragg was charging based on an alleged federal crime which he couldn't, the statute of limitations had run out on any charge other than some maybe felony charge. Some of the best law experts suggested at best Bragg might have a state misdemeanor charge linked to some minor booking error. However, the statute of limitations had run out on that theory. So what was it Bragg was looking to link Trump with that could be stretched to a felony? Great question but we don't know because the news is a "leak" from Bragg's office tonight. CNN reports that the indictment includes some 32 charges against the former president. Of course Fake News CNN was the news source the indictment was leaked to. So now we wait.

So what's next? Donald Trump lives in Florida and the charges are coming out of New York. Florida Governor, Ron DeSantis has already publicly said he will not get involved in any extradition procedures if asked to. That would happen if Trump refused to travel to New York to be booked in at the New York City Jail. So then what? It may not matter because it's rumored Trump will fly to New York to be booked in at the New York City Jail. However there are stipulations. One, Trump would book in and walk out and be back on his way to Florida. Two, Trump's Secret Service body guard attachment detail will travel with him and never leave his side all through the booking process. Remember Bragg is the clown that decided not to hold anyone on bond proceedings for most all crimes and has chosen not to prosecute serious violent crimes in New York. So asking Trump to post bond would be out of the norm for sure. Of course it's not like he couldn't post bond anyway. Trump needs to be careful

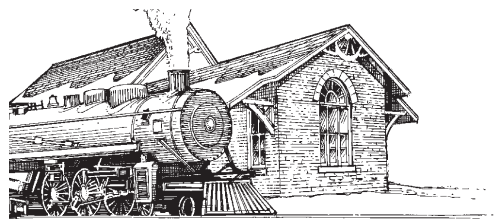
I think. The courts in New York are 100% stacked against him. My fear would be that Bragg has colluded with the Judge hearing this case and they decided in order to further embarrass Trump they state they believe Trump is a flight risk and should be denied bail pending a court hearing. So then what happens if New York correctional officers attempt to take Trump into custody in the presence of his Secret Service detail? Does Biden and Attorney General Garland beforehand have it arranged for the security detail to stand down and stay out of it in order to cuff and jail Trump? Does the security detail stand their ground and a violent confrontation take place between the Secret Service and NYPD Police? Mr. Trump, you better have the specifics ironed out before you leave Florida borders. I don't trust these guys and you shouldn't either. Here's the very best I would do in a similar situation had I been the former president and being protected by the Secret Service and my home state's governor stated publicly he wasn't going to get involved.

President Trump should travel to his local law enforcement Sheriff's facility in Florida and turn himself in. Via video communication Bragg and his band of misfits could watch Trump being printed, photographed, and information necessary for a New York City booking collected, and immediately forward it in its entirety to the Manhattan DA. There is absolutely no need for Trump to travel to New York unless he chooses to. I wouldn't trust those guys in New York under any prearranged agreement. The purpose of all of this is to stop Trump from being a viable Republican candidate in the 2024 presidential election. If he goes to New York they will force him into an orange jumpsuit and book him taking as much time to do so as they possibly can. No Mr. President, I'd stay home and sit this circus act out. This case is destined to be dismissed. Bragg doesn't care about that though. He will have fulfilled his promise to the Democratic party by simply charging Trump with something in hopes of ruining his chance to ever be President again. It's a move to advance Bragg's political aspirations in the democratic party. That's it. This has nothing to do with enforcing the law. Politics have been weaponized by the Democratic party. Our country is in trouble.

Never in our country's history has a former president been charged with a crime. And those of us old enough know there sure has been instances where past and present presidents could have been charged with crimes. But that's not what we do in America, nor should we. At least not for minor offenses and if there would be evidence of a serious crime, certainly not by some political hack of an elected District Attorney somewhere be able to bring those charges. The Federal Attorney General should be the only one with the ability to charge a former president with a crime. And if charges are filed why wouldn't this be first and last heard at the Supreme Court level regardless if the crime is a state or federal charge? Over and done with quickly so the country can recover and move forward. This case will drag through the courts up to the 2024 election but of course that's the Democrats intention. This shouldn't be.

Don't Americans see that these feats of political lawlessness are tearing this country apart?! Can it not be any more obvious than it is that the very intention of these reckless political attacks are one's party's goal to rule exclusively over all of the people? The Democrats in Washington DC are trying to eliminate our two party system of government. If this happens we've lost our democracy and getting it back won't come easy and probably not before a World War III event to wreck America. Open your eyes everyone. We are close, very close, to engaging

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10 years ago
April 10, 2013

There was an unusual amount of traffic through Tuscola Township Cemetary Monday morning. Cars slowly patrolling the paths, running through the hallowed ground. Sadly, most were there to check on loved ones' headstones, to see if they were among the 57 gravesites disturbed by vandals sometime over the weekend.

Two TIF grant requests were approved by unanimous vote. The first was to AIMS Sandwiches LLC for exterior renovation to Dairy Queen. Terms include a 50 percent grant up to \$24,500 for the business located at 1100 E. Southline Road. The second request came from Greco Enterprises LLC for a 50 percent grant up to \$30,665 and 40 percent low-interest up to \$24,532 for roof replacement and making ADA compliant restrooms at 101 E. Sale, the address of Dollar General.

This month, being a little blue can mean acknowledging April as Child Abuse Prevention Month, and perhaps even help contribute towards agencies and efforts designed to help the victims of such mistreatment. Abbie Harriess, trained victim advocate for the Douglas County State's Attorney office is all too well aware of the toll abuse of any kind can take on children and families.

Tuscola High school's girls softball team fell behind early on Tuesday, April 2, 2013 in the annual battle with Arcola, but used a big inning to storm back and ultimately end the game early, inducing the 10-run slaughter rule in the fifth, thanks to a 14-4 advantage.

With winter finally in the rearview mirror, the Tuscola Warrior diamondmen got a chance to cram in four games last week on a nice home-stand, and came out 2-2 to even their season record at 5-5-1 heading into conference play April 9, 2013 at Unity.

20 years ago
April 8, 2003

Just over 20 percent of Douglas County voters took time out of a balmy Tuesday to vote in the April 1 consolidated election, where eight candidates were on the ballot for four Tuscola school board seats. John Best, Rick Quinn, Dave Lietz, and Linda Brown were the winners.

Kim Higgins was the newly elected Tuscola Chamber of Commerce president. Joining the Chamber board for the first time was Chris Bland, Mike Campbell, Lora Hahn, Dennis Swan, and Johnna



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.

Megeff.

Katrina Kappes, an EIU freshman, was presented the EIU President Doudna Scholarship Award.

Ryan Bonner continued to race to victory in the early track season, posting times of 10.7, 22.37, and 54.33 while winning the 100, 200, and 400 meter races in a triangular meet with Salt Fork and Oakwood.

The TCHS baseball team rallied from four runs down in the fifth to notch its second win of the year over a tough Sullivan squad.

30 years ago
April 6, 1993

On April 1, mayors Dan Kleiss (Tuscola) and Lynda Fishel (Arcola) and Northern Ill. Water Company president Robert Shierry signed a 40-year water purchase agreement, paving the way for construction of a pipeline that would bring water from Champaign to the two Douglas County communities.

Douglas County officials held a special meeting to explain an error on the collector's books for the 1991 taxes to those whose districts were

affected by the mistake.

Villa Grove Community Theatre would be presenting "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" as its spring children's show. Jodi Prosser was serving as director.

TCHS senior Pat Pierce announced his intention to enroll at Millikin University in Decatur next fall to play for Coach Carl Poelker's Big Blue.

The executive council of the LOVC met March 24 and unanimously approved Tuscola admittance to the conference for football, starting in the 1994 season.

40 years ago
April 12, 1983

Tuscola voted in a new aldermen (Gene Wigall) and retained three others (Ray Carlson, Dr. Robt. Smith, and Frank Lincoln); while defeated for a second time was a referendum to fund \$1 million of a \$5 million water treatment upgrading system.

A grain bin accident resulted in the demise of 54-year-old Camargo farmer Forrest Reed.

Miss Tuscola contestants this year included Cindy Da-

vis, Gigi Snyder, Dana Stenger, Marla Jennings, Karen Melanson, Denise Branch, Christine Maggio, Mika Walker, Kim Griffith, and Dedee Cothron.

The return of an entire starting lineup was going to make TCHS boys baseball coach Kerry Kincaid's job a bit easier, as the team had virtually no opportunity to practice outdoors due to frigid temperatures and wet ground conditions.

50 years ago
April 5, 1973

On the ballot for mayor of Tuscola were Don Herbert, Garland Strohl, and Jim Hilligoss. According to a front-page article, "If talk about town is any political barometer, the race for mayor is between Hilligoss and Strohl, with many people opposing Herbert because of his attempts to hold a 'rock festival' at Ervin Park."

Bill Hancock and Tom Hawkins of The Hillard Agency were recently the recipients of Pekin Insurance's Gold Keyman Award.

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