

my Personal side

By Craig Hastings



Two Walmart stores in Portland Oregon closed last week and this week Walmart announced they will close four stores in Chicago.

Multiple other large chain stores and restaurants have already done the same in larger cities. Is it the state of our economy that caused these closures? No. Was it a problem trying to find enough employees willing to work to staff the stores? No. Was it a problem getting inventory because of transportation problems in America? No. These six stores and others closed because shoplifting theft and violence was out of control and the liberal Democratic Mayors in these cities and State Attorneys with prosecution jurisdiction refused to address the problem. Understand that this retail giant can afford to suffer the usual shoplifting losses and still make huge profits at year's end. The situation is that there is nothing "usual" about these shoplifting occurrences. If you haven't been watching any of the few conservative news networks you may not know this but, groups of fifty, a hundred, or more will coordinate and converge on these Walmart stores all at one time and absolutely overwhelm the staff at all of these stores. In a matter of twenty minutes the stores will suffer tens of thousands of dollars in theft and criminal damage by these organized attacks every time they take a notion to organize and move on one of the stores.

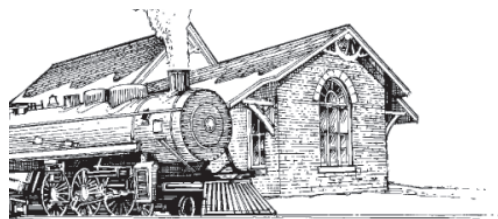
Well how in the world are these groups getting away with such criminal acts and how did this happen? It started with police reform and bail reform movements. Democratic liberal governors, mayors, and state's (or district) attorneys lead movements in their states and towns to make changes in how the laws would be enforced. Unless criminals were stealing more than \$900.00 or more in merchandise, prosecutors refused to charge. Therefore police weren't responding to the calls of shoplifting crimes. Some of these mayors had even gone so far as to order their police departments not to enforce petty theft crimes. And even if anyone might have gone so far as to steal thousands of dollars of merchandise, once arrested and taken to jail, they were released with no bond required. Six months down the road a court appearance might be required or might not. Probation was the most these criminals were getting punished with anyway so what was the point of arresting anyone?

These two cities are big cities with a half a million people or more! They enjoy very large police departments available

to them to control crime. I'm just a simple Police Chief in a very small community but, I've been doing this long enough and I'm familiar enough with how these groups organize that deterring and even stopping these mass organized shoplifting events is possible to accomplish. Our department became very familiar with shoplifting crimes and even organized shoplifting groups after the Outlet Mall opened in 1994. We've dealt with organized groups of thieves numbering six, eight, even ten at a time. Sometimes these groups would return at 2:00 am.-4:00 a.m. , smash a window or door glass, rush as many as ten people at a time into the target store, gather as much merchandise as possible in less than sixty seconds, and flee to awaiting vehicles. Today, in larger cities, the criminals don't wait for the cover of darkness. No, they just march in a store, whenever, in large groups and take whatever they want. They do so without any fear of arrest. Even should police show up, if the suspects have made it to their vehicles, police are not allowed to pursue. Why? Because the Mayors and City Councils are prohibiting their police from doing so.

So what happens across America now in the big box store business world? The people in those communities where these Walmarts are closing are speaking out and are angry. It will become extremely inconvenient to do their simple shopping now with these stores gone. This has happened because when the big box stores came to their neighborhoods (that they were all so thrilled to see back in the day) these big box stores drove the little Ma and Pop stores out of business. These people have become dependent on one stop, one source shop stores. Now what are these people going to do? Will some of the smaller stores reopen? I think not. As long as liberal Democratic elected officials are in charge and crimes go unpunished, retail stores will not open up and run the risk. Will the Walmarts of America try to warehouse sell and ship to the public? Is that even an option? Most of us that have ever gone to a box store with a list in our hand of what we need always leave that same store with that list of what we needed along with the unwritten list of things we didn't need but bought anyway! The Walmarts of the world know this! They know if we see it we will buy it just because we put our eyes on it! That impulse shopping style goes away with warehouse buying. Billions in revenue then also go away.

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Back in the day...

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10 years ago April 24, 2013

The weather in East Central Illinois was perfect last week if you were a duck. For those of the web-footed persuasion, it was just plain wet and more than a bit miserable. Rain deluged the area over a two-day period starting out Wednesday, April 17 and continuing in earnest the following day. By Thursday evening, April 18, barricades were blocking off a number of streets in Tuscola as water pooled across roadways and streets and overflowed from ditches and culverts, swamping yards and flooding basements. The village of Villa Grove was particularly hit hard. According to Douglas County Emergency Management Director Joe Victor on Friday morning, April 19, the water level was at a higher level than in 2008, when in both February and June of that year, there were flooding incidents causing considerable problems.

Coach Drew Sterkel's TCHS girls track team rose to the occasion a week ago, Tuesday, turning in one of their best performances of the year at the April 16 Mattoon invitational. Tuscola took on some bigger schools in the event and came away with 13 total personal bests, taking home more than a few medals.

It had to happen. Tuscola tracksters had to get some good weather in to compete in and it finally happened April 22 in a Tuscola Open rescheduled from April 19. Without stand-out sprinter Broc Smith still on the shelf with a hamstring injury, Coach Hornaday mixed and matched his gritty bunch of harriers perfectly en route to an 83-80 team title victory over Neoga.

20 years ago April 22, 2003

Sidewalks on the north side of West Sale Street were being demolished in preparation for a beautiful facelift at the nads of contractor Beniach Construction. The downtown streetscape renovation, which started this week, was expected to take 90 days to complete. Downtown businesses would be open throughout the process and would be sponsoring special promotions and contests.

Township commissioners were eager shoppers at a sale thrown by the Douglas County Highway Dept., and racked up over \$235,000 in equipment purchases. The items were sold after a deal was worked out with county township officials to take over county road maintenance.

A small grove of trees being planted at the southeast corner of the new North Ward Elementary School was a bequest of the Colwell Family, in honor of longtime school district treasurer R.B. Colwell. They were Illinois hardwoods, in honor of Colwell's coon hunting days.

Senior Austin Hogue and freshman Johanna Wienke were making their marks in TCHS sports history this year, both shattering longheld school records in the discus. Wienke's toss of 143-0 bested the mark set by Emily Smith in 1982, while Hogue's 179-4 throw eclipsed the record held by Colby Decker since 1980.

Tuscola High School's baseball team improved to 9-3 this past week and remained undefeated at 4-0 in the LOVC after posting league wins against Heritage and Villa Grove.

30 years ago April 20, 1993

Ten high schoolers were in the running for the title of 1993 Miss Tuscola. They included Toni Best, Heidi Gaddey, Kim Harris, Erica Holmes, Amy Kappes, Holly Mason, Chana Reynolds, Holly Sluder, Nichole Utterback, and Laci Weatherford.

The committee for the Miss Tuscola contest decided to rename the Miss Congeniality Award the Ginger Allen Heretik Award, in memory of the 1977 Miss Tuscola who passed away earlier in the year.

Tuscola Township went completely Republican as the entire GOP slate rode roughshod over the Democrats in a resounding victory. New to or returned to township positions were supervisor Steve Hilgendorf, assessor Bill Burress, road commissioner Mike Meyer, clerk Barb Alexander, and trustees Dave Lecher, Bert Wiesener, Amos Albritton, and Ann Randell.

Women of the Moose recently held an installation ceremony at the Moose Lodge. Incoming officers included Doris Quinn, Lisa McCallister, Suzanne Martin, Janice Ochs, Jeanine Prosser, Terri Milburn, Doris Dunn, Debbie Buoy, Ruth Murphy, Margaret LaCrone, Mary Teeters, Mary Lucas, Bernice Romine, Margaret Weaver, and Becky Lucas.

40 years ago April 26, 1983

Christine Maggio was crowned Miss Tuscola 1983, while Karen Melanson and Gigi Snyder were named first and second runners-up. Denise Branch, Dedee Cothron, and Melanson were all voted Miss Congeniality.

Tuscola City Council members accepted testimony by Chris Hill at a special noon

meeting, then voted to allow the continued operation of a lumber company at 99 S. Niles Avenue.

Tuscola High school boys track team set four meet records and broke another to finish second at the Monticello Invitational. The next night at the Charger Relays in Champaign, in which Tuscola was the only Class A entrant in the 12-team meet, the sprint medley foursome of Mark Smith, Steve Bates, Nate Izquierdo, and Scott Day blazed a time of 3:46.4 to finish second overall.

Tuscola rebounded from a 14-3 pasting by Decatur St. Teresa on Wednesday to post a double-header sweep against Unity on Saturday, 8-7 and 3-0.

50 years ago April 19, 1973

Candlelight, sea shells, grass skirts, and Hawaiian music made the atmosphere authentic for the Polynesian luau staged recently by members of the Tuscola Woman's Club Evening Department.

A light voter turnout elected incumbents Willis Winn and Merle Rahn each to a three-year term on the Tuscola School Board. Winn received 94 votes, and Rahn 80 of the 99 ballots that were cast.

Robin Nihiser, a 16-year-old TCHS junior, was selected by the Tuscola American Legion Auxiliary to attend Girls State at MacMurray College in Jacksonville this summer. Theresa Jordan was chosen as alternate.

Tuscola, missing some key personnel, could do no better than seventh at the Paris Relays on Saturday. Rick Izquierdo was involved in college entrance procedures, and Billy Weber and Steve Owen both were sidelined with leg injuries.

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Dates and Times:
April 17th, 18th 19th and 20th: 3:30pm-6pm
April 27th, 28th: 3:30pm-6pm
April 29th: 8am-10am
April 30th: 9am-1pm

Contact Sarah Schoon at:
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