

my **Personal side**
By Craig Hastings



I've avoided this subject for a year. Now I've reached a point of opinion that I can no longer keep my mouth shut. Too much has happened and continues to get worse. I'm going to speak my piece about the massive influx of illegal immigrants crossing our southern border. Sure, any of you can beat me down accusing me of not having a clue about what kind of lives these people had before coming to the United States. Tell me I've always had a warm bed and a full stomach without many worries about how I was going to get by another day. I understand all of these arguments very well and because of what I've done for a living for the past forty-three years I've gotten to witness dreadful living conditions and homes without a stock of food for the children to eat properly. All of these conditions right here in Tuscola, Illinois. I don't have to have CNN, FOX NEWS, MSNBC, or any of the rest of the media giants tell me I need to be compassionate about those less fortunate than me. I've seen it, right here in my hometown.

I hope most of you have been following this illegal border crossing crisis. If you have, you will know that all of these people are now and have been receiving more food and health benefits than our own American population. The Biden administration is making sure that all of these illegal immigrants are being transported to wherever in America they want to go. Once they arrive in whatever city they end up, they are put up in free housing. Once settled into their new free place of residence they immediately begin to trash and destroy the property. This isn't some verbal or print news source either, the pictures are readily available for everyone to see for themselves. If it wasn't for the fact that Texas finally got fed up with crime, their budgets dried up, and they started busing thousands of these illegals to some of the declared sanctuary cities, none of the giant media outlets would even be reporting this crisis. Only FOX NEWS was telling Americans what was going on at the border for the past two years. Everyone else, including the Biden Democrat faithful continued to lie to Americans and claim over and over there wasn't and isn't a crisis at the southern border. So what happened? What happened was Texas and Florida bused several thousand of these illegals to New York City and other cities like Chicago and Los Angeles.

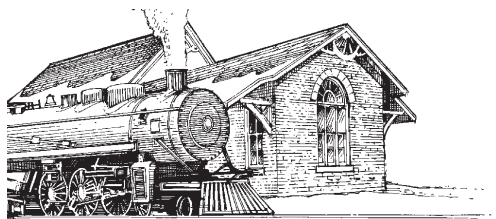
So what's the problem? Are not these cities self declared sanctuary cities? Come one come all their motto? Have not the governors and mayors of these states and cities stated for years they welcome anyone who may have entered the United States illegally? They have also gone so far to say they will shield the federal government from removing them if they were discovered? Yes, absolutely they said these very things. Oh no, all was all well and good as long as it didn't cost these sanctuary cities money! Now all of these cities are screaming for federal assistance money to bail them out! The lopsided news media sources are screaming it's a political vendetta the Republicans are behind. Sure these border states that are busing these illegals to these other cities have Republican governors! So what?! How can fifty states expect four states to pay the billions of dollars it costs Americans to pay for all of these people to be here?! The expense is bankrupting these four states. On top of that, crime is running rampant. People are afraid to leave their homes for even a day for fear when they get back they will have either been robbed or find illegals living in and on their property.

The worst part about this situation is that it's never ending. It's every single day that thousands more people are being allowed into The United States illegally because there's no way to control their crossing over from Mexico. I'm speak-

ing out tonight because this past week the Mayor of New York City moved veterans out of their government sponsored housing in order to make room for more illegal immigrants! WTH is that?! On top of that ludicrous decision Mayor Adams, without even asking or having a discussion is busing some of the overflow New York City is experiencing to other towns in New York state! These smaller communities are suing to block Adams' arrogance. Not only are they not prepared, they have no way to be prepared. They simply don't have the space, money, or resources to take care of these people's needs. Remember now, this isn't a temporary situation! These people have no plan to move anywhere but where the Biden administration is putting them. No, no, many of these people may stay forever and why not as long as the rest of Americans are paying the bill?!

Here's what has me riled up and maybe going somewhere sensitive in this column. I've avoided saying much at all about the border crisis because I don't want to come off as a privileged American that's always had it good, few worries in life, and no clue how the rest of the world population survives. I've given what Mayor Adams in New York is doing a lot of thought the past two weeks. He's decided he doesn't want all of these illegals in New York City anymore so he's busing them into smaller communities and without a heads up to those city's administrations. I'm going to leave you tonight with something to think about. Illinois unfortunately has Chicago within our borders. (Please don't scold me about how much revenue Chicago brings to the state and without Chicago blah, blah, and boo hoo hoo) The outgoing mayor and the incoming mayor are both also screaming and whining about all the illegal immigrants the southern border states are sending to Chicago. Money is running out, crime is going up, and housing these people is a crisis of its own. Here's a very possible "what if" should the influx of these illegals is not stopped and stopped very soon. What if the mayor of Chicago decides to break up the thousands of illegals into say twenties and thirties? What if he decides to spread all of these illegals out among all of the communities in Illinois? Spread the expense out among all the Illinois communities? I feel I'm in a very good position and have the experience to tell you this. If even as few as twenty of these illegal immigrants are dropped off at Main and Sale Streets and stay, our very own community could be in our own crisis situation. We will discover quickly, as have all of the other communities that have had these people dropped at their door steps, we are not prepared. Once these people are settled in and being supported by local government resources, they send word out to other family members illegally crossing that need a place to stay, this is where they are, and come here.

Criticize me all you want for my statements tonight. But if you've been paying any attention at all as to what other communities are trying to deal with by these illegal immigrants being dropped off on Main Street USA you should understand it's not something we can manage. The federal government has to get this under control but unfortunately President Biden has no concern whatsoever. Why should he? He and his family are perfectly safe with plenty of security, resources, and cash to continue on without their lives interrupted. America needs to save and support Americans first. If there's money and resources leftover for legally entering immigrants, then so be it. I'll shut up if that's the case. Remember this; by the end of 2020 border crossings were at historic lows, no crisis, crime at all time lows. Hmmm, why do you suppose that was?



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
May 29, 2013

Rain threatened, but the possibility of inclement weather did not deter a large crowd from gathering Monday morning at Tuscola Township Cemetery for the annual Memorial Day ceremony honoring the service and sacrifice of our men and women in and of the military.

An unusual set of circumstances resulted in a three-vehicle fire at Tuscola Stone Company on May 22, 2013, but there were no injuries, and according to federal safety inspectors, that is directly attributable to the reactions of mine employees on site a the time of the incident.

Cancer survivors are the stars of Douglas County Relay for Life, and this year will be no exception. In fact, they are so special to organizers they are getting their very own night, separate from Relay night, for the annual survivors dinner that always precedes the overnight extravaganza.

Sophomore Eric Ponder set a new TCHS record in the 3200 meter run May 25 at the 2013 Class 1A state track meet in Charleston with a 9:34.07 clocking, bettering Ken Burke's 1972 mark of 9:36.7. Ponder placed ninth overall and earned the Warriors' lone point at state.

20 years ago
May 27, 2003

Keith Tingley was the guest speaker at Memorial Day services held in Tuscola Township Cemetery on Monday, May 26.

The unexpected death of entrepreneur Jim Stilwell earlier this month appeared to be directly related to another demise ... as Amishland's Country Village closed its doors and ceased operations May 20, 2003 at 6:30 p.m.

Tuscola School Board members accepted the resignation of third-grade teacher Elaine Bryant, who has been an educator in the district for 35 years.

Ryan Bonner outclassed the field in the 200-meter dash at the News-Gazette Honor Roll meet, winning in 22.4 and also claimed the 100 in 10.9. Austin Hogue earned first-place trophies in the shot put (52-9) and discus (170-9).

The Warrior baseball team fell behind early in the semifinal contest but rebounded in time to knock off Okaw Valley 17-7 to advance to the Sullivan Regional championship game.

In her first trip to the big show at the high school level, Johanna Wienke came away with a pair of top 11 finishes. She ended up fourth in the discus and was 11th in the shot put.

30 years ago
May 25, 1993

The Tuscola Lady Warriors brought home the second-place trophy from the IHSA track meet in Charles-

ton, scoring 28 points on first-place finishes in the 800- and 1600-meter relays, and a second place in the 800-medley relay.

Tuscola agreed, in principle, to an added twist in the Arcola/Tuscola pipeline project that would result in Northern Illinois Water Co. branding off to supply water to Sadorus.

A third-generation attorney recently established his own office in downtown Tuscola, in the same building his grandfather practiced law for nearly 50 years. David Dotson, grandson of the late Charles W. Dotson, officially opened his office May 20. David is the son of Stan Dotson, an attorney working out of his office in Mattoon.

Tuscola's Warriors finally snapped an eight-year losing streak against longtime rival Villa Grove on Saturday, upsetting the Blue Devils 8-5 in the regional semifinals.

Two Warriors—shot putter Jeff Hettinger and hurdler Matt Daniel—set records while qualifying for state track-and-field competition.

40 years ago
June 1, 1983

Memorial Day services were conducted at Tuscola Township Cemetery on Monday morning, with American Legion Post 27 in charge of the annual event. Principal speaker was Douglas County

state's attorney David Bartholomew.

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Char-netzki of Tuscola were celebrating their 40th wedding anniversary with an open house hosted by their children, Ann Carroll and Jan Allison.

Tuscola Warriors scored 19 points in the state track-and-field meet in Charleston. The 1600-meter relay team posted its best time of the season to come in second in state. Dan Meyer earned fourth place in the 300 lows.

50 years ago
May 24, 1973

Welcoming home Jean Waters, Miss Cheerleader USA, were nearly 300 Tuscola residents who formed a motorcade to meet her in Hammond as she returned home from the Florida-based competition.

Mabel Hoel assumed management of Hoel Real Estate from her father-in-law, Wilbur Hoel, who was going into "semi-retirement."

Rev. K. Belmont Metzger claimed victory over W.A. Bozarth recently when he appeared at Rotary Club with the first ripe tomato of the season.

Phil Waters was the only Warrior to qualify for the state track meet, clearing the 6-2 standard for high jump and breaking his own school record in the process.

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