

my Personal side

By Craig Hastings



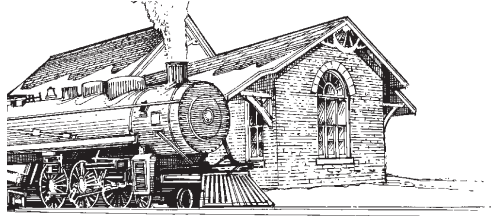
The sitting Democratic President has signed off on a thirty-seven count criminal indictment against the probable Republican 2024 presidential candidate. If the 2024 presidential election was held tomorrow it would be a Biden/Trump contest once again. I believe it's the Democratic Party's strategy to cast doubt on Trump's ability to maintain his presidency even if he were to win the 2024 election. DOJ Attorney General Merrick Garland, Biden appointed, publicly stated he has stayed out of the investigation being conducted by Special Council Jack Smith into Donald Trump's removal and possession of White House documents. Why the rush? This case could have easily been put on hold until after the 2024 election. It's just not that important. We learned immediately following Garland's statement that not only he, but also President Biden would have had to approve any indictment against the former president before the process could move forward. The AG lied, again. The hypocrisy of this investigation is beyond belief. Just this year it has been discovered, without pushback by President Biden, that Biden himself had been hoarding classified documents in an office and two of his homes since he was a Senator twenty years ago. Former Vice President Mike Pence was also in possession of documents that he probably shouldn't have had at his home. Bill Clinton was keeping classified documents in his home also that were later returned. Hillary Clinton, also without pushback back from Clinton, deleted thirty thousand emails after being ordered to turn them over to the Oversight Committee. What happened, nothing!

So how is Trump's situation any different? Democrats and pundits of the Democrat party argue that Biden and Pence turned documents in their possession over as soon as they were discovered and Trump didn't. Fair enough but, my question is; was Trump legally obligated to return anything to the Archivists requesting their return? And I guess this is the question being argued. I believe after several years of appeals and more appeals this case will end up in the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court will probably only need to decide one thing; just who did the documents belong too? If you read the Presidential Records Act of 1978, later amended in 2014, you'll walk away not having a clue as I did. It's all about each individual's interpretation of the act. Clear as mud.

I have some opinions. My opinions are not based on my politics either. Had Biden or Bill Clinton been indicted for a similar crime my opinion would still be the same. Regardless of how the courts interpret the intention of the Presidential Records Act, unless records in question had been intentionally destroyed or used in some sort of espionage plot,

I believe ownership of any documents the former presidents keep should be determined in a civil court setting. Now, if the civil courts determine that any documents removed by a president must be returned and that president refuses, at that point the case should be allowed to move to the criminal courts. Think about the implication of the stability of The United States of America right now to our foreign adversaries. Our sitting President and his Attorney General have used some "who cares" records ownership clause to interfere in our 2024 presidential election. They've done so, I believe, because they are terrified that Donald Trump will indeed win the 2024 election and if he does, who then does Trump, maybe, influence his DOJ to investigate for past and current criminal activity. The list is long and the people involved are at the top of the political food chain. Personally I don't want to see that happen should Trump be re-elected President in 2024. Should this recent criminal case see a courtroom before 2024 it's likely Trump would not be elected. Whichever Republican is elected president in 2024, I truly believe a Republican will for a number of reasons, I hope they stay out of the political policing craziness that is currently happening all across the United States. I want our next President, regardless Democrat or Republican, to tend to getting our country back to our lost "most respected, most feared in the world" standing we had enjoyed for a hundred plus years.

We have to stop fighting amongst ourselves. If we can't get past this divide in our population we're sure to fail as a nation. Usually when we hear the words "divided country" in the news or from political factions speaking out, I think all of us thought the meaning is just two sides, us vs. them. This isn't the case! There are so many different groups, factions, gangs, etc., that our division can no longer be as simple as you vs. me! Boys and girls, if America can't get back to living as simple people, living simple lives, working for what we own, supporting one another, and believing in a religious higher authority, America and her democracy will fail. America will fail and it all starts with exactly what is happening now. The current political administration in charge using their power to incarcerate their opponents and threaten the rest with incarceration if they don't stand in line and obey. "Do as we say and stay silent unless called upon!" My last thought; if this craziness doesn't stop soon I believe people are going to die senselessly because of the political division we are experiencing. I believe America and Americans are living on the edge right now and it scares me. Not so much for me because I've lived my life but, I have two young sons I worry about every single day.



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. Thank you to Sherry Miller for identifying the June 7 photo. The people in the Back in the Day photo in the June 7 edition of The Journal are Marianne Albin, Elizabeth Lincoln, and Geoff Miller. They won a youth writing contest sponsored by Parkland College and are being awarded certificates by children's author Rebecca Caudill and her husband. The Parkland actors' group chose Geoff's story to act out at the ceremony.

10 years ago
June 26, 2013
Monday night's city council meeting wrapped up in just 30 minutes. Council members approved seven contracts and agreements that cleared the way for the Scattering Fork channel improvements. Stark Excavating out of the Champaign area was awarded the contract with a bid of \$635,699. City Administrator Drew Hoel expects the work to begin within two to four weeks with the action the council took on June 24, 2013. Engineering firm Clark Dietz will be paid no more than \$39,250 to oversee the project. Once completed, city officials expect current flooding issues to be greatly improved throughout the city.

When school registration takes place this August, the check you write may be a bit larger than last year, with the passage of slightly higher/new fees for several classes within the district. Superintendent Michael Smith asked board members at the June 24, 2013, meeting to consider the uptick in fees as a means to recoup costs of providing some of the more expensive classes after conducting a cost analysis of offerings.

Shirley Schable of Atwood has reported to the Douglas County Board for the last 20 years, as director of the 911 emergency

response center. At the June 19, 2013 county board meeting, Schable was given a certificate of appreciation for her two decades of dedicated service to the job from which she is retiring in a few months.

20 years ago
June 17, 2003
Four months after a fire closed down The Hideout in its fledgling year in Tuscola, the restaurant/bar was back in operation, sporting a redesigned interior and some delicious additions to the menu.

A birthday party/ fundraiser was being planned for and at the Tuscola Airport, in recognition of its 50th year of existence. The airport has, throughout its lifetime, been a public-use facility but never receiving any public funding.

American Family Insurance agent Scott Kibler recently relocated his business to 129 West Sale Street.

Tim Madden accepted the Tuscola Open championship trophy after winning the event June 9. He shot a 72 to repeat as tournament champion.

30 years ago
June 15, 1993
Nancy Walker was named coordinator of Tuscola National Bank's new Omni Account program, duties to include opening ac-

counts, making references for financial services, and serving as travel escort on Omni-sponsored trips.

City and county officers combined efforts to quickly apprehend a handcuffed prisoner who escaped from a Douglas County squad car. TPD Chief Craig Hastings ended up apprehending the man after a foot chase through a field near Cargill.

Tuscola's Chad Kappes won a pair of tickets to the Chicago Bulls/Phoenix Suns NBA finals in Chicago by going to Good Vibes in Champaign and dribbling a basketball in the parking lot for 11 hours in a contest sponsored by WLRW. The game Kappes attended was only the second triple-overtime contest ever in the NBA finals, with Phoenix winning 129-121.

Eighty-eight golfers invaded Sycamore Hills Country Club in Paris June 7 to participate in the 12th annual Tuscola Open. Steve Shrader came away with his first Tuscola Open title by firing a 7-over-par 79 in some very windy conditions.

40 years ago
June 21, 1983
Tuscola police had a busy day June 14 when two stolen vehicles were recovered and another was reported missing, all apparently the acts of the same person, described by them as "a pro."

Workers from Service Enterprises in Evansville, Ind. were completing a new green paint job on Tuscola's big water tower.

The fish were there, but anglers were having a hard time getting to them at Lake Shelbyville, as high water conditions continued to create hazardous conditions for boaters.

50 years ago
June 14, 1973
Dr. Robert Smith issued a warning Tuesday morning to avoid wild animals, especially those behaving in a peculiar manner. Smith reported the Bob Henningsen family had just been exposed to a rabid skunk.

Merci Izquierdo, 14-year-old daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Ricardo Izquierdo, was scheduled to compete in the Miss Illinois Teenager pageant in Chicago July 6-7.

A petition for annexation into the city of almost 18 acres east of Prairie Street and west of I-57 was filed recently by Douglas County Development Company on behalf of a motel corporation wishing to establish a facility there.

With the arrival of summer, long lines were often forming by youth wanting to play tennis at Ervin Park, prompting the Tuscola Woman's Club to research ways to raise the \$10,000 needed to build additional courts.

Villa Grove BINGO
Every Friday Night VFW post 2876

6:30 pm- Early Bird
7:00 pm- Regular Bingo

Jackpots:
Egg in a Basket Raffle Chance up to \$2000
Blackout Jackpot Chance up to \$1000

Bingo Lic# B1934
Pull Tab Lic# P-48

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<p>EYE CARE Chittick Family Eye Care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Adult & Pediatric Eye Care •Contact Lenses •Custom Vision Correction •Digital Retinal Exam •Glaucoma detection and management <p>10 W. Adams • Villa Grove, IL 61956 Office: 832-2111 Hours: Mon-Fri 8-5 Medicare assignments accepted/Health Alliance Provider</p>	<p>VETERINARY Four Counties Mobile Veterinary Services</p> <p>Kathleen M. Mcmanamon, DMV</p> <p>House and Farm Calls Small Animal and Equine</p> <p>Hours: Monday-Friday Noon-8 p.m. Saturday by Appointment Phone: (217) 834-3472</p>	<p>INSURANCE AMERICAN CENTRAL INSURANCE SERVICES</p> <p>Group Employee Benefits</p> <p>Individual Medical -Dental -Vision -Short Term -Life</p> <p>Medicare Supplement, Advantage, and Part D</p> <p>Sherri L. Stewart Insurance Broker sherri@americentralins.com (866) 549-2247 304 E. Southline Rd., Suite A., Tuscola</p>
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