

# my Personal side

By Craig Hastings



Way back many, many years ago we were taught in school that **The White House is the people's house.** A place where all Americans should be able to feel they belong and are a part of its very being. After all, this is where our President and his family reside. Arguably the most powerful voice in all of the world resides at 1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington, DC 20500. The first family is protected by the most elite of our Secret Service agents who monitor every single movement within the grounds. Well, over the past three weeks, due to the activity being allowed by the Biden Administration, some of us have decided we don't want any association with "The People's House". It might be your house but it certainly isn't a house I want anything to do with. I wouldn't fit in very well.

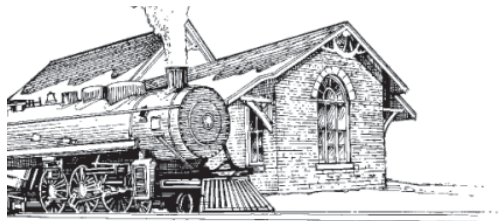
Why? Two weeks ago the Biden Administration held a Pride Month celebration on the South Lawn of The White House. Okay, if they felt such a celebration was warranted I'm not one to debate that. However it was what happened before and during the event that, for me, was disgraceful. For the first time in history on The White House grounds the American flag not only wasn't posted slightly higher than all other flags and banners but, two American flags were left and right, at the same height, of the banner flag between them which was the rainbow colors Pride flag. American veterans are rightfully outraged over the display. I'm outraged and so should you. This isn't a jab at those Americans that proudly declare themselves Pride supporters either. The American flag was displayed more like a decoration piece than a symbol of those who have sacrificed their lives to protect our freedom. How dare this administration demean the very symbol that all Americans can rally around at times when our very freedom and democracy has been threatened throughout our history.

Next. At this same event, captured on several television media outlets, several people at the Pride event decided to take their clothes off and make a disgraceful public spectacle of themselves on The South Lawn for all the world to see. Where was security and why weren't all possibilities of disruption planned for? Is the gutter where America's House has slipped into? Just another avenue where anyone with any disgusting and disgraceful thought can openly display their mood? Does the rest of the world laugh and believe that America's White House is becoming just another house in a neighborhood where anyone can feel free to strip and urinate on the sidewalk? First the Biden Administration stands by and allows demonstrators to break federal law by standing outside some of our Supreme Court Justice's homes and threaten those same justices hoping to scare them into changing their minds on how they will vote in an upcoming case. Next, Nancy Pelosi, whose duty as Speaker of The House at the time, shrugged off the advice by top federal security personnel to call out the National Guard and increase Washington DC po-

lice presence on January 6, 2021 at our Capitol Building. What followed was a mob of Trump supporters entering the Capitol and wreaking havoc on the Building and disrupting the transfer of power from one president to another. The controversy continues even today. All of this going on as the rest of the world watches, laughs, and plans how to one up America at a time when the Biden Administration continues to display weakness not only on the world stage but also at home.

But could anything top the embarrassing events of above? You might not think so but I believe it happened. A week ago last Sunday, a uniformed Secret Service agent discovered an amount of powder cocaine in the West Wing of The White House. As the story progressed we learned that the area where the cocaine was discovered is an area where only those few with highest levels of security clearance and the need to be there are allowed. I'm not pointing a finger but just stating some facts now. News outlets, upon learning the identity of the substance, began to parallel the cocaine with Hunter Biden's past drug addiction problems which have been widely publicized through Hunter Biden's own laptop downloads including videos of himself engaging in questionable activities. It is also no secret that Hunter Biden has been staying at The White House frequently in the past few months. Which in itself is not a big deal. Heck, I'm a single guy living by myself and if my dad was alive and the President of The United States, I might very well move into The White House myself for a while. If for nothing more than free room and board but to also explore the facility and take in all the history it has to share. I wouldn't care to hobnob with the elites because as far as being social, I just want to blend in with all the other rocks in the desert going unnoticed by anyone.

So this coming week or weeks the Biden Administration, supported by the DOJ, FBI, and The Secret Service, will likely announce that the substance found wasn't cocaine after all. Or maybe they will tell us it was indeed cocaine but they have discovered it was a maintenance employee that put it there when they sat down to eat their lunch that day and forgot to retrieve it. Or maybe the Secret Service will tell us it was accidentally left there after a K9 training exercise. Regardless of what else they might tell us, they will definitely have an iron-clad alibi for Hunter Biden. They have to distance Hunter from the cocaine scandal because of his past history. So there you have it. The White House has become The Scandal House and I refuse to be a member. What's next? A report of a slip and fall by an elite foreign dignitary in a pile of dog poo in The White House Rose Garden area? My god when will this craziness stop?



# Back in the day...

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**10 years ago**  
**July 24, 2013**

An official from the National Weather Service Central Illinois Forecast Office in Lincoln County declared Douglas County as a stormready county, during a special presentation made at the July 17, 2013 County Board meeting.

City Administration Drew Hoel reported to the City Council at Monday night's meeting that the Illinois Department of Transportation has approved engineers plans to install a three-way traffic signal system at the intersection of Route 36 and South Prairie Street. The infrastructure will cost the City approximately \$1.7 million which includes the cost of the Route 36 road improvements.

Unit 301 principals reported to the School Board Monday night that the buildings and staff of each are up and ready for the new school year. Superintendent Mike Smith updated the board on the progress of the various renovation projects that had been ongoing throughout the summer. These projects are four of the smaller ones on a list that includes major jobs such as roof replacement at the East Prairie Middle School and interior flooring and ceiling tile issues.

**20 years ago**  
**July 15, 2003**

The new superintendent and principal for Tuscola School District had a few things in common. Joe Burgess and Kyle Ransom were hired around the same time, were married and the father of three children, new to the community, and building houses on the golf course.

A group of bow-and-arrow enthusiasts was in attendance at the July 14 city council meeting, hoping to shoot down the idea of creating an ordinance barring target practice within city limits.

Kim Hanners of Tuscola had plenty to smile about, after losing over 70 pounds and 75 inches through a combination of diet, discipline, and regular workouts at Curves For Women.

More than three inches of rain deluged the Tuscola area, and the resulting flooding made many streets temporarily impassable. High winds also accompanied the storm.

Johanna Wienke qualified for nationals of the USATF Junior Olympics competition to be held in Miami, Fla. The TCHS sophomore took first in the shot put with a PR 38-5 and second in discus at 130-9 during the regional meet in Bolingbrook.

**30 years ago**  
**July 13, 1993**

Contestants for the upcoming Miss Moultrie-Douglas County Fair Queen pageant were Brandi Kappes, Anna Adcock, Erica Holmes, Michelle Emond, Amber Workman, Kristin Stewart, Leah Payne, Trisha



**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.**

Truitt, Laci Weatherford, Kristi Thomas, Andrea McCollom, Jillaine Little, Jennifer Elzy, Ellen Guthridge, and Joy Gale.

Controversy surrounding Tuscola's historic railroad switching tower came to a head Monday night as the newly formed TY Tower Preservation Association urged city officials to take the lead in preserving the 104-year-old landmark.

Tuscola was well represented at the 3-on-3 basketball portion of the Prairie State Games, as two teams went undefeated and took home gold medals in their age groups. Jason Houvenagle, Ben Brace, Luke Little and Chris Roberts took the 12/13 division. Brian Brace, Jim Grimm, Kevin Conner, and Arrell Rich took gold in the 30-and-over division.

Pat Pierce of Tuscola High School was joining 87 other state all-star football players for a week of practice in preparation for this year's annual Shrine All-Star game at Illinois State University's Hancock Stadium in Normal.

**40 years ago**  
**July 19, 1983**

Mr. and Mrs. Ted Mick of Tuscola and traveling companions Mr. and Mrs. Scott Chapman of Normal were the victims of a freak accident while vacationing in Colorado. The two couples were riding motorcycles near Aspen when a small plane that had lost its engine clipped the Chapman bike, causing minor injuries to the Chapmans. Everyone in the plane was unharmed, though the plan was a total loss.

Judy Beasley, Miss Tuscola Chris Maggio, and Donna Walker cut the ribbon July 17 officially opening Suntana, a year-round tanning parlor on Route 36 and Niles Street.

Tuscola woodcarving hobbyist George "Bud" Davis was among featured subjects in the first printing of the book "Illinois Artisans and Craftsmen."

Tuscom Little League All-Star Team members included Lance Mefford, Mark Kalmar, Eric Alexander, Brian Hatfield, Donnie Hanners, Robbie Taylor, Steve Weemer, Lance Kresin, Koby Williams, Chad Perry, Alex Meyer, and Tag Adkisson.

**50 years ago**  
**July 12, 1973**

Representatives of various civic groups met with city park planners and two U of I reps to discuss long-range plans and project possibilities for the 25 acres south of Tuscola set aside by the city for recreation.

Tuscola school district attorney Raymond Lee informed city council the school district would finance warning lights on Route 36 and also have the fence on the north side of the athletic field at TCHS moved back in order to allow a sidewalk to be built on Daggy Street.

Gerald Waters and son Billy were listed in satisfactory condition at Burnham City Hospital following an accident in which the motorcycle on which they were riding collided with a car on Egyptian Trail, one mile south of Route 36.

Sharing the Okaw Valley Conference baseball championship with Monticello were the Tuscola Warriors, who posted an 8-2 season record.

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