

my Personal side

By Craig Hastings



You might think I would have something much more interesting going on in my life that I wouldn't make it a point to watch the Republican presidential candidates debate. Well I don't and I did. And since incumbent President Joe Biden has already stated he would not debate his two opponents, the Republicans will be the only 9, eight should Trump refuse to debate, to pay attention throughout the individual states primaries. I feel safe to say after watching Wednesday night's FOX debate that very quickly the field has shrunk to just four, maybe five. Why some of these people even throw their hat in the ring is beyond me. They have about as much chance of being the candidate as I do being chosen to be a student in Harvard Law School or being chosen to be the next police chief in Los Angeles. That chance would be none. But they do it anyway. Some speculate that these "never a chancers" are only doing it with the hope of being picked by the next president to serve as a member in his/her administration. I'm not so sure about that.

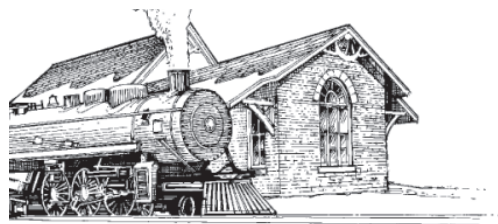
Back to the debate. I believe Ron Desantis and Vivek Ramaswamy ruled the night. Without a doubt these are the only two candidates that stand a chance of overcoming the monumental lead former President Trump has over the field of nine. I personally do not think anyone has a chance to win the primary over Trump. Had it not been for the Democrats in Washington bossing around their underlings in states like New York and Georgia, this might not be the case. As it has been proven, the more criminal indictments filed against Trump, the higher his poll numbers and the more popular he becomes with voters of all parties and no parties. The theory behind charging Trump was to keep him out of the 2024 race for president. I absolutely believe there would have been no investigations and no charges against Trump had he just stayed out of politics. Could it be any more obvious? Not a word was said until he announced he was a nominee for president.

The Democrats had their guns loaded and ready for Trump's big announcement. It seems their powder must have gotten wet because this whole grand affair of continual indictments has backfired on every round. The more they fire away the more strength the Republican base becomes. Adding to the Democrats' failing battle plan to get Trump, Republican House members have exposed the Biden family's alleged years and numerous crimes of alleged corruption, bribery, money laundering, and pay for play schemes. It appears to me that the Bidens had become so arrogant and confident believing they were so untouchable that they became extremely careless and brash, not bothering to even cover their tracks just a little bit. To date the Republicans have discovered so far, nearly twenty-five million dollars paid to various Biden family members for unaccountable services. As many as twenty alleged shell companies had been set up by Hunter Biden as a

means to hide and distribute any money paid to the family members. Many of these allegations were discovered on Hunter Biden's own laptop computer he carelessly let fall into the hands of a repair shop that he never picked up. By his own admission he had and maybe still has a drug addiction problem that led him to do many of his alleged criminal acts. So now President Biden himself may have some criminal allegations to defend himself before the 2024 [presidential election].

The FOX presidential debate was viewed by 24 million viewers! An impressive number for sure as far as debates go. But, there was another program airing at the same time that stole the night from FOX. If you didn't know, Tucker Carlson, the recently fired from FOX and most popular evening commentator on television at the time, had his own evening program planned. Tucker's show would air simultaneously with the FOX debate Wednesday night. Tucker would be interviewing Donald Trump one on one and air on Elon Musk's "X" network while the eight other candidates battled it out on FOX. So how did Tucker/Trump do vs. FOX/ 8 Republicans? Fox captured an impressive 24 million viewers. Carlson captured the interest of another 157 million viewers!!! Incredible numbers by any account! Think about this. One Hundred and fifty-seven million people tuned into a network I didn't know existed to watch Donald Trump! There would have been millions more had they been able. Just like myself they didn't know how and where to watch.

If for some reason Trump can't run for president, the Republican candidate will be either Desantis or Ramaswamy. They both moved up in the polls after the debate. Not taking any numbers from Trump but from the other five candidates. So how might this 2024 election play out? If we have another Biden vs Trump race it will be close again and I think with Trump the winner. If it's Biden vs Ramaswamy I think Ramaswamy will win by an easy margin. If it's Biden vs Desantis I think Desantis will win by a landslide. Should ol' Joe bow out (as he should for the good of the Democrat party) any of the three will also beat Governor Galvin Newsom from California. I just don't see any clear path to victory for the Democrats unless. Michelle Obama gets in the race. Of course the Obamas have some very serious suspicious allegations to deal with right now. One being the death of one of their chefs and the other over some alleged "letters" to a girlfriend and statements made by the former president when he was younger and more questions on just where Mr. Obama was born. I doubt the Obama family wants any of this to become a public scandal to deal with as it all would and more should Michelle Obama enter the political arena. No, the Obamas should lay back and enjoy the millions they accrued over Barack's eight years as president. Strange how that happens. Right now the grand ol' United States of America is the world's favorite soap opera and we are all staring in it like it or not. I want to be paid!



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. In last week's photo were Esther Skinner, Don Gibson, Mike Holmes and Bob Coverstone. Thanks to Rod Voyles for identifying last week's photo.

**10 years ago
Sept. 11, 2013**

Michael Weber, Joe Kleiss and Robert Wetzel were chosen to be inducted into the TCHS Hall of Fame.

The former Dixie lot was in the process of being home to Lambo's gas station, and an agreement for transfer and redevelopment of land in Amishland Phase II was approved by the city council.

Warriors boy's golf team was having a solid season winning 6 of 7 matches. Their fifth straight win was a victory over Altamont by 20 strokes. The girls volleyball team was also celebrating victories of 25-9 and 25-14 against Villa Grove. Eric Ponder drew attention in Warriors cross-country when he finished second place against Monticello's top runner with a time of 15:42 in the Lodge Park course. The Warriors football team was not as victorious, as they faced a loss against Unity 35-26.

**20 years ago
Sept. 2, 2003**

Brian and Pam Scoggins of rural Tuscola and some of the Arabian horses they care for and/or train had qualified for competition in the 2003 U.S. Nationals—the most prestigious North American championship in the Arabian horse show industry.

A decision made last month by the Tuscola school board to institute a facility usage fee for groups using school buildings and charging admission during that use garnered lots of discussion at this month's

meeting. Travel teams—which were \$1 admission and selling limited concessions in order to pay for referees and uniforms—felt it was an unfair situation for them.

Jane Wood of Tuscola was the lucky winner of a cruise trip from CruiseOne Travel Agency. Proceeds from the cruise fundraiser helped East Prairie seventh- and eighth-grade students earn money for an educational trip to Washington, D.C. in the spring. Mariah Brookins sold the winning ticket to Wood.

Despite breaking in a new quarterback (senior Craig Roberts) and playing without two returning starters from last year's squad, Tuscola's football team rallied for three straight scores midway through the game to upend Arcola for the sixth straight time, dropping the Riders 30-6.

**30 years ago
Aug. 31, 1993**

A 9-year-old bicyclist escaped serious injury Friday after being hit by a car after riding his bike from McDonald's lot onto Route 36.

The majority of unionized Central Illinois Public Service Company workers from the Tuscola office returned to work Monday following an Aug. 25 announcement that the union lockout had ended.

Missy Chappell, the daughter of Don and Jan Chappell of Tuscola, was selected as a varsity cheerleader at the University of Illinois for the 1993-94 school year. Chappell is a 1991 graduate of Tus-

cola High School.

Mary Ann Johns of rural Tuscola fired an 87 at Tri-County Country Club, overtaking first-round leaders Janece Dicks and Judy Rothermel, to claim her first Douglas County Golf Tournament title. Johns finished the tournament with a two-day total of 177, five strokes ahead of Dicks and six ahead of Rothermel.

Travis Dobbs of Tuscola and his American quarter horse Congratulations Mr. competed against 51 entries to win the reserve world champion aged geldings title at the AJQHA World Championship Show held in Fort Worth, Texas. At last year's championships, Dobbs showed the world champion 3-year-old mare, Pick Me Please.

**40 years ago
Sept. 7, 1983**

The derailment of a train near Murdock last Friday touched off a fire two spectacular explosions of the chemicals in the railroad cars. Eleven cars of a 49-unit train derailed from the Baltimore & Ohio tracks, forcing the evacuation of Ziegler Coal Company's Murdock Mine 2.

Miss Illinois Vanessa Romine was to be among the celebrity participants in this year's Old-Fashioned Days parade, according to OFD chairman Clarence Snyder Jr.

Flying into Douglas County next month would be a new club—the Douglas County Chapter of Ducks Unlimited.

Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Mc-

Cartney of Tuscola announced the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter, Jessica LeAnne, to Bruce Alan Hall, son of Mr. and Mrs. Alan B. Hall of Rantoul.

Harland "Hop" Conner retired Aug. 31 from CIPS after 15 years as a meter reader and tree trimmer. Conner spent 13 years with Douglas Water Company prior to working for CIPS.

**50 years ago
Aug. 30, 1973**

Construction of the Bache Memorial Chapel, west of Tuscola, was nearing completion, at a cost of just over \$700,000. By special permission, the chapel had already been used for the recent wedding of Susan Elaine Benner and Glean Alan Helmska.

A tax levy of \$786,000 for the Education Fund; \$211,000 for the Building Fund; and \$51,000 for the Transportation Fund was established at a recent meeting of the Tuscola School Board. Total levy amount was \$1,048,000.

The Illinois State Bar Association recently announced the appointment of Tuscola attorney James F. Lemna as chairman of the Environmental Control Law Section Council of that organization.

A replacement for John Kalmar at the quarterback spot was still contested as the Warriors completed the first week of drills for the '73 gridiron season. Seniors Rudy Huber and Steve Sanderson were contending for the important assignment.

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