

my Personal side

By Craig Hastings



There's been an increasing amount of discussion concerning the age of our elected officials; at least at the federal level. This discussion all started with the obvious gradual decline of President Biden when he speaks to the American citizens on television. Two years ago the right laughed at him for something they called "gaffs". As time moved on and President Biden made more public appearances it became obvious to everyone willing to admit it anyway, that the President was in mental decline. For some time now when President Biden misspeaks or completely loses his train of thought mid sentence, the majority of both the left and right recognize that this president is in cognitive decline. A lot of us have witnessed this very decline in our own family members and it's a horrible thing to witness. I think it's a terrible situation when the President's own wife and children stand by and let this happen all for the cause of "The Party". I've become embarrassed for the man and genuinely feel sorry for him when he speaks publicly. Trust me here, I want the man to hold on for another year regardless of his health issues because his replacement is absolutely unqualified to serve as president. Kamala Harris just can't be allowed to serve as president even for a few months. Unfortunately I think this is going to happen.

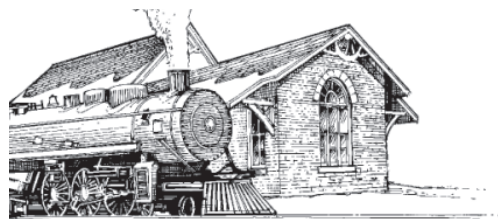
Back to the age thing. Many people in Washington DC and across the country want to put an age cap on some federally elected offices. I'll argue it's not as simple as that. We all know people of the age of eighty years old and older whose minds are sharp as a tack. They haven't begun to decline in the least. So why should/would these people be denied the opportunity to serve their county or be removed from office because they were seventy-nine on Monday and eighty on Tuesday. It doesn't make any sense. How about a cognitive test requirement then you ask? That won't work because one political party won't trust the other party to be fair and honest concerning the results of such tests. Even the doctors who perform such tests can't agree on the methods used to test someone's cognitive function to a pass/fail diagnosis.

This discussion is not just about Joe Biden. Democrat Senator, Dianne Feinstein and Republican Senate Minority Leader, Mitch McConnell both have no business serving in their capacity as Senators. In my opinion both are in worse mental decline than President Biden. Recently on live television we watched Feinstein unable to comprehend a simple request to cast her vote yay or nay when called upon. An aid had to coax

her to answer as she had been coached moments before being asked to vote. It was a pitiful display and shame on whoever is responsible for her care and well being. Twice in a week I witnessed Mitch McConnell live on television just freeze up at the podium unable to speak or comprehend what the people around him were saying to him. And what did his doctor release to the press as to McConnell vapor locking in front of the world? Lightheadedness and maybe a bit dehydrated!! Are you kidding me?! I was waiting for the next words out of McConnell's mouth to be "Beam me up Scotty, the Martians are chasing me!" This man's mind was clearly in another orbit around another world. This is embarrassing for America. These people need to go and anyone close to them should help find a path out of Washington DC and spare them this embarrassment.

What about term limits? So you're thinking imposing the amount of years our elected officials could hold office that the age problem would take care of itself? Let's say Congress votes to cap years of service to sixteen years. Even if a person was elected at age fifty-four, sixteen years later that official would be seventy and forced out if the age cap was set at age seventy. Problem solved right? I don't think so. A couple of thoughts. What if this sixteen year elected official was doing a spectacular job for America and now is forced out? Is that what's really best for the country? I don't think so. What if the elected official that wins this age related vacated seat is terrible? The same holds true with the age thing. If we have a Congressman/Congresswoman that is doing an incredible job that's forced out because they turned eighty, is that the best thing for America? No it's not. What if we all agree a certain seventy-five year old man/woman we all know and believe would be a great elected asset for America chooses not to get involved for the betterment of America because at age eighty, five years later, they would be forced to step down just because of a number that changed from a Monday to Tuesday?

I've done a lot of criticizing and "what ifs" tonight but admittedly I don't have a suggestion of my own to add. I guess if I was pressed I would say that you and I as voters are the fix. Up until the last two years the problem of elected officials mentally failing while in office has never really been a concern the public has been exposed too. But it's definitely a problem today. Not only are the people we've elected failing but our system of government is becoming a casualty of their failures.



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10 years ago Sept. 18, 2003

Chandler Kerns and Olivia Christy were crowned Homecoming king and queen at the coronatin ceremony on Sept. 14, 2003.

Judge Michael Carroll announced his retirement as sitting Sixth Judicial Circuit judge. He was first sworn in on Dec. 1, 2006.

Dennis Shiley was hired as Central Illinois Public program director. His position was to serve as a key member of the agency management staff.

In sports, Tuscola's volleyball team won two matches during homecoming week. They defeated Chrisman 25-18, 25-16 and Arcola 25-22, 25-11. In cross country, Emma Henderson swept medalist honors in Moweaqua with a person best of 19:51 on a three-mile course. The TCHS golf team also claimed wins when they upended the Riders and Charleston in a triangular meet. The Warriors football team did not disappoint with a victorious Homecoming game against the Clinton Marrons 41-7.

20 years ago Sept. 9, 2003

The elephant act was a crowd favorite during the two shows performed Sept. 5 in Tuscola by Carson & Barnes circus, the largest outdoor circus in the world. Tuscola Lions Club sponsored the event.

Ward 2 councilman Tim Seip reported receiving several calls from residents living near Festival Plaza, complaining of the loud volume of the gazebo clock's chiming, and early hours at which the clock's serenade began.

Tuscola resident Jim Harbaugh shared photos of his stint on the USS LST-325, a World War II ship restored and now serving as a floating memorial. Harbaugh, who served on a similar ship during the war, won a spot on the ship's 2003 voyage up the Mississippi and Ohio rivers this summer.

The Tuscola volleyball team marched into the finals of the Danville Schlarmann Tournament in style, with two solid two-game sweeps over Salt Fork and St. Thomas More before dropping the host school to secure the championship.

Tuscola somehow stumbled its way to 367 yards of total offense despite its second straight six-fumble evening to post an ugly 26-6 win over the Villa Grove Blue Devils.

The Warrior golf team defeated Sullivan in a recent home meet. Eric Arseneau continued his fine play with a 38 to earn low score honors. Teammates Tyler Surma and Justin Gensler continued to show improvement and posted scores of 42.

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.

30 years ago Sept. 7, 1993

The Illinois Council of Teachers announced recently that East Prairie math teacher Suzanne Henderson was named a state awardee in the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics Teaching Program. Another East Prairie teacher, language arts instructor Susan Cisna, was invited to be a presenter at a national conference in Portland, Oregon in March.

New teachers in District 301 this year were Susan Harris, Jamie Willis, Norma Moore, Cindy Surma, Kathy Biggs, Jonna Green, Paul Johnson Christine Winslow, and Karen Schweighart.

Equipment valued at approximately \$24,000 was stolen last week from a General Telephone Co. van parked in the company's parking lot on Sale Street. The van, one of five or six in the lot, showed no signs of forced entry.

Laura Cross Gunnell and Timothy Mooney, both of Tuscola, announced their engagement and approaching marriage. The couple would be exchanging vows on Oct. 2, 1993 at Forty Martyrs Catholic Church in Tuscola.

An experienced Arcola Riders team boasting 18 seniors thrashed a young Warrior squad 66-0 at Tuscola Friday night in the opening game for both squads. It was Arcola's

11th straight victory over its northern rivals.

The Warrior spikers came away victorious Thursday in the season opener against Arthur High School. Coach Kerry Kincaid praised seniors Toni Best, Lisa Wright, and Becky Sudduth, and junior Andrea Wax for their solid performances.

40 years ago Sept. 13, 1983

Two-way traffic on East Sale Street, between North Main and North Center streets, was unanimously passed by Tuscola City Council members. The change would become effective Sept. 16 at 7 a.m.

First Christian Church of Tuscola was the site for the wedding of Janis Smith to Kevin Wigall on Aug. 27. Pianist Ruth Slaughter accompanied soloist Mary Snyder.

The 50th anniversary of the TCHS Class of '33 was observed recently at 40 Martyrs Church hall. Attending the reunion were Marjorie Wiegert, Genevieve Zander, Mary Carmack, True Shadrick, Druscilla Taylor, Ruth Morgan, Myron Fullerton, Thystle Seip, Sarah Jane Corrie, Mary Teeters, Clara VanWinkle, Ruth Randolph, Vivian Kennedy, Dorothy Spinner, Naomi Arnett, Oretta Lewis, James Kleiss, Byford Frock, Forrest Tate, Virgil Kelly, Walter Black, Raymond Howard, and Howard Wright.

The 1983 Warrior football season opened disappointingly, with a 34-13 loss to the Arcola Purple Riders at Tuscola.

50 years ago Sept. 6, 1973

Tuscola Masonic Lodge #332 was undergoing a facelift. A contract for the \$9,966 improvement was awarded to McNeely Construction Company of Pesotum. The construction was beginning on the 110th anniversary of Masonry in Tuscola.

Nineteen-year-old Linda Coslet was being held without bail in the Douglas County Jail, pending arraignment in the shooting death of her husband, 23-year-old Jackie Coslet. Preston Hendrickson Jr. was also being held in the matter.

Mr. and Mrs. Dale Bissey and three of their children—Randy, Donna, and Brad—had returned recently from a 3,000-mile exploration of the historic high mining country of central and western Colorado.

"Best looking scrimmage I've ever seen," was the pronouncement of Coach Lynn Strack following Friday night's inter-squad scrimmage in Tuscola. Rudy Huber and Steve Sanderson did equally well in battling for starting QB, backs Rick Smith and Mike Meyer displayed good stuff, and reserves Dave Slaughter and Fred Galey showed impressive improvement under the lights.

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