

# my Personal side

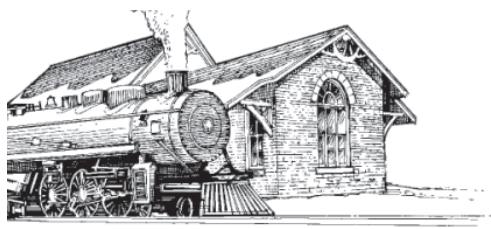
By Craig Hastings



**Republicans and conservative news media went berserk today over the announcement of Hunter Biden being indicted over various gun charges.** My thoughts; not so fast. Remember just three weeks ago the same Trump appointed federal attorney had attempted to work behind the scenes with Hunter Biden's own attorneys in an attempt to prevent Hunter from ever serving a single day behind bars for these same gun allegations. On top of the gun charges going away, any and all further charges of anything related to Hunter would have been barred from prosecution. Had it not been for federal judge Maryellen Noreika suspecting something suspicious about the plea deal before her, Hunter would be walking free today and forevermore. Immunity from just about any crimes current and in the future related to Hunter Biden. Fortunately Judge Noreika read the fine print that she wasn't supposed to bother reading and paused the proceedings until both parties presented something new and more realistic to the court. Well today that has happened.

Federal prosecutor David Weiss, the same prosecutor willing three weeks earlier to let Hunter skate on all charges including the tax evasion charges that hadn't been allowed to expire beyond the statute of limitations. It's been alleged by several whistleblowers that the IRS in conjunction with Attorney General Merrick Garland stalled earlier tax crimes against Hunter to allow those crimes to expire beyond the statute of limitations that govern federal tax crimes. People, this DOJ appears to be so extremely corrupt that all of us should beware. I'm not saying any of this because I'm a Donald Trump fan either. I'd say the same if the roles were reversed and I thought Joe Biden was being unfairly railroaded because of his politics. What's going on in our federal DOJ is blatantly obvious for the world to see. Other countries' leaders have begun to weigh in with their own opinions as to the how and why Donald Trump has been treated throughout this past year. Just today, of all people, Soviet President Vladimir Putin made a statement that he and the rest of the world see the prosecution of Trump as political revenge. Putin went on to say it shows the "rotteness" of the U.S. political system. Putin continued to condemn Ameri-

ca for pretending to teach other countries about how a true democracy should work all the while America's own system has failed and continues to fall even farther into the abyss. Sadly many Americans, including myself, agree in part with Putin's statements. Back to Hunter. It's my opinion that Hunter Biden will never see a day behind bars and may never even go to trial over these gun charges. If David Weiss just three weeks ago was willing to let this guy slide on all crimes now and forever, then there's a plan coming to clear Hunter. In my mind there is no way Weiss goes from nothing to twenty years in jail. Not going to happen. A few things may happen in this case. It could be Weiss intentionally mishandles the proceedings causing the judge to dismiss. It could be Weiss enters into a plea deal with Hunter's attorneys that reduces all of these charges to lesser crimes with probation and fines as the only punishment. If all else fails his father, President Joe Biden, pardons Hunter of all crimes just before he leaves office in 2024 or just after being reelected in 2024. In the meantime as we wait for the 2024 election results, Hunter remains out of jail on bond while enjoying continuances each time his case is set for trial. I don't think it's beyond the possibility that President Biden steps out of the 2024 race just to pardon Hunter should there be a possibility Hunter is headed to jail. Republicans across the country are rejoicing at the news today concerning Hunter. I think Democrats in the know are laughing their butts off at these Republicans because they know the plan that keeps Hunter out of jail and maybe even from prosecution. Weiss made this look too easy. He should have at least faked an argument with Hunter's attorneys in court for all of America to see in order to convince Americans he was being sincere in his decision to charge Hunter with three felony gun crimes. What happened today was too easy. Don't believe me, take a look at the news. Washington Democrats have very little to say about the charges. Why? Because I believe they know the fix is in and coming soon enough to keep Hunter out of harm's way. America needs a superhero to save it. We are imploding from within and there is no healing in sight. None that I can see anyway.



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### 10 years ago Oct. 2, 2013

Tuscola Health Care's administrator, Tom Stephenson, left his position after 38 years to accept a similar position in Sandwich, IL. Director of Nursing, Alison Cler, stepped into his role in Tuscola.

Richard Broch was hoping to fill the vacancy left by Judge Michael G. Carroll by announcing his candidacy.

LyondellBasell donated funding in the amount of \$4,000 in grants to the Tuscola Fire Department and the Eastern Illinois Foodbank.

The Warriors football team defeated Warrensburg-Latham for win number three in their season. The final score was 35-0. In volleyball, the Lady Warriors defeated Monticello 25-19, 24-26 and 25-20 to collect their first Okaw Valley win. The boys golf team had a third place win in a 13-team Clinton Invitational, and Cross Country placed 14th out of 20 in the St. Joe Classic.

### 20 years ago Sept. 23, 2003

Equistar Chemicals—formerly known as USI—was hosting an open house in honor of its 50th anniversary. Themed "Proud Past-Bright Future," the event was to take place Sat., Sept. 27 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., according to site manager Dan Podgurski.

The old North Ward property was one step closer to becoming city property, following adoption of an ordinance to that effect by city council members. According to terms of the ordinance, total purchase price of \$250,000 would be made in three annual installments of \$83,333.33.

Over 290 runners and 15 teams took to the streets of Tuscola Saturday to compete in the Tuscola Classic cross country meet. TCHS finished 11th out of the 15 boys teams, with Sasan Shabrou the first Warrior to cross the finish line.

John Coats and Duff Hoel were the winners of the 2003 Wednesday Night Men's Golf League at Ironhorse, the first two-time champions.

Lady Warriors volleyball, led by head Coach Ryan Wildman, went 3-1 over the weekend to take second place in the eight-team Windsor Classic. Tuscola went 3-0 in pool play



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before falling to a very strong Okaw Valley team in the finals.

The Tuscola Warriors dropped their first regular season game in 15 straight starts, falling 13-6 to a very good Cerro Gordo football squad.

### 30 years ago Sept. 21, 1993

The 1993 TCHS Homecoming king and queen candidates included Amy Kappes, Toni Best, Holly Sluder, Casey Clifford, Kim Harris, Matt Howard, George Barnett, Caleb Englehardt, Bruno Garcia, and Jeremy Ochs. Court attendants were juniors Kim VonLanken and Chad Hausmann, sophomores Casey Herschberger and Josh Leamon, and freshmen Betsy Bergeson and Jason Hausmann.

Douglas County Sheriff Chuck Talbott announced he would not be seeking re-election in 1994, saying he wanted to enjoy a slower pace and explore other opportunities after having been in law enforcement for 25 years.

The paperwork was done and submitted for Tuscola to be considered for a 500-bed "supermax" state prison the Ill. Dept. of Corrections was pursuing.

The Tuscola Woman's Club celebrated its 100th anniversary with a tea party, where members dressed as they did 100 years ago.

The Tuscola Classic cross country meet drew 16 boys teams and 14 girls teams to town. The TCHS girls squad

took sixth place, while the boys team finished in 12th place. Patty McDaniel led the lady harriers with an eighth-place finish, and Frank Tarantino was the first male Warrior to cross the finish line, in fifth place. Sara Vest took first-place honors in the girls freshman division.

Host Illiopolis Pirates used a balanced ground attack to rack up 206 yards rushing, defeating the Tuscola Warriors 21-8. Tuscola quarterback Josh Leamon completed 14 of 27 passes, one for a TD, for 136 yards.

### 40 years ago Sept. 27, 1983

Military personnel and Douglas County authorities were at Tuscola Airport all weekend as efforts were made to determine what caused a Navy T-34 Turbomentor trainer crash there late Friday afternoon, instantly killing two officers. The plane was reportedly enroute to Willard Airport at Savoy to participate in a weekend air show.

The Douglas County Board recently approved Jarman Hospital administrator Dan Stoner's recommendation for a \$20 room rate increase to \$145 per day for a semi-private room. Stoner said increased labor, utility, and supply costs necessitated the change.

A \$3,266,915 budget for the 1983-84 fiscal year was unanimously approved by the Tuscola Board of Education, representing a \$79,797 decrease from the

previous year.

Dale Bateman reported that yields from drilled soybeans were looking good in 1983, with some early varieties on the test plot averaging 54 bushels per acre.

The Tuscola Warriors improved their record to 2-1 by beating the Marshall Lions 21-14 in a hard-hitting game at Tuscola Friday night, which saw senior halfback Steve Bates gain more yards this game than the first two combined.

### 50 years ago Sept. 20, 1973

Extensive expansion was underway at the Cabot Corporation plant in Tuscola, according to plant manager William Tambo. Construction of the new Cab-O-Sil facility would constitute a major increase in its production capacity for fumed silica when the new plant was to go onstream in Fall 1974.

Thomas Powell of Tuscola became one of a select group of Masons recently when he received the York Cross of Honour during ceremonies held Sept. 8 in Carbondale.

Ann Miller and Margaret Hamilton were starring in "Blithe Spirit" at Sullivan's Little Theatre on the Square.

Down 12-0 at the end of the first quarter, a determined Tuscola football squad gallantly fought back to post a 14-12 victory over LOVC opponents Villa Grove Blue Devils on Friday night.

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