



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.

Ten years ago April 13, 2011

New members of the Tuscola School Board were installed following the April 5 election. Joining the board were Tim Mooney, Kristi Boyer, and Darold Spillman. Incumbent Linda Scribner was also voted to keep her seat on the board.

Villa Grove's Craig Patton retired from the Douglas County Sheriff's Office following 26 plus years of service.

Gerald and Helen (Ulrey) Hurt of Tuscola celebrated 65 years of marriage on April 28, 2011.

Tuscola Teachers Sue Elder (guidance counselor) and Bonnie Petty (retired PE teacher) were honored with the 'Education is Key' award from the Regional Office of Education.

TCHS junior Alex Kemp tied the school record set by Ryan Bonner with a 10.60 time in the 100-meter dash at the April 7 St. Thomas Moore Invitational.

This year's Tuscola soccer team included Darren Timlin, Blake Stokes, John Evans, Bjorn Oberg, Pelle Oberg, Alex Kemp, Luke Knowles, Eric Kennedy, Philip Spillman, Sam Birechenough, Cameron Baer, Nicholas Kemp, Dylan Taylor, Kristen Oberg, Mark Timlin, Austin Shelby, Jackson McCrory, Chas Campbell, Erin Weaver, Felicia Tucker, Madeline Birchenough, and Leslie Borries.

Twenty years ago April 10, 2001

In Tuscola's contested Ward 1 alderman race, Tom Keagle defeated incumbent Phyllis Truitt by a vote count of 112 to 81. All other council seats were uncontested, as were the offices of incumbent Mayor Dan Kleiss and city clerk Beth Leamon. Township officials also faced no opposition.

Mary Jo Ryan and Dwight Dunn, both of Tuscola, announced their engagement and approaching marriage. The couple was planning an August 4 wedding at Forty Martyrs Catholic Church.

New Chamber members welcomed to the board of directors recently included Pam Maxey, Dr. Bill Hemmer, Chip Haake and Heather Kuykendall. Newly installed officers included Bruce Hall as president, Scott Kibler as vice president, Pat Titus as secretary, and Brian Moody as treasurer.

All four East Prairie Illinois History projects entered in regional competition at EIU received superior (first place) ratings, qualifying them for state. Those students were Dusty Hawkins, Erin Hagler, Ashley Hudson, Carrie Culkin, Neil Pearse, Ryan Brandenburg, and Luke Hanke.

The Tuscola track teams made it five team victories in a row April 3 when they traveled to Georgetown to compete in the G-RF Mixed Relays, which had eight schools participating. The TCHS boys and girls teams combined to pile up 140 points, compared to 96 points for the second-place host team.

Elliot Harriss and Andrea Laley let it be known Ervin Park was a "no hits" zone. The Tuscola High School pitching pair each threw no-hitters at the park in ball games held Monday afternoon. It was the first time in school history two no-hitters were thrown on the same day.

Thirty years ago April 9, 1991

Michelle Swihart was crowned the 1991 Miss Tuscola, and Jennifer Watters was named first runner-up was Mindee Hastings, and Jenny Stuerke was voted Miss Congeniality.

Laverne Allen of Tuscola had an unexpected guest re-

cently, when a deer somehow became lost within city limits and, in its confusion, jumped through a window at her residence.

Becky Wetzel, daughter of Steve and Bev Wetzel, recently competed in the Illinois 1991 Junior Olympics swimming championships at the College of DuPage in Glen Ellyn. Wetzel qualified in both the 50-yard butterfly and freestyle.

The Tuscola Warriors baseball team started the season last week by splitting a pair of non-conference contests with Newman and St. Joseph-Ogden. TCHS traveled to Newman and pasted the Redskins 10-1, then dropped a heartbreaker to the visiting Spartans the following day, 9-8.

Forty years ago April 14, 1981

Ex-hostage Sgt. Paul Lewis was at Tuscola High School recently to give a talk on what it was like being a prisoner-of-war in Iran. He also made a stop at North Ward Elementary School, to visit with Kyle Beachy who rang a "freedom bell" daily at Tuscola United Methodist Church.

Clarence Snyder won the race for mayor of Tuscola, defeating incumbent alderman Jim Wood and Ray Carlson in the April 7 election. The council table would also include newcomers Dr. Robert Beasley in Ward 1, William Henderson in Ward 2, Boyd Henderson in Ward 4. Lincoln and Boyd Henderson won write-in candidates when no one filed for vacant seats in those wards.

Twelve lovely ladies were vying for the title of Miss Tuscola, including Connie Young, Amy Rentsch, Patty Laley, Chris Weatherford, Theresa Mattix, Denise Coon, Barb Hack, Shelly Carter, Jana Carie, Kendra

Simpson, and Tina Cleland.

Among the many pleasant surprises in TCHS' early-season track success were the performances of senior Dave Cavenaile. In his first season in track, Cavenaile had thus far won every 3,200-meter and 1,600-meter race he ran.

Fifty years ago April 8, 1971

Ralph "Red" Proffit was accorded Tuscolian of the Year status for his assistance in the Miss America promotion that brought national attention to Tuscola during its annual car show, and for other civic activities.

The famous Rich East Concert Choir of Park Forest, nicknamed the "Singing Rockets" would be performing at Tuscola High School April 25, under the direction of Jay Hoel, a native of Tuscola.

Democrat candidates swept to victory in Tuscola Township as incumbent Frank Stenger defeated Republican Lloyd Rahn for supervisor, and Democrat Alfred Kleiss eased by Republican Paul Vickroy for highway commissioner. Democratic candidates in every precinct lead their opponents to set a new precedence for the township.

Members of the All-America Red Heads basketball team were in town--and favored to win-- in their scheduled charity basketball game against local Jaycees being played at Tuscola High School.

The TCHS track team placed third in the 12-team Charleston Trojan Invitational, with only Rantoul and Matton doing better. Mark Owen won the discus with a 148-3 1/2 toss, Gary Foltz took the shot put with a 48-6 1/2 heave, and Rick Izquierdo won the frosh-soph 100-yard dash with a 10.4 clocking.



HumankindNESS

Fail to Succeed

By: Jennifer Richardson

We hear conversations around us that ask us to make things in life softer and easier to handle. And there is merit to taking the time to be kind when it is possible to do so. There are many occasions in life in which we would be better served to consider our word choice, and the effect on those around us.

But should we completely change the meaning of words to simply protect feelings?

I was engaged in a conversation with a friend recently, and the topic was failure. He was genuinely concerned about how someone else would feel if he used the word failure in reference to their efforts.

I made a suggestion. Rather than reducing the definition of failure—perhaps we should emphasize that failure offers new beginning every time we experience it.

But, he wondered, wouldn't using the word failure make the person feel badly; like they failed?

We could remove the concept of failure; this would certainly align with the steady shift in reasoning that we are feeling as a culture. We are engaged in a full-scale removal of personal accountability. It is happening gradually, but it is happening.

Think about it, when was the last time you heard someone actually own their own error? We all continue to make mistakes, but blame is becoming more thrown than held.

One of the ways we avoid acknowledging a failure is to change the terms. When you change the terms for an unchanged process, this is called marketing. Marketing makes us feel better about things that are negative or things that are not actually different. Marketing can take the sting out of things we might be better off feeling the pain for.

For example, -the rules don't apply to me- becomes "disenfranchised," and -failure- becomes "unfinished."

This is the wrong direction to travel. We need a firm understanding of cause and effect, the ability to accept responsibility for our choices, and preparation for a world that will not soothe every mistake. Why? If we water down all possibility of feeling any negative effects from failure-- then we can't genuinely understand accomplishment.

I was a teacher who practiced intentional kindness in my classroom, and I had no desire to make things more painful than they had to be.

But I also believed in teaching the whole child and getting them ready for the future when they would need to understand failure, both academic and personal. And they would need to be able to pick themselves up and begin again and do better.

There will always be struggle. As much as we work toward creating a path to success for all, failure will happen—it is generally part of the learning curve of life. Accurately defining terms and teaching "norms" sets people up for success someday-- should they decide to reach toward it.

We all need a foundation of right and wrong, good choice or bad choice, and success and failure. Long after my students had forgotten the day's lesson-- they still need a frame of reference to define a productive, successful life. And what is triumph if the spectrum of achievement has no opposite end? If I take away the definition of failure, I take away a piece of what it means to be successful.

Learning from disappointment demonstrates what a successful life can be, and the collection of behaviors that will give us the best chance at our best life. And yes, that includes a clear understanding of failure.

The best people you know have failed, and that is part of why they have succeeded.



April 7-13

Are you still celebrating dark skies? Hopefully the weather forecasters will allow us to see the sky. New Moon (when the sky is darkest in the absence of Moonlight) is this coming Sunday so you have no excuses! You won't see the Moon in the sky until the middle of next week. Even a show drive out of town will reveal a number of "extra" stars in the sky. You may not see the Milky Way, though, as, in spring, the Milky Way rings the horizon and any lights or atmospheric haze will render it invisible. If you're interested in the Mars rover, the CU Astronomical Society meets virtually on Zoom at 7 p.m. tomorrow night and we welcome Stephen Licata, a scientist at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena. Monday brings us several anniversaries. It will have been sixty years since Yuri Gagarin's first trip into space and also forty years since the launch of the Space Shuttle Columbia. My how time flies, eh?

Holding It All Together

Be Kind, Seriously

by Amy McCollom



Several years ago I started seeing all of these t-shirts, posters, words painted on windows; Be Kind. Schools put up Be Kind bulletin boards, had Be Kind weeks, and more and more Bee Kind play on words evolved for the fun of it.

I get it. Bullying at schools had gotten way out of hand and kids were killing themselves right and left, so something had to be done. I agree that something drastic had to be done. Kids can be real jerks to other kids. Almost every-day when I drop my twins off at school, I see a young boy kicking the crap out of

the shins of other students standing near him. He's laughing and having a good ole time, but the kids getting kicked in the shins I'm sure aren't enjoying the bruises they are getting.

One of these mornings, if I'm having a rough day, I may have to stop the car and give that kid a piece of my mind. But then I will probably need bail money, so there's that. I was bullied when I was a kid, so I hate seeing kids doing it to someone else. Teachers and school staff, please keep an eye on what goes on out front of the school before the bell rings. Catch that

little booger and put a stop to it. I really don't want to go to jail for doing the right thing.

Be Kind. It's good in theory. Teach kids to have compassion, raise their emotional IQ, make being kind fun, give awards for being good like a Pavlovian response to a bell, per se. Send them home and hope they don't taunt someone to "death" on social media.

If only all adults could be taught kindness and the benefits of it too, maybe this world would be a better place. Oh wait, that is what churches are for, and last I heard, church going is at an

all-time low. Still, Be Kind. And bring your family back to church.

Did you laugh at or repost a Bernie Sanders mitten meme? How would you feel if you were Bernie Sanders mom and the world was making fun of him? I wonder how Bernie feels about the world taunting him; an old man sitting on a cold folding chair, just trying to stay comfortable and warm at a long social event, and someone snaps a picture without his permission and makes a mockery out of it. People can be jerks. You have a choice not to be one. Be Kind.

No matter what you say, your kids will watch you, and they will use your actions as an example. Actions speak louder than words, remember? People you know are watching too.

What jokes do you laugh at? Do you gossip? Do you pull practical jokes on people? Do you use foul language? Are you nice to your dog? Do you mumble disparaging remarks after hanging up the phone? Do you call other drivers on the road idiots? Are you kind in all of your ways? Be Kind.

Did you see the President of the United States trip on the steps going up to Air Force One? It became a joke on T.V. and social media. What if he was your elderly father? Would it have been funny then? Whether we voted for the man or not, the fact is, he is in an office that is to be respected, and we are in no way supposed to ever disrespect anyone in that position. He is also another human being, someone's child, brother, father, husband, grandpa. Show re-

spect. Be Kind.

All the things that the media (or whatever force is behind it) tries to use to separate this United States; whether it be race, gender, social-economical status, politics, strife of all sorts, can all be conquered with the simple act of being kind. Truly being kind. Holding your peace, showing mercy, honoring each other, showing respect to one another, self-control, and having a forgiving heart. Be Kind. It's the answer, if we all will do it.

"Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you." Ephesians 4:31-32.