

my Personal side

By Craig Hastings



As tensions rise all over the world I think the superpowers are beginning to pick their teams. What the ultimate plan might be only a handful of people know. I'm sure there's much going on behind the curtain that the remainder of the 99.9% of the world population will never know. I hope all of you are following world events in the news as they are unfolding. Or maybe you're better off if you're not, I don't know. Unfortunately for me I can't stand not being channel surfing the news trying to decipher what's the truth and what's fake news. It appears the team captains are our President Biden and Russian President Putin. I'm not trying to make light of what's going on but clearly sides are being chosen. As of right now, today, Russia has the better team.

Evidently Biden won the coin toss and chose Ukraine as his first pick. Our country is divided as to whether this was in our best interest. A year ago I was leaning with the President on this one. I didn't want to see Russia march into Ukraine and take over the country just trying to find their place in the world order. After all, they hadn't caused anyone any problems. But today I have another opinion. As a matter of fact, as we're finding out now it appears they may have assisted the Biden family become wealthy. That story is unfolding quickly now. Putin and his Russian assault haven't taken much of Ukraine in a year and a half of fighting but, Putin is winning this war. He's managed to cash strap the United States to the tune of \$100 billion of U.S. citizens' taxpayer money assisting the Ukrainians fight this war they can't win. Just yet another war we've gotten ourselves into by only putting our finger into the icing instead of eating the whole cake. Once again we're handcuffed with borders and limited firepower usage because our President wants to appear somewhat neutral.

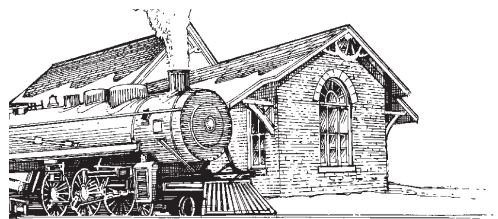
Anyway, Putin wasted no time going out and recruiting China to his team. China has agreed to supply the Russian army with sophisticated weaponry and step up the amount of Russian oil they purchase. The second and third most powerful nuclear powers have banded together. Add to this, between the two countries they outgun the United States in both air power and naval ship numbers. So, we have Ukraine that adds nothing to the game and Russia has China that is a superpower in their own rights. Two weeks ago Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping traveled to Iran and signed them to their team. Immediately after we learn that Iran is just weeks away from

developing their first nuclear weapon. Iran, in a show of good faith, sent Putin home with a number of sophisticated drones to use in his war with Ukraine that have already begun to show their destructive ability on the civilian population in Ukraine.

So what is Biden's next best strategic move to recruit for team Biden? He traveled to Canada for a bonding session with the most juvenile world leader to date! Justin Trudeau! Like Canada has any choice. Trudeau should have been kissing up to Biden a year ago when China started sending spy apparatus over the skies of Canada and the United States. So what does Canada have to add militarily to team Biden? Not much of anything by comparison but a bunch of land mass for the U.S. to help defend. Instead of traveling to Israel, a real power in the Middle East, and getting them on board and brought up to speed, Biden went to Canada. Why not Japan? It's well known that China has every intention of invading Taiwan which will indeed drag Japan into the fray. Why isn't the Biden Administration traveling to these countries on a regular schedule and preparing for the worst? I would include Germany but I'm not so sure Germany can be trusted right now to honestly choose sides.

Without any discussion, the United States should have started shoring up the military defenses of Taiwan. This should have started a year ago. It's inevitable that China will move on Taiwan. President Xi has said as much publicly. The United States can not fund a full scale war in Ukraine against Russia and another full scale war in Taiwan against China. Our own country is suffering the consequences of the Ukrainian war every day. Now not only is our southern border being overrun with illegal immigrants but we learned two weeks ago the same thing has begun on our northern border with Canada. Just how much more can The United States endure before we finally have a leadership change? I don't want to sound like an alarmist but, there's simply too much happening around us and nothing being done to correct any of it. Will the day come that all Americans realize how lucky we are that the Founding Fathers included the second amendment to the constitution? "A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed" I pray not but now I wonder.

(The views and opinions expressed in the submitted columns are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the position of The Journal.)



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10 Years ago April 3, 2013

Inspiration for his songwriting comes often and unexpectedly for Tuscola resident Mark Maxey, so he keeps paper and pencil handy in a number of nooks and crannies around the ENsey Street home he shares with his wife, Pam, and their dog Spunky.

Maxey's muse is almost always faith-centered, and in a matter of months, the fruits of his labors of love will be on a more public stage, with an anticipated July release of his first CD entitled "Damascus Road Experience."

With her grandmother's 94th birthday approaching, Katelyn Carter wanted March 26, 2013 to be a special day for Lillian Kanitz of Tuscola, but living in Indianapolis, Carter was at a loss for what she could do from afar. "My grandmother has lived most of her adult life in Tuscola, and I just wanted her day to be a special one, but wasn't sure how to go about it," said Carter. She called City Hall to see if something could be done and talked to Angie Gordon, who in turn called Lara Arwine of ARTCo for ideas. Arwine then called Kim Higgins, music director at Forty Martyrs Catholic Church and often involved in the musical aspects of ARTCo productions. Higgins took it upon herself to pick up some cheery balloons and a card, then traipsed over to Kanitz's Ohio Street home to surprise her with a birthday serenade.

Tuscola High School's softball team took advantage of a nice day and a lot of hard work from Ervin Park crew Ryan Tabelaing and Bruce Nofftz, sweeping a round robin in this past Saturday, March 30.

20 years ago April 1, 2003

Spencer Hall, daughter of Bruce and Jessica Hall, was crowned the 2003 Miss Tuscola. Amber VonLanken was named first runner-up, Lesley Hettinger second runner-up, and Micki Lucero was voted Miss Congeniality.

A ribbon cutting ceremony heralded the official opening of Tuscolan Steak & Pasta, at the former site of Liga's.

An ambitious downtown streetscape project was set to begin in late spring, with targeted completion date of mid-summer. City officials planned to make sure that one side of Main and Sale streets was open at all times during the construction.

The Tuscola Rotary Club's annual benefit auction raised a record \$11,555 this year.

The Hillard Agency of Tuscola and Villa Grove was proud to announce the addition of John Schweighart as an insurance agent in the Tuscola office.

Tuscola Warriors got their first win of the 2003 baseball season with a 2-1 win over Salt Fork, which included some masterful pitching by senior Duffy Cleland.

Tuscola Lady Warriors beat Unity's softball team for the first time in program history in a 5-4 thriller, behind the arm of Amanda Hance.

Ryan Bonner dashed to the championships of the 55-meter (6.51) and 200-meter (22.6) races at the Illinois Prep Top Times Meet in Champaign.

30 years ago March 30, 1993

Northern Illinois Water Co. in Champaign reached a verbal agreement with officials from the Ill. Dept. of Ag and Ill. Commerce Commission over the issue of a deeper trench (60

inches as opposed to 42 inches) being required for the proposed pipeline to Tuscola and Arcola. IDOA and ICC agreed to let Northern go ahead with the project with the 42-inch cover.

Tuscola Township incumbents Steve Hilgendorf, Mike Meyer, Bill Burress, Burt Wiesener, Ann Randell, and Amos Albritton were seeking reelection, and also on the ballot were two newcomers—Barb Alexander running for township clerk and Dave Lecher for trustee.

The "McDonald's bandit" was apprehended in Springfield, after he confessed to a series of robberies in area McDonald's, including Tuscola. Other robbery locations included Lincoln, Decatur, Forsyth, Champaign, and Springfield.

The office building where longtime Tuscola resident Raymond Lee has held his law practice acquired a new attorney. Doug Aldeen recently moved his practice from Urbana to Lee's building in Tuscola.

40 years ago April 5, 1983

Chuck Holmes assumed the duties of president of the Tuscola Chamber of Commerce at the annual dinner meeting held recently at the Tuscola Community Building. Serving with Holmes would be Julie Hoetker as vice president, Joyce Moorhead as secretary, and Jack Wetzel as treasurer.

There were six candidates in the running for four city council seats in the upcoming election. In Ward 1, Mary Meyer and Gene Wigall were running; Ward 2 candidates were Gale Hoel and Ray Carlson; Ward 3 had Dr. Robert Smith; and Ward 4 candidate was Frank Lincoln.

Ronda Zahm, a Tuscola High School student, was named a 1983 U.S. Achievement Acad-

emy National Award winner in home economics.

Douglas County farmers recently got an introduction to the till-plant system of reduced tillage for row crop production when Douglas County Soil & Water Conservation District hosted a seminar on the subject on the rural Tuscola farm of Jerry Baird. About 115 people attended.

50 years ago March 29, 1973

Bill McCarty and Dick Parker, on behalf of TCDC, announced recently that TCDC and Mrs. Nettle Sturgell purchased land for the extension of Washington Street through the Cargill property to Mrs. Sturgell's land. The Sturgell property could not be used for industrial development.

The art of candymaking, as practiced at The Kandy Kitchen, was going to be included in an upcoming WCIA documentary. The art of chocolate dipping, candy making, and other confectionary skills had been filmed on site.

On the ballot for Tuscola Township were this slate of candidates: Ralph Allen, Roy Hopkins, Orville Frye and Montelle Hackett for auditor; John Morris for assessor; and Robert Hastings for clerk.

Tuscola won but three events in the sixth annual EIU indoor track and field meet, but gained enough points to successfully defend its 1972 crown against a field of 34 Class B schools. Gary French posted a 52.7 clocking in the quarter-mile to take first; Rob Meyer won the 60-yard dash with a 6.5 time; and the mile relay team of Rob Meyer, Randy Todd, Steve Mick, and Gary French broke the tape in 3:39.2.

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