

my Personal side

By Craig Hastings



As expected, President Donald Trump was indicted by Manhattan DA, Alvin Bragg. Bragg charged Trump with 34 felony charges built from one simple misdemeanor charge of allegedly paying hush money to porn star Stormy Daniels. (Her real name is Stephanie Gregory Clifford if it matters) Clifford alleges that she met Trump in 2006 at a golf tournament in Lake Tahoe. One comment led to another and she claims she and Trump later that same evening engaged in a sexual encounter. Trump denies the allegation which means we will never know for sure what happened. In the big scheme of things, who cares? I certainly don't need the details of anyone's sexual history, especially one sixteen years ago. Furthermore, what the man does in his personal life is of no concern to me as an American citizen who is more concerned about voting someone into office that can not only make the majority of Americans lives better but also my own family's lives. Was there a time in my life when a presidential candidate's morality was a concern to me as a voter? It most certainly was. Times have changed. The world has changed.

The world is at war again. America's economic fate is in jeopardy. China and Russia have recently teamed up and pledged to replace the American dollar as the world standard with China's own yuan. Russia has already stepped up and is recognizing the yuan as the most traded currency in their country. North Korea, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and India may soon follow suit. Where is the Biden administration and what plan might they have to deter such a move? To date I haven't read or heard of another single country pledging to back the American dollar as their choice as the global standard of currency. Maybe they believe that such a bold move by the Chinese isn't even possible? I'm afraid, as with so many other blunders by the Biden administration, there isn't a plan to stop or deter China from moving forward with their plan to become the world's most powerful economic force. Only when it's too late will Biden's circus monkeys gather together in some dark corner in The White House and discuss what to do. The first thing they will do is come up with some fairy tale placing the blame on the Trump administration. I.e., China spy balloon, our crashing economy, Afghanistan evacuation debacle, gas prices, Iran's nuclear weapon advancements, etc.

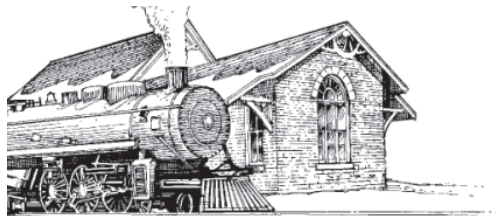
Back to the Trump indictments. D.A. Bragg, according to some of the greatest constitutional minds in the country, has taken a misdemeanor event that long ago expired under the statute of limitations and frankensteined the one event into 32 separate felony charges. So why would Bragg do such a thing? He's a New York native who has aspirations to be the governor one day. Charging Donald Trump as promised in his campaign to win the District Attorney's election last year in the Manhattan district is his best way to rally the Democrats in New York. Win or lose the Trump case, New York Democrats won't care. As long as Bragg causes

Trump grief is all they care about. These charges give them a glimpse of hope that one day Donald Trump will be cuffed and taken to jail. The hate they have for Trump and how Trump had completely set Washington DC on it's head in 2016 is the only thing important to them now. You see, unlike you and me these people have no financial worries now and never will. They have no fear of ever being arrested for anything they do. Sure, Trump managed to call many of these people out and some were caught red handed wrongdoing but even so, none have spent a day in jail. Oh no, only Republicans have been charged and spent any time in jail. Most were released after the evidence later proved their innocence but not before 3:00 a.m. FBI raids on their homes.

So why Trump and why now? Please don't assume it's because the Democrats in DC want to keep him out of the 2024 presidential race. No, I think there may be another angle to this. I think the Democrats want Trump to be the candidate that runs against Joe Biden in 2024. They figure if Biden did it once he can beat Trump again. Of course ol' Joe won't even know he's running for anything but for the next ice cream cone. Who Democrats fear most is Ron Desantis. They know, as do I, there isn't a Democrat today that could beat Desantis if the election was next week. The Republican nominee will be Trump or Desantis. Democrats have decided Trump is their best bet to beat in 2024. The plan is to rally the Republican base around Trump in the primary, and knock him out of the race with as many criminal indictments as they can after the primary. If I was in their camp, I'd be planning the same.

We are a year and a half out right now so there are many news cycles between now and then so anything could happen. The left wing press will continue to beat up on Trump for now. If it wasn't for Trump news they wouldn't have any news at all. All of their ratings continue to plummet into the toilet without Trump news. There are two things America needs desperately from their next President. One; we need a President that has a proven good business sense to turn the economic state of America back on it's head. Two; we need a President that wants to keep us out of wars around the world and at the same time build our military back to a military that the world fears. Sure, America is suffering in so many more areas right now but, how can the lesser problems ever be fixed if we don't at least stabilize the biggest problems. Pay attention Americans. China is preparing a big move on the world stage and America needs to be getting ready to counter that big move. Unfortunately, with a President that's more concerned about ice cream cone flavors, successfully climbing the stairs on Air Force One, and shaking hands with invisible people on stage, I fear for us all, especially our children.

(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 17, 2013

State and local officials have been working feverishly on legislation that would give the Tuscola site a high-impact business zoning, kicking in a number of tax credits favorable to the Cronus company, and on Wednesday, April 10, and Thursday, April 11, there was some promising momentum that was realized in Springfield.

Tuscola resident Yale Westjohn had just finished the 2013 Boston Marathon on Monday afternoon, April 15, completing the iconic 26.2-mile race in 3:15:12, beating his Illinois Marathon time.

Shortly after that, reports began circulating in the media that two explosions had occurred just before 3 p.m. EST in the vicinity of the marathon's finish line. Westjohn was unhurt by explosions.

For an April 9, 2013, consolidated election ballot that included, among other things, a countywide sales tax proposition and referendum for the annexation of Atwood-Hammond to Arthur-Lovington School district, there was 35.62 percent Douglas County voter turnout.

Coach Ryan Hornaday's Warriors are battling both inclement weather and the nagging injury bug as they prepare for the 2013 Tuscola Open on April 19. Each year Hornaday circles the Tuscola Open on the calendar, as his program has always placed major emphasis on winning that meet.

20 years ago April 15, 2003

Tom Stephenson presided over his last meeting as Tuscola School Board president April 7, passing the gavel to Steve Wetzel for the coming year.

A resurrection of the storied Kandy Kitchen was one step closer to fruition following approval of a TIF request. The city agreed to purchase the building upfront from Jerry Reynolds, and the Flesors would use their own funding to renovate the structure.

The wellness triangle theory was at the heart of a new wellness program Tuscola chiropractor Dr. Bill Hemmer was set to launch. Real Life Wellness would address the structural, chemical, psychological, and spiritual aspects of a person's well-being.

TCHS senior prom king and queen candidates included Brittany Alexander, Megan Quick, Blair Wilson, Erica Wakefield, Monica Woodworth, Sean Lamkin, Ryan Bonner, Steve Fox, Austin Hogue, and Danny MacGibbon.

Nick Kidwell went the distance in a seven-inning affair at Bethany, collecting the win for Tuscola by giving up just three runs on five hits and two walks while fanning 12 to keep the Warriors tied atop the LOVC with Arthur-Lovington and Villa Grove.

Freshmen Johanna Wienke and Molly Lehmann were the only individual winners in a four-team track meet at St. Joe. Wienke took first in shot (36-2) and discus (126 1/2) while Lehmann claimed the 200 in 28.79.

30 years ago April 13, 1993

Tuscola City Council rejected signing a proposal to pay over \$92,000 to four engineering firms for preliminary drainage and road design plans for the outlet factory mall. Councilmen made it clear they wanted itemized legal contracts, not vague proposals.

Larry Stenger, vice president of First Mid-Illinois Bank & Trust of Tuscola, was promoted to president of the Sullivan FMIB facility.

Kim Harris, daughter of Steve and Debbie Harris, was selected to attend Illini Girls State on the campus of EIU in June. Chosen as alternate was Nichole Utterback, daughter of Bob and Barb Utterback.

Senior shortstop Toby Ring and junior pitcher Caleb Englehardt were major contributors in the Warriors' 4-2 victory over host Niantic-Harristown, which improved Tuscola's record to 2-1.

40 years ago April 19, 1983

Newly inducted TCHS National Honor Society members included seniors Duff Hoel, John Kleiss, Colleen Hartman, Melanie Myers, Dana Stenger, Kim Griffith, and Karen Melanson; and juniors Allen Weaver, Jim Clark, Robert Davis, David Kimball, Glenn Hoetker, Toni Travis, Jada Johnson, Mary Stutzer, Paula Hancock, and Teresa Brown.

Douglas County farmers were concerned with the spread of pseudorabies among local livestock. There were four

suspected swine cases locally.

The granddaughter of Tuscola resident Marge Thompson, Vanessa Romine, recently won the title of Miss Illinois. Romine was also named Miss Photogenic.

Tuscola businessman Ed Norfleet was among three sports officials inducted into the Officials Association Hall of Fame on April 15.

50 years ago April 12, 1973

Susie Baird, the 17-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Baird, was crowned Miss Tuscola before a packed audience at the Tuscola Community Building. Cindy Morrow was first runner-up, and Sylvia Welborn was second runner-up.

Brenda Breen, the 20-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Breen of Tuscola, was crowned Miss Champaign AMVET Saturday night, and would be competing in the Miss Illinois AMVET contest to be held in Champaign later in the year.

Tuscola's newest business—Marilyn's Coiffures—opened for business atop the FNB building. Owner/operator was Marilyn Marshall decorated the two-room suite with blue shag carpeting and sculptured avocado, green, and blue carpeting.

Both the Tuscola varsity and frosh-sophs won in a dual meet with St. Joe-Ogden Tuesday in the first home appearance this track-and-field season. Varsity won 12 of 17 events, and the younger squad claimed 12 of 14 events.

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