

my Personal side

By Craig Hastings



Before I get into this story tonight let me make it clear that my politics haven't changed. I lean to the right and my politics are conservative. Not that I haven't voted for a Democrat a time or two in my lifetime but, since Ronald Regan I've been loyal to the Republican values and beliefs. Today, I have no idea how the 2024 Republican primary election for president is going to shake out. If you believe any of the polls out there, most of them have Trump with 60% to Desantis' 20% voter majority among Republicans. I think it's way too early to put much stock in any poll. I'm worried because I think the Democrats have a strategy that may very well work for them if they can find a way to get Joe Biden out of the way other than agreeing to have him impeached.

They have Trump tied up in so many legal battles both criminal and civil that I'm not sure even he can survive the onslaught. The latest rumor is that he may be charged criminally for his alleged role in the January 6, 2020 mayhem at the Capitol. One of those charges would not allow Trump to bond immediately meaning he would be incarcerated for who knows how long. The timing of these charges will for sure be strategically announced at a time that will do the most damage to his campaign efforts. But there's a catch to this plan. The Democrats first want to make sure they can tear Ron Desantis down enough that he is no threat to them either. I believe the Democrats fear Ron Desantis. I think they believe Desantis beats Joe Biden in the general election or anyone else the Democrats might put forth in their own primary election. Democrats want a head to head with Donald Trump again in the 2024 race but they have to be careful to make sure they aren't the reason Trump drops out before the primary races. They need Trump to eliminate Desantis in the Republican primary to insure their Trump/Biden rematch.

So why beat up on Desantis already? The media hype attacking Desantis is for Republican voters. Democrats want Republican voters to stay the course with Trump through the primary. After the primary is over and Trump wins, the Department of Justice will bombard Trump with additional criminal prosecutions. I believe Trump will be charged for election interference in Georgia and also in Washington DC for his alleged role in the January 6 chaos at the Capitol. The plan is that these prosecutions will keep Trump tied up in and out of court. It will also keep the biased news media talking about just Trump's criminal problems and nothing about his bid for the White House. Should this plan come to fruition it just might work. There could be enough Republicans and independents vote Democrat or not vote at all that allow Biden to win a second term. I think it's realistic to believe that the 2024 election will put a Democrat back in the White House. That scares the hell out of me.

needs their own game plan to block the Biden/Harris craziness from happening again. This country won't survive another four years of these bumbling idiots fronting for whoever is really calling the shots in the Democratic presidency. Almost 70% of Americans do not think Biden should run again. A percentage that high means Democrats have weighed in negatively also. However, those same Democrats will vote for him again if it's a choice between Biden and Trump. And if somehow Desantis should win the Republican primary, would the Trump voters vote for Desantis in the general election without Trump asking them too? Would Trump back Desantis? So now what? If not Desantis loses.

Okay I'm going out on a limb here. I've listened intently to three interviews and read as much as I can find about Robert F. Kennedy Jr. I like what he has to say. He's definitely not a Joe Biden follower. He has his own ideas on how to get our top government agencies back to bipartisan organizations. It starts with removing all of those at the top immediately and promoting from within. I like that. The FBI, CIA, and DOJ all have failed the American people. It's not because of those people really doing the jobs they were hired to do but, it's the people at the top of these agencies that have run afoul. They have weaponized their departments to work against Republicans. So much has come out in the news over the past three months that even the biased news media are beginning to report on the alleged illegal activity these departments have been engaged in. Whistleblowers from all three agencies have come forward to tell what they know. They are airing all of the corruptness that has been going on over the years. Kennedy believes now and from the beginning the COVID debacle was a falsehood promoted by unsubstantiated science and outright lies. I agree. He believes China is our number one threat in the world and that our trade agreements with China need to be broken or modified substantially. I agree. Kennedy believes the federal government had no legal authority to close down businesses, schools, and social gatherings during the alleged pandemic. I agree. Finally, when Kennedy was asked if he would serve as a department head in a Republican administration if asked, he said depending on the agency that he would. He would because he wants the politics out and what's best for Americans in. I'm of the opinion that if we can't elect a Republican back in the White House, Republicans need to find a way to put Kennedy in. The election is seventeen months away so I will reserve my right to change my position as more information comes out about all of the candidates.

(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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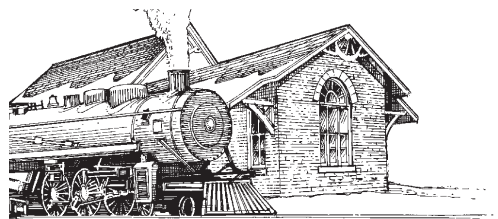
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DO YOU RECOGNIZE this week's Back in the Day photo? If so, drop us a note at The Journal. Your efforts will be rewarded.

10 years ago June 5, 2013

In the absence of Mayor Dan Kleiss and city Administrator Drew Hoel, Councilman Boyd Henderson was appointed mayor pro tem by the other seven council members in attendance at the May 28 city council meeting. TEDI director Brian Moody briefed council members on a tentative plan for using the vacated First National Bank building (formerly Midwest Galleries) located at 100 North Main Street.

Twenty-five years ago, the Ford F-150 was a new Ford dealer owner Tim Mooney's best-selling vehicle. Fast forward a quarter century and that same make and model still tops the selling list, though with a higher price tag (\$25,000 vs \$40,000) an far more complex computer technology on board. Some things change, some things stay the same, that's true of most aspects of life, and certainly is the case for the Mooney Ford from 1988 to 2013, as the business marks its 25th anniversary.

Community members who have been kicking around the possibility of having a school-sanctioned co-ed soccer team did not score a goal when it came down to a vote by school board members at the May 27 meeting.

20 years ago June 3, 2003

The TCHS Class of 2003 formally made its way into

the alumni category following commencement exercises May 30, with 62 graduates taking part in the ceremony. Valedictory speeches were given by Justin Bozarth, Marissa McCumber, and Bonnie Obrecht.

The Tuscola softball team ended its record-breaking season on a sour note, falling in six innings by the 10-run rule to perennial powerhouse Casey-Westfield in the regional championship game. The Warrior baseball team went down swinging in first-round sectional action, losing 2-1 to a strong Potomac squad in a seven-inning thriller.

Individual hardware winners at the TCHS spring sports awards night included the following. Softball: Kristen Ochs, Most Improved; Marissa McCumber, Most RBI, co-MVP; Amanda Hance, co-MVP; Jessica Laley, Highest Batting Average. Baseball: Craig Roberts, Most Improved; Andy Pollock, Most RBI, co-MVP, Highest Batting Average; Nick Kidwell, co-MVP. Girls Track: Whitney McGillen, co-track MVP; Johanna Wienke, field MVP; Anne Mecum, co-track MVP. Boys Track: Ryan Bonner, co-MVP, 4-Year Track Award; Austin Hogue, co-MVP, 4-Year Field Award.

The day after graduating from TCHS, Austin Hogue traveled to Charleston for the IHSA track meet finals, where he earned second place in the discus and third place in the shot.

30 years ago June 1, 1993

Tuscola shot putter Jeff Hettinger claimed Tuscola's first state track championship since 1933 when his throw of 58-1.25 eclipsed the Class A field. Hettinger finished the season unbeaten.

Individual award winners at the TCHS spring sports banquet included the following. Boys Track: Jeff Hettinger, 4-Year Field Award, co-MVP; Matt Daniel, 4-Year Track Award, co-MVP. Girls Track: Patty McDaniel, Kim VonLanken, Holly Sluder, Tracy Baird, co-MVP; Patty McDaniel, Most Promising Underclassman. Baseball: Caleb Englehardt, co-MVP, co-Most RBI; Matthew Wingstrom, Freshman Award; Jim Bowen, Highest Batting Average; Toby Ring, co-MVP; Aaron Hastings, co-Most RBI.

40 years ago June 7, 1983

The official grand opening of the Edward D. Jones office in Tuscola was held recently, complete with ribbon cutting. The office was being managed by Jim Kleiss and assistant Janis Davis.

Despite cool winds and rain, the Tuscola Public Pool opened May 29 with 77 swimmers in attendance. Family season passes were \$40 for Tuscola residents and \$60 for non-residents. Single season passes were \$20 and \$30.

Tuscola radio station WITTFM would soon be under the

new ownership of Frederick Rogers, a U of I professor and Champaign businessman.

50 years ago May 31, 1973

Tuscola and Douglas County police placed a hold on two Arkansas men charged here with auto theft as the two men were wanted in Texas for armed robbery, attempted murder, aggravated battery, aggravated assault, and felony auto theft.

A Douglas County circuit court jury returned a judgment of \$200,000 against Marathon Oil and in favor of Burleigh Davis at 6 p.m. Saturday. The verdict, presented by jury foreman Harold Townsend, was the highest injury payment ever allowed in Douglas County circuit court.

Senior TCHS honor students invited to the Tuscola Rotary Club luncheon included John Kalmar, Pat Horn, Brent Ochs, Kim Dillon, Ruth Fauke, Larayne Dallas, Barb Meyer, Karen Waite, Janice Kennedy, and Cindy Bateman.

Tuscola claimed four places in field events in the Area Best track meet held at Millikin University last week. Phil Waters was third in the high jump, John Kalmar was second in discus, Dave Trinkle was third and Roger Galloway sixth in the shot put. In track events, Rick Izquierdo placed fifth in the 100-yard dash, the mile relay team earned fourth place, and the 880-relay team placed fifth.

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