

my Personal side

By Craig Hastings



If you read me regularly in this space, you know I was never a fan of being involved in the war between Russia and Ukraine. A year and a half later I haven't changed my mind. I guess my thoughts and opinions are not in line with fellow conservative Republicans in Washington but, I still think I've made a better call on this one than they did then and most of them still do today. I say most because we are seeing some Republicans and very few Democrats now saying publicly enough is enough. Unfortunately, they are only speaking out now because of the \$75 billion dollars the American taxpayers have contributed to this no win scenario war. Seventy-five billion dollars with much more slated to go to Ukraine. Had it not been for the taxpayers finally starting to complain, I doubt many of these suit and tie clones would be saying a word. "Yeah but it's the Russians Craig! They're communists!" And? Would we engage the Chinese right now if they invade Taiwan? Would we engage North Korea right now if they engage South Korea? Both are also communist countries. Well technically all three are more socialist than communist. It's debatable whether there is or ever has been a true communist state. Anyway, if you enjoy owning your own stuff, saying what's on your mind, and believe in a balanced legal justice system, don't move to any of the three.

Back to my questions to you. I believe the answer is, we would try. The truth is we are not financially or physically capable to fight and support four wars in these particular four countries all at once. Seventy-five billion dollars in eighteen months invested in Ukraine's war efforts and the result is still a stalemate. If nothing else, this war in Ukraine is proof positive we can't spend our way to victory. Not in this war or any other war in this world today. Our economy would collapse but these four countries would survive. While we throw money at four war efforts they only spend their money on one. Okay, now is when you throw NATO at me. Do you seriously think our NATO partners are going to go all in on four wars at once. No they won't, they can't. Of course like they are doing currently with the Ukraine debacle, they'll sprinkle crumbs, just enough to appear they are engaged. But it is now and always has been The United States leading the charge financially and militarily. The Biden administration has eighteen months left before American voters get a chance to change the course of a nation on the brink of ruin and war.

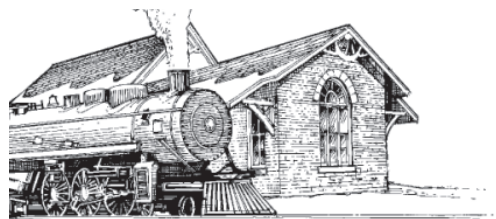
China, Russia, North Korea, and Iran are all coordinating together to ruin America. They aren't trying to hide the fact either. They publicly announce who's visiting who this week, this month, this year, whenever. Three years ago I would say they were poking the bear, (us) and that they better be careful. Today I say they're throwing sand in the sissy's face, (us) no need to worry. So what happens next? If these four world powers are serious, they strike before Biden leaves office. China attacks Taiwan next. NATO will scramble to assist as much as they have in Ukraine further stretching everyone's financial stability. Six to eight months later North Korea invades South Korea. NATO will then be nearly maxed out. Some NATO countries will have already had to bow out and concentrate on saving themselves. So will Iran then attack Israel? I don't think so. I think Israel is strong enough to thwart an

attack from Iran. Instead Iran would concentrate on attacking any and all U.S. military bases in the middle east. A detraction the United States will have to deal with along with everything else going on. We have always been the tough guy on the block when we have just one or two opponents at a time. The world has changed and its separate countries' leaders have changed. Our worst fear is happening. The arrogant, vicious, and ruthless leaders of our enemy nations have figured it out, finally. Unite as one for just one purpose; destroy America. Get America on its heels and the rest of our allies are easily picked off one and two at a time. The goal is a new world order.

The timing is ripe. Americans are divided in not just two factions, but three or four. Americans are full of hate and contempt for one another. Our economy is suffering, the self sustaining energy we enjoyed three years ago is gone. Our FBI, DOJ, IRS, DHS, and White House have been corrupted. Democrats attack Republicans and Republicans attack Democrats for even the most ridiculous theories of misconduct. Our rule of government has come down to just one thing; which party has the most numbers when it's time to count the votes. Not on vigorous debate and exchange of ideas. No, no. None of that matters anymore. Vote along party lines or your party will destroy you.

Finally let me leave you with a thought that eats on me most days when I'm reminded of the war in Ukraine. To date an estimated 130,000 Ukrainians have been killed and tens of thousands more wounded in this war. Hundreds of billions of dollars in property damage has been done in Ukraine. If Russia would pull out today, guess who will be picking up the tab to pay for rebuilding Ukraine? Yes, The United States taxpayers will be footing the bill. How about having done this instead eighteen months ago. Divide Ukraine territory up between Russia and the current government. What territory is left immediately becomes a member of NATO. Russia then knows should they invade the new territory, motherland Russia itself will be attacked. No negotiations, no threats, Russia becomes fair game to whatever NATO throws back at them. Whine and tell me I'm weak and tell me I'm caving into a bullying Vladimir Putin. That's fine. But I just saved 130,000 people's lives whose families wish were still part of their own lives. Everyone still has their home and belongings. Everyone no longer lives in fear every day and every night. Parents haven't lost their children and children haven't lost their parents. Those Ukrainians that wish to not be part of the Russian government can peacefully move to the territory that is now the new Ukraine. Even if The United States taxpayers paid to build new housing for those that wished to move it would have been a bargain compared to what The United States's taxpayers have spent and will continue to spend as this no win war drags on! Okay, that's it, I'm done ranting for tonight. I'm done trying to save the world. It's 12:30 a.m. and I'm going to bed to find something on TV about anything concerning aliens!

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



STIFEL

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10 years ago
Aug. 28, 2013

The Illinois Commerce Commission on Aug. 20, approved Ameren Transmission Company of Illinois (ATXI) request to construct a new \$1 billion transmission line that will run from the Mississippi River near Quincy to the Indiana border near Terre Haute. The route includes paths through properties in Douglas and Piatt counties.

Board members were asked if they had any reaction to the recent pronouncement from the Illinois Commerce Commission regarding the ICC's approval of the route for the Ameren Transmission Company of Illinois (ATXI) proposed high-voltage power line. Board member and affected property owner Bibby Appleby spoke up first, saying that if the line does in fact come through as proposed "it is going to diminish the worth of farmland by at least 30 percent. I'm definitely against it; it's ugly, it's unhealthy, it will be a blight on our pure and pristine countryside. Now you look out over the farms and see corn; in 2019 you will be seeing those ugly things. We're not lying down and taking it, we are going to continue to fight this."

Tuscola City Council approved a redevelopment agreement with At Home Tuscola at the Aug. 26 council meeting. By a vote of 7-1 with Tim Hoey casting the dissenting vote, the council will invest a total of \$660,000 in the project at 117-123 West Sale Street. These are the properties last occupied by the Sav-Mor Pharmacy business.

20 years ago
August 19, 2003

An undisclosed amount of cash was stolen from Fuel Mart in Tuscola during an armed robbery that took place in the early morning hours of Aug. 13. An employee was alone in the store at 3:20 a.m. when the robber, brandishing a handgun, entered the building through the east door.

Tuscola city officials said a 14.61 percent increase by the city's wholesale water supplier would not immediately affect local residents, and a wait-and-see policy would most likely be adopted as to whether the increased cost would be passed along to consumers.

John Hoel recorded the first ace of the Wednesday Night Men's League (and of his golf career) on July 23, when he knocked his tee shot in the hole the par 3 third hole at Ironhorse Golf Course.

Golfers playing at Ironhorse early Saturday afternoon shared the links with legendary former Chicago Bears coach Mike Ditka, who now does color commentary for the team. Ditka was in town for Saturday's pre-season game against Denver, being played at the U of I's Memorial Stadium.

Tim Madden of Tuscola and Mark Faust of Villa Grove battled long and hard during the Douglas County Golf Tournament. It took four extra holes of play before Madden clinched the tourney title. In the ladies tournament, Janece Dicks of Arthur reclaimed the title she also won in 1996.

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.

30 years ago
August 17, 1993

Tuscola National Bank President Lloyd Murphy turned a shovel of dirt to symbolically launch construction of the bank's new head office on Route 36 East. Thursday's groundbreaking ceremonies kicked off what was anticipated to be a yearlong process to construct the 30,000-square-foot facility.

Tuscola's 94-year-old TY tower could soon meet the wrecking ball if Illinois Central Railroad brass had their way. IC officials were concerned with dilapidated condition the of the structure, but were willing to sell it to the city for \$1, provided officials would agree to move the structure from its current location.

Tuscola Area Improvement Association confirmed last week it had contacted state officials concerning criteria for the proposed \$60 million "supermax" prison recently authorized by Gov. Jim Edgar.

Wayne Meyer and Jerry and John Baird hosted the Korea Feed Grain Team on Aug. 6 at the Baird farm. The group also visited Cargill and Heartland Co-op.

Wyatt Martin and Gage Reynolds took first place in the doubles division of the Douglas County Tennis Association Junior Tennis Tournament, beating runners-up Travis Russell and Willy Shiu. In the singles division, Willy Shiu claimed first place and Wyatt Martin finished second.

40 years ago
August 23, 1983

Bricks from the former South Ward School were used to support that school's old bell, now at a new location in front of East Prairie School. The bell, donated by William T. Brian to South Ward at the time of its construction in 1923, was mounted in the south belfry. Mr. Brian died shortly after donating the bell and didn't live to see the school open and the bell in its place, but it was tolled during his funeral procession.

The tentative budget for Tuscola unit schools was lower than the previous year, according to Supt. Jack Williams. The new budget called for \$2,110,600 in the Education Fund, \$386,000 in the Building Fund, \$161,000 in the Bond/Interest Fund, and \$207,900 in the Transportation Fund.

The Jarman Hospital census and inpatient count for July showed good use of the facility, with 147 people admitted that month.

Phillippe Parfait, a Rotary International Youth Exchange student from France staying with the Phil Beachy family, noted he was fond of American hamburgers and Coke, and the overall freedoms enjoyed by U.S. residents.

50 years ago
August 16, 1973

The pilot light of a gas stove and a nearby gasoline can were all that was needed to start a fire that totally destroyed a two-car garage at the Darrell Ford residence on Southland Circle Drive. The dollar damage done to the building and its contents was estimated at \$7,000.

An extensive pipeline upgrade job was being undertaken by Panhandle Eastern Pipeline Co., resulting in the replacement of 37,000 feet of natural gas pipeline.

A new 100 x 36 pavilion was now under construction at the north end of Ervin Park, thanks to efforts of the Tuscola Lions Club. The new pavilion would take about five to six weeks to complete, at an estimated cost of \$3,400.

Little League enthusiasts expressed their appreciation to John Phipps for having conducted a successful season by re-electing him president of the three-division program at the annual Little League awards picnic held recently at Ervin Park.

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