

Stop Watching | Start Living

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To enthusiastically provide dynamic tools, research, and services within the financial community by empowering institutions and individuals to redefine what financial freedom really means.

## Introduction

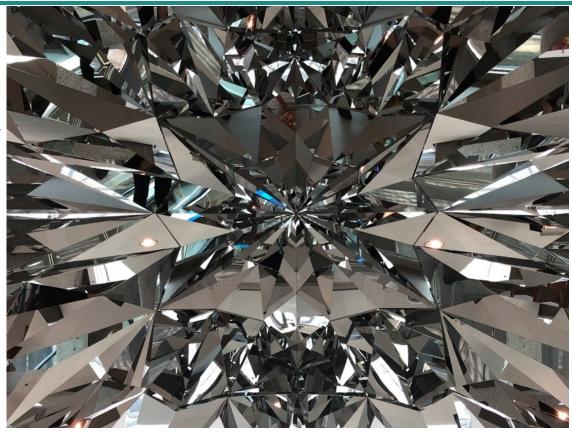
In this issue of State of the Bands<sup>TM</sup> Now You See it and Now You Won't, Why did the Brexit Vote fail again?!, Can you read my mind and there's probably an app for that!, The UK Knife Ban, God Bless The US Sunshine Act, and Clones? Clones? We don't need no stinking Clones And, seriously, how about a real Santa Claus rally this year?



## Now You See It . . .

While the idea of invisibility has existed for as long as folktales of leprechauns and dragons have, it wasn't until 2003 that the true concept of invisibility or spectral cloaking could be properly examined. A Chilean mathematician, Gunther Uhlmann, was the first to tinker with several equations that could create the illusion of an invisible object.

Then, while the rest of us were waiting on that acceptance letter written in green (ideally delivered by an owl), two separate research teams were busy making our dreams of invisibility come true. In a race



against the clock, both teams published their initial findings in 2006. The Canadian based team coined spectral cloaking. While it was effective, it was only able to hide 2D objects well. The second research team was a collaborative group that included both American and British scientists who were able to successfully hide a copper cylinder from microwaves. Both were interesting but neither provided the functionality we wanted to see...or not see? Luckily for us, there have been more recent developments from the Canadian team in Montreal. And, as of 2018, they can now conceal any object completely from the naked eye while also concealing the object's casted shadow. I bet you didn't see that coming?

Fun Fact: The word invisible comes from the Latin "in-" for not and "visibilis" for seen

## ... And Now You Won't!

So how does all of this work? Magic? Well, if you have not paid any attention to the man behind the curtain, this new technology attempts to obscure the object by bending light and selectively shifting energy from certain colors of the light spectrum to other colors which effectively hides the object from our eyes. After the light waves have passed through the object, the light is then restored to its original position in front of or on top of the object.

Interestingly enough, this can also be used with broadband telecommunication links which means that we could potentially use light to hide light. In newer research, scientists are testing several variations of this technique to cloak one-dimensional wave systems (ie: fiber optics). In theory, or practical magic, we now have the ability to hide anything in plain sight including an entire fleet of planes, trains and automobiles or quite possibly any other government secret using this type of technology.

## **Stocks To Watch**

GASX - Direxion Nat Gas Bear x3

NVEE - NV5 Global, Inc

UGLD - US Lighting Group

SWIR - Sierra Wireless Inc

FF - Future Fuel Corp

GLOG - Gaslog LTD

ATHM - Autohome Inc

FOE - Ferro Corp



# Why Did The Brexit Vote Fail AGAIN!?!

Much like a dramatic celebrity divorce, it's almost impossible to escape some level of coverage of the #Brexit. What is the Brexit you may ask? It's the petition for the United Kingdom (UK) to leave the European



## **Stocks To Watch**

VGR - Vector Group (Tobacco)

LMNR - Limoneira Co. (Fishing and Farming)

MED - Medifast Inc (Food Processing)

HEAR - Turtle Beach Corp (Home Electronics)

PCRFY - Panasonic Corporation (Solid State Batteries)

Union (EU). The UK joined the EU in 1973 and if it ever successfully withdraws it will be the first member of the EU to leave.

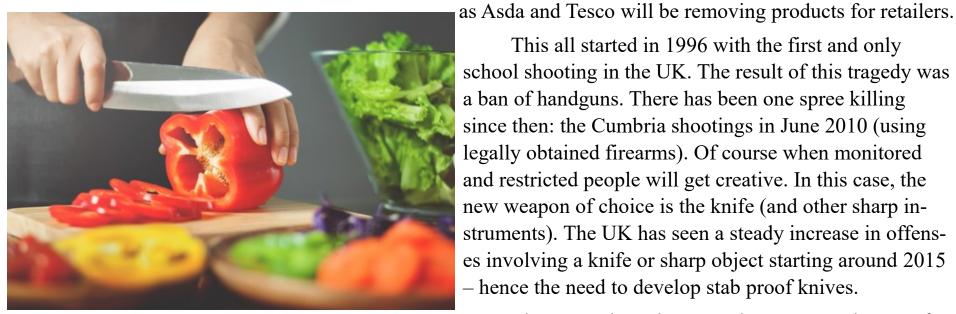
That being said, what are the advantages to being in the EU? Well, it allows free trade and free movement of people such that anyone living within the EU can live and work wherever they choose.

Sounds good, right? Well not exactly for the UK. The UK has seen a substantial increase in their net contribution from £ 2.7 billion in 2008 to £ 11.3 billion in 2013. It also means that the UK cannot negotiate their own trade deals outside of what the EU wants to do as a whole.

The vote was initially brought up June 23, 2016 in a referendum where a majority of those who voted also voted to leave. The Brexit was slated to happen in two years, but the House of Commons voted to extend the deadline from March 14, 2019 to June 30, 2019. This has happened a few more times, with the most recent extension calling for an exit date of January 31, 2020.

## The UK Knife Ban

Speaking of the British, kiss your slasher fantasies goodbye with the most recent addition to the UK weapons ban. A line of stab proof kitchen knives will be released in January of 2020. Yes, you read that correctly, Stab proof knives. Since kitchen knives were reclassified as offensive weapons in the Offensive Weapons Act Of 2019, Rayware will be the first to mass produce a product of this type while other large cutlery providers such



**Stocks To Watch** 

NOC - Northrop Grumman

Boeing Airplane and Transportation

LMT- Lockheed Martin

General Dynamics Corp GD -

WW - Weight Watchers

This all started in 1996 with the first and only school shooting in the UK. The result of this tragedy was a ban of handguns. There has been one spree killing since then: the Cumbria shootings in June 2010 (using legally obtained firearms). Of course when monitored and restricted people will get creative. In this case, the new weapon of choice is the knife (and other sharp instruments). The UK has seen a steady increase in offenses involving a knife or sharp object starting around 2015 – hence the need to develop stab proof knives.

That's not the only unusual UK news. The use of TV licenses has also been implemented. That sounds silly, but the money from these licenses goes toward funding BBC programs and services. At a cost of about £154.50 per year (roughly \$171.11 USD), you can stream and download content without getting arrested or paying a hefty fine.

# Can you read my mind? There's an app for that!

Well, there really isn't an app for that....yet. This type of technology has been under development longer than you may realize. In 2008, IBM applied for a patent on a methodology for extracting mental images of human faces from human brains. It is now being perfected with functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) and deep neural network (DNN) and deep generator network (DGN). DNN uses translated data from the fMRI to guess what the person is thinking about (so far this has been recalling images). DGN is used to enhance the image and is able to make it look more naturalistic.

As this technology gets more accurate the ethics and uses will have to be specifically outlined. While there are some laws in place in the US that could protect someone (see: the 5th Amendment) it could very easily be abused in places where there are no controls. For example, in the summer of 2008 a woman in India was convicted of murder after an EEG of her brain allegedly revealed that she was familiar with the circumstances surrounding the murder of her fiancé. Imagine being betrayed by your own brain.



## **Biotech Stocks to Watch**

Anip - Ani Pharmaceuticals

Aeri - Aerie Pharmaceuticals

GE - General Electric Co. (Freelium)

ENR - Energizer Holdings Inc

## **God Bless The US Sunshine Act**

Look up in the sky! It's a bird, it's a plane, no it's a Florida Man! Have you ever wondered why our lives are often graced with a "Florida Man" story? The reason is the Sunshine Act. The Sunshine Act was passed in September 1976 at a federal level by the 94th Congress. While it was meant to enhance the Freedom of Information Act, every state decided on how much they would not allow. But not Florida.

Florida has a proud tradition of oversharing and with the Sunshine Act passed a series of laws in 1995 known as the Florida Sunshine Law. These laws state



that the public will have access to ALL public government records in the state of Florida. Unlike other states, there are few exemptions which are more or less personal emails of government officials and drafts/notes.

Arguably, it's better to know than not know. The next time you see a Florida Man headline ask yourself why you haven't seen such titles in your home state and what you could be missing due to the lack of open state government. And remember what happens in Florida stays in the news including Disney.

Fun Fact: A popular, Millennial, search engine based game is to query results for "A Florida Man Does".

# **Clones? Clones? We don't need no stinking Clones**



Just because we can does not necessarily mean we should. Maybe. Earlier this year scientists at the Institute of Neuroscience (ION) in Shanghai used gene-editing to disable a gene in macaque monkeys. They then created 5 nearly genetically identical clones of one of those monkeys. That doesn't sound like a big deal, but it is the first time that researchers have cloned a gene-edited monkey and it serves as a proof of concept for creating populations of genetically identical populations. This gets us one step closer to being able to understand genetic diseases through primate models.

Currently, in the US at least, it takes a lot of paperwork to even get close to an animal bigger than a mouse for research purposes. Now instead of waiting for the perfect primate to test

new therapeutic methods for a genetic disease, with the proper permissions, scientists could have as many genetically identical clones as they need to find therapies and cures for diseases.

Fun Fact: Gene expression can be controlled in ways other than physical alteration. This branch of genetics is know as epigenetics and it is the study of heritable phenotype changes that do not involve physical alterations in the DNA sequence.

# Clones? Clones? Clones? We don't need no stinking Clones

Genetic studies are not the only ones that would benefit from using genetically identical clones. Studies involving other products that require some level of animal testing (such as pharmaceuticals) would benefit from using clones as well. As previously stated, there can be a lot of red tape involved in getting a primate test subject, but for better or worse primates are the best model to use for exploring human disease and reactions.



Something to consider with this is despite the research potential this will likely face the same, if not more, public backlash due to bioethical concerns. Does a clone have the same rights as the parent animal? Should the clone have the same rights as the parent animal? These are questions that have come up time and time again with no clear answer. As the use of clones for research becomes more abundant we will have to have some additional checks and balances in place to determine where the line is drawn.

Fun Fact: Star Wars Episode 1-6 were all released in the month of May. So this is one of the reasons why people often say "May the 4th be with you!"

Clone Wars (The animated Series) was Released in the month of October and is the shortest of the Star Wars Films.

# And Seriously, How About A Santa Claus Rally This Year?

It has been exactly 21 months since the S&P 500 took a small breather in this 10 year bull market and 11 months since we've seen Santa. Typically the market rally's on low volume during the November and December time frame while everyone else is on holiday. This end-of-year rally has been affectionately coined the "Santa Claus" rally. Last year's sell off during the 2018 holiday season has also been coined "the-year-without -a-Santa-Claus" rally because of the huge sell off on December 24th 2018.

## S & P 500 Stocks To Watch

CB - Chubb Limited

CBS - CBS Corporation

VIAB - Viacom Inc.



Going into November we are optimistic about the forecast of the market. We are at all times highs for the S&P 500 and NASDAQ. So maybe Santa will come a little early this year.

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