

GOOD MORNING: 09/17/18 Farm Direction - Van Trump Report

2 messages

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"If you want something new, you have to stop doing something old." - Peter Drucker

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2018

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Morning Summary: Stocks are holding steady this morning as the market looks for more details following weekend reports that China could be backing out of newly scheduled trade talks. Reports were circulating over the weekend that Washington, and specifically President Trump is pushing to impose a fresh round of tariffs targeting about \$200 billion in Chinese goods. The timing of the official announcement seems to be fluid and moving, some say it could happen as early as today. Those close to the sources are saying the tariffs are expected to be set at around 10%, rather than the more extreme 25% tariffs previously proposed. Some are saying it's a way to show China that President Trump is extremely serious about moving forward with additional tariffs. Others say it could drive the two nations further apart as Chinese officials see it more as a threat. It is worth noting that Yang Weimin, a former senior economic adviser to President Xi Jinping, said it's not that China doesn't want to negotiate with the U.S., they just don't want a gun pointed at their head while doing so. The fresh round of trade talks had been proposed by the U.S. and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and were to begin later this week, I heard around Thursday perhaps. It will be interesting to see how things play out. The bulls have been saying for weeks, a deal with China could bring a +5% to +10% pop to the upside in the stock market and "Fear Of Missing Out" (FOMO) has been helping to keep the market supported. I have to imagine, if trade talks again take a turn for the worse, bulls will be forced to backpedal. Bears argue a pullback is well overdue. Not only do we have emerging market concerns, and continued trade uncertainties, but also a Fed that seems eager to continue hiking interest rates. Bears believe the Fed hiking rates two more times in 2018 could be enough to slowdown the U.S. economy and create some uncertainty out on the horizon. Many bears argue that economic numbers, especially employment numbers, are about as good as they can get and the market might find it difficult to keep finding more and more bullish data. Hence the constant worry about how the market is going to keep the bulls fed and in good spirits. As for NAFTA, We continue to hear rumors on both sides, but remain optimistic that a resolution of some sort will be formed in the days or weeks ahead. Many insiders I know are targeting October 1st, perhaps a day before or a day after, as being a day to look for a Canadian trade deal to be announced. From what I understand, there's a lot of moving parts involving the Quebec election on October 1st, with heavy interest on both sides of the border on how it shakes out. Turning to more traditional economic news, traders here at home will mostly be digesting fresh U.S. housing numbers this week. The big ticket items are probably, Mortgage Applications and Housing Starts scheduled to be released Wednesday. Existing Home Sales data scheduled to be released on Thursday. Personally, I'm keeping a close eye on the oil market as there is still heavy uncertainty surrounding the loss of Iranian and Venezuelan production. Keep in mind, globally we just topped 100 million barrels per day in production. Hard to believe there could be a bullish story brewing, but I think there is. Output in Venezuela seems to be in a free fall as the nation just doesn't have the capital to reinvest in maintaining its production. At the same time oil exports out of Iran are already starting to tumble as the U.S. puts more pressure on the upcoming sanctions, which are scheduled to go in place by early-November. We also have continued uncertainties in Libya and other parts of the Middle East. Bottom-line, I remain bullish both the U.S. stock market and the oil market between now and year end, just hunting much more patiently with a rifle instead of a shotgun...

THE

VAN TRUMP

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NOVEMBER 28 -29, 2018

Full MARKET Outlook



On hand will be several leading market analyst, traders and innovators who will be providing their insight and opinions on both short-term and long-term industry direction and outside investment ideas. You do not want to miss this years special event!

SPECIAL "MASTER MIND" SESSION



Sit front row in the boardroom with some of the best and brightest! Join us for an exclusively look behind the scenes as several of the top CEO's and leaders openly discuss their next moves in the markets,

Florence Flooding... Rivers Not To Crest Until Mid-Week: Hurricane Florence has dumped over +30 inches of rainfall in many parts of the Carolinas. The most heavily hit is eastern North Carolina. Small streams look more like rivers. Rivers like raging torrents. And city streets and stretches of interstate highways -- dotted with rescue boats -- like free-flowing waterways. The massive rains are now moving in to Mountainous regions towards Tennessee, Kentucky, Appalachian Mountains, etc... parts of North and South Carolina have become impassable, but authorities say the worst flooding is still yet to come. By the storm's end, up to 40 inches will fall in southeastern North Carolina and the northeastern tip of South Carolina.

Eliud Kipchoge Destroys Marathon World Record: With two hours of total marathon mastery, Eliud Kipchoge smashed the world record in Berlin yesterday with 2:01:39, a new world mark by 1 minute 18 seconds. Without question, Kipchoge sealed his place as the greatest marathoner of all time. He also gave himself an extra place in history by breaking the world record by the biggest margin in more than 50 years. In case you are wondering, that essentially sub-4:40 miles, wow! He believes he can break 2-hours. Read more [HERE](#).

Paul McCartney Back on Top of the Charts: It's official, Paul McCartney's latest album called, "Egypt Station" is on top of the Billboard charts. This marks McCartney's first #1 album since "Tug of War" spent three weeks atop the list in 1982. If you recall, the Tug of War album contained the wildly popular #1 hit duet with Stevie Wonder called, "Ebony and Ivory". The following year, McCartney and Michael Jackson teamed up for a couple of hit duets titled, "The Girl Is Mine" which reached #2, and "Say Say Say" which reached #1. Not many businesses or individuals can say they have been able to stay at the top of their industry for over half century. I think it's kind of cool to see him edge out Eminem's Kamikaze album and Drake's Scorpion album. Congrats to the 76 year old Paul McCartney! Still one of my favorites is "Let it Be". I included below a video of McCartney playing the song at a concert in New York when he was 67 years old. Still amazing after all of these years. Click [HERE](#) to listen



their current investments, what they see at out on the horizon, along with heated debates about our future.

SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER

Molly Bloom - One of the most intriguing stories of the past decade. Her story was recently turned into a major hit motion picture called "Molly's Game". The true story of "Hollywood's poker princess" who gambled everything, won big, then lost it all.



"A captivating story that is interesting for a wide audience beyond those who enjoy poker. It's a high stakes adventure providing the layperson a peak into a world few will ever truly know or understand. Molly comes from a family of high achievers. She is no slouch. A champion skier, brains to match. Each time she hit a bump in her life she did not complain, she found a solution with a positive attitude. She offers many fantastic life lessons!"



Weather Wild-Card!

Weather guru Dr. Simon Atkins will be presenting what he is calling one of the most important weather updates and forecasts in years. Join us as he reveals a possible game changer!

Network directly with some of the top CEO's and ag industry executives. Learn first hand how NEW technology and transparency is influencing today's decisions.

neuro mining



As we age, it gets harder and harder to create new neural pathways in the brain. It's the reason kids find it so easy to learn new things, but as adults it often gets more difficult. Doing brain teasers and solving riddles can be an important part of keeping our brain healthy. The more connections we can form, the better our brain will be. I hope this helps provide a little daily fun and exercise. The answer to each riddle or puzzle will be located at the bottom of the report.

TODAY'S RIDDLE:

Early Bird Special

\$299

regular price \$500

Remember we sold out early last year!

LEARN MORE

A most delicious thing. It can be given but cannot be kept. Some awake from it after they've slept. It is the moistest and softest butterfly wing, But when it is the last even it can sting.

Today in History

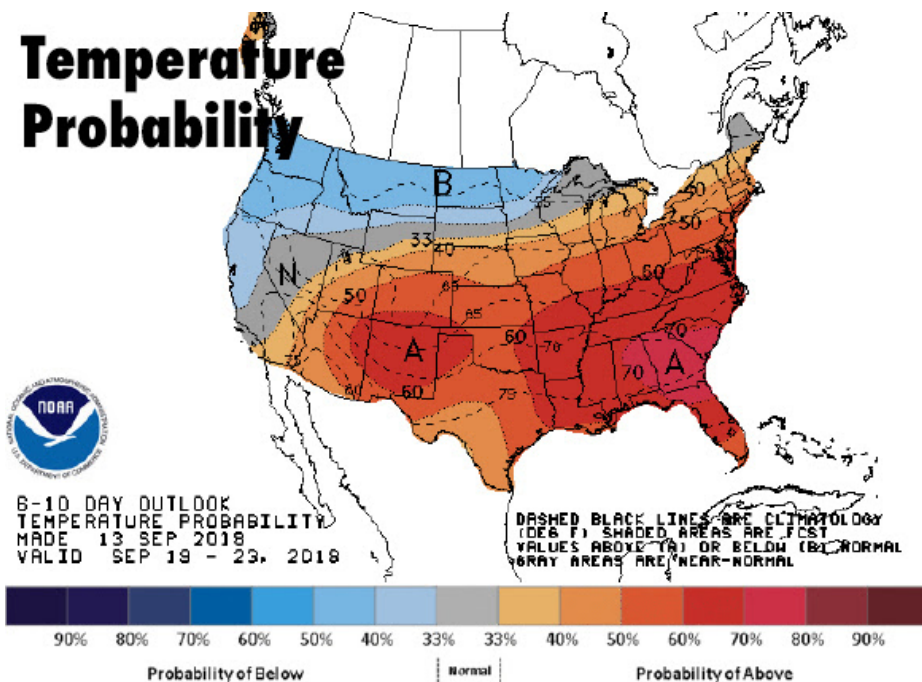


1787, U.S. Constitution Signed - The Constitution of the United States of America is signed by 38 of 41 delegates present at the conclusion of the

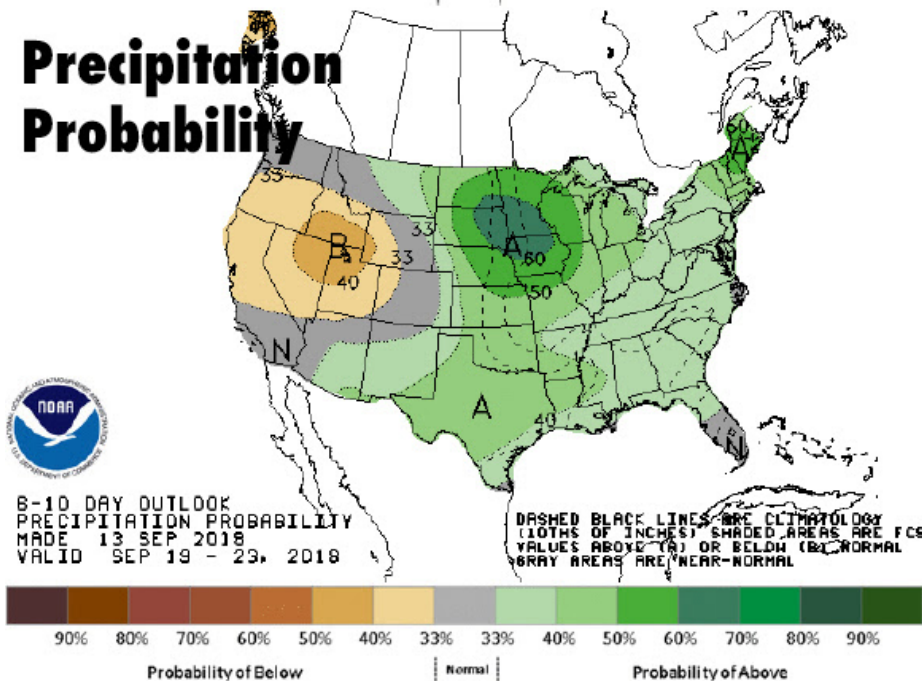
Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia. Supporters of the document waged a hard-won battle to win ratification by the necessary nine out of 13 U.S. states. The Articles of Confederation, ratified several months before the British surrender at Yorktown in 1781, provided for a loose confederation of U.S. states, which were sovereign in most of their affairs. On paper, Congress—the central authority—had the power to govern foreign affairs, conduct war, and regulate currency, but in practice these powers were sharply limited because Congress was given no authority to enforce its requests to the states for money or troops. By 1786, it was apparent that the Union would soon break up if the Articles of Confederation were not amended or replaced. Five states met in Annapolis, Maryland, to discuss the issue, and all the states were invited to send delegates to a new constitutional convention to be held in Philadelphia. On May 25, 1787, delegates representing every state except Rhode Island convened at Philadelphia's Pennsylvania State House for the Constitutional Convention. The building, which is now known as Independence Hall, had earlier seen the drafting of the Declaration of Independence and the signing of the Articles of Confederation. The assembly immediately discarded the idea of amending the Articles of Confederation and set about drawing up a new scheme of government. Revolutionary War hero George Washington, a delegate from Virginia, was elected convention president. During an intensive debate, the delegates devised a brilliant federal organization characterized by an intricate system of checks and balances. The convention was divided over the issue of state representation in Congress, as more-populated states sought proportional legislation, and smaller states wanted equal representation. The problem was resolved by the Connecticut Compromise, which proposed a bicameral legislature with proportional representation in the lower house (House of Representatives) and equal representation of the states in the upper house (Senate). On September 17, 1787, the Constitution was signed. As dictated by Article VII, the document would not become binding until it was ratified by nine of the 13 states. Beginning on December 7, five states—Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Georgia, and Connecticut—ratified it in quick succession. However, other states, especially Massachusetts, opposed the document, as it failed to reserve undelegated powers to the states and lacked the constitutional protection of basic political rights, such as freedom of speech, religion, and the press. In February 1788, a compromise was

Weather has seen all eyes on Hurricane Florence and the flooding it is bringing to the Southeastern U.S. We have also seen significant rainfall over the weekend in other parts of the country; confined to southern Texas and the nation's northern tier, from the PNW into the upper Midwest. Much of the country will remain warm, but cool air is moving into the North and the Far West. The 6 to 10 day outlook for September 19 - 23 calls for the likelihood of above normal temperatures nationwide, except for cooler than normal conditions from northern California and the PNW to northern Minnesota. Meanwhile near to below normal rainfall in the West should contrast with twitter than normal weather in the central and eastern U.S.

Temperature Probability

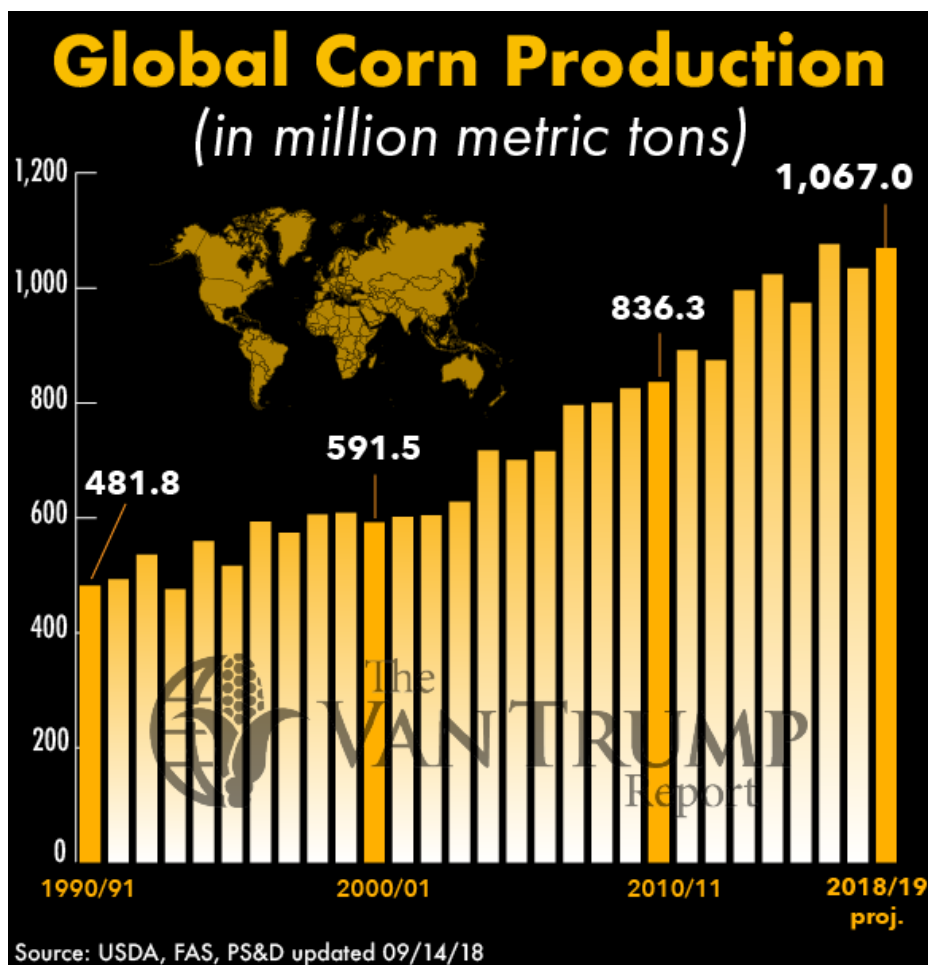


Precipitation Probability



Corn prices in the DEC18 contract battle to keep their head above \$3.50 per bushel. New lows were posted last Thursday at \$3.48⁶. The bulls are hoping our historical tendency to bottom out sometime between mid-August to early-October will come sooner rather than later. The USDA's most recent record yield forecast at 181.3 bushels per acre, adding another +241 million bushels to production, is certainly not helping things and hard for the bulls to digest. Especially when you throw on talk of U.S.

producers increasing acreage next year and ending stocks currently at a comfortable +1.7 billion bushels. Demand remains extremely strong, but lack of a wide-spread weather story and no real global growth headlines or feeling that the funds want to be long, works to limit bullish momentum. There's only so much heavy lifting we can place on "demand", eventually we have to have help from weather to create some talk of supply hiccups, and some strength from the larger macro bullish funds. We just don't have those headlines right now. In fact, the corn market feels somewhat lost to me and searching for direction. Unfortunately, as it drifts, I continue to see it glancing over at the soybean market. The lower soybeans prices travel, I suspect the lower corn prices drift. Bulls argue that world corn stocks are down more than -20% compared to last year, but prices aren't reflecting the lower supply. Again, in today's trading world we need more than just demand. We need a global growth story and reason for more funds to be interested in seeing macro headlines from a bullish perspective. We are still waiting to hear official headlines from Washington regarding the approval of E15 year round. While it is certainly a positive domestic headline for corn used for ethanol. I don't see it as something that is going to draw decidedly more bullish interest from the funds or shift their current outright bearish position. I just think the underlying landscape of trade uncertainty has created a bearish mindset or tone to the market. Ink a trade deal with Canada, China and the European Union and I suspect the bearish clouds will start to dissipate, the low in the market will be established and corn prices will start ratcheting themselves higher. As producers, we have to stay patient, plan for a continued drift sideways to lower and perhaps a widening basis through harvest. Washington and South American weather are the wild-cards moving forward.



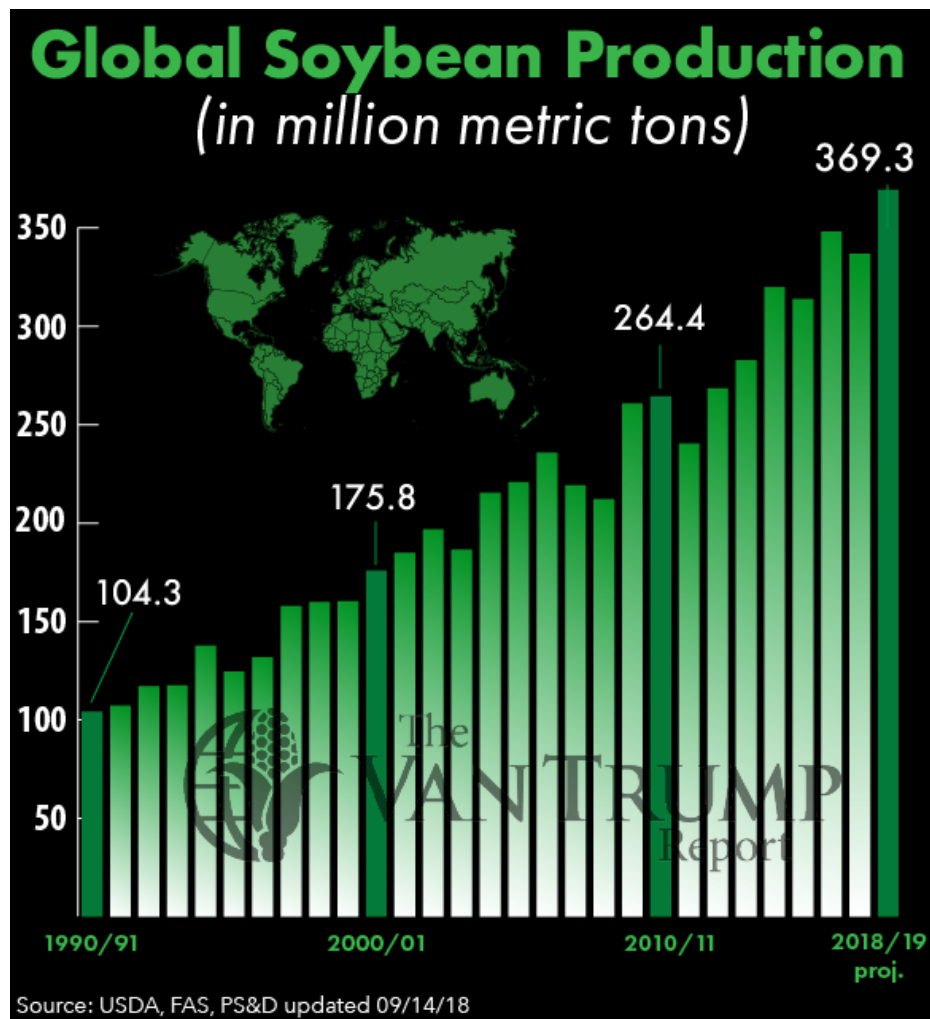
Soybean bulls continue to have very little to cheer about. As I had been suggesting, the market made yet another round of fresh new lows last week. Unfortunately, I still see us racing under the "yellow flag" and can not rule out another round of lower-lows. Despite talks that the Chinese and U.S. are again engaging in trade talks, it sounds like Washington wants to somehow find a way to move forward with another round of tariffs on Chinese imports. Interestingly, several sources are reporting that U.S. soybeans exported to China, with the -25% tariff, are competitive with soybeans shipping out of Brazil. Probably, why we have seen the Chinese book a few cargoes of U.S. beans as of late. The problem is it's just not happening in any type of large capacity. In fact, this is by far the least amount of Chinese buying of U.S. soybeans we have seen in over a decade. Adding to the bearish storm clouds, is the fact the USDA is now estimating that U.S. producers are going to harvest their largest soybean crop ever. At the same time, they are forecasting that Brazil is starting to plant the most soybean acres ever. There are a few bullish cards I am considering and keeping an eye on in South America. There

reached under which Massachusetts and other states would agree to ratify the document with the assurance that amendments would be immediately proposed. The Constitution was thus narrowly ratified in Massachusetts, followed by Maryland and South Carolina. On June 21, 1788, New Hampshire became the ninth state to ratify the document, and it was subsequently agreed that government under the U.S. Constitution would begin on March 4, 1789. In June, Virginia ratified the Constitution, followed by New York in July.



1965, Amphibious Car - Four adventurous Englishmen arrive at the Frankfurt Motor Show in Germany after crossing the English Channel by Amphicar, the world's only mass-produced amphibious passenger car. Despite choppy waters, stiff winds, and one flooded engine, the two vehicles made it across the water in about seven hours. The Amphicar's design, by the German engineer Hans Trippel, derived from the Schwimmwagen, the amphibious all-wheel-drive vehicle that Volkswagen had produced for the German armed forces during World War II. A company called the Quandt Group produced the Amphicars for seven years, from 1961 to 1968; in all, they built about 3,900 of the little swimming convertibles. Amphicars came in four colors—Beach White, Regatta Red, Lagoon Blue, and Fjord Green—and were powered from the rear by a 43-horsepower, four-cylinder Triumph Herald engine. On land, the cars used a four-speed-plus-reverse manual transmission. In the water, they used a transfer case that had two speeds: forward and backward. With the top and windows up, the Amphicar was remarkably seaworthy: Its front wheels acted as rudders and two nylon propellers chugged along in back. The car's builders called it the "770," because—in theory, at least—it could go 7 mph in the water and 70 mph on land. To see an Amphicar hit either one of these speeds was rare, however: According to one owner, it was "the fastest car on the water and the fastest boat on the road." The four Englishmen left London on the morning of September 16, rolled down the ramp at Dover, and headed for France. About halfway across the Channel, a blocked bilge pump flooded one of the Amphicars; the other towed it the rest of the way to shore. When they arrived at Calais, the four travelers (with the help of the crowd that had gathered to see them) managed to drag the cars over the beach and to the gas station. The next day, they headed off to Frankfurt. About 3,000 Amphicars were imported into the United States. In fact, Quandt sold such a large proportion of the cars to Americans that in 1968, when the Motor Vehicle Air Pollution Act raised emissions standards to a level that the Amphicar couldn't meet, the company just stopped building the cars altogether. Amphicar enthusiasts estimate that between 300 and 600

are some dry conditions brewing in parts of Brazil that are worth monitoring. I suspect if the rains don't come for some reason, it would certainly awake the bulls and bring about more interest towards the upside. There's also some geopolitical uncertainty in both Argentina and Brazil that could easily become a bullish "wild-card" in the weeks ahead. Brazil's extreme far-right presidential candidate, Jair Bolsonaro, has taken a commanding lead in the election polls. He remains in the Einstein hospital in Sao Paulo, after being stabbed at a rally, but is well in the lead for the first vote on October 7th. Mr Bolsonaro, is a former decorated army captain and has tough rhetoric on many important social issues inside Brazil. Former president Lula da Silva, from the left-wing Workers' Party, and was one of Brazil's most popular politicians, has officially thrown in the towel as he tries to battle a recent 12-year jail sentence. Remember, the left-wing Workers' Party had been in control from 2003 until the 2016 impeachment of Dilma Rousseff. Let's also keep in mind, Lula left office with an 87% approval rating. There's talk that the longer Lula stays in jail, the stronger the tensions and uprising amongst his die-hard and loyal supporters. The takeaway is the fact Bolsonaro could win the upcoming election, and ultimately ruffle a ton of feathers inside Brazil as the left feels slighted, which could ultimately lead to infrastructure and labor problems as he tries to implement change. I should also mention the currency crisis in Argentina is creating a ton of uncertainty. As interest rates inside Argentina have been pushed to 60%, current president Mauricio Macri is finding himself on the hot seat. I suspect if the run on the Argentine currency turns into a run on the banks, Macri will find it next to impossible to be reelected. Which would perhaps bring another round of significant change in Argentina. The way I see it, the Argentine government, enticed by ultra-low global interest rates, borrowed about \$80 billion in U.S. dollars in two years as president Macri tried to soften the social cost of his reforms with a gradualist approach. Now all of a sudden, U.S. interest rates start to rise and the dollar strengthens, and that easy-money has become harder and harder to service and payback. You tell me what happens in some of these countries when they have to takeaway the government programs they put in place to help politicians secure votes using cheap money... I suspect it's widespread protest and social unrest, which certainly complicates logistics. Obviously, these are long-term thoughts, but eventually the social unrest in South America could provide a tailwind for the soybean market. Unfortunately, I still see more nearby bearish cards in my hand than bullish, so I remain hesitant in making any bullish wagers. Lots to think about...



seaworthy vehicles remain on the road today.



1976, NASA Unveils First Spaceshuttle - NASA publicly unveils its first space shuttle, the Enterprise, during a ceremony in Palmdale, California.

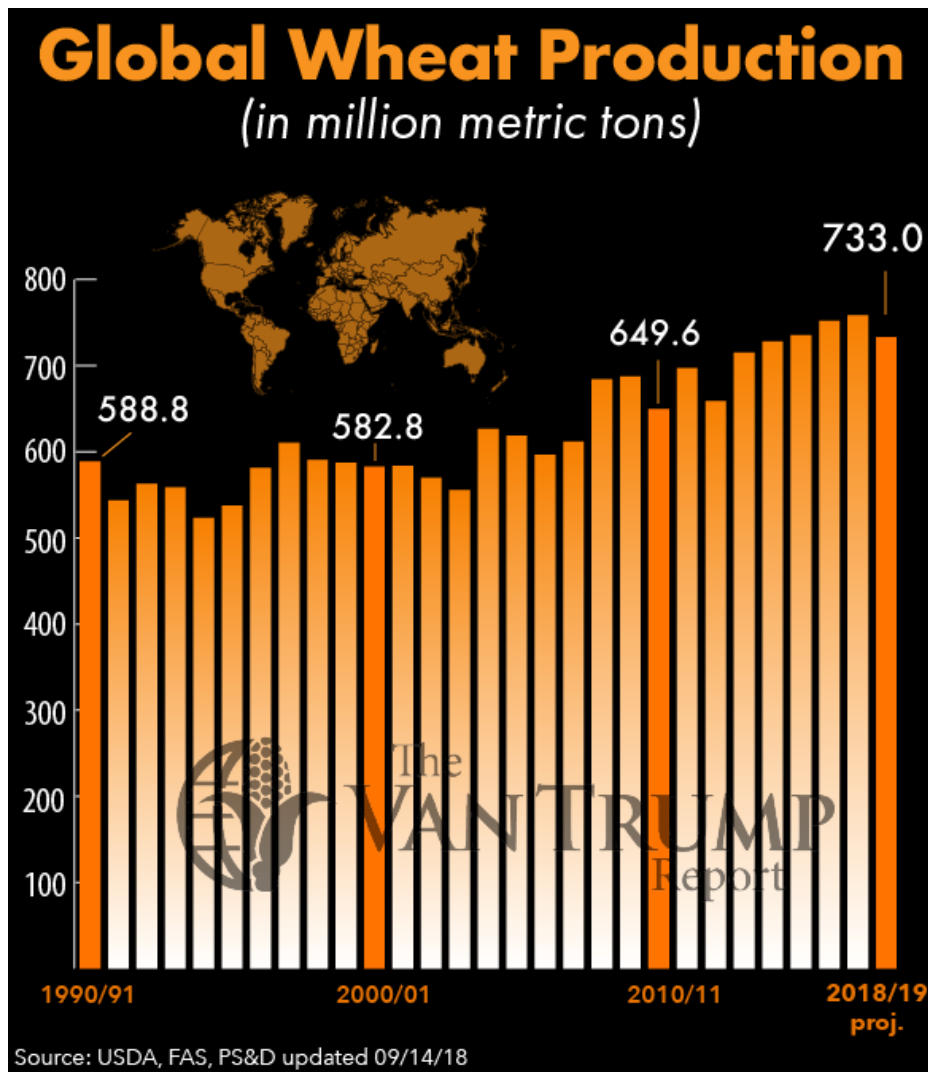
Development of the aircraft-like spacecraft cost almost \$10 billion and took nearly a decade. In 1977, the Enterprise became the first space shuttle to fly freely when it was lifted to a height of 25,000 feet by a Boeing 747 airplane and then released, gliding back to Edwards Air Force Base on its own accord. Regular flights of the space shuttle began on April 12, 1981, with the launching of Columbia from Cape Canaveral, Florida. Launched by two solid-rocket boosters and an external tank, only the aircraft-like shuttle entered into orbit around Earth. When the two-day mission was completed, the shuttle fired engines to reduce speed and, after descending through the atmosphere, landed like a glider at California's Edwards Air Force Base. Early shuttles took satellite equipment into space and carried out various scientific experiments. On January 28, 1986, NASA and the space shuttle program suffered a major setback when the Challenger exploded 74 seconds after takeoff and all seven people aboard were killed. In September 1988, space shuttle flights resumed with the successful launching of the Discovery. Since then, the space shuttle has carried out numerous important missions, such as the repair and maintenance of the Hubble Space Telescope and the construction and manning of the International Space Station. A tragedy in space again rocked the nation on February 1, 2003, when Columbia, on its 28th mission, disintegrated during re-entry of the earth's atmosphere. All seven astronauts aboard were killed. In the aftermath, the space-shuttle program was grounded until Discovery returned to space in July 2005, amid concerns that the problems that had downed Columbia had not yet been fully solved.

Upcoming Events

- Mon. 9/17** - NOPA Crush, Crop Progress
- Fri. 9/21** - Cattle on Feed
- Sat. 9/22** - Autumn Begins
- Mon. 9/24** - Cold Storage, Crop Progress
- Tues.-Wed. 9/25-9/26** - FOMC Meeting
- Fri. 9/27** - Quarterly Hogs and Pigs
- Fri. 9/28** - Quarterly Stocks and Acreage

Kevin's Song of the Week

Wheat bulls are talking about additional weather hiccups in Australia. Over the weekend there were some important production areas in Western Australia that got hit by a cold-snap. As we've learned through the years, the full extent of the frost damage might not be known for several weeks. There are also some extremely dry conditions that are expanding and could create further complications. As I've mentioned several times, the USDA seems overly optimistic with their Australian production forecast. This just adds to my thoughts and belief that the USDA will have to continue lowering their estimate, I suspect by a sizable amount. There's also some dry areas in parts of Russia that are also worth monitoring. Russian administrators are also said to be implementing tighter quality controls on grain export inspections. They say by no means is this being done to limit exports, but the bulls are closely watching, thinking it will certainly cause some complications. The hopes are that U.S. exporters will start to find more nearby marketshare. I remain a longer-term bull...



> **Florence Testing North Carolina's Codes On Hog Waste:** There are approximately 62 industrial hog farms within North Carolina's 100-year floodplain and if excrement escapes from the lagoons where it is stored, it could potentially contaminate drinking water with bacteria like salmonella, leading to other health issues. Many of the state's environmental codes were written to withstand a 25- or 100-year storm, but Florence is dumping locally heavier rains beyond that scope. (Source: Reuters)

> **Insurance Agent Sentenced for \$6 Million Crop Insurance Fraud:** Sentencing has begun for a Kentucky-based crop insurance fraud ring. One insurance agent was sentenced to five years in federal prison for her role in the scheme. The investigation



Kevin's Song of the Week

NEXT level THINKING

My goal at "The Van Trump Report" is to help readers better identify the moving parts and dynamics associated with the financial markets, geopolitical events, economics, media and culture that is currently influencing and shaping the direction of the agricultural markets. I like to believe I "Challenge the Traditional" and encourage our readers to think outside the box.

I use story telling techniques that are written in an easy to read format to help convey my current thoughts about business, markets, technology, weather, sports and life. I also like to include links, filter the noise, and pass along in-depth research and information that I believe could challenge your current thought process and help you make more informed decisions. In addition I include valuable lessons I have learned from other traders, executives and investors, along with an occasional inspirational piece about life, family and faith.

What I do not do in "The Van Trump Report" is give specific financial advice or tell individuals how to invest or how to specifically hedge. Remember, this information is being read by hedge fund managers, bankers, CEO's, and Ag leaders around the globe, therefore it's NOT tailored to fit your specific individual needs. For specific investment or hedging advice please seek the help of a licensed representative that can better understand your particular situation, individual needs and overall risk tolerance. This information should ONLY be used for educational and entertainment purposes.

My family and I would like to thank you again for your support!

Kevin Van Trump

What Others Are Saying

"I am a recent subscriber to Kevin's newsletter, but I'm a long-time reader of many other high-profile marketing services. I am particularly impressed with the thorough manner in which Kevin evaluates every economic aspect, both nationally and internationally, that

revealed that the abuse of crop insurance program is pervasive and severe. Six Central Kentucky farmers have been indicted in three other fraud cases pending in federal court in Lexington. (Source: Lexington Herald)

> Cargill Enters Polish Poultry Market: Cargill has entered the poultry market for the first time as it has acquired Polish poultry producer Konspol for an undisclosed figure. Konspol operates a feed mill, five broiler farms and two processing sites in the country,, employing approximately 1,700 people and Cargill says that the acquisition will significantly increase Cargill's production capacity of value added and poultry products. (Source: FoodBev)

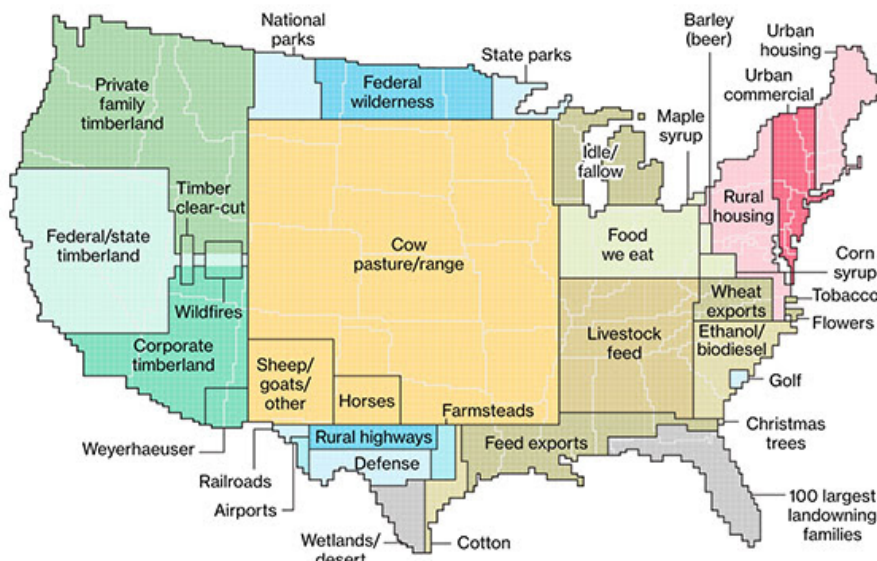
> U.S. LNG Heading To Europe: U.S. companies expect to begin delivering LNG to Germany in four years at the latest, according to deputy U.S. energy secretary Dan Brouillette, and will challenge Russia which now accounts for 60% of German gas imports. In July, President Trump accused Germany of being a "captive" of Russia due to its energy reliance and urged it to halt work on the \$11B, Russian-led Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline. (Source: SeekingAlpha)

> If You Want The Latest iPhone, Be Happy You Live In the U.S.: The price of the iPhone XS Max (512GB capacity) in the U.S. is set at \$1,449 — far and away the most expensive iPhone ever. Across the globe, countries will see an even higher price tag in comparison for this model: UK (\$1,898), Poland (\$1,956) and Italy (\$1,971). The other models announced include the XS and XR, both starting at lower price points than the XS Max.

> Time Magazine Purchased By Marc and Lynne Benioff: The founder of Salesforce has agreed to purchase Time magazine for a reported \$190 million. Interestingly, the Benioffs are buying as individuals; the agreement is unrelated to Salesforce.com, which Mr. Benioff co-founded and where he serves as chairman and co-chief executive. The deal is expected to close within 30 days.

> Chiefs QB First Ever in NFL to Throw 10 TD Passes in First Two Games: I had to throw in my hometown QB's new NFL Passing Record... Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes threw six touchdown passes on Sunday to become the first player in NFL history to throw 10 TD passes in the first two games of his NFL career. The Chiefs traded up to select Mahomes in the first round of 2017 draft. It's way early in his career, but the kid clearly has a gun...

> How America Uses Its Land: The 48 contiguous states alone are a 1.9 billion acre jigsaw puzzle of cities, farms, forests and pastures that Americans use to feed themselves, power their economy and extract value for business and pleasure. (Source: Bloomberg)



Putting all those pieces together, this map gives you a rough sense of all the ways U.S. land is used. Much of U.S. land serves specific purposes, such as the 2 million acres devoted to golf courses or the 3 million acres for airports.

influences commodity prices. His analysis and conclusions are highly thought out and conveyed in layman's terms so that the reader can comprehend the numerous and often complex interrelationships that impact the markets. Kevin is a real attribute to the agricultural sector."

A.M., FDIC

"As a national federal farm policy administrator and commodity producer, I find it critical to keep updated with what is going on in the real world of agriculture and with the domestic and global markets. Of all the services I've have been privy to or have subscribed to over the past 20 years I've found in the past several months of engaging in your "Farm Direction" services to be the best perception and analysis of what is really happening in today's world. Not only here in the United States, but across the globe as well. US farmers need this type of help and information to assist them in their daily efforts. I commend you for a job well done. Please let me know if I can ever be of any help or assistance to you in the future..."

L.T., Assistant Deputy Administrator for Farm Programs USDA

My Own Personal Truisms

"Not To Trade, is often considered a good trading decision..."

"First Rule of HOLES: When you are in one stop digging..."

"Every looser in Vegas, always walks away from the table thinking he could have done better, the winners on the other hand leave while on top..."

"Bulls make money, Bears make money, but pigs get slaughtered..."

"The markets ability to remain irrational can often times last much longer than your ability to remain solvent..."

I'm more of a long-term player, therefore you will not see me give many short-term suggestions or trade ideas. One of my most important rules is that I always follow my long-term direction. Therefore, as long as I am "bullish" a market I will only play that particular market in one of three ways.

- Option #1 - Conservatively long.
- Option #2 - Aggressively long.
- Option #3 - Sitting on the sideline.

I never initiate a "short" position in a market that I am "bullish" longer-term, nor do I initiate a "long" position in a market I am "bearish" longer-term.

FROM THE FIELD

Western Mississippi – We are harvesting both corn and soybeans right now, so we are trying to organize trucks and combines. I have 80-acre dryland soybeans on 5-year corn ground that made 88 bushels across the entire field. This is some of my better ground, so we expected good yields, but this is a little better than anticipated. My irrigated soybeans are currently making just short of 100 bushels. We have had some of worst ground that currently has corn on it go anywhere from 150-200 bushel per acre. The irrigated corn is making 220 bushels per acre or better. I think our entire farm could make 220 or maybe worse case scenario 210-215 bushels across every acre dryland and irrigated combined. We don't need any more rain or wind because we have a little bit of down corn and soybeans but not enough to get excited about. We are far enough from Florence that it will not affect our harvest in a big way.

Northwest Indiana - Last year I think most everyone was surprised to the upside when the combines hit the field. This year it seems like a lot are saying not as good as last year. Don't get me wrong, I have heard of some crazy good areas in parts of the state, but I have also heard of other parts that are saying not as good as last year. A 214-bushel yield would be enormous number for us, if this is true it will be interesting to see what the top county averages come through at. I won't be anywhere near what the USDA is predicting and what we made last year on both crops. We just did not get rain like everyone else did throughout the growing season. We have ugly looking beans that are directly related to the drought.

Southcentral Illinois - We just started harvesting last week and saw some remarkable numbers. In some fields, we topped 300bpa for the first time ever. I expect we should see easily above 240bpa across all fields when done. It was nice to be able to see some come out of the field before I head south for the winter. We have been adding new tech and precision ag equipment over the last few years and are really seeing the difference in yields. We are fortunate to own over a third of the land we farm and our equipment is all paid for so we will get through ok during these challenging times. We made good sales on beans before the bottom fell out but I can't say the same for our corn. We don't store it and that has always worked for us. The key is to work the plan you know and we have fortunately executed that well.

Farm Direction
RECIPES
★ **FAMILY FAVORITES** ★
-SENT IN BY OUR READERS-



Do Nothing Tornado Cake

CLICK TO SEE RECIPE

CROSSING WIRES

A place to share intelligent thoughts...

Airlines Primed To Use Alternative Fuels: For years, airlines have experimented with biofuels, aiming to reduce both carbon emissions and their reliance on fossil fuels. It's been a turbulent journey buffeted by inconsistent investment and the periodic lure of cheap oil. But several major carriers are planning larger-scale usage of biofuel in 2019 and 2020, including JetBlue Airways Corp. and Cathay Pacific Airways Ltd. United Continental Holdings Inc. said Thursday that it would cut its carbon emissions by half over 2005 levels, by 2050, matching an industry target set by the International Air Transport Association. Currently, airlines account for about 2 percent of annual global carbon emissions, but the industry's rapid growth and future expansion across emerging markets has made aviation's environmental impact a top issue for executives and regulators. Read more [HERE](#).

SpaceX Booking First Space Passengers Tonight: No one has been to the Moon since Apollo missions ended in the 70s, but now, in a "world's first" SpaceX is apparently taking reservations. Details like who is going and "why" are to be revealed during a livestream tonight at 9 PM ET. Early last year Elon Musk said we'd see two humans take that trip at some point in 2018, but now we're anticipating a delay so that it can occur on the LA-built BFR, instead of a Falcon Heavy carrying a Dragon capsule. Read more [HERE](#).

Why Some Folks Never Evacuate During Hurricanes: Hurricane Florence has prompted mandatory evacuation orders for more than a million people, but some will ignore the orders. Though the evacuations are "mandatory," it doesn't mean police will be going door to door forcing people out. Despite the local authority's pleas, there's no amount of messaging that will get 100 percent of a population to evacuate. "There's a certain population that's never going to leave," Cara Cuite, a Rutgers psychologist who

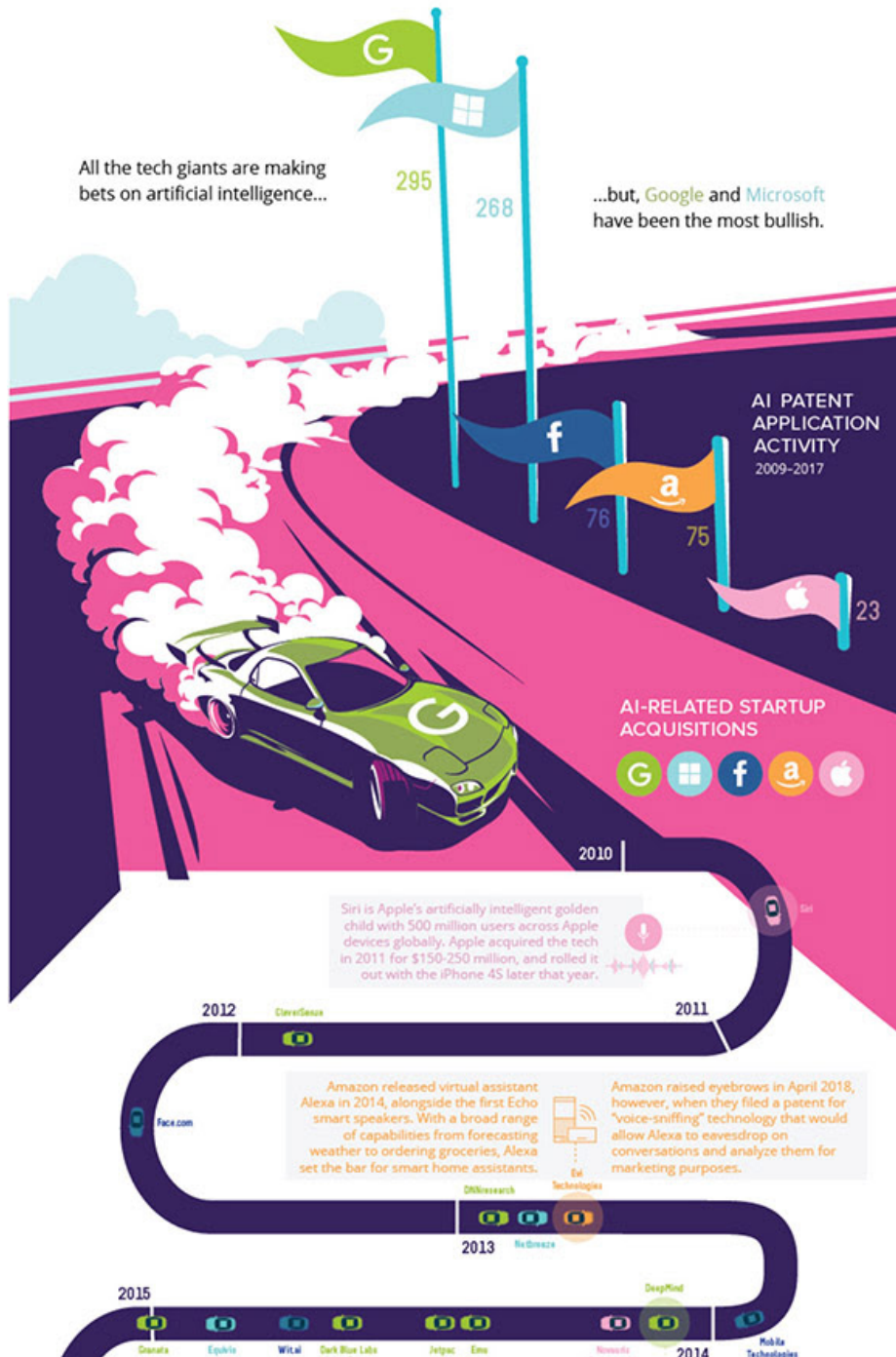
heads an NOAA-sponsored project on best practices in storm communication, said in a 2016 interview. Find out why that is according to psychologist [HERE](#).

How John Bunn Wants to Help Others After 27 Wrongful Years in Prison: Bunn's ordeal began on August 14, 1991, when he was sitting in the kitchen of his mother's apartment in Crown Heights, Brooklyn. It was 90 degrees in the shade and the AC was broken. Outside he could hear hip-hop music playing from passing cars and the thwack of basketballs on pavement as kids made their way to the courts. Events would unfurl that day leading to Bunn would spending 27 years in prison wrongly convicted of murder. Great story of perseverance after being handed a crappy hand, and now that he has been exonerated read more [HERE](#) what he plans to do.

AI's Great Patent Race: Artificial Intelligence is transforming the way we live, and the tech giants are racing to stay ahead of the curve. AI-related funding totaled an estimated \$15.2 billion in 2017, a 144% increase over the previous year. The U.S. tech industry leads with a 50% share of those investments, even with China swiftly closing the gap in terms of patents and AI research. AI itself isn't new of course, but boosted computing power, increased connectivity, and the sheer volume of data has paved the way for the fourth industrial revolution of AI. One industry leader believes the coming era will be looked back upon as the 'AI era,' when AI became the defining competitive advantage for corporations, government agencies, and investment professionals. Gain more insights [HERE](#).

THE AI-MAZING PATENT RACE

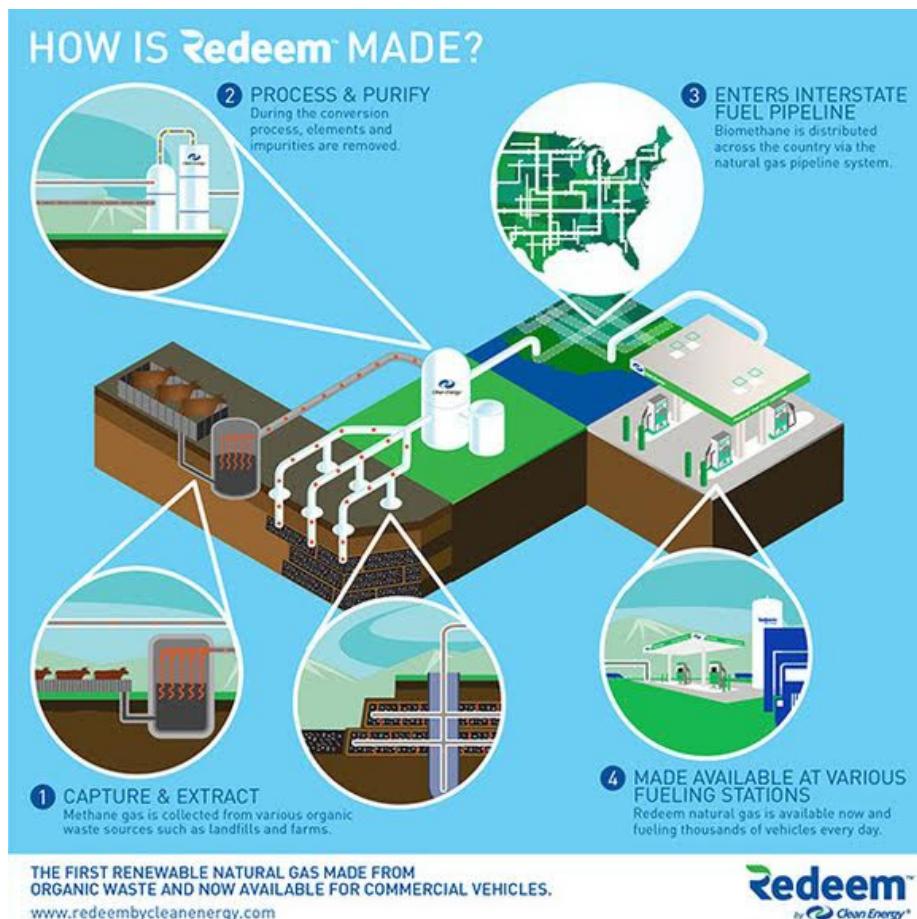
Top tech giants are banking on artificial intelligence to give them a competitive edge



\$120 Million "Biogas Project" Will to Convert Food Scraps To Fuel

RNG Energy Solutions, along with Philadelphia Energy Solutions are teaming up to create the Point Breeze Renewable Energy Project. When completed in three years, the plant will convert over 1,100 tons of food waste a day into methane gas. From what I'm told, Point Breeze will only use food waste from local restaurants and grocers in the area and they are looking for the fattiest and greasiest refuse they can find. The facility will develop transportation fuel for trucks and buses and in the process, the company will help Philadelphia to achieve their green energy targets. Keep in mind, currently, all the organic refuse ends up in landfills where huge amounts of methane from decomposing waste is sent into the atmosphere. As cities are going more and more 'green' I suspect

these technologies will not only be necessary but might even be required. Interestingly, these projects won't be using residential food waste because merely collecting and separating the waste from neighborhoods for this type of project is at least for now, cost prohibitive. I'm told a facility this size should produce three million cubic feet of gas a day, for which there is a huge market from fleet owners as well as municipal buses. This is not the first project for RNG as they are developing similar systems in Seattle, Boston and Linden, NJ., for the purpose of capturing food waste in metro areas and reducing the distance raw materials need to travel. It's worth noting, the digestion process also produces a high-value fertilizer as a byproduct which can then be sold. As I understand it, the fertilizer is most like peat moss, being rich in nitrogen and phosphorus, and the company has already secured an organic rating for the by-product. For residents who may worry about odors emanating from a nearby facility, there is no need to, as the system is totally closed and odor-free. Interestingly, one of the most critical processes includes the initial handling of food waste that arrives at the facility needing to be "de-packaged", which occurs in a high-speed centrifuge that separates cans, plastic bags and any other packaging. The Point Breeze Project is another example of where societal trends meet technological innovation and create new business opportunities. (Source: philly.com)



Flyboard Air Video is Absolutely Crazy

Seems like the Marty McFly hoverboard is actually coming to real life. From what I understand, the Zapata Flyboard Air is a small jet engine that's strapped to your feet and can go over +103 MPH. Inventors have been chasing personal flight for decades, but no one else has achieved it in the way that Zapata has. Despite what I was thinking, they say flying these things are super easy to learn and you don't need any pilot training, but you will be required to fly 100 hours on the water Flyboard

before you get started. One of the coolest features I've read is that the Flyboard Air can lose one engine and still continue the mission. If two engines go out, the Flyboard Air will make a controlled descent. There are rumors the Special Ops in the Military might start using them. The Flyboard Air's aren't yet available to the public, but you can learn more about Zapata by Clicking [HERE](#). I also encourage you to watch this crazy video of the Flyboard Air in live action racing Lamborghinis and flying through canyons. Where was this toy when I was kid? Click [HERE](#) to watch.



MUST READ... Another Amazing Story of Human Perseverance!

I was sent an e-mail the other day regarding the song "Precious Lord." The story sounded almost too crazy to be true, so I did some researching. I found it to be true and felt compelled to pass along this amazing read. It certainly touched both my wife and I and I am certain it will have a similar effect on you.

"PRECIOUS LORD"

Back in 1932, I was a fairly new husband. My wife, Nettie and I were living in a little apartment on Chicago 's south side. One hot August afternoon I had to go to St. Louis where I was to be the featured soloist at a large revival meeting. I didn't want to go; Nettie was in the last month of pregnancy with our first child, but a lot of people were expecting me in St. Louis.

I kissed Nettie goodbye, clattered downstairs to our Model A and, in a fresh Lake Michigan breeze, chugged out of Chicago on Route 66. However, outside the city, I discovered that in my

anxiety at leaving, I had forgotten my music case. I wheeled around and headed back. I found Nettie sleeping peacefully. I hesitated by her bed; something was strongly telling me to stay, but eager to get on my way, and not wanting to disturb Nettie, I shrugged off the feeling and quietly slipped out of the room with my music.

The next night, in the steaming St. Louis heat, the crowd called on me to sing again and again. When I finally sat down, a messenger boy ran up with a Western Union telegram. I ripped open the envelope... Pasted on the yellow sheet were the words: "YOUR WIFE JUST DIED."

People were happily singing and clapping around me, but I could hardly keep from crying out. I rushed to a phone and called home. All I could hear on the other end was "Nettie is dead. Nettie is dead."

When I got back, I learned that Nettie had given birth to a boy. I swung between grief and joy. Yet that same night, the baby died. I buried Nettie and our little boy together, in the same casket. Then I fell apart. For days I closeted myself. I felt that God had done me an injustice. I didn't want to serve Him anymore or write gospel songs I just wanted to go back to that jazz world I once knew so well. But then, as I hunched alone in that dark apartment those first sad days, I thought back to the afternoon I went to St. Louis. Something kept telling me to stay with Nettie. Was that something God? Oh, if I had paid more attention to Him and my heart that day, I would have stayed and been with Nettie when she died. From that moment on I vowed to listen more closely.

But still I was lost in grief. Everyone was kind to me, especially one friend. The following Saturday evening he took me up to Maloney's Poro College, a neighborhood music school. It was quiet; the late evening sun crept through the curtained windows. I sat down at the piano, and my hands began to browse over the keys. Something happened to me then. I felt at peace. I felt as though I could reach out and touch God.

I found myself playing a melody. Once in my head they just seemed to fall into place: 'Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand, I am tired, I am weak, I am worn, through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light, take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.' The Lord gave me these words and melody, He also healed my spirit.

I learned that when we are in our deepest grief, when we feel farthest from God, this is when He is closest, and when we are most open to His restoring power. And so I go on living for God willingly and joyfully, until that day comes when He will take me and gently lead me home.

Do you know who wrote this song, it was the great Thomas A. Dorsey. I surely didn't. Dorsey was born in Georgia in 1899. His father was a Baptist preacher, and his mother a piano teacher. His family moved to Atlanta at the age of five, where he came in contact with the musical sounds of the blues. He moved to Chicago in 1915 and began playing in nightclubs under a variety of names delivering an unbelievable mix of blues and jazz. Dorsey became active in Pilgrim Baptist Church in Chicago. Beginning in 1932, he served as the church's choir director for forty years. The song "Precious Lord" has since been translated into 32 languages, sang several times by Elvis Presley and was sung at both President Lyndon B. Johnson's funeral and the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

What an incredible story! Think about all of the messages it contains. Be sure to share with your friends and family. To inspiring not to pass along...

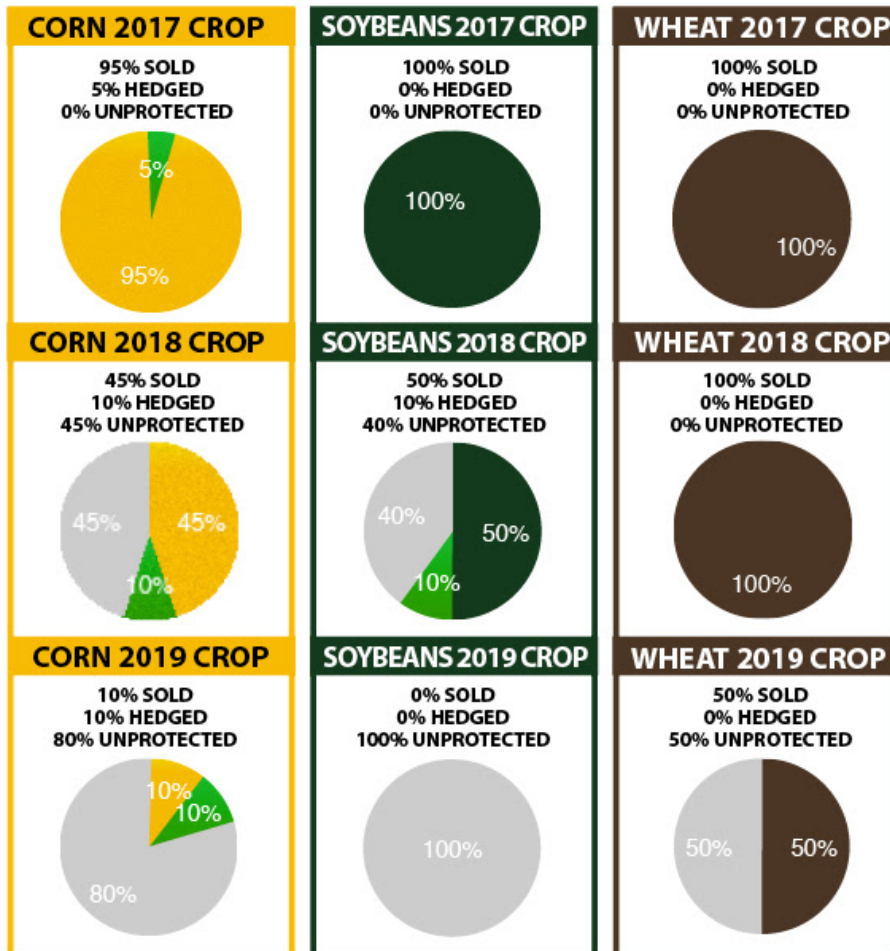


ANSWER to riddle:

Kiss.

CASH SALES & HEDGING TOTALS

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