

GOOD MORNING: 02/01/19 Farm Direction - Van Trump Report

1 message

The Van Trump Report <reply@vantrumpreport-email.com>

Fri, Feb 1, 2019 at 7:10 AM

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"The most difficult thing is the decision to act, the rest is merely tenacity." - **Amelia Earhart**

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 01, 2019
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Morning Summary: Stock traders see one of the worst Decembers in years followed by one of the best Januarys in over 30 years. The S&P 500 was up almost +8% this January. That's the best January performance since 1987, when the S&P rose by just over +13%. Bulls believe the market tends to follow the path set in January and are looking for a positive 2019. According to Stock Trader's Almanac, going back to 1950, that metric of January's performance predicting the year has worked 87% of the time. Bears simply point to last year, the setup was similar after January, but the stock market sold off aggressively into the end of the year, giving back all of its earlier gains. Bears also point to "Black Monday", the stock market crash in October of 1987, the same year the market posted huge gains in January. In fact, leading up to the October 1987 crash, the Dow Jones Industrial Average more than tripled in five years. As a result, valuations rose to excessive levels and a massive correction unfolded. I don't know if it's fair to draw similarities to 1987, but I still remain hesitant adding to positions into the momentum. Instead I have been gradually banking profits and reducing further exposure on the massive rebound. The bargain shopping has paid off and I see no reason to be greedy. The market may in fact keep moving higher, and I will keep gradually reducing exposure and banking profits. Along the way I will continue to look for individual stocks that have fallen out of favor and present themselves with real value. President Trump and U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer are reporting "substantial progress" has been made in trade talks with China. The two sides wrapped up trade talks in Washington yesterday. The hopes now are that President Trump and Chinese leader Xi Jinping will be getting together soon to finalize details and reach a compromise. As for today, the Labor Department will release its monthly estimate of employment. Most inside the trade are looking for the report to show a net +170,000 to +180,000 new jobs were created in January, down from the 312,000 added in December. But there's even more uncertainty than usual as the lengthy government shutdown could squirrel up the data a bit making it difficult to fully interpret. My opinion, good or bad, the market will probably discount the report and give it very little consideration past this morning. As for next week we will be digesting updated U.S. manufacturing and auto sales number. We will also have the State of the Union being delivered by President Trump on Tuesday. The following week is when U.S. government funding is set to expire if no deal is reached between Republicans and Democrats regarding the wall. There's also talk that the Mueller investigation report could be released in mid to late-February. As for next week's U.S. corporate earnings we will see big names like Alphabet (Google), Disney, Cerner, Snap, Tyson, Skyworks, Chipotle, General Motors, and Twitter to name a few. Enjoy the warmer weather, it might not last long...

Elon Musk and Tesla Bet Big on China: *Electric vehicle sales have grown more rapidly in China than other parts of the world, and already comprise about 4 % of the substantial market there. The growth is thanks, in part, to a shifting array of federal and local incentives for electric vehicle makers, and subsidies for people who buy these cars in China. Tesla wants to establish a stronger foothold in this massive market, before the subsidies and incentives go away. Specifically CEO Elon Musk and Tesla's retiring CFO Deepak Ahuja emphasized their aims to get the Tesla Shanghai Gigafactory up-and-running this year, and to deliver U.S.-made Model 3 sedans to customers in China immediately. Musk expressed concern that trade tensions between China and the U.S. could escalate, resulting in higher import taxes or tariffs, and other problems for Tesla. China's industry ministry expects*

Today In History



1887, Hollywood - Harvey Wilcox officially registers Hollywood with the Los Angeles County recorder's office. Wilcox and his wife, Daeida, had

moved to Southern California four years earlier from Topeka, Kansas, where Harvey had made his fortune in real estate. They bought 160 acres of land in the Cahuenga Valley, located in the foothills to the west of the city of Los Angeles. A once-sleepy settlement founded in 1781 as El Pueblo de Nuestra Senora la Reina de Los Angeles de Poricuncula, Los Angeles was by then expanding rapidly thanks to the completion of the Southern Pacific Railroad in 1876 (the Santa Fe Railroad would arrive in 1885). Wilcox, who had lost the use of his legs as a child due to polio, envisioned the land as the perfect site for a utopian-like community for devout Christians, where they could live a highly moral life free of vices such as alcohol (Wilcox was a prohibitionist). Daeida Wilcox called the new community "Hollywood," borrowing the name from a Chicago friend who told her that was the name of a summer home she had in the Midwest. Harvey laid out a street map of the settlement, centered on a main street he called Prospect Avenue (it was later renamed Hollywood Boulevard). After filing the map with the L.A. County recorder's office, Wilcox set about laying out Hollywood's streets, made of dirt and lined with pepper trees. As Harvey sold lots, Daeida worked to raise money to build churches, a school and a library. By 1900, nine years after Harvey Wilcox's death, Hollywood had a population of 500, compared with 100,000 people in Los Angeles at the time. It was connected to L.A. by a single-track streetcar running down Prospect Avenue; it took two hours to make the seven-mile trip, and service was infrequent. In 1910, the community of Hollywood voted to consolidate with Los Angeles due to an inadequate supply of water. Shortly thereafter, the fledgling motion-picture industry began growing exponentially, as moviemakers found their ideal setting in the mild, sunny

new energy vehicle output to hit 2 million in 2020, with sales of 7 million such vehicles there by 2025, some 20 % of the overall autos market.

The Ultra-Rich are Investing Differently in 2019 and it includes cannabis. Super-wealthy investors are making some changes to their portfolios for 2019. They are increasing their cash holdings and reducing their equity exposure. They are also investing in fixed income and cannabis, says Tiger 21 founder Michael Sonnenfeldt. (Source: [CNBC](#))

Oil's Best January on Record: U.S. crude oil surged this month to post its best January performance on record, breaking a three-month losing streak that saw futures lose nearly half of their value. Crude futures have powered through a steady flow of weak economic data from China, the world's second biggest oil consumer, amid an ongoing trade dispute with Washington. The energy complex has been boosted by OPEC-led production cuts aimed at draining oversupply and U.S. sanctions on Venezuela, which threaten to disrupt global trade flows and bolster prices. U.S. West Texas Intermediate crude prices ended Thursday's session down 44 cents at \$53.79 a barrel, after hitting a two-month high at \$55.37. WTI posted an 18.5 % monthly gain, its biggest jump since April 2016 and its best January since the futures began trading in 1983. Read more on the oil market [HERE](#).

Venmo Continues To Show Massive Growth: PayPal saw \$19 billion in payment volume through its peer-to-peer lending app Venmo in the fourth quarter — an 80% increase year-over-year. PayPal is on track to do another \$100 billion in payment volume through Venmo this year. But it won't be in the black until mid-2019, PayPal's CFO says." (Source: [CNBC](#); [DataTrek](#))

Apple's Retail Locations Are Individually Unique: Apple's design is what has made it so successful, user-friendly and increasingly appealing, with sleek lines and crisp whites. That philosophy extends to its retail stores, too. Inside, all of the stores look pretty much the same — Apple trademarked its store layout in 2013 — but each one offers its own unique look from the outside. Many stores are now located in famed sites and historic buildings: Take, for example, Apple's location in Paris, or its space in New York City's Grand Central Station. Apple Stock closed at a fresh 21-month low of \$142.19 back on Jan. 3 and has since rallied back by about +17%. Check out more cool Apple locations [HERE](#).



climate and varied terrain of Southern California. As the years went by, Harvey Wilcox's dreams of a sober, conservative religious community faded even further into the background, as Hollywood became known throughout the world as the gilded center of an industry built on fantasy, fame and glamour.



1991, Jetliners Collide - A runway collision between US Air Flight 1493 and SkyWest Flight 5569 at Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) results in the death of 34 persons, and the injury of 30 others. This flight was scheduled to fly from Syracuse Hancock International Airport, NY to San Francisco International Airport, CA. Flight 1493 collided with SkyWest Flight 5569 upon landing at a scheduled stopover at LAX. On the evening of February 1, 1991, LAX saw slow to moderate air traffic, but as the US Air Flight 1493 was on its final approach, a series of abnormalities distracted the local air traffic controller. The distractions included an aircraft that inadvertently switched off the tower frequency and a misplaced flight progress strip*, which resulted in the SkyWest Flight 5569 being told to taxi into takeoff position while the US Air flight was landing on the same runway without Flight 5569 ever being given a takeoff clearance. The planes collided and continued down the runway with the SkyWest Metroliner crushed underneath the US Air 737 exiting the runway and catching fire. Twenty-two of 89 people aboard the landing 737 and all 12 aboard the Metroliner died. As Rescue workers quickly arrived the fire became so intense it had blocked six of the 737's exits. Neither of the front exits was usable. This caused the front passengers to try to use the over-wing exits. However, only one of the over-wing exits was usable, which caused passengers the inability to exit. Most of those aboard the 737 that died in the accident did so from asphyxiation in the post-crash fire. *A flight progress strip is a strip of paper used to track a flight in Air Traffic Control (ATC).



2004, Infamous "Wardrobe Malfunction" - Janet Jackson's breast is exposed during the half-time show of Super Bowl XXXVIII, resulting in US broadcasters adopting a stronger adherence to Federal Communications Commission censorship guidelines. Super Bowl XXXVIII was broadcast live on February 1, 2004 from Houston, TX on the CBS television network. During the halftime show Justin Timberlake exposed Janet Jackson's breast (with a nipple shield) for about half a second, in what was later referred to as a "wardrobe malfunction." The incident, sometimes referred to as "Nipplegate," was widely discussed. Along with the rest of the halftime show, it led to an immediate crackdown and widespread debate on perceived indecency in broadcasting, and resulted in a record \$550,000 fine levied by the Federal Communications



FARM TANK

Tweets of the Day

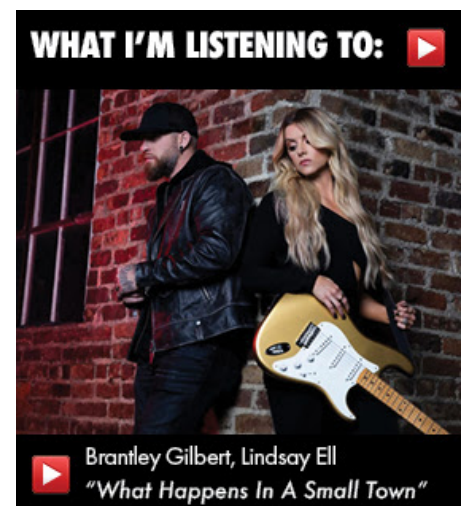


Commission (FCC) against CBS, as well as an increase of the FCC fine per indecency violation from \$27,500 to \$325,000. Following the wardrobe incident, the NFL announced that MTV, which also produced the halftime show for Super Bowl XXXV, would never be involved in another halftime show.

Upcoming Events

- Fri. 02/01** - Unemployment, Grain Crashings
- Mon. 02/04** - Export Inspections
- Tues. 02/05** - Chinese New Year
- Thurs. 02/07** - Export Sales, Jobless Claims
- Fri. 02/08** - Crop Productions, USDA Supply & Demand
- Mon. 02/11** - Export Inspections
- Thurs. 02/14** - Valentine's Day
- Fri. 02/15** - Retail Sales, NOPA Crush
- Mon. 02/18** - President's Day (Some Markets Closed)
- Tues. 2/19** - Full Moon, Export Inspections
- Wed. 02/20** - Housing Starts & Pmts
- Thur. 02/21** - Jobless Claims
- Fri. 02/22** - Export Sales, Cattle on Feed/Cold Storage
- Mon. 02/25** - Export Inspections
- Thurs 02/28** - Export Sales, Jobless Claims

Kevin's Song of the Week



Kevin's Song of the Week

US #videogames have grown over the past two years bringing in \$43 billion in revenue in 2018 via @theESA

bit.ly/2Sbltta

U.S. Video Game Sales Reach a New Highscore

Annual revenue of the U.S. video game industry from 2016 to 2018



* including peripherals

** including in-game purchases and subscriptions

@StatistaCharts

Sources: Entertainment Software Association, The NPD Group, Sensor Tower

statista

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 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



NativeAmericanSoul

@Nativeesoul

Following



Please say something about this video 



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.



Erick Larson
@MStateCorn

Following



MS growers were still harvesting both [#soybeans](#) and [#cotton](#) yesterday. Obviously, many fields are rutted and all very muddy. It's going to be a rough [#Plant19](#) unless we are blessed with a dry spring. [#mscrops](#) [#MSUext](#)



Farm Direction
RECIPES

★ **FAMILY** ★
FAVORITES
-SENT IN BY OUR READERS-

**Baked Orange
Chicken Meatballs**

w/Sugar Snap Peas

CLICK TO SEE RECIPE



Jay Magnussen

@Agronomyjay

Following



Poor start to [#harvest19](#)





History Lovers Club
@historylvrclub

Following

WWII



TC RESTANI
@AfterHoursTC

Following

40 Years ago this weekend. The Dukes of Hazard made it's debut. One of my favorite shows ever. Who was your favorite character??? #TheDukesOfHazzard
#GeneralLee





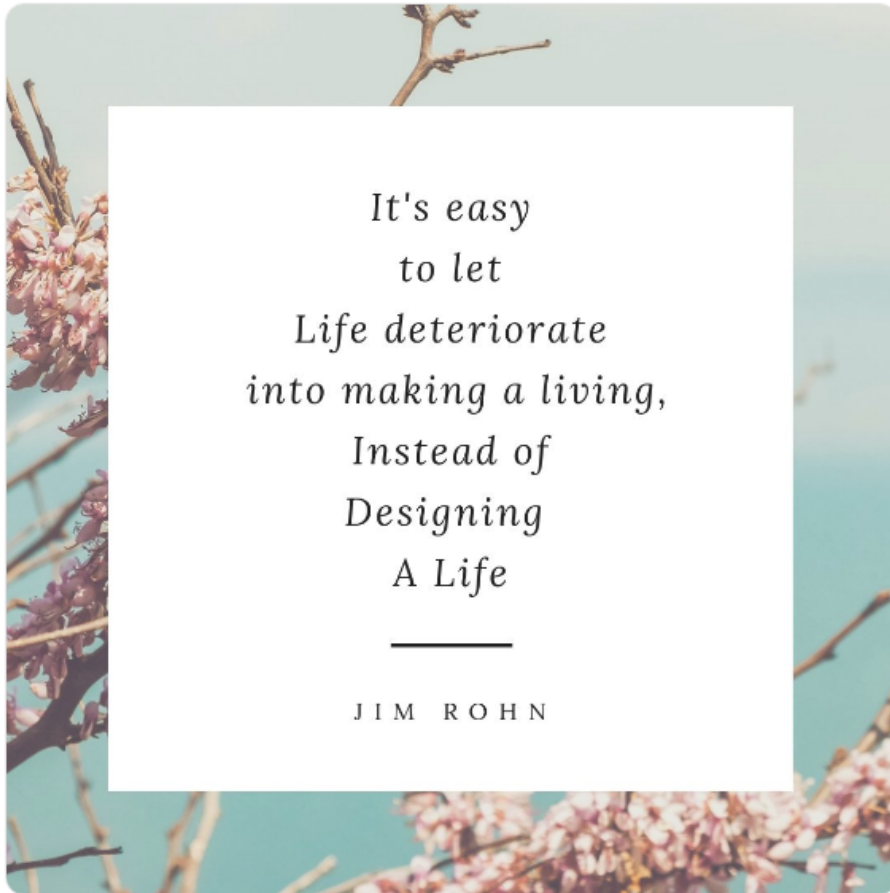
Cheri Shapley

@cheri_shapley

Following



It's easy to let life deteriorate into making a [#living](#), instead of designing a [#life](#). - Jim Rohn ==> bit.ly/EnergytoBurnSi...



neuro mining



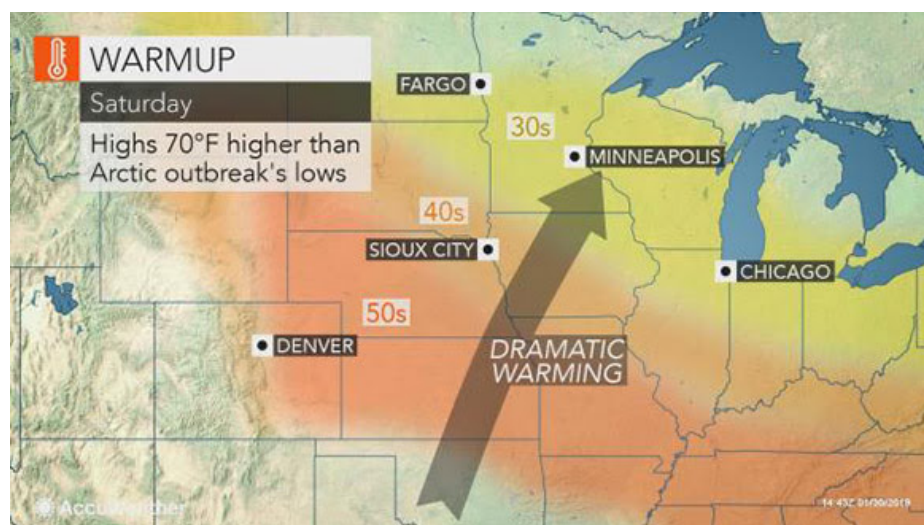
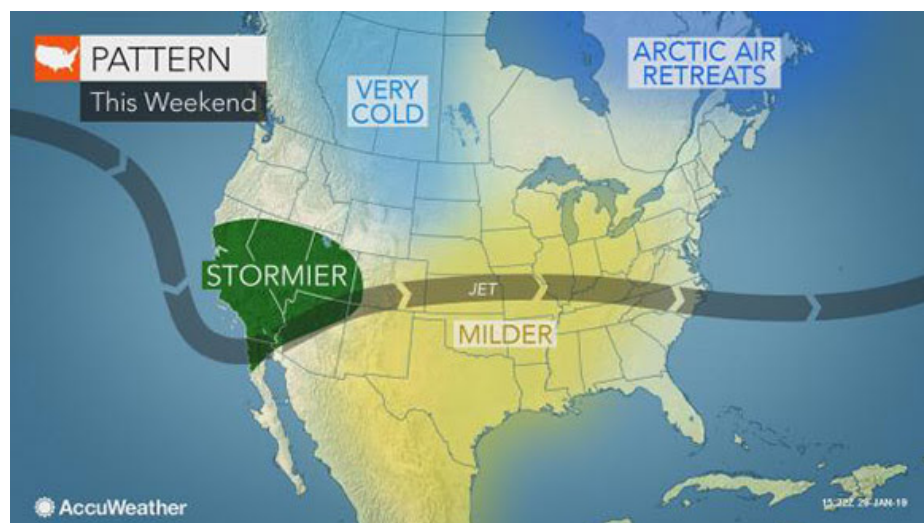
As we age, it gets harder and harder to create new neural pathways in the brain. It's the reason kids find it so easy to learn new things, but as adults it often gets more difficult. Doing brain teasers and solving riddles can be an important part of keeping our brain healthy. The more connections we 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:

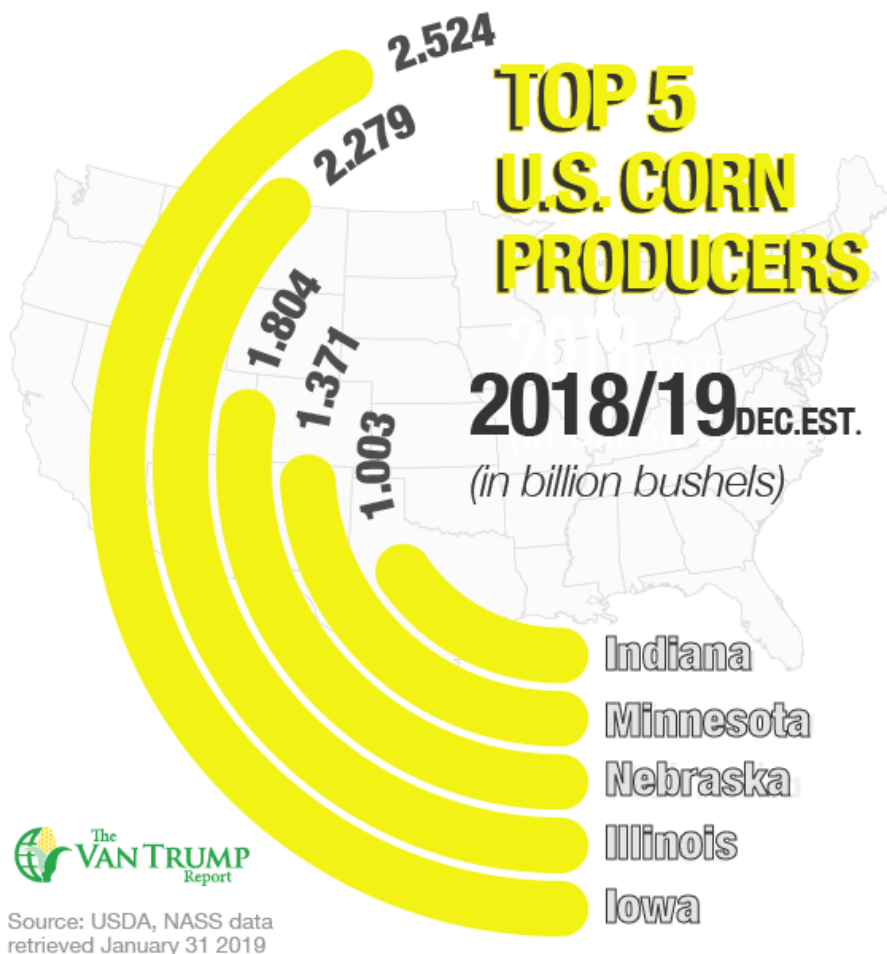
What is so delicate that even mentioning it breaks it?

Incredible Temperature Swing Coming: Temperatures in the Midwest will rapidly rebound by this weekend with some cities experiencing highs that are 60 to 70 degrees

warmer than their subzero lows Wednesday and Thursday morning. Chicago, for example, could have a temperature rise of more than 65 degrees from Thursday morning to Saturday afternoon. That would be the largest temperature rise over 72 hour period on record in the Windy City, according to the Iowa Environmental Mesonet.

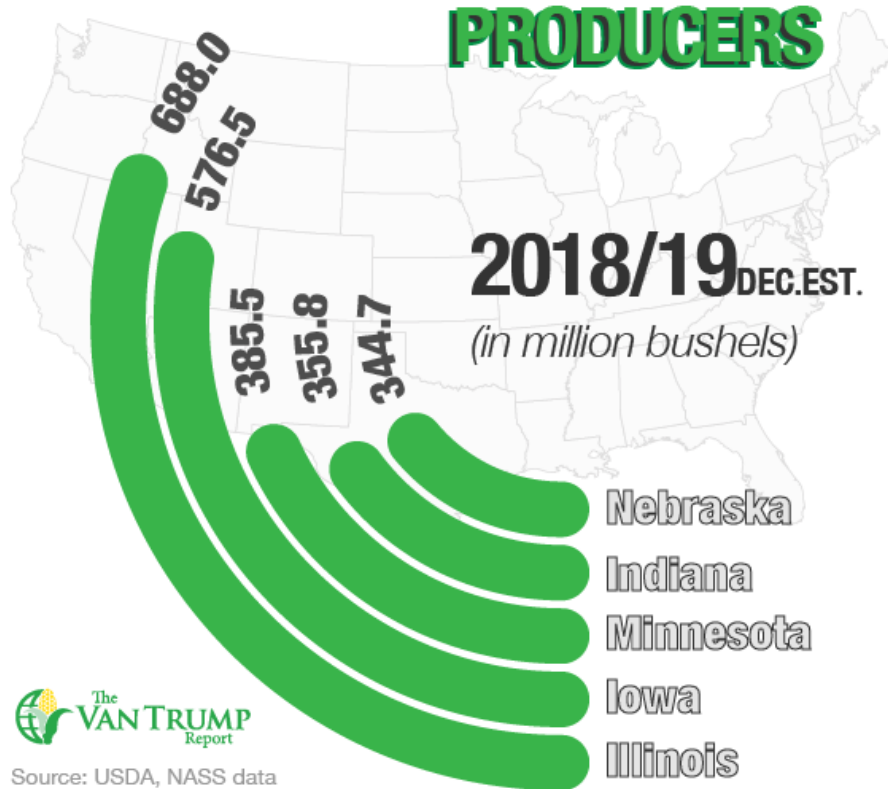


Corn bulls are wanting to hear more details about Chinese trade negotiations and the possibility of China buying U.S. corn, ethanol and DDGs in large quantities. The Chinese have reportedly "made arrangements" to purchase more U.S. agricultural products, but still no detailed specifics exist. Bears are worried that the March 1 deadline is quickly approaching and will pass without a hard deal being inked. Bulls continue to believe a trade deal and or major compromise is near. Weather in South America looks to be more cooperative as the forecast improves. There are some rains moving across the dry areas of northern Brazil and less rain falling in parts of Argentina. I should note, there's still some nearby weather complications brewing in Paraguay and Mato Grosso but the longer range forecast shows some improvements. I should also note, the Buenos Aires Grains Exchange raised their Argentine production estimate higher by +2 MMTs to 45 MMTs vs. the current USDA estimate of 42.5 MMTs. Keep in mind, Argentina produced only 32.0 MMTs last year. Brazil is forecast to produce 94.5 MMTs this year vs. 82.0 MMTs last year. In other words, despite weather worries, Argentina and Brazil are still looking at +20 to +25 MMTs more corn being produced in 2019. Ukraine is also bumping their production estimate higher, saying their 2018 production was more like 35.6 MMTs, which was up sharply vs. the previous years 24.1 MMTs. Bears are worried that the additional global bushels mean more stiff competition for U.S. exporters and the possibility of the USDA trimming their export estimate. The trade is also thinking the USDA will be further reducing their corn used for ethanol estimate, some thinking by as much as -50 to -75 million bushels. I'm not sure the USDA IS going to be that aggressive with another cut at this stage of the game, but perhaps as we move forward we could see some additional demand reductions, especially if China doesn't step in as a U.S. buyer.



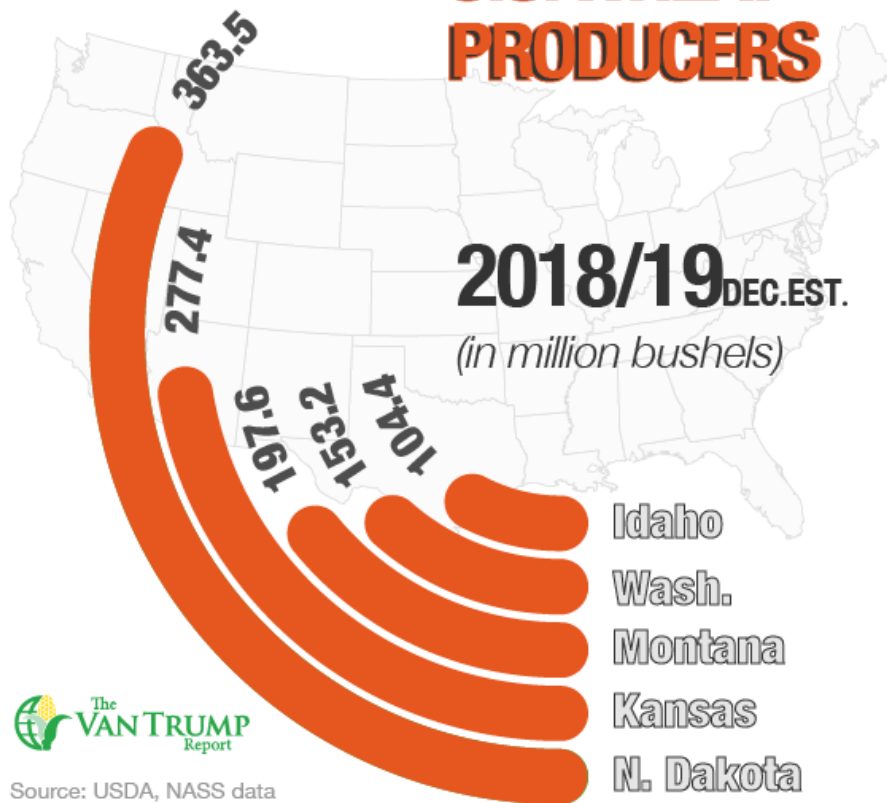
Soybean bulls are happy to hear talk that China is planning to buy more U.S. soybeans. There was some initial confusion, but from what I understand, China is expected to purchase another 5 MMTs of U.S. soybeans, on top of the estimated 5 MMTs they have recently purchased. Even though it's fantastic to see China back in the U.S. market, I'm just worried it might not be enough to keep the bulls buying and the bears at bay? Keep in mind, Brazil has now harvested about 15% of their new-crop bushels and supply is moving to the ports and becoming more readily available. Meaning the window of opportunity for U.S. exporters is starting to more rapidly close. We certainly don't want to scoff at another 5 MMT purchase, but with the U.S. balance sheet busting at the seams it will still be tough to paint a bullish picture. The good news is Brazil's crop has faced some weather headwinds. Rather than Brazil harvesting another new record, like the USDA was forecasting at 122.0 MMTs, it looks like their production is going to pullback to around 112.0 to 116.0 MMTs. Bulls are thinking there could be logistical concerns and restraints associated with getting the crop out of the country so perhaps U.S. exporters could see unusually late interest in supply, especially if the Chinese are trying to show good faith. As a spec, and despite the headlines, I'm just having a hard time jumping on the bullish bandwagon with prices at the upper end of their range. As a producer, I'm within 20 cents of reducing more price risk. I continue to like the thought of reducing more risk into the rallies.

TOP 5 U.S. SOYBEAN PRODUCERS



Wheat traders are clearly following the rhythm of the other row crops as they have very little of their own fresh headlines to digest. I continue to hear mixed rhetoric out of Russia, some talking slightly better yields and no export restrictions. Others are talking slightly lower production numbers and government pressure to start restricting export shipments. Hence, the market seems to be discounting the Russian headlines and not giving them a lot of weight inside the trade. Bulls are pointing to another round of hot and dry conditions for many parts of Western Australia, which could create complications into wheat planting which will happen in the next 45 to 120 days. Here at home there continues to be bullish commentary surrounding winter-kill possibilities across portions of the U.S. that have had little to no snow cover. I continue to remain bullish, but may eventually need to attend a Tony Robbins seminar to keep an optimistic attitude:) The inability for this market to sustain upside momentum is really trying my patience and mental toughness.

TOP 5 U.S. WHEAT PRODUCERS



> Large Brazilian Fertilizer Company Closing Plants: Brazilian fertilizer company Heringer has decided to close several of its plants and distribution centers as part of a restructuring plan to lower its debt burden. Heringer, one of the largest players in the Brazilian fertilizer market, sent a message to workers on Thursday in at least 10 installations, including plants and regional offices, advising them that they faced closure, according to a e-mail message seen by Reuters. Workers in those units would be laid off. Heringer has around 3,000 employees. (Source: Reuters)

> Ag Census Results Delayed: A report on the 2017 Census of Agriculture, originally set for release in late February at the At Outlook Forum, has been postponed due to the partial federal government shutdown. A new release date has yet to be determined. (Source: USDA)

> Hot, Dry Australian Weather To Damage Wheat Outlook: Australia's west coast is facing hot, dry weather over the next three months, the country bureau of meteorology said, denting the outlook for wheat production in the world's fourth-largest exporter. Western Australia is the country's largest wheat growing region, producing up to half of the total harvest, and farmers will begin sowing crops in early April. Remember, last year the country's wheat production fell to the lowest in 10 years due to dry weather along the country's east coast. (Source: Reuters)

> Brazil Tops \$100 Billion In Ag Exports: In 2018, for the first time, Brazil exported more than \$100 billion worth of farm products. The total, up 6% from 2017, was driven mainly by soybeans, beef, and cellulose pulp, with China as the No. 1 market. This data was provided by the Brazilian Confederation of agriculture and Livestock (CNA).

> **New Bill Bans Horse Slaughter:** An Illinois Democrat and a Florida Republican have filed a bill to permanently ban the U.S. slaughter of horses for human consumption and the export of horses to slaughterhouses in Mexico and Canada. Animal welfare groups are applauding this proposal.

> **Dairy Groups Worried About Export Demand:** According to a study commissioned by the U.S. Dairy Export Council, the U.S. share of Japan's dairy market could drop by half over the next decade if the the United States does not negotiate trade agreements to overcome the advantages given to competitors by the TPP pact and an EU-Japan free trade agreement. (Source: USDEC)

> **Trump Considering Herman Cain for the Fed:** Former presidential candidate and Godfather's Pizza CEO Herman Cain is under consideration for a Federal Reserve governorship. Cain met with President Donald Trump on Wednesday at the White House where he was escorted by National Economic Council director Larry Kudlow. Keep in mind, Cain is a former chairman of the Kansas City Fed serving from 1989-1996. Many White House sources say Trump is meeting with multiple candidates for the two vacancies on the central bank board.

> **Amazon Web Services Reports +45% Jump in Revenue in 4th Quarter:** Sales at Amazon Web Services climbed to \$7.43 billion from \$5.11 billion a year ago, which tops the \$7.29 billion consensus estimate among analysts polled by FactSet. Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos highlighted the success of the Alexa voice-assistant in the earnings release saying, "Alexa was very busy during her holiday season. Echo Dot was the best-selling item across all products on Amazon globally, and customers purchased millions of more devices from the Echo family compared to last year." Keep in mind, the fourth-quarter is typically the largest for Amazon because it includes the holiday shopping season. (Source: CNBC)

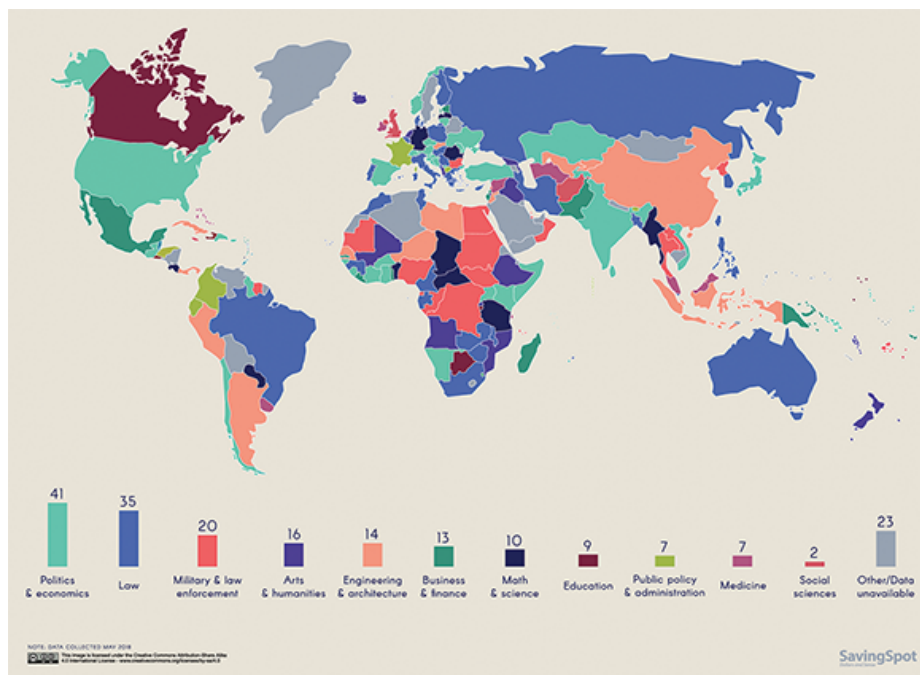
> **The World Record Egg on Instagram:** On January 13th, world_record_egg account became the most-liked Instagram photo of all time with almost 52 million likes beating Kylie Jenner, who recently held the record with 18 million likes. The post said, "Let's set a world record together and get the most liked post on Instagram. Beating the current world record held by Kylie Jenner (18 million)!" Now the account has 9.6 million followers as of yesterday and literally just features pictures of an egg beginning to crack. Jerry Media, the social media marketing firm that helped promote the Fyre Festival, claimed to be working with the anonymous creator of the World Record Egg account.

> **Amazon Prime Video Has More Than 4.5x as Many Movies as Netflix:** With a total of 17,461 films, Prime's movie library is more than 4.5x larger than its next closest competitor Netflix, which has 3,839 flicks to choose from. After that, competitors drops down to Hulu with 2,336 movies and HBO with 815 movies. Keep in mind, Netflix has more Certified Fresh movies with 596 than Prime, Hulu, and HBO NOW combined. Amazon Prime Video has 323 Certified Fresh Movies and Hulu has 223.

> **Gamestop Struggles to Find Buyer:** GameStop started looking for a buyer in June of 2018 and said it had terminated efforts to find a buyer because there weren't many strategic partners interested in merging with the nation's leading seller of pre-owned Max Payne copies. Keep in mind, the end of the search comes months after the company's longtime CEO passed away and his replacement quit 3 months into job causing shares to fall more than -27% after the announcement, the most in 16 years.

> **Facebook Now Has 2.7 Billion Monthly Users:** "Roughly half of Instagram's 1 billion users now use Instagram Stories every day. That 500 million daily user count is up from 400 million in June 2018. 2 million advertisers are now buying Stories ads across Facebook's properties... Facebook says it now has 2.7 billion monthly users across the Facebook family of apps: Facebook, Instagram, Messenger, and WhatsApp." Source: TechCrunch

> **What Did The Leaders of the World Study in School?** This is a very interesting question, and one that maybe you had never really thought about. However, I think it is very telling in knowing what kind of education has helped to set up a leader for success -- particularly for success in running a nation. The vast majority of heads of government have some sort of post-secondary education - 83%, in fact -- but their areas of study vary greatly. The following maps if from [SavingSpot](#) and is an informative look at what national leaders around the world studied in school. Click the graphic below for a larger view.



Western Kansas – I don't know if everyone in Kansas had this problem but the western portion of the state got hit with wind, hail on numerous occasions and we lost multiple pivots. Some guys not only lost the crop but actually had the pivot turned over which was a nightmare. I was in talking to my banker today and there's whispers that a few smaller farmers, which means 1000 acres or less out here are going up for sale. These are just rumors and I feel bad for the guys if they are, but I plan on picking up more ground if the whispers are correct.

Eastern Kansas – I was driving through eastern Kansas today on my way to actually listen to Kevin speak and I saw a standing soybean field that was unharvested. Not that alone isn't totally strange but what is, was the fact that whoever owned the field moldboard plowed one pace around the outside. As I drove past at a high rate of speed, I didn't seem to notice any beans laying down and they looked as dry as bean can look before they completely fall to the ground. If someone would be interested in writing in to explain why they are plowed around or why they have not been harvested I would love to know.

Northern Indiana – I have been reading today since it was only about -20 degrees out and there's no way I'm working in that weather. I keep reading that China is going to buy 5 million tons of soybeans per day from the US for the foreseeable future. Well if my calculations are correct, we have a little over 5 days of soybeans left of old crop. I have read this on multiple sites so I guess I'm confused how that would even be possible. Maybe my math is incredibly wrong but just in case it's not I bought a few beans.



FoodBytes! Selects 15 AgriFood Tech Startups to Pitch in San Francisco: FoodBytes! by Rabobank, a global pitch competition and networking platform for innovative food, food tech, and agtech entrepreneurs, has unveiled the 15 startups selected for FoodBytes! San Francisco 2019. The startups participating include Hargol FoodTech, Healthy Cow, Osmo Systems, CropIn Technology Solutions, Bushel, Shaka

Tea, The Worthy Company, Taali, GEM, Toast Ale, Zymtronic, SnapDNA, Bond Pets, Planetarians, and Cormat Inc. Click [HERE](#) to learn more about the event and these companies!

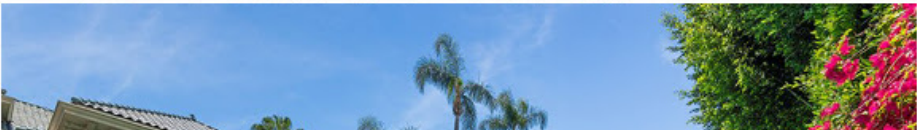
Marie Kondo Is Cleaning Up: And I mean at the bank. I don't know if you have yet to see this, but now that I bring it your attention, you are going to hear a lot more about it. Marie Kondo is Japan's reigning queen of tidiness. She wants to save people from clutter -- and perhaps clean up financially along the way. The home organizing consultant is riding a huge media wave thanks to the success of her Netflix show, *Tidying Up with Marie Kondo*, which made its debut on Jan. 1. Her decluttering method, in which personal possessions are tossed or retained depending on whether they "spark joy," is catching on with Americans oppressed by way too much stuff. While the shows success in and of itself is great, Kondo's company, KonMari Media Inc., is expanding as well with sales of her trademarked method through a network of certified consultants around the world. Plus, her two books, *The Life-Changing Magic of Tidying Up* and *Spark Joy*, have been published in 42 countries, and the first one has been on the New York Times best-seller list for almost 150 weeks. To read more about this decluttering our and the business empire she is building [HERE](#).

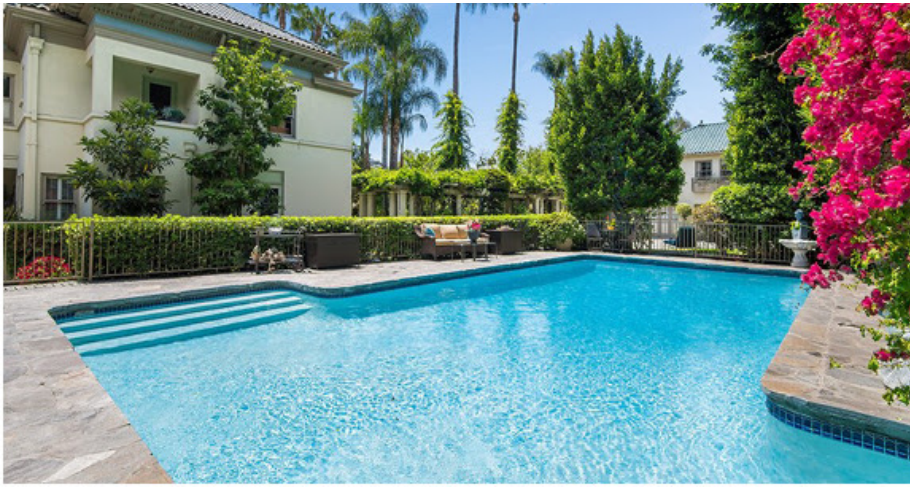
Tesla Has Big Plans For 2019: After Tesla posted a second straight profitable quarter, we now have a list of everything Tesla plans to do this year. Tesla wants to up Model 3 production to 7,000 cars per week. The started the year around 5,000 per week but believe they can get the increase. Tesla also wants to start tooling for Model Y to achieve volume production by the en of 2020. The Y is another crossover, but more compact than the current Model X. Another big goal for Tesla is to finish construction and start production at the Shanghai Gigafactory. This is the third of Tesla's Gigafactories. They want to be in full production at this factory by the beginning of next year producing Model 3s in the world largest car market. They also have plans to get the Tesla Semi-truck ready for production. Musk also stated on the latest earnings call that they may unveil a Tesla Pickup truck this summer. Musk said it'll be like nothing else, but in terms of "very difficult things for Tesla to pull off" that would be rather par for the course for 2019. Learn more about Tesla's ambitious plans for a pickup truck [HERE](#).

Your Brain is Your Memories: Recall your favorite memory , the big game you won; the moment you first saw your child's face; the day you realized you had fallen in love. It's not a single memory, though, is it? Reconstructing it, you remember the smells, the colors, the funny thing some other person said, and the way it all made you feel. Your brain's ability to collect, connect, and create mosaics from these milliseconds-long impressions is the basis of every memory. By extension, it is the basis of you. Every sensory experience triggers changes in the molecules of your neurons, reshaping the way they connect to one another. That means your brain is literally made of memories, and memories constantly remake your brain. This framework for memory dates back decades. And a sprawling new review published today in *Neuron* adds an even finer point: Memory exists because your brain's molecules, cells, and synapses can tell time. Read more [HERE](#).

Peek Inside The Champ's House: Boxing star Muhammad Ali's former Los Angeles mansion is currently on the market, and it's giving us insight into how the legend once lived. The nine-bedroom, seven-bathroom home sits on 1.6 acres of lush green land set behind the private gates of Fremont Place, a historic neighborhood filled with massive and luxurious mansions. Dating back to 1916, the house features the original ornate fireplaces, Tiffany stained-glass windows, and Italian Renaissance architectural details. Read more [HERE](#).







GM Chicken Eggs With Human Gene Could One Day Fight Cancer

Scientists have found that genetically modified chickens that produce human proteins in their eggs could offer a cost-effective method of manufacturing drugs for treating arthritis and some forms of cancer. Keep in mind that many diseases are caused because the body does not naturally produce enough of a certain chemical or protein. From what I understand, Dr. Lissa Herron, of Roslin Technologies in Edinburgh, found such diseases can be controlled with drugs that contain the deficient protein. More importantly though, Dr. Herron and her colleagues successfully inserted a human gene - which normally produces the protein, into the chicken's DNA, and I should mention that the drugs are 100 times cheaper to produce when laid than when manufactured in factories synthetically. I'm told eggs are already used for growing viruses for vaccines, such as the flu. It's worth noting, the team has initially focused on two proteins that are essential to the immune system and have therapeutic potential. One of them is a human protein called IFNalpha2a, which has powerful antiviral and anti-cancer effects. The other is the human and pig versions of a protein called macrophage-CSF, which is being developed as a therapy that stimulates damaged tissues to repair themselves. Researchers have found that three eggs are enough to produce a dose of the drug, and with chickens laying up to 300 eggs per year, the potential certainly exists to produce enough for commercial use. Regulatory hoops look to be the main obstacle according to researchers, who believe that it will take another 10-20 years to successfully maneuver through that area. While the new research is still in its early days, the scientists said it provides a "promising proof of concept" that could set the stage for improved drug production. From what I understand, farm animals could also benefit from research on chickens as well. Meaning, drugs from chicken eggs could boost the immune systems of farm animals as an alternative to antibiotics, which would reduce the risk of the development of new strains of antibiotic-resistant superbugs. In case you were wondering... the chickens live in very large pens and are fed, watered and looked after on a daily basis and from what I hear, live a very comfortable life. You can read all the research [HERE](#). (Source: [bbc.com](#) , independent)



Groundhog Day is Tomorrow

February 2 marks the halfway mark between the Winter Solstice and Spring Equinox, which means the days will now start getting longer, the temperature will gradually start to rise and another Winter will soon be behind us! February 2 is also the day we engage

in what seems a rather silly tradition - thousands of people gather at Gobbler's Knob in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania, to see if a groundhog will see his shadow. Known as "Punxsutawney Phil," the groundhog emerges from his simulated tree trunk home to look for his shadow. According to legend, if Phil sees his shadow the United States is in store for six more weeks of winter weather. But, if Phil doesn't see his shadow, the country should expect winter to subside and look forward to spring arriving early. Punxsutawney is not the only city in the U.S. that engages in this tradition, but it is the most well-known. This is likely due to the area's Dutch heritage. Groundhog Day originates from European folk traditions, where a badger was used as the forecaster. That superstition dates back to ancient beliefs that sunny skies on February 2, also known as Candlemas Day, signifies a stormy and cold second half of winter while cloudy skies indicate the arrival of warm weather. The tradition of using a groundhog in the U.S. came from Clymer H. Freas, city editor of the Punxsutawney Spirit newspaper who was inspired by a group of local groundhog hunters that went into the woods every Candlemas Day to look for groundhogs. Freas dubbed them the "Punxsutawney Groundhog Club" and starting in 1887 the search became an official event centered on a groundhog called Punxsutawney Phil. To be clear, the members of this club started off being interested groundhogs as a game animal for food. They actually hosted a "Groundhog Picnic" every September. Believe it or not, that tradition fell by the wayside because it failed to attract enough outside interest! The weather predicting tradition has obviously endured. For what it's worth, our friend "Punxsutawney Phil" did see his shadow this morning, meaning six more weeks of winter. Keep in mind, Punxsutawney Phil will likely predict six more weeks of winter because, since 1887, the groundhog has seen his shadow 103 times and not seen it 18 times. In addition, Buffalo celebrated its sixth annual Groundhog Day last weekend and Buffalo Bert saw his shadow, which means six more weeks of winter for Buffalo. Click [HERE](#) to watch Punxsutawney Phil predict the next six weeks, which will take place at about 6:25 am tomorrow.



Super Bowl 53... Inside the Numbers!

Super Bowl LIII (53), will take place this Sunday at 5:30 p.m. CST. The game is being played at Mercedes-Benz Stadium in Atlanta, and will be shown on CBS. Jim Nantz and Tony Romo will be the announcers for the big game. This will be the fifth Super Bowl for Jim Nantz and the first for Tony Romo, who I believe has done a great job this season. As long as I can remember, I've always passed along my pick for the big game. Through the years I've had some hot winning streaks that would rival the likes of "Jimmy the Greek". I've also had my fair share of horrific losing streaks. I suspect in the end my sports picking career hasn't been much better than the flip of a coin. But it's always a lot of fun to handicap the game and try to forecast the results. This years game is tough to pick. I was once told in the biggest of games you have to go with the QBs and Coaches. Tom Brady and Bill Belichick are the first QB and Coach to ever appear in nine Super Bowls and win five of them. I'm not saying the Rams don't have the horses, I'm just saying until I actually see Tom Brady and Bill Belichick look foolish during the big dance, it's tough to bet against them. If I had to pick someone in the league that has the talent to beat the Patriots, then I would 100% go with the Rams. I think it's going to come down to the wire... On top of my New England Patriot pick, I wanted to pass along some of the more fun facts and interesting data that has been circulating the past few days. Wishing you and your family a safe and happy Super Bowl gathering!

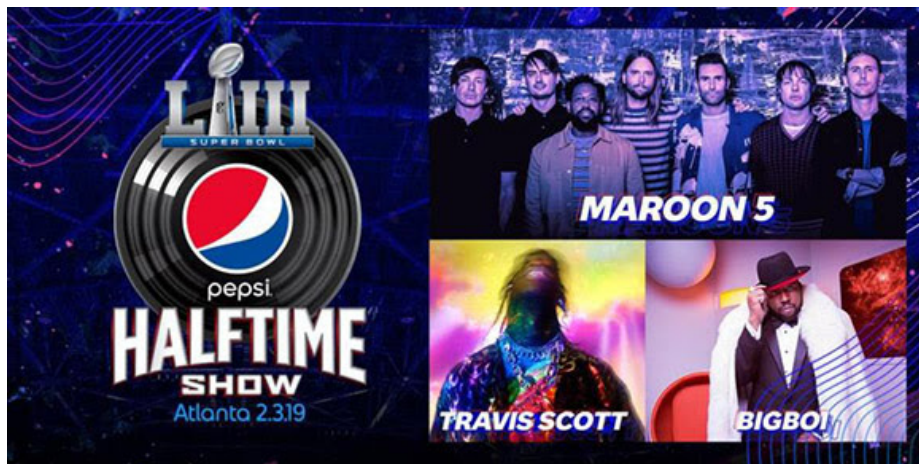
- **The Line:** *The LA Rams started out as the favorite, but that quickly flipped and New England is now favored by 2.5 points. That means most all of the early money was coming in on the Patriots. Keep in mind, the average margin of*

victory for the Patriots in their five Super Bowls wins under Belichick is 3.8 points and their average margin of defeat for their three Super Bowl losses under Belichick is 5 points. Meaning either way its probably going to be a close game.

- **The Rematch:** The game between the New England Patriots and the Los Angeles Rams is a rematch of the Super Bowl 17 years ago, which was won 20-17 by the Pats on a 48-yard Adam Vinatieri field goal as time expired. Keep in mind, this is the game that kicked off New England's dynasty as Tom Brady and Bill Belichick won their first Super Bowl together. It was Brady's first Super Bowl ever won and Belichick's first Super Bowl win as a head coach. Would be pretty cool if they could maybe get their last one in this matchup.
- **Over/Under** is currently set at 56.5 total points scored. This line opened as the highest over/under ever for a Super Bowl at 57.5, but it didn't last long, falling shortly after. Meaning money was coming in on the "under". Regardless, odds makers are looking for a shoot-out. Keep in mind the most points ever scored in Super Bowl was in the Patriots vs. Falcons game a couple of years back when the two teams scored a combined 57 points. I would imagine Rams could get out of the gates early. Data shows the Rams' are averaging 6 points per game in the first quarter just behind the Patriots at 6.1 points. The Patriots were second in total 1st quarter points at 130. Keep in mind, in the past eight Super Bowl appearances under Belichick, the Patriots have scored only 3 points in the first quarter, which came last year against the Eagles.
- **The Points:** Winning teams in the Super Bowl tend to average about 30 points while losing teams to average about 16 total points.
- **Los Angeles Rams** enter the game as the second seed in the NFC after a 13-3 season and playoff wins over the Cowboys and Saints, which was on the road in overtime. The Rams have a top-ranked offense putting up an average of 32.9 points per game, which is only behind the Chiefs. The LA Rams are set to make just their fourth Super Bowl appearance and will look to win their first Super Bowl since 1999 when they were in St. Louis and considered "The Greatest Show on Turf". Keep in mind, 40% of this teams roster is new to the team this year.
- **New England Patriots** are entering the game as the second seed in the AFC after an 11-5 season and playoff wins over the Chargers and Chiefs, which was won on the road and in overtime. The Pats will take the field as another powerhouse offense averaging 27.3 points per game. This will be the Patriots 11th Super Bowl appearance, which is also a new NFL record. Keep in mind, however, New England has lost just as many as they have won. Having been defeated in 1986, 2004, 2008, 2012, and 2018. Winning it in 2002, 2004, 2005, 2015, and 2017. The Patriots are the third team in NFL history to go to three straight Super Bowls as well.
- **The Oldest Player:** New England's quarterback, Tom Brady, will be the oldest player in the game at 41, which will make Brady the oldest non-kicker to ever play in a Super Bowl. Keep in mind, Brady made a statement this week saying there's 0% chance this will be his last game ever. With a win, Brady will become the oldest quarterback to win a Super Bowl, which is a record held by Peyton Manning at 39.
- **MVP:** Tom Brady holds the most Super Bowl MVP's of all time with four. Brady will be going for his fifth Super Bowl MVP award Sunday. The only time he didn't capture Super Bowl MVP after a Patriots win was when Deion Branch took it home in Super Bowl XXXIX against the Eagles.
- **Home Team:** Los Angeles has been awarded this year's "home team" and gets to pick what color jersey they will wear. Each year the designation switches from AFC to NFC. The Rams will wear their blue and yellow throwback jerseys as the Patriots will be wearing a sight that is all-too-familiar with their classic white jerseys.
- **Most Ever of All-Time:** With a win, the Patriots will break a tie with the Steelers for the most wins in playoff history with 36. In addition, to tying the Steelers for the most Super Bowl wins with six. As of now, the Patriots are tied with the Cowboys and 49ers with five Super Bowl championships. Also, if the Patriots win this game, then Belichick will match George Halas and Curly Lambeau with six championships, which no other coaches have done in NFL history. Brady will also set the record for the most Super Bowl wins by a player with six, which he's currently tied with Charles Haley with five. Keep in mind, a loss would tie Brady with Jim Kelly for the most Super Bowl losses by a starting quarterback in NFL history.
- **The Never Been:** Believe it or not, the only never been in Super Bowl History is a shutout. Until 2016, there was never a punt return in Super Bowl history until Jordan Norwood with the Denver Broncos. In addition, the only game to go into overtime was in 2017 when the Patriots beat the Falcons.
- **Pro Bowlers:** New England had just two players named to this year's Pro Bowl, which included quarterback Tom Brady and cornerback Stephon Gilmore. Keep in mind, this is Brady's 14th of his career and 10th consecutive, which lets him join Tony Gonzalez, Peyton Manning, Bruce Matthews, and Merlin Olsen as the only players with 14 Pro Bowl selections. The Rams had four named to the Pro Bowl this year, which included defensive tackle Aaron Donald, linebacker Cory Littleton, quarterback Jared Goff, and running back Todd Gurley.
- **The Coaches:** Bill Belichick is the second-oldest active coach in the NFL at 66, which is literally twice as old as Sean McVay who is just 33, making this the

largest age gap ever between opposing coaches in Super Bowl history. McVay will break the record Sunday for the youngest person to ever coach in the Super Bowl as he goes for his first Super Bowl victory. McVay will be matching up against the coach with the most Super Bowl appearance of all-time as a head coach with 8. Keep in mind, after this Super Bowl Belichick will have coached in 23% of all 53 Super Bowls.

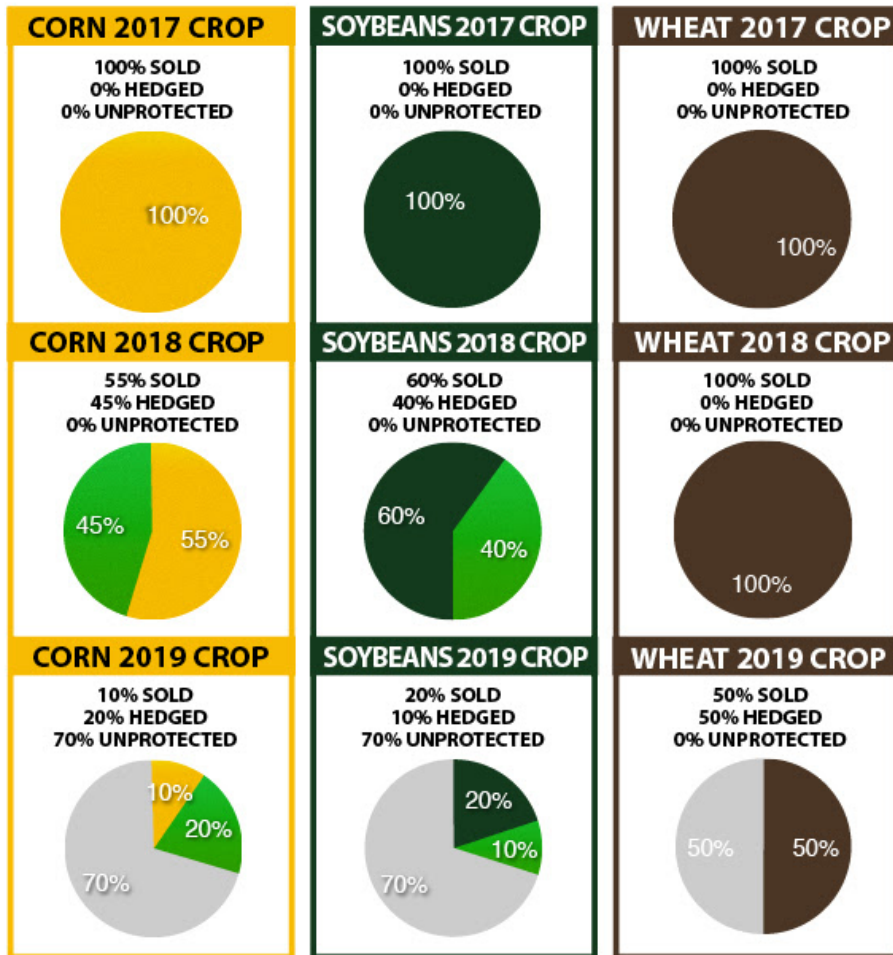
- **How Much the Players Make:** Brady and cornerback Stephon Gilmore are the top earners on the Patriots this season with matching total paychecks from the team of \$15 million. Star defensive tackle Aaron Donald recently got a \$40 million signing bonus as part of his six-year, \$135 million contract extension.
- **Payday:** From what I understand each member of last years Champion Philadelphia Eagles received a \$107,000 bonus. Members of the losing New England Patriots received a \$53,000 per player consolation bonus. This year winners of the winning team will bank \$118,000 per player, while the losing team will get \$59,000 per player. Rams and Pats players have earned \$83,000 so far during the 2019 postseason.
- **Julian Edelman:** Patriots receiver Julian Edelman needs only 46 catches to tie Jerry Rice for the most postseason receptions of all time. Keep in mind, Edelman is already second all-time in playoff catches with 105 as he recently passed Reggie Wayne this post-season. He's also third all-time in postseason receiving yards with 1,271 yards.
- **Camera's:** CBS sports has said they will be using 115 cameras to film the game including four cameras with live augmented reality graphics, 10 cameras with trackable first-down-line technology, multiple 8K cameras, and 14 4K cameras.
- **Ticket Prices:** There's talk that the average ticket price for the game is just under \$3,900 per ticket. which is interestingly much cheaper than average ticket prices in the past. The highest ticket on StubHub I've seen is going for as much as \$18,000.
- **Concession Prices:** Concessions are usually a big story at the Super Bowl due to sky-high pricing. Not this year. The Atlanta Falcons kept their rock-bottom prices on concessions for the Super Bowl. A hot dog is only \$2, while it was \$15 last year in Minnesota. In addition, pretzels, water bottles, and popcorn will all cost \$2 as well.
- **Estimated Amount to be Gambled on the Super Bowl:** According to the American Gaming Association, \$6 billion is estimated to be gambled on the Super Bowl this year. Traditionally, almost all Super Bowl bets are placed illegally, but this year is different with legal sportsbooks now operating in eight states.
- **The King of Beers:** Anheuser-Busch has bought five and a half minutes of airtime during the Super Bowl this year, which will show eight commercials. Keep in mind, 30-second commercial slots are going for more than \$5 million this year.
- **Coin Toss:** Heads has been flipped 25 times before the opening kick-off, while tails has been flipped 27 times. Over the past 20 years, heads or tails has won at least four consecutive Super Bowl coin tosses on four or more occasions, with tails owning three of the four streaks. Heads, however, owns the longest streak during that time period at five straight. Heads will continue the trend this year.
- **National Anthem:** Seven-time Grammy winner and Atlanta's own "Empress of Soul," Gladys Knight, gets the honors to sing the National Anthem at this year's Super Bowl. You may know her by her hit songs "Midnight Train to Georgia" and "That's What Friends Are For." Should be a great performance as Knight is recognized as one of Rolling Stone's 100 Greatest Singers of All Time and she entered the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1996. The over/under on how long it will last is right around 1:50 minutes.
- **"Madden NFL 19" Predicts LA Rams Will Win Super Bowl LIII:** Every year, EA runs a simulation in the latest "Madden" title to predict the outcome of the big game. While it has the Patriots outscoring the Rams in the first half 17-3, Los Angeles rebounds after halftime, racking up 27 points on three touchdown drives and two field goals. Keep in mind, "Madden" has predicted the winner 10 out of the last 15 Super Bowls.



ANSWER to riddle: Silence

CASH SALES & HEDGING TOTALS

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