



IT TAKES TIME TO PRODUCE A WINNER! BUT BE CAREFUL WHEN EVERYONE IS TALKING ABOUT IT.

WEALTH TAP

TapIN

Contact Us

Wealth Tap (Pty) Ltd

E-mail: pat@wealthtap.co.za

Phone: 082 518 1278

FSP Licence Number: 45948

www.wealthtap.co.za

The content of this newsletter is not to be construed as advice. Each investor has differing needs and should consult with Wealth Tap before acting on any ideas arising from the information. Past performance is no indication of future performance, it only serves to increase confidence more than ability.

FACTS AND QUOTES

FORECASTING - A MUGS GAME

Despite the time and effort many put into making predictions, events seldom turn out as anticipated.

After 2023 being a year of record load shedding, many expected us a grid collapse during the winter of 2024. Yet, at the end of December 2024, we surpassed 250 days without load shedding.

In addition, no-one predicted a government of national unity (GNU) would result from our local election. Although the GNU may not represent the 'best possible' scenario, it certainly side-stepped some of the worst-case outcomes and resulted in a slightly improved economic outlook boosting the fortunes of the beleaguered rand. The currency strengthened despite a predicted R20 to the United States Dollar exchange rate at the end of the year. And no one thought that Mzansi was to have its ratings outlook lifted to 'positive' by international ratings agencies before the end of the year.

The global environment delivered its fair share of surprises too. At the beginning of the year more than 60 countries were preparing for elections. The United States presidential run-off saw a Republican sweep – a decisive and resounding victory in favour of the Republican Party handing them an ability to enforce changes in policy and legislation not seen in years.

FACT CHECK

**SOMEONE JUST
ACCUSED ME OF
PLAGIARISM.
THEY SAID IT,
NOT ME.**

Check what you read and carefully read what you use to check.

A lot of journalism today is as much plagiarism as it is fake news copied.

"Many of the things you can count, don't count. Many of the things you can't count, really count." - Albert Einstein.

"Sometimes you've just got to lick the stamp and send it." - Daniel Ricciardo.

"I try to invest in businesses that are so wonderful that an idiot can run them. Because sooner or later, one will." – Warren Buffet.

"Nature holds the key to our aesthetic, cognitive and even spiritual satisfaction."

– E.O. Wilson.

"For 240 years, it's been a terrible mistake to bet against America, and now is no time to start." – Warren Buffet.

"Thinking small is a self-fulfilling prophecy." – Jeff Bezos.

"I find the harder I work, the more luck I seem to have."

– Thomas Jefferson.

BRAINTEASERS

How can you throw a ball as hard as you can and have it come back to you, even if it does not bounce off anything? There is nothing attached to it, and no one else catches or throws it back to you.

DID YOU KNOW?

South Africa has three capital cities. The world's longest wine route goes through South Africa.

South Africa is home to some of the Earth's oldest mountains.

South Africa is the only country where a street has been home to two Nobel Prize winners.

Nelson Mandela was known by six different names.

CARBON DATING AND CREDITS

Radiocarbon dating, or carbon-14 dating, is a scientific method that can fairly accurately determine the age of organic materials as old as approximately 60,000 years. First developed in the late 1940s at the University of Chicago by Willard Libby, the technique is based on the decay of the carbon-14 isotope.

It is a way of telling the age of a once living thing by measuring the amount of carbon inside of it. Carbon is an element that is found in every living thing on planet Earth.

On the other hand, the carbon trading market facilitates the buying and selling of the rights to emit greenhouse gases.

The industrialised nations, for which reducing emissions is a daunting task, buy the emission rights from other nations whose industries do not produce as much of these gases. The market for carbon is possible because the goal of the Kyoto Protocol was to reduce emissions as a collective.

GOLD v CRYPTO

About 72% of the United States total reserves are sitting in gold. That is 8133 metric tons with estimated mined gold reserves totalling 187 000 metric tons.

This makes the argument for Bitcoin replacing gold as a store of value quite challenging. Bitcoin combined with gold as a store of value might be more plausible. But Bitcoin would have to be declared a legal form of tender (like the US Dollar) for it to stabilise in value.

The gold price at 0.03% correlation with the S&P 500 since 1971 further enhances its attractiveness as a hedge. Moves by stocks have virtually no influence over price moves by gold and vice versa.

In comparison, Bitcoin (with most large cryptos) have been as high as 67% correlated with the S&P500.

For now, you have to decide what you consider as an asset (tangible and valuation driven versus sentimentally driven).

THE TRUTH SIMPLIFIED?

Einstein = "Everything is relative!"

Charles Darwin = "Everyone is a relative!"

Karl Marx = "Why do my relatives keep taking all my things?"

WORDCRAFT

The incorrect usage of an apostrophe for a plural noun (for example: burger's) is called a greengrocer's apostrophe.

LAST LAUGH

I wasn't strong enough to do my work, so I gave my two-week notice.

I refuse to work with compost. It's degrading.

I told my doctor about my memory loss. I had to pay in advance.

Don't worry about what other people think. They don't do it very often.

Counterfeiting is difficult, but you have to forge ahead.

You have reached the Incontinence Hotline. Please hold.

What if there was no such thing as a hypothetical question?

Is running away from your problems a form of exercise?



Make 2025 the year of action!

