

# The Croton Avenue Journal

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Always Free

## Market News

The OPL Market advanced again, beating all of the US markets for the second week in a row. We have a decent chance of continuing our streak of beating the S&P 500 for the 7<sup>th</sup> year in a row, but as of now we're still behind. Pharmaceutical stocks were the big winners this week with Moderna posting a massive 20% gain on the week. Unfortunately, only one of our investors held the Covid vaccine maker. 15 of our 18 participants have turned their portfolios positive for the year as the market is now up over 4% over the last two months.

You might think that someone who has been in first place multiple weeks with every stock they've picked up might want to stick with their portfolio, but MARSHMELLO did the exact opposite, selling more than half of her portfolio. Chewy was sold after a quick 7% bounce, while Mondelez and Pfizer were also cut from her holdings. Besides the always popular Nike and local bio-tech firm Regeneron, MARSHMELLO bought XLF, a financial sector ETF, perhaps hoping a recovering economy and ever-rising stock market will spur banking and capital markets higher.

## World News

With large numbers troops moving to the border, the world is left to wonder if Russia plans to go to war with Ukraine. Russia invaded and annexed Crimea, a peninsula that was part of Ukraine, in 2014. There has been a long history between the countries as both were part of the USSR. Russia has historically taken an active role in interfering with Ukrainian politics and backing pro-Russia groups in the country.

The United States placed serious sanctions on Russia this week. The reasons for these sanctions were many, including Russian interference into the 2020 election, a major hacking attacking on the US, the placing of bounties on US military personnel, and attacks on dissidents and journalists. The previous administration had been unwilling to respond forcefully against Russia on numerous occasions, often denying any wrongdoing had occurred.

An Iranian nuclear facility was attacked with thousands of machines used to refine uranium damaged. Iran suspects that Israel is responsible for the attack, which Israel denies. Iran signed an agreement with most major countries, including the US, to curb its nuclear weapons program in exchange for the easing of sanctions in 2015, but the US left the deal under President Trump

leading Iran to resume its nuclear program. President Biden has claimed to want to re-enter the agreement, but has not removed the sanctions the former president enacted.

With reports of rare blood clots, many are urging the US to cease distributing the Johnson and Johnson Covid-19 vaccine. The federal government called for a halt on Tuesday. There were six cases of this rare condition among the 7 million people treated with the vaccine. It is unclear how long this pause will last.

The IRS announced that monthly stimulus checks for families will begin in July. Families with dependent children under the age of 17 should see up to \$1,600 in additional stimulus money per child. Half of this money will come in monthly payments while the other half will be refundable with taxpayers 2021 income tax returns.

## **Finance News**

Coinbase (COIN) went public this week. The company's initial value came in at about \$70 billion, but fell to about \$63 billion on Friday. Stock prices can be very volatile when they first IPO as the market forms a consensus on the value of the business. Coinbase is the largest US cryptocurrency exchange and the first to become a publicly traded company.

Vaccine linked stocks rose as Pfizer announced that a booster shot will be required to maintain immunity. Over 884 million vaccine doses have been given worldwide and if all of those people will require a booster, that is a huge number of vaccine doses that will need to be bought.

New jobless claims fell this week, sparking hopes on an improving economy as markets rose.

Electric vehicle battery maker Nikola fell back to its IPO price as negative news has weighed on the previously hot company.

Bernie Madoff died in prison this week at the age of 81. Madoff rose to infamy after it was revealed that his hedge fund was actually a Ponzi Scheme that defrauded many rich clients including a number of celebrities. It is estimated his scam stole \$17.5 billion (or \$65 billion if you include the fraudulent returns that were never delivered). This was the largest Ponzi Scheme in history. Madoff was sentenced to 150 years in prison for his crimes.

Financial stocks including Bank of America and Citigroup posted estimate beating earnings. Citigroup announced it will be leaving 13 foreign markets as part as a new strategic move. Chase sold \$1.3 billion in its latest bond sale, a record for a bank. Bond yields trended downwards on the week, lowering the cost of debt for businesses looking to borrow money.

Dogecoin continued to see massive gains after another Elon Musk tweet. Dogecoin was launched in 2013 as a joke, but has seen its value increase 60-fold so far this year.

## Indexes and other Investments

As of market close 4/16/2021

Name	Type	Value	% Weekly Change
S&P 500	US Large	4,185.47	+1.37%
Dow Jones Industrial Average	US Large	34,200.67	+1.18%
NASDAQ	US Tech	14,052.34	+1.09%
Russel 2000	US Small	2,262.67	+0.86%
Nikkei 225	Japan	29,683.37	-0.28%
FTSE100	UK	7,019.53	+1.50%
Hang Sang	Hong Kong	28,969.71	+0.94%
Crude Oil	Commodity	63.07	+6.29%
10 Year US Treasury	Bond	1.57	-5.99%
Gold	Metal	1,777.30	+1.93%
Bitcoin	Crypto	61,168.49	+4.51%

## Most Popular OPL Market Stocks

As of market close 4/16/2021

Name	Symbol	Owners	Shares	Value	% Change
Amazon	AMZN	8	549	3399.44	+0.81%
Apple	AAPL	6	11301	134.16	+0.87%
Alphabet	GOOG	5	429	2297.76	+0.52%
Tesla	TSLA	4	1135	739.78	+9.27%
Netflic	NFLX	4	1479	546.54	-1.58%

## Weekly Big Movers

As of market close 4/16/2021

Name	Symbol	Value	% Change
Moderna	MRNA	170.81	+21.21%
Tesla	TSLA	739.78	+9.27%
Brooks Automation	BRKS	102.33	+6.93%
Regeneron	REGN	502.6	+5.77%
Roblox	RBLX	75.85	+5.60%
Pfizer	PFE	38.57	+5.38%
Hyundai	HYMTF	64.93	+3.94%
WWE	WWE	56.36	-3.43%
Delta	DAL	46.64	-5.34%
CNBS	CNBS	26.73	-7.67%

## Test Your Knowledge Challenge

Reading a company's entry on a finance page can seem like a foreign language. Can you translate these terms and abbreviations into plain English, matching them to their definition?

- |               |  |
|---------------|--|
| 1) Volume     | a) How expensive a stock is compared to its earnings |
| 2) Market Cap | b) How many shares are available to trade            |
| 3) PE         | c) The difference between last year and this year    |
| 4) EPS        | d) The percentage paid as a dividend or interest     |
| 5) Yield      | e) The number of shares traded                       |
| 6) Revenue    | f) The total value of a company's shares             |
| 7) Float      | g) The amount of money a company takes in            |
| 8) YoY        | h) The amount of profit generated for each share     |
| 9) Bid        | i) The price someone is willing to buy a share at    |

### Answer to last week:

- 1) What is the collateral in each of these types of loans?
  - a. Mortgage: A house or other real estate.
  - b. Title Loan: Car or other vehicles
  - c. Corporate Bond: The assets of a business
  - d. Margin Loan: The contents of a portfolio
  - e. Small Business Loan: The assets of a business
  - f. Home Equity Loan: A house
- 2) What is a type of unsecured loan that most adults carry in their wallet or purse?
  - a. Credit Card
- 3) What is tradable loan to the US federal government called?
  - a. Treasury

### OPL by the Weeks

Date	Value	Best Stock	Week Change	Total Change
2/19	\$18,000,000.00			
2/26	\$17,300,664.66	GME	-3.89%	-3.89%
3/5	\$17,132,325.57	GME	-0.97%	-4.82%
3/12	\$17,648,076.82	GME	+3.01%	-1.96%
3/19	\$17,547,945.70	FB	-0.57%	-2.51%
3/26	\$17,511,549.91	BJ	-0.21%	-2.71%
4/2	\$17,813,021.61	BRKS	+1.72%	-1.04%
4/9	\$18,432,854.73	AAPL	+3.48%	+2.40%
4/16	\$18,757,808.86	MRNA	+1.76%	+4.21%

## Leader Board

As of market close 4/16/2021

Fund	Market Value	Change	Largest Holding
STOCKITUP	1,138,048.27	+2.99%	Apple
MARSHMELLO	1,124,673.41	+1.61%	Regeneron
URAPEASENT	1,068,589.34	+0.48%	Ford
<b>KITTYCAT</b>	<b>1,068,538.69</b>	<b>+0.74%</b>	<b>Apple</b>
<b>OKAPI</b>	<b>1,068,126.93</b>	<b>+2.57%</b>	<b>eBay</b>
AYUNSTOCK	1,061,900.89	+2.19%	Regeneron
<b>KAYFUND</b>	<b>1,054,161.39</b>	<b>+2.56%</b>	<b>Amazon</b>
BLUESPHERE	1,054,056.08	+5.75%	Moderna
CHAIR	1,047,660.29	+1.10%	Amazon
KOPIMON	1,039,289.23	+1.44%	Microsoft
GR4VITY09	1,038,701.32	-0.45%	Netflix
<b>KARMA</b>	<b>1,024,741.79</b>	<b>+0.58%</b>	<b>McDonalds</b>
YODAGROUP	1,013,253.43	+3.97%	Pfizer
POKEDEX	1,011,363.09	+0.67%	Mattel
TROYBOI	1,000,344.67	+0.83%	Amazon
HJRCAPITAL	998,987.43	+2.79%	Roblox
<b>NESTEGG</b>	<b>983,812.50</b>	<b>+0.96%</b>	<b>BFIT</b>
LILLYPOP	961,560.11	+1.11%	Mattel

## Dividends Paid

None

## Trade Wire

Marshmello: Sell CHWY, Buy NKE, Sell PFE, Buy REGN, Sell MDLZ, Buy XLF

## **Know Your Stocks: What's Up with Gamestop? Part IV**

Gamestop had briefly touched \$480 a share, caused tremendous losses for hedge funds, gave Wall Street a contagion scare, and made investors respect Wallstreetbets as a legitimate force in finance. While volume (and the price) was dropping, the story isn't close to over.

### **What Goes Up. . .**

Over the first week of February Gamestop failed to rally, sinking week after week lower and lower. Volume did not pick up with many days trading below 20 million shares, well below the 200 million when the stock surged. While action in the stock's price had slowed down, talk from pundits and politicians had picked up. Curiously talk of Gamestop on Wallstreetbets has slowed down a great deal as well, with the forum moving on to other trades. Little happened until the end of the month when the hearing before congress took place, with Gamestop shares now down below \$50.

### **Back at Capitol Hill. . .**

Five different parties testified to congress on February 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. The CEOs from Reddit, Robin Hood, Citadel Securities, and Melvin Capital as well as the investor Roaring Kitty each made statements and answered questions. Robin Hood was clearly the target of many lawmakers that criticized the company's business model for "gamifying" investing and manipulating the market by restricting trades. Robin Hood CEO Vlad Tenev explained that the reason for the restrictions was that the broker could not meet the collateral requirements to buy more Gamestop shares. Melvin Capital insisted that their short position in Gamestop did not make the company insolvent and did not pose a systemic risk to the financial system. Reddit CEO Steve Huffman defended his platform, claiming they did not detect foreign manipulation or unusual bot activity on Wallstreetbets and claimed that the forum's moderators had done an excellent job weeding out bad information. He said that forum users encouraging each other to buy legal, noting that financial TV shows and analysts make recommendations on investments all the time. He further stated that Reddit was a better source for such information because users got information crowdsourced from the consensus thousands of people.

The most interesting person to testify was certainly Roaring Kitty (real name Keith Gill) who defended himself against accusations that his actions were manipulation intended to boost the stock's price for his own profit. In a very funny exchange, Mr. Gill, who still owned 50,000 shares and 500 in-the-money options for Gamestop, was asked if he would be buying more shares at the current prices (the stock was around \$40 at this time). Roaring Kitty responded that he would, surprising the congressman who reminded him he was under oath. Mr. Gill's answer did not change. One day later Mr. Gill posted on Wallstreetbets that he had purchased another 50,000 shares of GME for just under \$40 per share.

### **To the Moon Again?**

Gamestop rallied to \$46 on Monday, but failed to continue to make gains on Tuesday, though there was news that their CFO (Chief Finance Officer) would be stepping down. On Wednesday, though, things once again went insane. Ryan Cohen, the former CEO of Chewy and now member of Gamestop's board of directors posted a picture of an ice cream cone. Reddit jumped on this and the hype engine started again. The stock soared on tremendous volume, reaching \$90 before trading was halted. Reddit itself temporarily crashed at around the same time, leaving many to wonder what was going on. It continued to climb over the week, hitting over \$300 next week before settling down into the mid \$100s. Again, Gamestop had soared with no real news from the company. However, that would soon change as the company's earnings report was coming up and hard numbers from the company would be delivered to Wall Street.