



Death, Taxes and The Great Prize (PLLY)

Tom Petty – Heart-broken. In Memoriam

It should be clear by now that “*So You Want to be a Rock and Roll Star*” is a relevant soundtrack to this Lithium-ion Bull’s life: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5q3dXiQJukM>

Unfortunately, the advice of my grade school music teachers was correct – my destiny would be as a good listener. My kids concur, hiding the Guitar Hero mike and even tennis racket air guitars.

Since learning earlier this year that Tom Petty would be headlining Forest Hills Stadium this past July, I have made a deep re-connection with this underappreciated artist through endless repeats on my iPhone and 1980’s MTV video excursions on youtube. I no longer scoff at, and have come to agree with, those who suggest Petty should not go un-mentioned in the same breath of the Supergroup Leagues: The Who, Led Zeppelin, Pink Floyd, The Rolling Stones, The Beatles. Or, Bruce Springsteen or Billy Joel, his American eponymous brethren. The sheer volume of Petty hits is astonishing. I’ve included many here as a tribute.

Save for an early mention of James Taylor’s “*Carolina in my Mind*” during lithium equity and Tarheels March Madness, it was Tom Petty’s music that began what has become my trademark brand of lithium market and equity narration:

- “*The Waiting*” – Delays in full fundings and equity re-ratings (eg. **LAC, PLS** and **AJM**)
- “*You Got Lucky*” – **Kidman** search for archaic relic and finding white gold;
- “*It’s Good to Be King*” – **SQM’s** CEO “Lithium King for 15 Years”; and,
- “*American Girl*” - **Piedmont Lithium**

Petty might have found this a bit ironic as he never “sold out” refusing to license his songs. And, in what might seem quaint today, fought and won a legal battle with his record label not to gouge his fans by adding \$1 extra to his CDs, which inspired “*Won’t Back Down*”.

Two beautifully articulated obituaries capture well this very abrupt and sad departure. The first from a New York Gen X-er like me who shared his first live Petty, as I did, only this year in Forest Hills:

<http://theweek.com/articles/728389/remembering-tom-petty-musician-who-made-america-smile>

The second from someone with longer and deeper intimacy from Petty’s adopted home in LA...

<http://www.latimes.com/entertainment/music/la-et-ms-tom-petty-the-final-interview-20171004-story.html>

...though born “*down in Dixie* (Gainesville, FL), *on a Sunday morning, with one foot in the grave and one foot on the pedal, I was born a rebel*”

“**Rebels**” Live Aid (1985): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6RN7lv9Xn2I>



Outside the Heartbreakers, Tom played with Stevie Nicks and separately with Rock and Roll royalty – George Harrison, Bob Dylan, Jeff Lynne, Roy Orbison -- as the youngest member of the Traveling Wilburys. He also wrote the soundtrack for the movie “*She’s the One*” the second movie directed by Edward Burns, a friend and classmate of mine at Hewlett High School in Long Island, NY.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Songs_and_Music_from_%22She's_the_One%22

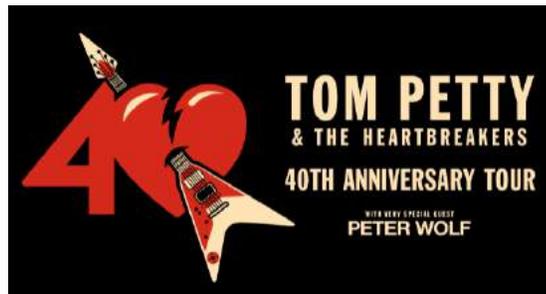
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edward_Burns

I am so sorry, as lithium equities moved from July’s “*Free Fallin*” to September/October’s “*Learning to Fly*” that what I thought was just a new beginning for Tom and me has turned into:

“*The End of the Line*” (Traveling Wilburys): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UMVjToYOjBM>

Rest in Peace, Tom Petty. We weep gently, like your and Prince’s legendary guitar tribute in 2004 for Tax Man and Fellow Wilbury George Harrison at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame:

“*While My Guitar Gently Weeps*”: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6SFNW5F8K9Y>



- “*The Waiting*”: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uMyCa35_mOg
- “*You Got Lucky*”: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mtLpZWNyM0I>
- “*It’s Good to Be King*”: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kwrxB9q-jl>
- “*Free Fallin*”: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1IWJXDG2i0A>
- “*Learning to Fly*”: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s5BJXwNeKsQ>
- “*Won’t Back Down*”: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nvITJrNJ5IA>
- “*American Girl*”: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6ABDv4Jj3mw>

Super Bowl 42 Half-time Show, 2008

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VuI_EYQEJJU



Boiler Room

As Trump contemplates 1986-style Reagan tax reform, I'm feeling nostalgic for Oliver Stone anti-heroes:

"Wall Street" Clip: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SHowSkou5rc>

"Blue Horseshoe loves Blue Star Airlines"



The Ninja (Wolf) of Twitter (Wall Street)'s Abbott and (Elvis) Costello routine is a poor substitute:

Pump it Up: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Y71iDvCYXA>

The Manono "Monster":

Abbott and Costello meet Frankenstein: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g82dNJRRB1w>

Edgar Winter's "Frankenstein": <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P8f-Qb-bwIU>

The movie is not very funny. The song, though riveting at first, gets annoying and leaves me agitated.

AVZ chairman Klaus Eckhof speaks out about his 25m share sell-down

 Rachel Williamson

2 weeks ago



Ka-ching ... AVZ Minerals chairman Klaus Eckhof sold down 25m AVZ shares.

AVZ Minerals chairman Klaus Eckhof says there's no secret behind his big share sell-down two weeks ago: he wanted to take a profit.



The Tax Man

Exactly a year ago the airwaves were filled with many October Surprises for the US Presidential Election.

“From Russia with Love”: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t9AeldMQqR8&t=24s>

Global Mr. Market, since Election Day November 9, 2016, has, for the most part, ignored political Fake News and tactical mistakes of Health Care Reform as #1 priority, and instead watched business friendly de-regulation and priced in some hoped-for tax reform and infrastructure spend. Global GDP seems to be growing in a synchronized way, led by the U.S., but we can certainly do better.

As notable as the steady market rise, is its extremely low volatility – a key ingredient to lull us all into forgetfulness, complacency and increased risk appetite. Reagan Tax Reform in 1986 and W’s tax cuts in 2003 were very positive for public equities for many years.

My advice to Trump and his newfound rapprochement with fellow Outer NY Borough buddy Chuck Schumer is, to channel Dubya in another context, “Bring it On”: lower those taxes for LLCs like mine even if we have to take it on the chin by eliminating the deductibility of egregious NY State and City taxes. Throw Chuck and Nancy – and Elon Musk – a bone, and incorporate significant Federal dollars to EV charging infrastructure in an Eisenhower-like highway build.

Meanwhile, in Chile, CORFO’s Excess-Profits-Tax-Man Leon Brittan, as Mr. Lithium Joe Lowry has articulated, has shot his country in the foot and pushed SQM, an erstwhile National Champion, to other green field pastures in Argentina, Australia and likely fourth and fifth locations.

The Taxman, The Beatles: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MbQjVQuiu04>

Albemarle: For those most bullish lithium prices and lithium equities, traditional “cost curve analysis” is now insufficient – Salar da Atacama may be the lowest cost producer, but if you believe in \$20K/ton lithium, CORFO’s 40% excess profits tax would make ALB’s Atacama the **LOWEST MARGIN** lithium project.

Reminder: ALB is drilling its past producing King’s Mountain mine in **North Carolina**, USA, a state with exceptionally low State taxes and tiny mining royalties. **Piedmont Lithium** is drilling too, a few km away.



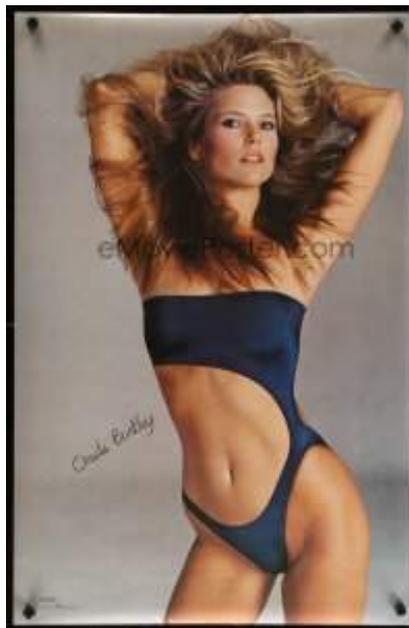
The Great Prize

Channeling that Economics 101 lesson about the certainty of Death and Taxes, I have a high degree of confidence that more lithium issuers will seek the Great Prize of a proper US-listing, to tap into the higher (and EBITDA-focused) multiples for their projected lithium cash flows.

Trump's de-regulation push hopefully will spur more small and microcap companies to take the plunge - both home-grown, and as dual listings from other exchanges. To my ASX and TSX listed friends: Sarbanes Oxley and Dodd Frank are nothing to be scared of, if you operate with world class ESG and Sustainability standards. But may unlikely be the cup of tea for those who may fear FCPA (Foreign Corrupt Practice Act) or conflict minerals rules.

North Carolina, USA based **Piedmont Lithium**'s US ADR is now trading on Nasdaq International, ticker PLLLY. This unique lithium story is now easily available to everyone in the USA with a Schwab, E-Trade etc account. At \$10+ the stock is also available to a much broader investor universe that can't buy "penny stocks" defined as those under \$5. Piedmont anticipates a full Nasdaq listing next year. Who will follow in their footsteps?

To mark this occasion, and as I get quite sad now typing the words "American Girl," I am making a modest nickname change for the **World's Best Located Lithium Project**. And, at the same time, providing a flashback into that which adorned 1983, 15-year-old Lithium-ion Bull's plywood paneled bedroom wall.



Piedmont Lithium, up 100% since an April placement at AUD 0.9 cents, and now up-listed on Nasdaq is:

"Uptown Girl": <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hCuMWrfXG4E>

Sidebar: I pray I have not now just jinxed my fellow Long Island, NY brother, Billy Joel.



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