Pandemic unemployment ohio hours

Unemployed workers may receive unemployment benefit until the end of the benefit period or if full-time employment is found. The Ohio Office of Unemployment Compensation makes it easy for workers to cancel unemployment benefits. If you need to apply for unemployment benefit in the future, you will do so by submitting a new application. Do not submit your weekly claim form. Claims for benefits filed more than three weeks or 21 days from the end date of the week will be claimed results in the cancellation of the claim form, according to the Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services. Inform the Unemployment Compensation Office of the change in your employment status. Visit the Unemployment Compensation Office website (see Sources) or call 877-644-6562 Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.m. Enter your first and last name, Social Security number, fixed address, and date of birth. Inform the customer service representative about the change in your employment status and give the effective date of your new employment. Keep track of your communication in case there are questions about your application form in the future. The Labor Department said on Thursday another 742,000 Americans filed jobless claims last week - in addition to workers seeking benefits through emergency programs designed to help during the coronavirus pandemic. More than 20 million Americans are still claiming unemployment benefits of some kind. The surge in demand for benefits throughout the pandemic - especially in the spring - has put enormous pressure on states' unemployment insurance. Some experts and lawmakers say the pandemic has highlighted the need for changes to U.S. unemployment benefits.Sen. Ron Wyden, (D., Ore.), told Yahoo Finance renewing the benefits will be one of his top priorities, as the Democratic party takes control of the Senate by winning both runoffs in Georgia and he becomes chairman of the Senate Finance Committee. Now it's time to get ready for a long-term reform effort, said Wyden.Updated technologyMany laid-off workers struggled to access their benefits for weeks or even months, as state computer systems crashed and state offices became overwhelmed by the record wave of claims when the pandemic first hit the United States. Last week, new analysis revealed millions of people were still waiting for their benefits due to lagging or ineligibility. Wyden said the first priority should be updating technology from the Middle Ages. It's creaky and dilapidated and the pandemic highlighted all these flaws, Wyden said. Overhauling the technology will be central to in the agenda. Outdated technology has been a major obstacle during the aid negotiations. Lawmakers and officials said state systems were unable to calculate targeted wage replacement for each employee, employee, lawmakers settled on a flat-rate weekly boost. In the CARES Act, Congress eventually added an additional $600 a week for each employee. That boost, which Wyden called harsh justice, expired over the summer, and lawmakers still haven't agreed to renew it. Republicans argued against expanding the extra money once it expired, saying it encouraged people not to return to work - even though data doesn't support this claim. If state systems could have generated more targeted, individualized assistance, some lawmakers say they may have had more flexibility to come up with solutions. People use the computer as a scapegoat in many ways, says Michele Evermore, senior policy analyst at the National Employment Law Project. The computer can be programmed to either do a good job or do a bad job, depending on what the policy focus is. Evermore, who is also part of President-elect Joe Biden's labor transition team, told Yahoo Finance she is hopeful that if there is another round of stimulus, it will also provide funding for technology upgrades. Still, she said it's important to note that money doesn't solve all the problems. All funding that comes along to improve technology should include language that requires them to actually improve the tech, said Evermore.There is bipartisan support for updating the dated systems. A federalized systemEvermore told Yahoo Finance she's coming around to the idea of creating a federal unemployment insurance policy, rather than leaving the responsibility to each individual state. There's no time like the present, she said. The more we try to correct the inequalities of the state, states will find another way to create inequalities. A woman checks information as information boards appear at IDES (Illinois Department of Employment Security) WorkNet center in Arlington Heights, Ill., Thursday, November 5, 2020. Illinois reports largest spike in unemployment claims of all states. (AP Photo/Nam Y. Huh) In recent years, some states have reduced the duration of benefits, made it harder to access benefits or reduce weekly payouts. When states reduce access, they don't just do it out loud. They don't just do it in the most obvious way by cutting benefits, Evermore said. What they also do is the kind of covert way – that is, more questions on the first questionnaire, making the questions more confusing to people not to qualify. On the back end, creating choke points, creating pain points ... who just hold people for different reasons and give them extra control. Evermore after all the headaches during the spring, many states would be happy to have the federal government take over. It's hard to understand why there's a need for the state level of engagement that we currently have - unless you think that with 50 states, some of the states states come up with ingenious measures to protect workers and the rest of the states can learn from them. I don't think it worked out that way, said Gary Burtless, a fellow in Economic Studies at the Brookings Institution.Wyden has said federalizing the system is something Congress should at least consider, although he hasn't come out in support of the move. Republicans are likely to oppose the idea of taking control of the states and giving it to the federal government. Yahoo Finance reached out to Senate Committee Chairman Chuck Grassley (R., Iowa) several times, but his office did not make him available for an interview. Growing benefits While a federal takeover would be difficult to get through Congress, proponents are hopeful lawmakers can at least set basic requirements for states. Burtless told Yahoo Finance the requirements are so vague that states, in recent years, have offered only 12-14 weeks worth of benefits, pre-pandemic. Which I don't think is a good step forward, but that is indeed the main direction of reforming the system over the past decade, said Burtless.Regular unemployment benefits usually last up to 26 weeks, but the CARES Act funded an additional 13 weeks of benefits for each recipient. The program expires in December if Congress doesn't act. Both Burtless and Evermore said they would like to see a requirement that states spend 26 weeks of unemployment benefits. Evermore would like to see the benefits be about 60% of the previous income. Wyden told Yahoo Finance expansion benefits will be an important part of his effort. For example, if you're talking about someone trying to survive with $200 a week, that's the average benefit in some states. That's just not something that should be acceptable in America, Wyden.Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Ore., questions Internal Revenue Service Commissioner Charles Rettig at a Senate Finance Committee hearing on Capitol Hill in Washington, Tuesday, June 30, 2020, about the 2020 filing season and COVID-19 recovery. (AP Photo/Susan Walsh, Pool) Wyden said the cost-of-living differences between states should be taken into account when expanding benefits, but he will be looking for ideas to ensure that there is a floor of dignity for all workers. After the fight over the additional $600 benefit during the pandemic, Wyden acknowledges that it will be difficult to get bipartisan support for boosting benefits and making other reforms in the future. I have no illusions about the challenge of trying to get support across the aisle, Wyden said.Making more workers eligible CARES also allowed gig workers, independent contractors and others to claim pandemic unemployment benefits (PUA) benefits, even though they are usually not eligible for standard benefits. The PUA program will also expire next month if Congress does nothing. There is now a push to ensure that those who still qualify in a post-pandemic world. No one in the 1930s ever heard anything about gig workers, Wyden said. Still, Burtless notes that questions remain about how to make gig workers permanently eligible - how to collect taxes, determine eligibility, when a reworked worker has enough replacement income to stop receiving unemployment checks, etc. We haven't even thought about it yet. And if we want to make unemployment benefits available to that segment of the workforce, we need to come up with procedures that work fairly and fairly for gig workers the way they do for wage and wage workers - and that's a big task. That's not a small thing. That's a big problem, Burtless said. We can relax in the current situation because we expect this situation is going to last only 12 or 18 months. President-elect Biden's campaign website says he will work with Congress on legislation to ensure gig workers have access to legal protections and benefits. Biden argues that many workers are misclassified as independent contractors, rather than employees - allowing companies to avoid the cost of benefits. This epidemic of misclassification is made possible by ambiguous legal tests that give too much discretion to employers, too little protection to employees and too little direction to government agencies and courts, Biden's website reads. During the campaign, Biden also released a plan to strengthen unemployment insurance by reforming short-term compensation programs. Jessica Smith is a reporter for Yahoo Finance based in Washington, D.C. Follow her on Twitter at @JessicaASmith8.Read more:(Bloomberg) – Billionaire Elon Musk said it's impossible to keep Tesla Inc private now, although he'd like to spend more time on innovation. Tesla public company tasks are a much bigger factor, but going private now is impossible (sigh), Musk said in response to a tweet saying he needs to optimize his time in areas like innovation. Engineering, design & general company operations absorb vast majority of my mind & are the fundamental constraint to do more. Tesla shares, which were included in the S&P 500 index this week, have increased more than twice this year compared to the addition to the benchmark measure. The win is twice the advance of the next best performer on the meter. The share price jump also made him millionaires among his investors, boosting Musk's net worth by $132.2 billion to $159.7 billion, making him the world's second richest person, according to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index.Bloomberg Wealth: The Tesla Investors Who Are Now also said Starlink, space-internet's burgeoning space-internet business, would likely be a candidate in his group to the stock market once revenue growth becomes reasonably predictable, echoing similar comments from the company's president investors earlier this year. Space Exploration Technologies Corp. has already launched more than 240 satellites to build out Starlink, president Gwynne Shotwell said at a private investor event in February.A listing would give investors a chance to buy into one of the most promising activities within the closely held company. Right now we're a private company, but Starlink is the right kind of company that we can go and take public, she said then. Investors have until this point had limited ways to get a piece from SpaceX, which has become one of the most richly valued venture-backed companies in the U.S. by dominating the commercial rocket industry. In addition to a contract from NASA for a version of its next-generation Starship spacecraft that could land astronauts on the moon in 2024, SpaceX also has an agreement with a Japanese entrepreneur for a private flight around the moon in 2023. And it will be ready to launch its first Starship flight to Mars in 2026, Musk said earlier this month. For more articles like this, visit us at bloomberg.comSubscribe now to stay ahead with the most trusted business news source.Investor's Business DailyDow Jones futures: As stock market rallies near highs, Apple stands out while Microsoft shapes up. Taiwan Semi and Qualcomm are big cap stocks to watch. Speculation about an Apple car continues to run rampant. Goldman Sachs just took a crack at estimating how much money Apple would make if it enters the electric vehicle market. Despite the new coronavirus pandemic, 2020 was a strong year for stocks, and some new growth stocks in particular. The March meltdown may have caused some investors to swear. However, it paved the way for major indices such as the Nasdaq and S&P 500 to hit new all-time highs in the months that followed. So-called stay at home stocks such as Zoom Video (NASDAQ:ZM) and Peloton (NASDAQ: PTON) each rose more than 400%, while technology leaders such as Apple (NASDAQ: APPL) and Nvidia (NASDAQ: NVDA) saw their stock prices more than double on the year. Where does growth in 2021 are likely to come from? Will these stocks remain all-stars or will other growth stocks steal the spotlight? 7 Buy short-term stocks for a happy New Year Many investors are betting on the reopening play as more people get vaccinated against Covid-19 and the U.S. economy reopens in earnest. Others are betting on a continuous shift from capital to cyclical equities. But no matter what happens, not all growth stocks will be created equally in 2021. With that in mind, here are four growth stocks that could double in the next 12 months:InvestorPlace Stock Market News, Stock Advice & Trading Tips Coty (NYSE: COTY) Draftkings (NASDAQ: DKNG) Qualcomm (NASDAQ: QCOM) UPS (NYSE: UPS) Growth stocks that need to double: Coty (COTY) Source: Konektus Photo/ / At $7 a share, COTY stock is barely out of penny stock range. But despite its relatively cheap valuation, shares of the beauty retailer that specializes in fragrances, cosmetics, skin care and nail care have risen sharply in recent months. In a five-day trading session at the end of November, Coty's share price rose 48%. Since 1 October, the share has increased by 145%. The impressive growth has been fueled by a better than expected earnings report that has strengthened the company's turnaround effort. An announcement that Coty would complete the sale of its Wella professional hair care business to KKR (NYSE: KKR) would also lift its share price. In particular, Coty reported a surprising profit for its fiscal first quarter, announced on November 4. The company posted adjusted earnings per share of 11 cents, compared with the 5 cents per share loss analysts had forecast. The surprise win was also a vote of confidence in Coty's new Chief Executive Officer, Sue Nabi, who is the company's third CEO in a year. Wall Street is now hopeful that Sue Nabi is coty in the right direction after several failed turnaround attempts for the cosmetics company that has been in business since 1904. COTY stock got a further boost when it was announced that a 60% stake in Wella would be sold to KKR for $2.5 billion by the end of November. Coty will retain the remaining 40% stake it has in Wella and has said it plans to use $2 billion of proceeds to pay down debt. All these steps position Coty for lasting success in 2021. Draftkings (DKNG) Source: Lori Butcher/Shutterstock.com With the widespread spread of a Covid-19 vaccine, sport really needs to comeback in 2021. We're talking about all the sports - college football, March Madness, the Olympics and so on. Professional basketball, baseball, soccer and hockey should welcome fans back to stadiums and resume their regular schedules. And it all bodes well for sports betting operator Draftkings. The company, which went public in June 2020 through a special acquisition deal (SPAC), has seen its share price rise 29% to $53.90 in the past six months. But the past year has been extremely difficult in the world of sports and Draftkings' core business of betting on sports. Many of draftkings' most lucrative sporting events, such as March Madness, were canceled over the past year. That thrust DKNG stock future into doubt, but it has managed to stay strong this year regardless. 7 Vegan Stocks to Buy Now for the Future of Food In 2021, DKNG stocks should do much better. Not only will most major sporting events resume as in the new year, however, there are growing expectations that more U.S. states will legalize sports betting in the coming months. Analysts at Oppenheimer recently noted that many states are facing revenue shortfalls due to the Covid-19 pandemic, and, as budget deficits they can turn to sports betting as a new source of income. Oppenheimer expects New York, Massachusetts, Connecticut and Ohio to legalize sports betting in the coming year. That would certainly help to lift dkng stock to new heights. Qualcomm (QCOM) Source: jejim/Shutterstock.com Despite the flawless rollout so far, 5G wireless is here and will become the dominant form of connectivity in motion. And several companies are positioned to take advantage of the 5G revolution that is expected to bring society into new technological areas. Qualcomm is one of the companies that will likely reap the benefits of 5G. The semiconductor and software manufacturer benefits from the use of its microchips in various 5G wireless technologies and platforms. In particular, Qualcomm chips are being inserted into a growing number of 5G Android mobile phones. Qualcomm is not only at the forefront of the 5G revolution, it is enabling the 5G revolution. The enormous potential of 5G is reflected in the growth of QCOM shares. Qualcomm's share price has more than doubled since March 2020, up 144% at $147.42 per share. And analysts see big things ahead for the stock. Morgan Stanley named Qualcomm as one of the 10 stocks best positioned to benefit from the global rollout of 5G. Other analysts who cover the company have a median price target of $165 per share on Qualcomm shares, with a high estimate of $200. Given the continued rollout and adoption of 5G networks and technologies around the world, the year ahead looks very rosy for Qualcomm and its shareholders. UPS (UPS) Source: Diverse Photography/Shutterstock.com Not only does UPS still benefit from people ordering online while sheltering at home, but the delivery and logistics company is also ready to take advantage of the massive rollout of Covid-19 vaccines in the United States and around the world. This is the time for companies like UPS to shine, and the Atlanta, Georgia-based company is doing just that. UPS is ramping up its operations and working double time to meet unprecedented demand and help us all through the global pandemic. These efforts have helped UPS stock reach new highs, up 113% since March at $175.18 per share. Heading into 2021, UPS has momentum on its side. The company posted strong third-quarter earnings. In particular, the company's revenue grew 16% year-over-year to $21.2 billion and earnings per share increased 10% to $2.28 per share. This beat analysts' expectations for EPS of $1.90 per share. While UPS refused to provide forward guidance on its earnings, the company has aggressively expanded in 2020. 9 strong performing stocks to sell before the end of the year In Canada, for example, UPS has opened a new $800 million package sorting and delivery hub. The company has also hired more than 5,000 employees amid the pandemic. Pandemic. such, the company shows no signs of slowing down heading into the new year. On the date of publication, Joel Baglole held long positions at APPL and NVDA. Joel Baglole has been a business journalist for 20 years. He spent five years as a staff reporter at the Wall Street Journal, and has also written for The Washington Post and Toronto Star newspapers, as well as financial websites such as Motley Fool and Investopedia. More from InvestorPlace Why Everyone Invests in 5G All WRONG Top Stock Picker Unveils Its Next 1,000% Winner Radical New Battery Could Dismantle Oil Markets The Post 4 Red-Hot Growth Stocks That Should Double In 2021 first appeared on InvestorPlace.American and Canadian governments offer many of the same types of services for those retired, but the subtle differences between the two countries are worth noting. The House has ignored its call for $2,000 payments, not $600. What next? Bitcoin and its strong performance is one of the biggest investment stories of 2020. Investors are putting more money into cryptocurrency. Here's how well bitcoin performed in 2020.Bitcoin Performance: Bitcoin has risen in price and hit all-time highs in December.Investors who put $1,000 in bitcoin on Jan. 1, 2020, would have been able to buy .13,966 bitcoin based on a starting price of $7,160.Bitcoin traded at $23,605 on December 23, making that .13966 Bitcoin worth $3,296.67. That is a return of 230% on the original theoretical investment. The SPDR S&P 500 (NYSEARCA: SPY), which tracks the S&P 500 and is one of the most popular ETFs, has increased by 15% in 2020.The performance of bitcoin in 2020 has outpaced the broader market and popular large caps like Apple Inc (NASDAQ: AAPL) and Amazon.com (NASDAQ: AMZN), which have year-to-date gains of 80% and 75%, respectively. Shares of Tesla Inc. (NASDAQ: TSLA) are up more than 660% by 2020, beating the performance of bitcoin. Lolli, who rewards consumers with bitcoin for shopping, tweeted that placing a $1,200 stimulus check in bitcoin would be worth $4,146 as of December 22. Related Link: 8 Stocks To Play Bitcoin's ResurgenceStock Performance: Many of the bitcoin-related stocks have risen in 2020, including miners and cryptocurrency trading platforms. The Grayscale Bitcoin Trust (OTC: GBTC), which offers investors exposure to bitcoin, has increased by 271% in 2020 and has seen a large influx. MicroStrategy Incorporated (NASDAQ: MSTR) will be in the news in 2020 because it has put its money into bitcoin and is also raising money to buy additional bitcoin. The company has spent more than $1.1 billion on bitcoin by 2020 and now owns 70,470 bitcoin. See more of Benzinga * Click here for options trades from Benzinga * MicroStrategy Now Has 70,470 Bitcoin After Spending .1B 2020(C) 2020 Benzinga.com. Benzinga does not provide investment advice. All rights reserved. Beijing targets the e-commerce giant giant its co-founder. Regulators are also likely to go after other companies. Editor's note: The 12 best stocks to buy for a whole new year of returns in 2021 was published earlier December 4. It has since been updated with the most relevant information available.] Back in July, I recommended buying seven of the best stocks for 2021 and beyond. As a group, they've done very well over the last three months. For example, Livongo Health was acquired by Teladoc Health (NYSE: TDOC) on October 30 for $11.33 per share in cash and 0.592 times shares in Teladoc. But looking for a bit of a twist on my stock selection process, I decided that this list will be based on the first letter of all 12 months. That means my stock pick for January will be a company name starting with J, then an F for February and so on. InvestorPlace - Stock Market News, Stock Advice & Trading Tips 7 Undervalued stocks that may rise in 2021 All 12 will also have a market capitalization of $2 billion or more and positive free cash flow for the trailing 12 months. By this time next year, I am confident that my choices, overall, will not disappoint. So, without further ado, here are my 12 best stocks for a brand new year: Johnson & Johnson (NYSE: JNJ) Fidelity National Information Services (NYSE:FIS) McDonald's (NYSE:MCD) Adobe (NASDAQ:ADBE) MercadoLibre (NASDAQ: MELI) Johnson Controls (NYSE: JCI) Jeld-Wen Holding (NYSE: JELD) Apple (NYSE: JCI) Jeld-Wen Holding (NYSE:JELD) Apple (NYSE: JELD) Apple (NYSE: JCI) Jeld-Wen Holding (NYSE:JELD) Apple (NYSE: NASDAQ:AAPL) SVB Financial (NASDAQ:SIVB) Otis Worldwide (NYSE:OTIS) NextEra Energy (NYSE:NO) Dollar General (NYSE:DG Stocks to Buy: Johnson & Johnson (JNJ) Source: Alexander Tolstykh/Shutterstock.com Johnson & Johnson represents the month of January on my list of best stocks to buy for 2021. At the moment it has a sideways year in the markets. The total return of YTD on an annual basis (YTD) is only 2.6%. Based on a backlog of 12 months of free cash flow (FCF) of $18.3 billion and a current enterprise value (EV) of more than $399 billion, JNJ's FCF return is a reasonable 4.7%. It might not value territory - I consider anything above 8% to be cheap - but it's pretty darn good. As InvestorPlace colleague Faisal Humayun said recently, JNJ stock has an excellent product offering. From a business perspective, the company provides diversified exposure to segments of consumer health, pharmaceuticals and medical devices, Humayun wrote. The growth of the company's pharmaceutical segment for the third quarter of 2020 was with most therapeutic areas providing strong figures. Not to mention, JNJ is still very much in the Covid-19 vaccine race. That suggests that 2021 could be a breakout year for this Dividend Aristocrat. Fidelity National Information Services (FIS) Source: Maryna Pleshkun/Shutterstock.com Next on my list of the best stocks to buy is Fidelity National Information Services, which is the Feb. This payment processor has had an underwhelming year relative to the US markets as a whole. It's just a fraction lower than this time last year. Based on a haunting 12-month free cash flow of $2.57 billion and an enterprise value of $109.75 billion, though, Fidelity National FCF's return is very decent at 3.8%. You won't find much comment from InvestorPlace contributors on this stock, despite the fact that it has a role to play in the technology side of financial services. 7 Growth Stocks You Don't Want to Sleep On However, on November 19, the Florida-based company announced that it earned the top spot for the sixth consecutive year in a ranking of 100 leading providers of risk and compliance technology. In addition, while Covid-19 has slowed the rate at which FIS can process transactions, it has still managed to generate organic revenue growth during the third quarter from 1% to approximately $3.2 billion. The company also increased adjusted net profit by 18% to $887 million. So, this is not a glamorous stock, but the services are definitely in demand. McDonald's (MCD) Source: CHALERMPHON SRISANG/Shutterstock.com To represent March for the coming year, I have picked the golden arches of MCD stock. Like many of the names on this list, McDonald's has had a good year going, up about 7% from YTD. That's better than many of her restaurant peers, but it's behind the U.S. markets as a whole. Thanks to Covid-19 shutdowns, McDonald's trailing 12-month free cash flow is not nearly as strong as it usually is, now at $4.25 billion. Currently, the market leader has an FCF return of 2.7% based on an enterprise value of approximately $205 billion. Despite operating in one of the hardest-hit industries, McDonald's has gone beyond the new coronavirus, continually finding ways to transform its business without disrupting its core customer. For example, the company recently gave Beyond Meat (NASDAQ:BYND) the cold shoulder by announcing that it would test a line of meatless alternatives in 2021, including the McPlant burger. Interestingly - despite the development of the vegetable burger with the input of Beyond Meat - the fast-food company decided to go its own way. The decision to go on its own was the result of two reasons. First, MCD didn't want to alienate its meat-loving customers. Second, it is not a fan of rental licensees and other brands in her home. Beyond Meat would certainly have taken some shine off of the Golden Arches. McDonald's has had a hard time, but it always bounces back. That makes it one of the best stocks to buy for the coming year. Adobe (ADBE) Source: / Shutterstock.com Adobe, the mastermind behind the PDF and more, is my choice for the month of April. It is having an excellent year in the markets at the moment, with a YTD total return of over 47%. 27c. significantly better than both the software peers and the U.S. markets as a whole, making it one of the best stocks to buy now. Adobe's 12-month free cash flow is $4.9 billion, while the company's value is nearly $232 billion for an FCF return of 2.1%. Both company value and EV EBITDA have increased sharply over the past five years. 8 Energy shares to buy in a changing sector In 2016, the company had an enterprise value of $48 billion and EV EBITDA of 26.1. Currently, the stock has an EV-EBITDA multiple of 48.3. In early February, I said adbe shares would hit all but at least $400 in 2020. It did and then some. Moving forward, I think it's all but sure to hit maybe $600 in 2021. MercadoLibre (MELI) Source: rafapress/Shutterstock.com MercadoLibre is sometimes referred to as the Amazon (NASDAQ: AMZN) of Latin America, although it looks more like Alibaba (NYSE: BABA). For my list of the best stocks to buy in 2021, it represents the month of May. Currently, MELI stock is having a fantastic year in the markets with a YTD total return of almost 200%. Like Adobe, MercadoLibre is by far the better than both its internet retail peers and the U.S. markets as a whole. This company trailing 12-month free cash flow is $810 million, while the company's value is nearly $76 billion for an FCF return of 1.1%. While that may seem low, MercadoLibre's free cash flow has never been higher. The income is also on fire and growing like weeds. True to the Amazon equation, this name will also likely see exponential growth in free cash flow in the coming years. I've been a fan of the company since as far back as 2013, when it was trading around $120. I argued at the time that it had a dominant position in Latin American e-commerce and that its shares would benefit from it. As I write this, stocks are priced around $1,700 and moving higher in 2021. Johnson Controls (JCI) Source: Shutterstock There aren't many big companies with a J as the first letter in their name. There are even fewer with strong free cash flow. Nevertheless, Johnson Controls represents the month of June on my list of the best stock buy. Interestingly, while it only generally matches the YTD performance of U.S. markets as a whole, JCI stock is doing better in 2020 than it has in some time. Over the past five years, it has an annualized total return for shareholders of about 9.1%, well below the markets. However, up nearly 14% in the past three months, the company appears to be gathering speed heading into 2021. At the beginning of November, Johnson Controls also reported its fourth quarter results despite the challenging business environment. In fiscal year 2020, it had revenue of $22.3 billion and a net profit of $1.69 billion, flat up a year earlier. 7 Biotech stocks to buy further Vaccine plays That's not bad for a company that produces, installs and services products designed for offices, industrial properties and other forms of commercial real estate – all of which were hurt by the pandemic. Johnson Controls' backlog of 12-month free cash flow is nearly $1.8 billion, while the company's value is about $39 billion for an FCF return of 5.3%. I see JCI as a good stock for risk-a-half investors who also like a bit of dividend income – the dividend yield is currently 2.28%. Jeld-Wen Holding (JELD) Source: IgorGolovniov/Shutterstock.com By far the smallest of the 12 names on this list, JELD stock has a market capitalization of $2.42 billion. This maker of windows and doors represents the month of July on my best stocks buy list. At the end of January 2017, Jeld-Wen went public for $23 per share. Now, though - if you bought shares in the IPO and are still holding - you've earned almost no money on your investment. Year-to-date, it has made a total return well below the booming returns of its construction products and equipment industry peer group. These stocks have mainly benefited from Covid-19. The company's 12-month free cash flow is $250 million, while the company's value is $3.8 billion for an FCF return of 11.3%. However, on November 3, the company reported third-quarter results that were better than analyst expectations. On the top line, revenue was $1.11 billion, $2 million higher than the consensus estimate. On the bottom line, it had adjusted earnings per share of 52 cents, eight cents higher than analysts' expectations. The consumer's focus on their homes, coupled with our strategy to deliver profitable market share with key customers, is to stimulate increased demand for products in both residential new construction and repair and remodeling channels, said President and CEO Gary Michel. As the focus continues on homes in 2021, I expect Jeld-Wen to break out of his funk and do well. Apple (AAPL) Source: WeDesing/Shutterstock.com For August, the famous maker of the iPhone is the next pick from this list. However, if there was a month to start with the letter B, I would recommend Berkshire Hathaway (NYSE: BRK. A, NYSE: BRK. B) because it's a much better value play and happens to own nearly 965 million shares of AAPL stock. Apple's YTD total return is over 66%, which sounds rather common, given the nearly 30% annualized total return over the last 15 years. I'd take it any day of the week. As for free cash flow and enterprise value, they are nearly $73.4 billion and $2.1 trillion, respectively. That's an FCF return of 3.5%, an excellent for one of the world's largest public companies. Simply put, Apple has become so much more than a maker of smartphones. 7 Electric Vehicle stocks with style and content According to AppleInsider.com, Apple's new M1-equipped Mac mini has the number one position in sales in the Japanese market for desktop computers - after only two weeks of availability. Furthermore, Apple now has a market share of 27% in Japan, up from about 13% a year earlier. So, I don't think you're going to go wrong owning Apple in the long run. Clearly, it is one of the best stocks to buy for the coming year. SVB Financial (SIVB) Source: Shutterstock Next, which is the month of September is my favorite U.S. bank. SVB Financial is the holding company that operates Silicon Valley Bank, the Santa Clara-based financial institution that focuses on entrepreneurs and innovators. Right now, it's having a great year compared to peers in regional banking. While SIVB stock is nearly 43% YTD, most of its peers are down. It is also leaving the U.S. markets in the dust. That said, I won't bother pointing out the free cash flow for this name, because it doesn't make sense for banking institutions. Instead, the balance sheet is the most important. SIVB reported Q3 2020 results that included earnings per share of $8.47, nearly double the $4.42 per share it earned a year before. We had an exceptional quarter driven by excellent balance sheet growth, higher core fee revenue, strong investment banking revenue, solid credit resulting in a reduction in reserves and outsized stock gains related to customer IPO activity, noted President and CEO Greg Becker. These results reflect the resilience of our markets and our ability to execute effectively. SIVB was on my 2013 list of the five best stocks to buy for the next 20 years, right there with Amazon. I think you owe it to yourself to look at it in 2021. Otis Worldwide (OTIS) Source: rafapress/shutterstock.com In early April, this elevator company was launched by United Technologies, which merged with Raytheon (NYSE:RTX) to become one of the world's largest aerospace and defense companies. While it won't have a full 12-month track record until April, this representative for the month of October has risen 43.5% to YTD, suggesting 2021 could deliver an excellent performance. In the 12-month backlog, Otis has a free cash flow of $1.47 billion and an enterprise value of about $33 billion. That ensures an FCF return of 5.2%, so it's reasonably priced. In addition, the company's third-quarter results show that it is holding up during the pandemic. Total organic revenue decreased 1.2% to $3.3 billion in the third quarter of 2020, while operating profit increased 7% on an adjusted non-GAAP basis. Operating margins also increased by 120 basis points to 15.4%. 8 Battery stocks that auto companies relying on in November, Toronto-based portfolio manager Christine Poole made OTIS stock one of its three top picks on Bloomberg's BNN Market Call, suggesting that its 17% global lift market share makes it an excellent long-term investment with excellent long-term investment with excellent excellent between sales and service, 57% and 43% respectively. That makes it worthy of this best stock buy list for 2021. you say recurring earnings? NextEra Energy (NEE) Source: madamF/Shutterstock.com Recently I advised this Florida-based utility because of its renewable energy business, NextEra Energy Resources, which generates nearly 40% of its total revenue. I maintain that NO stock is one of the best stocks to buy for 2021, which is the month of November on this list. NO stock is a thing of beauty as consistent returns are your thing. YTD, it's about 20%. In the past three, five and 10-year periods, total annual returns have reached annual sales of 25.1%, 26.8% and 20.5% respectively. Let's just say it crushes his colleagues over one of those periods. NextEra's free cash flow in the trailing 12-month period is $2.1 billion, while the company's value is $190 billion, for an FCF return of -3.2%. So, it's certainly not cheap. But InvestorPlace's Mark Hake made an interesting comment on November 25 when he suggested that NextEra would buy another utility with its strong share price. As Hake would agree, that's Capital Allocation 101. NextEra made overtures to Duke Energy (NYSE: DUK) and Evergy (NYSE: EVRG). Both turned down the offers. However, I'm sure something will shake soon enough. As Hake said, a bid could come with more money. What I do know for sure is that NextEra is one of North America's best-run utilities. Dollar General (DG) Source: Jonathan Weiss/Shutterstock.com Representing the last month of the year is Dollar General, the dollar-store discount chain with 17,000 locations in 46 states. It has had another strong year, up almost 37% from YTD. Combine that with a 10-year annualized total return of 20.8%, and you have a heck of a long-term investment. As for trailing 12-month free cash flow, it has $3.1 billion, along with an enterprise value of nearly $64 billion. At the moment, the FCF yield is 5.9%. On November 14, the company announced the opening of its 17,000th store in Fountain, Colorado. As a nice gesture to the community, dollar general donated $17,000 to one of the local schools. Since our inception more than 80 years ago, we have remained focused on helping customers save time and money, CEO Todd Vasos said in the company's press release announcing the occasion. In my book, helping customers save time and money are the hallmarks of a successful business. Back in November, I also advised Dollar General as one of three stocks of relative values compared to Nio (NYSE: NIO), the Chinese electric vehicle maker. And although like Nio long term, it's not a name to buy for the short term at current prices. DG stock is much more down-to-earth. As long as working people need to save money, Dollar General's business remains a solid bet. In turn, that makes it one of the best buy shares to buy uncertainty of 2021. On the date of publication, Will Ashworth had no (direct or indirect) positions in the securities mentioned in this article. Will Ashworth has written about investments full time since 2008. Publications where he has appeared include InvestorPlace, The Motley Fool Canada, Investopedia, Kiplinger, and a number of others in both the US and Canada. He especially likes to create model portfolios that stand the test of time. He lives in Halifax, Nova Scotia. More from InvestorPlace Why everyone invests in 5G All the wrong top stock picker reveals his next 1,000% Winner Radical New Battery could dismantle Oil Markets The post The 12 best stocks to buy for a whole new year of returns in 2021 first appeared on InvestorPlace.These are the top dividend stocks in the Russell 1000 with the highest forward dividend yield for January. Nouriel Roubini , aka Dr. Doom, slams Bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies as being driven by manipulation. The Moderna shots alone would be worth as much as $1 billion to McKesson's 2021 revenue and $1 per share in earnings, says analyst Ricky Goldwasser's. 2020 is a good year to give just to time stamp use of a very generous uniform gift and estate tax credit now available,' one expert suggested. Things go from bad to worse for Nikola (NKLA). For a stock that was on fire during the first half of the year, the electric truck maker's comedown is brutal. A series of events - allegations of fraud perpetrated by founder Trevor Milton, his subsequent resignation, a seriously underwhelming deal with General Motors - have sent investors to the exit gates. Now it seems that even the trash wants nothing to do with Nikola.On Wednesday, the company announced that its plan to design and build BEV garbage trucks for waste collection company Republic Services has collapsed. The company has argued that the cost of building the trucks would be higher than expected and would take too long, after both parties concluded that the construction of the garbage truck with the Nikola Tre as a base would not work. The market, apparently, didn't like the latest setback and shares fell nearly 20% in the past two trading sessions. Deutsche Bank analyst Emmanuel Rosner put the disappointment down to the fact RSG was Nikola Tre's only external customer announced so far, and was seen as providing an external validation of the economy. However, putting a positive spin on the proceedings, the analyst thinks the deal dismissal could work in Nikola's favor. The garbage truck would have demanded large expenditures that were not necessarily transferable to other core activities and the TAM is also relatively small, the analyst. That said, Nikola has other issues to contend with; the analyst feels uncomfortable about the development of Nikola's BEV truck, which is expected to end of 2021. Although the first trucks have been produced and are currently in the testing phase, no customers have yet been announced, and Nikola's economy with it could be unfavorable for years. Overall, Rosner summed up, We remain on the sidelines of NKLA, and will closely study some of the milestones that are expected to be announced in 1H21, including a potential hydrogen infrastructure partner. Accordingly, the analyst rates NKLA shares a Hold, although he might as well have said Buy – because his $26 price target implies ~88% up from current levels. (To view Rosner's track record, click here) Rosner's colleagues think Nikola's worth a punt. The average price target is a tad higher than Rosner's and with $26.67 there is a gain of 92.5%. All in all, the stock has a Moderate Buy consensus rating based on 3 Buys, 4 Holds and 1 Sell. (See NKLA stock analysis on TipRanks) To find good ideas for stocks trading at attractive valuations, visit TipRanks' Best Stocks to Buy, a newly launched tool that unites all tipranks stock insights. Disclaimer: The opinions expressed in this article are solely those of the recommended analyst. The content is only intended to be used for informational purposes. It is very important to do your own analysis before making any investment. The decade-old battery maker went public by merging a SPAC in November. Since then, the stock has taken a remarkable rise. Why is a bit of a mystery. Owning a house may be the embodiment of the American dream, but it's not engraved in stone! So, if you've toyed with the idea of giving up home ownership, then, by all means, go for it. However, given that homeownership is seen as the hallmark of wealth, giving up is set to you a lot of controversies. Individuals in your circle can even criticize. But no matter what the larger population thinks, here are good reasons to never buy a house. Home Ownership Expenses Are Lifelong Advocates for Home Ownership often claim that paying rent is expensive, but home ownership is just as expensive. The cost of home ownership does not end with that initial payment. It comes with lifetime costs, which, compared to renting, will create a dent in your finances and take away your peace of mind. For example, energy bills such as electricity and water are inevitable and must be paid every month. According to Zillow, these bills only cost homeowners between $2,300 and $4,600 a year. Add in recurring costs such as insulation, heating and cooling maintenance costs, homeowners insurance, real estate HOA fees, mortgage payments, and yard maintenance, and chances are you end up spending more per year than a tenant living in a home similar to yours. Moreover, there is no opt-out. Once you buy a house, you commit to these costs unless you decide to sell it. On the other hand, when you rent or rent a house, rent, can always opt out. For example, when times get tough, you always shift to income-based apartments until you get back on your feet. A home is not a Real Estate Investment Pro-home individuals will try to convince you that your home is an investment. While there is some truth in this, buying a home as your primary property is not the same as buying one to rent or resale. Why? Well, when you buy a house for real estate, it brings you a return on investment. For example, when you buy and rent or rent a condo, it offers you return on investment at least every month or every six months based on the terms of your agreement with your tenant. But when you buy a house to live in, you will have invested, but you will not get a return. If anything, you'll be the one who has money in it through maintenance, mortgage payments, and all the other aforementioned costs. Plus, a home can never be an investment if you don't plan on selling it at any point. What makes an investment an investment is your control over its ownership. In other words, a real estate investment is referred to as such because you buy it when the value is low and sell when the value is high, making a profit. But your primary residence is different because you don't just wake up one morning and decide to sell it unless you're hard-pressed for cash, which in most cases means you'll take any offer that leads to losses. Also, when you sign that home-buying agreement, your money is automatically closed, and the only way you get it back is by selling it or taking a home equity loan. When you rent or rent, you free up your money and use it to invest in opportunities that grow your assets. Sure, you could argue that rent is expensive, but this is not a good reason to buy a house, as there are plenty of modern, well-equipped low-income apartments that will help you keep costs down. Property values are not always high It is true that a house increases in value as time passes. Due to inflation, a house bought for $100,000 is now worth more than $600,000. That means that selling it will bring you good profits. However, keep in mind that the real estate market is incredibly volatile. The value of your home can now be high, then it can drop steeply due to a crash of the real estate market and/or other external factors. For example, during the great financial recession of 2007-2009, real estate market values experienced a sharp decline, which saw sellers suffer huge losses. Existing listing values from $7.1 million to $4.1 million, marking a 25% drop in the value of homes sold during this period. What does this have to do with buying a house? Well, you can buy a house expecting it to increase in value, but instead, find that its value is incredibly low if you desperately need to sell it. The result? You end up selling it at a loss. Loss. in mind that some factors are beyond your control. For example, the real estate market may not crash, but due to other components, such as increased crime, the value of properties in the neighborhood you bought your home in goes down. Such an occurrence will make it almost, if not, impossible to find a buyer who is willing to get it out of your hands, even at a purchase price. In other words, unless you have a magic crystal ball, there is no telling what will happen to the general, or your local, real estate market. So if you're buying a home now with the hope that its value will increase in the future, then you're better off not buying one because you could potentially be massively disappointed. Owning a home Ties You Down Unless you are rich and can afford to buy a home in different parts of the country, homeownership tethers you to a location. If you have a fantastic job or entrepreneurship opportunity, you can't just pack up and go. First you need to put your house on the market and find a real estate agent to help you sell it. You should also worry about market values, and because you're in a hurry to move on to your next location, chances are you'll sell it to the first buyer because you don't have time to wait for better deals. But if you rent, all you have to do is pack and go. Even if you're not moving, buying a home automatically means you'll have to deal with the community around you for the rest of your life, especially if you don't plan to sell it. For example, even if you don't like your neighbors, you will have no choice but to learn to put up with them. When you rent and don't like your neighbors, the option to walk away is always viable. Homeownership is not for everyone Not everyone is cut out for home ownership. It comes with responsibilities that some people just don't handle the skin. For example, when you buy a house, especially in a hoa community, you need to make sure that the yard is well maintained, clean gutters, repaint your exterior regularly, and other similar tasks. Not everyone is cut out for that level of responsibility, and if this describes you, then never buy a house. Homeownership doesn't define YouOwning that modern apartment is great, but you still enjoy living in it without having to deal with the stress of ownership by simply leasing it. Homeownership in no way determines your success. So, if you've never wanted a house, don't buy it because your colleagues own multiple houses. After all, home ownership leaves little to be desired. See more of Benzinga * Click here for options trades from Benzinga * Amazon Opening Three San Antonio Facilities * The Psychology Behind M1 Finance's Platform And Its Focus On Financial 2020 Benzinga.com. Benzinga does not provide investment advice. All rights reserved. Spoiler alert: In this story, I'm going to be very grumpy about the current state of Pfizer's Pfizer In this sense, I look to Pfizer stock as a cautionary tale of what happens when investors become addicted to the promise of astronomical profits – even if the outfit has no product to speak of that – to the detriment of a company that has just made one of the biggest product breakthroughs in history. Source: Manuel Esteban/Shutterstock.com I need to understand what's at work. And That's what I do. But I don't. Wall Street, the financial news cycle and investors in general boast the collective attention span of three goldfish swimming in a bowl of espresso. Taking the long view is no longer fashionable. The kind of buy-and-hold value investing that warren buffett and Charles Brandes made billionaires has suddenly become a silly game. Thanks in part to the likes of Robinhood, many now enjoy the goal of plunking down $100 on some pseudo-hotshot stock that grabs a 2,000% return in 30 days. InvestorPlace – Stock Market News, Stock Advice & Trading Tips Yes, Pfizer is a $209 billion big-pharma battleship. Investors and analysts often see titans stodgy and stuck. With Pfizer stock, slow and stable will always be slow and stable. Middling performance will not change for nothing. 7 Undervalued stocks that could rise in 2021 And yet I feel something very, very wrong when the company that just cracked the vaccine code on the biggest public health threat in a century, along with BioNTech (NASDAQ: BNTX), doesn't get as much love as some dubious also-rans who were never going to produce a vaccine and more than likely knew it. All that mattered to them was practicing the right spin and dangling the root of simple investment picking. I don't know if that's a disease we can cure. Pfizer Stock and the Analyst Enigma Even the analysts in this case seem to confuse expectations. In the first quarter of 2020, when many companies were averting a bloodbath, Pfizer exceeded analysts' expectations. Then it did it again in the second quarter. And it drew a three-peat in the third quarter. Despite this, 15 analysts say Pfizer shares are a hold. For those who count, that's 25% more than three months ago. At least the six who call it a buy tip scale to a consensus rating of overweight. And with a price target of $41.64, investors could achieve a modest 11% gain if that share price passes. Except that ... well, do-gooder values aside, I would think there's a lot more value for those who keep Pfizer stock when the company sits on a product it can't produce fast enough. As recently as December 19, The New York Times reported that the current administration recently asked Pfizer to sell it enough doses to an additional 50 million but Pfizer said it had already found customers around the world for all the doses it can produce until about the middle of next year. Here's my investor math: Huge medical breakthrough, plus huge PR PR reputation breakthrough, plus insatiable demand for new product is equal (or should be right)... Something. Something positive, anyway. Here's what we have instead: borderline investor apathy. When the numbers didn't add up in the past six months, Pfizer stock rose a modest 20%. But since December 8, it's 11%. On an annual basis, the shares have remained flat. Meanwhile, Inovio Pharmaceuticals (NASDAQ:INO) has seen its shares rise 180% year-on-year. The company has done a great job promoting its vaccine candidate INO-4800. There was only one problem: Inovio has not so much marketed a sock puppet in its 41 years. PFE even has a very attractive price-to-earnings ratio of 24.38. So what do investors have against Pfizer shares? I see this in part as symptomatic of our time, when investor perceptions can transcend reality and investor sentiment can turn a frog into a prince and vice versa. We can see analogies in how Wall Streeters treat giant automaker Ford (NYSE:F). It just delivered an amazing hybrid version of its F-150 pickup and an all-electric Mustang Mach-E. Both have been named Truck of the Year and Car of the Year by Green Car Journal. Still, Ford doesn't get any love from investors. No. Year on year it is a decrease of 5%. Compare that to Nikola (NASDAQ: NKLA). Here we have a disgraced EV company that has admitted to faking images of a fully operational prototype humming on the road. The car was actually an empty shell that went down a hill. Nikola stock year after year? Up 66%. If you have it, keep it... But don't hold your breath. Sit back and say: But that has nothing to do with investing in Pfizer shares. How wrong you'd be. The rest of the world is being dragged into the irresistible flow of ESG investing. The initials represent the values of environmental and social practices, along Governance (how a company's governance and internal practices reflect positive values such as gender and racial diversity). To date, ESG investing accounts for more than $20 trillion in assets under management. And yes, the goal is not only to support companies that are doing well, but doing well financially. I see Pfizer stock as hitting a World Series grand slam on the E and S parts of ESG. If you could care and money is your thing, it should still reap incalculable respect – and profit. Don't trust me as much as The New York Times, which as I said reports that Pfizer will sell and distribute every vial of vaccine it can produce by at least mid-2021. But somehow the calculus is off. I keep Pfizer stock, but I find myself struggling to make a case. That because investors will do what they will do and I think a large number of them have already decided to succeed. That has, at least in the mea, a prophesied where investors greeted a company's red-hot moment in the sun with choked yawning. Even if the rest of the world rejoiced. As for inspiring investor confidence and enthusiasm, I'm not sure what Pfizer can do for an encore. I don't think there's an encore. Suffice to say that if you own Pfizer stock, you'll want to keep it as that $41.64 price target seems more than doing. After that, who knows? At least for the financial fate of these pharma, maybe this is what they mean by the cure is worse than the disease. At the date of publication, Lou Carlozo held long positions at PFE and BNTX. More From InvestorPlace Why Everyone Invests in 5G All Wrong Top Stock Picker Reveals His Next 1,000% Winner Radical New Battery Could Dismantle Oil Markets The Post Pfizer Stock Just Can't Seem to Find a Cure for Investor Apathy First Appeared on InvestorPlace Tech Stocks Along With Banks, Aerospace, Retail, and Many Other Sectors Have All Had Their Day in the Sun and Now It's Time for Investors to Pay Closer Attention to A Dream Alternative Of Fuel Companies , according to Jim Cramer.Hydrogen Power: At the top of the list are potential power giants of the future, such as Plug Power Inc. (NASDAQ: PLUG), Cramer said Tuesday on Mad Money. The hydrogen fuel cell company has seen its stock increase by more than 1,000% by 2020. Fellow hydrogen cell company Bloom Energy Corp. (NYSE: BE) is 300% while Ballard Power Systems Inc. (NASDAQ: BLDP) is 200%. EV Play: Self-driving electric vehicles will not be possible without companies producing the technology that drives the cars. Luminar Technologies Inc. (NASDAQ: LAZR) is a manufacturer of laser-based sensors and competes with Velodyne Lidar Inc. (NASDAQ: VLDR). EV cars need access to charging stations. At the forefront of that market is Blink Charging Co. (NASDAQ: BLNK) and its stock has risen from a 52-week low of $1.25 to a high of $48.70 by 2020.But at the end is Cramer's top pick, Quantum Corp. Corp. (NYSE: QS), a maker of a lighter and faster charging battery for EVs. Related Link: Watch Out, Elon Musk. These EV Startups are trying to take teslaRare Earth Minerals: Rare Earth mineral company Mp Materials Corp. (NYSE: MP) is a U.S. company with a hammer lock on magnets for electric motors, Cramer said. Why It Matters: These alternative energy-adjacent companies have expertise in unique technologies that used to be too expensive but are now a lot cheaper to produce, Cramer said. The group also benefits from a potential catalyst of a Joe Biden administration that will be more supportive of alternative energy, Cramer said. See more of Benzinga * Click here for options trades from Benzinga * XRP And the SEC: What You Need To Know* Corona Beer Sales Allegedly Untouched By Unfortunate Name Association(C) 2020 Benzinga.com. Benzinga not not Investment advice. All rights reserved. Take a deep breath, get ready, the new year is just around the corner, and while we're all ready to celebrate - just on principle, because getting out of 2020 is reason enough for joy - let's also take stock of where we are and where we're going. There is a growing sense of optimism, caused by the availability of COVID vaccines and the potential they give for a return to normal on Main Streets across the country. Finally, a chance that the lockdown and social distancing regimes will really end, and in the short term. There is a real chance that, by the end of a 2021, John Q. Public may get back on its feet.Combine that with Wall Street's current ebullience, as stock markets trade at or near their all-time high levels, and we are looking at the prospect of a banner year. A return to grassroots normality will be great - but we also have the prospect of an overall rising market. Writing from JPMorgan, chief US equity strategist Dubravko Lakos-Bujas writes: Equities are facing one of the best backdrops in years. The risks associated with global trade tensions, political uncertainty and the pandemic will disappear. At the same time, liquidity conditions remain very supportive and there is a very favourable interest rate environment. That's a Goldilocks environment for risky assets. Lakos-Bujas does not shy away from optimism. He predicts a whopping 19% gain for the S&P 500 and says the index will reach 4,000 by early 2021 and reach 4,400 in the later part of the year. Turning Lakos-Bujas' outlook into concrete recommendations, JPM's cadre of equity analysts are banging the table on three stocks that look particularly convincing. We pulled the trio through Tiprank's database to see what other Wall Street analysts have to say. Sotera Health (SHC)Sotera Health occupies a unique niche in healthcare and offers through its subsidiaries a range of safety-focused support companies for healthcare providers. These services include sterilisation procedures, laboratory testing and advisory services – and their importance is immediately apparent. Sotera has more than 5,800 healthcare customers in more than 50 countries around the world. While not a new company - two of its branches have been in business since the 1930s and 40s - Sotera is new to stock markets, with its IPO just in November. The original offer was considered successful, raising $1.2 billion on a sale of 53.6 million shares. Earlier this month, Sotera announced that it used much of the IPO capital to pay off $1.1 billion in existing debt. This included $341 million in an initial plus $770 million in aggregate principal on a matter of higher secured notes. The move enabled Sotera to credit facility up to $347.5 million. That facility is not currently signed. Among the bulls is JPM analyst Tycho Peterson who rates SHC an Overweight (i.e. Buy) along with a one year price target of $35. This figure suggests a 31% upward compared to current levels. (To view Peterson's track record, click here) SHC is uniquely positioned to benefit from healthy growth in the end market and favorable price dynamics, Peterson noted. Given a diversified operational platform, sticky multi-year contracts, an efficient pricing strategy, significant barriers to entry and high regulatory oversight, we project ~9% revenue growth, with higher utilization of continued expansion [and] robust FCF supports ongoing de-leveraging, making us positive about both the near and longer term outlook. The Wall Street analyst corps is firmly behind Peterson on this one – in fact, the 7 recent reviews are unanimous Buys, giving the analyst consensus a Strong Buy. SHC is currently trading for $26.75, and the $32.50 average price target implies an upside of 21.5% by the end of 2021. (See SHC stock analysis on TipRanks) Myovant Sciences (MYOV)Let's stick to health care, and look at Myovant Sciences. This clinical research biopharma company focuses on important issues of reproductive system disease in both men and women. In particular, Myovant is developing treatments for fibroids, endometriosis and prostate cancer. Myovant's pipeline currently contains Relugolix as a treatment for fibroids and endometriosis. The drug is in phase 3 trial for the latter, and has submitted its NDA for the first. Also in the pipeline, and related to reproductive health, is MVT-602, a new drug designed to improve egg maturation and help with vitro fertilization. In addition, Myovant announced this month that Relugolix has been FDA approved - under the brand name Orgovyx - as a treatment for advanced prostate cancer. The drug is the first, and currently only, Oral Gonadotropin-Releasing Hormone (GnRH) Receptor Antagonist for the disease. Orgovyx is expected to hit the market in January 2021. Analyst Eric Joseph describes in his note on these shares for JPM how he is impressed by Relugolix based on the clinical and commercial potential of lead asset relugolix for the treatment of endometriosis and fibroids, as well as in men for the treatment of advanced prostate cancer. The analyst added: In women's health, we believe that the so far totality of Phase 3 data risks the likelihood of relugolix approval in the U.S. for fibroids and endometriosis - commercial opportunities that are reflected on the current Furthermore, we see an attractive commercial setup for relugolix in the treatment of advanced prostate cancer as an oral LHRH alternative with a differentiated CV risk profile. These comments support Joseph's Overweight (i.e. Buy) rating on and its $30 price target implies a 31% upside for the next 12 months. (To view Joseph's track record, click here) Overall, the Strong Buy analyst consensus rating on Myovant comes from 5 ratings, and the distribution is clear to the bulls: 4 to 1 in favor Buy versus Hold. The share price of $22.80 and the average price target of $36.40 give a robust upside potential of ~59%. (See MYOV stock analysis on TipRanks) Metropolitan Bank Holding (MCB)For the third stock, we are changing from healthcare to finance, where Metropolitan Bank Holding – through its subsidiary Metropolitan Commercial Bank – operates as a full-service bank for business, enterprising and personal customers in the middle segment. The bank's services include business loans, cash management, deposits, electronic banking, personal checking, and prepaid cards. In a year that is difficult for most of us, MCB has managed to post steadily rising revenues and solid earnings. The top of the bank has risen from $33 million in Q1 to $36 million in Q3. EPS was stronger, at $1.27 per share, a 30% year-over-year gain. The gains come as the bank gives forward guidance of $153.9 million in total revenue for next year, which - if met - will reflect a 22% gain over 2020. While MCB's financial performance has shown steady gains, the share valuation has not followed. The stock has only partially recouped losses taken last winter at the height of the corona crisis, and is currently 26% this year. Looking at the New York bank scene of JPM, analyst Steven Alexopoulos notes general problems in the commercial real estate lending sector - an important part of MCB's portfolio - due to ongoing pandemic issues. In this environment, he sees Metropolitan Bank as the right choice. We're not as bearish as most on the outlook for New York real estate. After witnessing many cycles in NYC, the time to buy is when the herd runs in the other direction. In past cycles, MCB has been an outperformer on credit metrics related to its loan portfolio relative to our coverage group, Alexopoulos noted. Alexopoulos goes on to explain another key strength in MCB's loan portfolio: In a low interest rate environment, MCB is better positioned than peers to withstand NIM headwinds with 59% of MCB's loans being fixed interest rates and 67% of remaining variable rate loans having floors to protect against lower short-term interest rates... To this end, Alexopoulos rates MCB an overweight (i.e. Buy) along with a $50 price target. Should the target be met, investors will be able to pocket a profit of 43% in the coming year. (To track record view, click here) Some stocks fly under the radar, and MCB is one of those. Alexopoulos' is the only recent analyst review of this company, and it's decidedly positive. (See MCB stock analysis on TipRanks) Search for ideas for stocks trading at attractive valuations, visit TipRanks' Best Stocks to Buy, a newly launched tool that unites all of TipRanks' equity insights. Disclaimer: The opinions expressed in this article are solely those of the recommended analyst. The content is only intended to be used for informational purposes. It is very important to do your own analysis before making any investment. This article goes on to explain what penny stocks are and discuss four penny stocks under $1 to watch as small-cap stocks continue a hot streak this winter. First thing is the first, what are penny stocks? In short, these are shares of companies that trade for less than $5. Penny stocks are known for their volatility aside from just their cheap price. But whether you're looking at stocks below $1 or those closer to $5, it's important to keep a few things in mind. First, understand what you're buying and why you're buying it. Just saying you're trading penny stocks is not the goal. You're in the market making money. So, identifying entry and exit targets are obviously important. What's more, is that you should have a basic strategy in mind. Are you looking for day trading penny stocks or do you have a longer term idea in mind? Also, it is important to take into account the swings in price and how quickly they happen. Small-Cap Stocks Continue Their Hot Streak Why Would Anyone Want to Buy Penny Stocks Now? Case in point, small-cap stocks are red hot right now. Check out the benchmark ETF, the Russell 2000 (IWM). While the S&P, Dow and even the Nasdaq are struggling to maintain a bullish trend, the IWM hit fresh, all-time highs on Wednesday. Given the strength in small-cap stocks - especially stocks below $1 - it's wise to have at least some trending names on your watch list. When finding penny stocks to buy, make sure you assess each trade independently and plan accordingly. Most would not plan on investing in penny stocks that rise and fall 50% in seconds. Moreover, day traders normally do not jump into a stock that is hardly fluctuating in price. As a rule of thumb, the lower the price, the higher the volatility. That's just for the fact that a small movement in price corresponds to a larger percentage change. With this in mind are any of these penny stocks under $1 on your watch list now? Tonix Pharmaceuticals Tonix Pharmaceuticals Holding Corp. (NASDAQ: TNXP) is one of the penny stocks below $1 gaining steam before the end of the year. This week the company came out with the news that it has finished purchasing about 44 Montana. This will be the site for the development of the vaccine and the production facility. This adds to the company's growing footprint as well. A few months ago, Tonix also bought a 40,000-square-foot facility in Massachusetts. These two facilities will support the development and production of the company's vaccine If you are new to the story of TNXP stock, the company is currently developing TNX-1800 as a potential COVID-19 vaccine and TNX-801 for a smallpox/monkeypox vaccine. Specifically, the TNX-1800 is a center of attention as you might think. Many coronavirus vaccine stocks have garnered interest over the past few months. In this case, Tonix intends to report efficacy data from vaccine candidate animal testing studies next quarter. Biolase Biolase Inc. (NASDAQ: BIOL) is one of the cheaper penny stocks making moves at the end of the year. This week alone the penny stock has risen from about $0.27 to more than $0.31. While this is only a $0.04 move, it equates to a nearly 15% jump in price since Monday. Unlike other biotechs Biolase is mainly focused on products used in oral health. The company's main products are dental laser systems that perform a wide range of procedures, including cosmetic and complex surgical applications. Last month, the company launched Waterlase Endo Academy to promote education and best practices for integrating Waterlase technology into clinical environments. As endodontists continue to seek more advanced solutions for challenging cases, the academy will serve as a resource for some of the biggest minds in the field to elevate the spread of best practices for integrating advanced technology like the Waterlase, said Todd Norbe, President and CEO of Biolase.Jaguar Health Inc. (NASDAQ: JAGX) has continued to climb this week. Wednesday saw the penny stock further extend its December gains and reach highs of more than $0.90. Although we've been reporting on the company for weeks, the bigger move comes this week after Jaguar's latest update. The Company signed an agreement for a non-dilutive royalty financing transaction. Jaguar will sell a royalty interest of future royalties from its Mytesi® (crofelemer) and lechlemer for a total purchase price of $6 million. Lisa Conte, Jaguar's president and CEO, explained: The timing of this transaction is in line with the progress of the recently launched crucial Phase 3 trial for CTD, for which patient enrollment is progressing. Please also note that the company has held preliminary discussions with Swiss Growth Forum, a sponsor of a European special purpose acquisition company, Post Pandemic Recovery Equity. There is a possible deal with the SPAC and an operating subsidiary of Jaguar to be based in Europe with an exclusive license for crofelemer and Mytesi for indications of inflammatory diarrhea and HIV-related diarrhea. Senseonics Holdings Inc. (NYSE: SENS) with towering this week after a major U.S. patent win. Senseonics received a patent entitled, Remotely-powered sensing system with multiple sensing devices. Given that the company is a medical device company, patent wins come in very handy. Senseonics Implantable Glucose Senseonics systems are used by diabetes patients. The company's CGM systems, Eversense® and Eversense® XL, contain a small sensor under the skin. This communicates with a smart transmitter worn over the sensor. Data is then sent to a mobile app on the user's smartphone every five minutes. In addition to the reasons for viewing Senseonics, the company partnered with Ascensia Diabetes Care, a global diabetes care company, earlier this year. Heading into the beginning of 2021, there are a few things traders are following. One of these things is the initiation of commercial activities outside the US with the help of Ascensia. The company also expects a decision on the fda's approval of its Eversense product in the first half of the year. Neither the author of this post nor Pennystocks.com have a position or financial relationship with any of the above stocks. See more of Benzinga * Click here for options trades from Benzinga * 6 Alternative energy stocks to watch for Q1 2021 As Renewables Heat Up(C) 2020 Benzinga.com. 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