

Financial Page Summary December 2023

By David Helscher

'Twas two months before Xmas and all through the house
Not a speaker to be found, the prior one bounced.
Another elected, turning all the lights on
Working late nights, to avoid a black swan.

The debt ceiling resolved; we can check that box
Passing a budget? With seconds left on the clock.
Little else is done, nary a debate
Social media calls, fund raising is late.

A President's son is under indictment
An ex-president too, for crowd incitement.
Will the trials be streamed or broadcast
Or do we add a judge as an iconoclast.

When out on the street there arose such a clatter
I sprang from my bed to see what was the matter
When what to my wandering eye did appear
A self-driving electric sleigh, without any reindeer.

And now the Fed's struggling with what words to use
To guide expectations, about its policy views.
But there isn't much worth in these semantic debates
'Cause the Fed must let data show the right path for rates.

A virtual run on a bank, auto and movie strikes
Gas pump prices and cartons of eggs spike
Team Barbie or Team Oppenheimer
A new Beatles song as a reminder.

News of Ukraine recedes, Gaza's dominates
War and suffering leave civilians to their fates.
No shortage of harm and tales of woe
Wishing if only we could make it not so.

Santa's whole workshop is now work from home
I call elves for IT help, they ask "safari or chrome?"
I tell them of toys, and they say, "You're on mute!"
I'm wearing PJ bottoms beneath the top of my suit.

Now Tesla, now Apple, now Amazon and Meta
On Alphabet, on Microsoft, and Nvidia
To the top of the yield, to the top of the charts
Go higher, go higher still, a deviation apart.

The bidding for athletes was clear out of hand
NIL contracts were the rage throughout the land
America's eager young stars still in school
Were looking for big money and starting to drool.

Artificial intelligence is such a big thing
I can't even imagine what all it will bring.
But like most things past science advances have brought
Improving our welfare is more likely than not.

It was a tough year for family Ferentz
A successful season, none the less
In need of an offense needing a spark
Leave the point scoring to Caitlyn Clark.

Storms, fires, rain and drought
Leaves climatic change little in doubt
Now earthquakes and volcanic alarms
We all must endure mother nature's charms.

Next year promises global elections galore
Will price hikes slow as we head to the store?
My vision is cloudy, my forecast opaque
But with certainty we'll soon see snowflakes.

Say goodbye to 2023, give it a cheer
Despite everything, glad you were here.
But not just yet, the end is in sight
Happy Christmas to all, and to all a good night.