

**June 24, 2026**

- 10,202 people tried to qualify for the US Open.
- Smuckers says that a majority of its Uncrustables are eaten by adults and not kids (we have previously marveled at the giant NFL budgets for them).
- The US Open broadcast shows all 156 participants.
- Oregon is trying to ban hunting, fishing, trapping, scientific research on animals, pest control, and livestock production.
- The UK has had 10 prime ministers since Brexit in 2016.
- 56 million years ago, horses were the size of cats.
- The jeweled peacock spider can jump 40x the length of their bodies.
- The Great Blue Hole is an underwater cave off the coast of Belize. It is 1,000 feet wide and 400 feet deep.
- Our old boss once mused at buying the country of Belize (or at least controlling 100% of its debt).
- The gaur is the largest wild cattle species. It often fights tigers (and wins).
- The oceanographer that found the sunken Titanic in 1985 was actually on a secret Navy mission looking for two missing submarines.
- Holland is the name of a region in The Netherlands that comprises two provinces.
- It is improper grammar to say, "comprised of."
- The term Dutch comes from the German word Deutsch which was meant to label commoners that spoke German (as compared to Latin spoken by the elites).
- According to Adam Carolla, the strongest similarity between rich guys and poor guys is that both know the price of copper.
- An eighth area code is being added to New York City. Elaine has never lived down getting a 646.
- The Chinese government brought "corruption" charges against almost 1mm government officials in 2025.
- Lawyers in California are pursuing a class action lawsuit against gas stations for high prices. Trump is starting an investigation, too.
- Carnival Cruise has reported passenger traffic with over 100% capacity for 12 quarters in a row.
- Cruise capacity is based on two people per cabin.
- Nick Reiner is petitioning the court to have access to a trust fund his parents set up for him. Apparently, he needs the money for his defense after murdering his parents.
- A piece of cake from JFK's inauguration sold for \$160. If only it had been from his wedding...
- School House Rock reminder: If a President does not sign a bill that has passed both houses of Congress, after 10 days (excluding Sundays), it automatically becomes law (unless Congress adjourns during those 10 days).
- Casey's is the 3rd largest convenience store chain in America. It has the 4th most liquor licenses among retailers. And it is the 5th largest pizza chain.
- There are about 150k convenience stores in the US. About 90k of them are in chains of 10 or fewer stores.

**June 17, 2026**

- Chicken wings are coming to McDonalds.
- It takes about a billion years for a natural diamond to form.
- It takes about three weeks for a lab grown diamond to form.
- A billion seconds ago was in 1994.
- If you stacked one trillion pennies, you could go to the moon and back...twice.
- Ebola kills about 300 people globally each year.
- About 300 Americans died of overdoses every day in 2023.
- Looking at the previous four largest IPOs over the last 30 years, the market is up about 6% after 60 days (on average).
- The Stanford students that protested the Google CEO used Google to organize the protest.
- Zillow reports that there are 242 cities in America that have starter homes costing over \$1mm. Starter home is defined as the lowest third of home prices.
- There are 55 Buc-ees in the US. Texas has 36. It was founded in 1982.
- There are 18,000 species of wasps in North America.
- Toronto has instituted a World Cup ticket scalping fine of \$25,000.
- The city of Toronto bought 3500 World Cup tickets and sold them to the public at inflated prices.
- Someone bet \$200,000 that the Browns would not win the Super Bowl. They stand to win \$1,761.

## **May 29, 2026**

- Damaging or disrupting animal enterprises is a federal crime...penalties include fines in excess of \$1,000,000 and life imprisonment.
- In California, pet stores are not allowed to sell dogs.
- In California, 95% of pet stores have closed since this legislation passed.
- The Wienie 500 is a two-lap sprint around the Indy 500 track. Six of the Oscar Mayer Wienermobiles compete.
- 10 states have the pine tree as their official state tree.
- Most states and/or municipalities have banned zipper stairwells since the 1970s. New York City and Dallas are two exceptions. Washington just changed its building code to allow for this design which saves floor space and increases safety.
- Handwritten receipts are illegal in Italy.
- Ferrari introduced its first electric car, the Luce. Price tag: \$640k.
- The former Ferrari chairman was not pleased with the Luce. After commenting that they risked the destruction of a legendary car company, he said, "at least the Chinese won't copy this car."
- A JP Morgan banker was fired for expensing a \$642.50 deli plate for a personal Super Bowl party. He sued for wrongful termination and won \$4mm.

## **May 20, 2026**

- Retail brokerage accounts make up 10% of all equity assets in the US. Retail trading makes up about 20% of all equity trading.

- The head of Starbucks in South Korea was fired this week for having a “Tank Day” promotion on the same day as a holiday that commemorates a painful episode in SK history when tanks squashed a democratic uprising in 1980.
- Alaskan oil production peaked at 2mm barrels per day in 1988. It now sits under 500k bpd.
- Nepal recently increased the price to climb Mt. Everest from \$11k to \$15k. Technically, it is a season pass.
- The license plate of the car in which the Archduke Franz Ferdinand was riding when he was killed was A111-118. This just so happened to be the day WWI ended (Armistice 11/11/18).
- A former Greek Minister of Health sat on a panel during World No Tobacco Day about 10 years ago. He was smoking throughout the presentation.
- After Aaron Rai had wrapped up the PGA Championship, Alex Smalley made a meaningless birdie putt on 18...meaningless except for the extra \$822k it earned him.
- Nashville has 62,000 hotel rooms.
- A neuroscientist recently proved that writing information by hand is better than typing the same information.
- Barry Manilow has 13 Billboard #1 hits.

### **May 13, 2026**

- 300 different languages are spoken in China.
- Planet Fitness blamed an increase in membership cancellations on their marketing campaign which included the words “cancel anytime.”
- Lucky Strike is being accused of building a bowling monopoly.
- The Cocodona 250 is an ultramarathon through the Arizona desert. A woman just won it in a time of just over 56 hours.
- Arizona was once the most efficient shrimp producer in the US with the fastest growth in the world.
- In 1988, 1,864 companies changed their name.
- Early research shows that AI-driven stock picking is a money losing venture. In one test, 26 of 32 models lost money. (We think AI is great for streamlining research, and it might be really good at making money in the future, but we do not think we are there yet.)
- Bolivia has 37 official languages.
- French unemployment is over 8%.
- Pink Floyd’s The Wall was banned in South Korea during the 1980s.

### **May 6, 2026**

- Jane Street paid over \$9b in compensation to its employees in 2025. That is \$2.68mm per worker.
- The 1st tee announcer at the Doral Open is the voice of the French-Canadian Siri.
- In Mexico, cold, hard cash is used in 85% of all small transactions.
- The president and co-founder of OpenAI invested \$0 in the company. He now has an equity stake worth \$30b.
- Coors is bringing back its Keystone Ice brand. It is 5.9% ABV.

- The Exxon Valdez oil spill in 1989 is not in the top 50 largest oil spills.
- A Chicago alderman said Walgreens should be charged with the crime of “first degree corporate abandonment” after announcing it was closing a store.
- As a reminder, Cinco de Mayo is more of an American creation than a true Mexican holiday (but the defeat of the French at the Battle of Puebla in 1862 was an important military win). We might have to stop using this one since we heard it on the radio three times this week!
- The panther logo of the Carolina Panthers is shaped like North Carolina and South Carolina combined.
- Ted Turner, who bought the Atlanta Braves in 1976, decided to demote the manager and skipper a game himself in 1977. He was reprimanded by the league for violating a rule that explicitly forbids anyone with a financial interest in a team serving as its manager.
- The Atlanta Braves held a wet t-shirt contest at a game in 1977. The “winner” got \$500 and got to kiss Ted Turner.
- The Celtics were the first playoff team to have three starters score 0 points in a game.

### **April 30, 2026**

- The CEO of United Airlines is banned from playing Blackjack in most casinos.
- The market cap of the Taiwan exchange is bigger than that of the UK.
- The San Diego Chargers got their name because the owner liked the bugle call “Charge!”
- Sportsradar is being accused of facilitating illegal gambling including on ping pong in Poland, futsal in Brazil, and badminton in Indonesia. E-gaming is also a focal point of illegal gambling across Asia.
- Futsal is an indoor version of soccer that uses a smaller ball and only 5v5.
- There is no offsides in futsal. This has long been one of our suggestions as to how soccer could become watchable for Americans. Get rid of offsides.
- \$109b worth of lottery tickets were purchased last year in America.
- The towns of Lenox, Mass and Williamsport, PA both sport the nickname “Millionaires.” Lenox uses Mr. Monopoly, aka Rich Uncle Pennybags, as its logo/mascot.
- The 1958 Onion Futures Act explicitly makes trading onion futures illegal. There are no other fruits or vegetables explicitly forbidden.
- Jim Beam and other liquor producers are seeing increased demand for their “nips” bottles because more people are looking to sneak alcohol into sports and concert venues.
- The average cocktail price in America is \$13.61.
- A survey shows that 41% of drinkers are now changing their habits because of liquor pricing. 4% are drinking nonalcoholic beverages. 37% are drinking more at home before going out.
- Nip is short for nipperkin.
- LendingClub is changing its name to Happen Bank.
- The average age of a car in America is 12.8 years.
- Ulysses S. Grant was born Hiram Ulysses Grant. The congressman who nominated him to West Point wrote down the wrong name. Grant kept it. The S. does not stand for anything.
- 500 people die from hippo attacks every year.

- Babe Laufenberg was the Indiana Hoosiers highest drafted quarterback for 43 years.
- The sound of a whip cracking is not the leather snapping but rather a sonic boom.
- Pancho's Mexican Buffet was founded in El Paso in 1958. There are only a few independent locations left.
- Only white-ish cars are allowed in the capital of Turkmenistan (white, silver, grey, etc.).
- Ashgabat is the capital of Turkmenistan.

## **April 24, 2026**

- The central business district of Austin has an office vacancy rate of 31.1%.
- Supposedly, 73.4% of all Polymarket events resolve as "No."
- The EU plus the UK and Norway (EU+2) produces about half the natural gas that it consumes.
- There are only two US companies with AAA-rated balance sheets: Microsoft and JNJ.
- The "Gordie Howe hat trick" in hockey includes scoring a goal, making an assist, and getting in a fight.
- Red Lobster is bringing back its Endless Shrimp menu item.
- Red Lobster went bankrupt in 2024 because of its Endless Shrimp menu item. (Red Lobster is one of our repeat story lines...we cannot get enough of the continued saga.)
- A single guy in Italy printed over \$10mm in fake Euros from a printing press in his garage.
- The winner of the Boston Marathon ran his fastest mile during his last mile! 4:19).
- The #3 corporate officer at McDonald's (Chief Restaurant Experience Officer) is named McDonald.
- Long Beach, California has canceled its 4th of July fireworks show because of "pollution" concerns.
- New York City has denied permits to large gatherings for 4th of July celebrations (from June 11 to July 19 because of the World Cup...allegedly).
- On April 15, the S&P 500 reached an all-time high with only 12 stock making new 52-week highs.
- On April 17, the Nasdaq index rallied for the 13th straight day (longest since 1992).
- A 14-year-old kid who watched Jaws in 1996 was fascinated by Quint's monologue about the sinking of the Indianapolis. Apparently, he researched the topic so intensely that he was able to prove that the captain of the ship was innocent of wrongdoing and never should have been court-martialed. He presented his findings to Congress in 2000. The deceased captain was legally exonerated by the Navy.
- The Situation from The Jersey Shore went to jail for tax evasion.
- A baseball bettor recently parlayed a \$30 wager into \$1.86mm by correctly predicting that six different MLB players would hit homeruns on the same day.
- In 1970, an Australian farmer got into a dispute with the government over how much wheat he could sell. E effectively seceded declared his farm a sovereign territory. This was recognized by Australia and the Queen of England.
- The Orioles ran out of homerun fireworks after beating up on the Red Sox last week.

## **April 10, 2026**

- The internet reports that soccer player Ronaldo has “purchased” a star in the sky for \$37.5mm (we think the internet might have this one wrong, but we appreciate the story).
- When electricity was installed in the White House for the first time, President Harrison refused to touch the light switches.
- The world record for the most parachute jumps in 24 hours by one person is 640.
- When red foxes walk, they place their rear paws precisely where their front paws were (leaving only two paw prints).
- Credito Emiliano, a bank in Northern Italy, accepts Parmigiano Reggiano cheese as collateral for small business loans.
- Chuck Norris was awarded the title of Honorary Marine. He was one of about 100 to ever receive the honor. He was also an Air Force veteran who served in Korea.
- Carrots were originally purple (like the famous purple potatoes of Peru...all Baring Asset Mgmt veterans know this one.) They were bred to be orange in the 1600’s to please the Dutch Royals.
- The Major League Baseball Players Association has assets of \$519mm.
- The NFL blames insufficient face-mask protection for 44% of all concussions.
- The Artemis II space rocket launched at over 17,500 mph.
- Apollo noted this week that the number of \$20 bills in circulation is falling while the number of \$100 bills is on the rise. As a reminder, \$100 bills often trade at a discount to \$20 bills in sketchy emerging markets. Nigeria used to be the poster child for this anomaly. This is a function of people knowing that \$100 bills are primarily used for criminal activity.
- China produced the same amount of oil in 2024 as it did in 2014. Its consumption grew by 50%.
- Meta removed ads on Instagram and Facebook by law firms seeking plaintiffs to sue...Meta.
- Jack Nicklaus’s worst finish at the Masters in the 1970s was 8th.
- 1500 private jets will visit Augusta this year.
- Iceland has the highest internet penetration in the world (98.2%).
- Wrigley Field used to have a McDonald’s in the parking lot.
- Only 18 people have ever been World Chess Championship (since 1886).
- In 1983, a passenger plane took off with only half the fuel it was supposed to have. It had to make an emergency landing when the plane started to fall from the sky. The reason for the fuel screw-up? Canada had recently switched to the metric system (a slow rollout over years) and the grounds crew calculated the fuel in pounds instead of kilograms.
- Bill Gates holds a McDonald’s Gold card which allows him to get free food at any McDonald’s whenever he wants.
- Cars made on Mondays allegedly have a higher recall rate than those made on Fridays.
- American Airlines sometimes replaces small regional jets with buses.

## **March 18, 2026**

- Six of the 10 largest moves in the price of oil (in dollar terms) have happened in the month of March.

- The ACC is the only conference that rewards the teams that make the March Madness tournament with all the NCAA money. All other conferences split the money equally among their teams (whether they make the tournament or not).
- The most western county in the Oklahoma panhandle is the only county in America that borders four other states.
- This land was once called No Man's Land after Texas ceded the land in 1850 to comply with the Missouri Compromise. Nobody wanted the land until 1890 when it became part of Oklahoma.
- New York City spent \$368mm on 4504 homeless people in 2025. This is \$81,705 per person.
- The median household income in New York City is \$81,228.
- The United Kingdom is yanking Winston Churchill from the currency. He will be replaced with hedgehogs (and other wildlife).
- The estate of late Colt's owner Jim Irsay sold his memorabilia collection for almost \$94mm.
- Josh Johnson has played for 26 different football teams since 2008. This includes three stints in the spring "minor leagues" below the NFL.
- A Minnesota state senator has introduced a bill which will grant "inherent rights" to Manoomin, a natural wild rice.
- Back from 1912 to 1918, the US government would wash and iron your money upon demand.
- Chunky peanut butter is more popular on the West Coast of the US than the East Coast.
- One in 10,000 clovers has four leaves.
- In England, it is good luck for a bride to find a spider in her wedding dress.
- Eating 12 grapes on New Year's Day is considered good luck in Spain.
- The head of a peanut-head bug looks like an unshelled peanut.
- Theodore Roosevelt added tennis courts to the White House.

### **March 11, 2026**

- A government plane in Bolivia carrying \$62mm worth of local currency (bolivianos) crashed in a populated area. Most of the money was grabbed by local residents. Bolivia has cracked down on the stolen money by restricting serial numbers and seizing dubious bills (not sure stolen is the right word). Now, everyone in the country is afraid to use their currency and commerce has ground to a halt.
- There are 140 crypto ETFs listed on US stock exchanges. There are 100 applications pending.
- The regulated crypto platform Kraken has been awarded a "limited purpose account" at the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City. This will allow the platform to move money directly with the Fed.
- The parent company to the New York Stock Exchange (the Intercontinental Exchange Inc.) is buying a stake in the crypto platform OKX. The valuation is \$25b. (When we clicked on the link from Bloomberg to get more details, Microsoft flagged it has a dangerous link. We did not pursue the matter.)
- Perhaps the last three bullet points should be in the WDATCMG section?

- Cushman & Wakefield is being sued for not offering ESG funds in its 401k/retirement plans.
- A Log Bronc is a small boat used to move logs around a sawmill pond.
- The Federal Reserve acknowledged (in an official whitepaper) that the prediction market Kalshi “provides a high-frequency, continuously updated, distributionally rich benchmark that is valuable to both researchers and policymakers.”
- The Los Angeles Marathon awarded anyone who ran 18 miles a “finisher medal.”
- Exxon is moving its legal headquarters to Texas after 144 years in New Jersey.
- Exxon’s New Jersey roots (Standard Oil), ironically, were born out of a need to escape political pressure.
- Women now make up 26% of users on Kalshi. This is up from 13% about a year ago.

### **March 5, 2026**

- When the strikes against Iran started in the wee hours of Saturday morning, the president (lower case p) of the European Commission felt the urgency to convene a meeting on Monday to discuss the matter.
- A long time ago, we felt like we were in an episode of Homeland when we had to take a UK citizenship test at the Iranian embassy in London (it was for a permanent visa, not citizenship, but it was the same test).
- Red Lobster declared bankruptcy in 2024 because of the “Ultimate Endless Shrimp” promotion.
- The Red Lobster in North Little Rock, Arkansas has historically been the most profitable restaurant in the brand.
- The St. Louis Cardinals will sell some tickets to games this year for \$29 which include all the food and drink (not beer).
- We once paid \$10 (face value) to attend a Lakewood Blueclaws minor league baseball game in New Jersey. The \$10 ticket came with \$15 worth of beer.
- After the Citigroup building was built in New York City in 1978, the engineers realized they made the mistake of using bolts on the joints instead of welding them. The novel use of the Tuned Mass Damper (giant concrete block located near the top of the building that slides to counteract the natural swaying in the wind) was not enough to alleviate their worries. They secretly welded metal plates over the bolts without telling the public.
- The John Hancock Tower in Boston was the first skyscraper to use the Damper (it beat the Citigroup Tower by a hair).
- There is a tiny island between Finland and Sweden at the northern point of the Baltic Sea. It is called Market. The Finnish built a lighthouse on it in 1885. It was technically on Swedish territory. In 1985, the two countries decided to redraw the border to loop around the lighthouse.
- The leader of the 2026 US Half Marathon took a wrong turn with two miles to go. She was following the official lead bike which, apparently, did not know the route.
- Northwestern State defeated Missouri State in softball despite being no-hit.
- The best scoring team in the NBA in 2003 would be the worst scoring team in the NBA in 2026.
- The worst defensive team in the NBA in 2003 would be the best defensive team in 2026.
- Every year, the city of Amsterdam pulls about 12k bikes out of the city’s canal system.

- It is against the law to hunt Big Foot in certain counties in Washington state.
- China has 300 different languages.
- Food packaging in Japan has to perfectly portray the size of the food inside.
- Qatar has 124 fighter jets.
- The US fired a submarine torpedo (in a conflict) for the first time since WW2.

## **February 26, 2026**

- There is an airline in India called Cheap-O Air.
- California is clarifying its no-blackjack gambling law (other than on tribal lands). Players can no longer bust by going over 21. Instead, the winner will be determined by a point system (getting closest to a moving point target).
- The same law says getting dealt blackjack will no longer be an automatic winner.
- Robert Duvall's first movie role was Boo Radley in To Kill a Mockingbird.
- A judge has ruled that chicken wings do not need to be made from the wings of a chicken.
- The same judge clarified that chicken wings or even boneless wings are a cooking style.
- At the beginning of the social media trial (Meta/Facebook and Alphabet/Google are the defendants, the accusations are that social media sites are addicting and harming children), the judge warned the gallery to not be recording any of the proceedings including with video-enabled glasses. A handful of observers immediately took off their Meta glasses.
- The goalie for the US Women's hockey team is the first Pittsburgh native to win a gold medal in the Winter games since 1924.
- Jerry West, the late, great player and GM of the Lakers, once hit a hole-in-one at the Riviera golf tournaments' pro-am day. As a prize, he was awarded four Lakers tickets (and a parking pass).
- Tug-o-war was an Olympic sport from 1900 to 1920.
- The British won the gold in 1908 by cheating with metal spikes.
- Porcupine quills were once used as toothpicks.
- Men suffer from long-term hiccups more often than women.

## **February 12, 2026**

- Chinese mutual fund managers reduce their risk during their zodiac years.
- Halley's Comet's next visible visit will be in mid-2061.
- The first two Christopher Reeve Superman Movies were filmed at the same time.
- No Scorigami in the Super Bowl. 29-13 has happened 12 times in NFL history.
- The last Scorigami in the Super Bowl was in XLVIII. It was the Seahawks's win over the Broncos 43-8.
- The Super Bowl broadcast said there had never been a first half without a touchdown. This was wrong – there had been four before SB LX.
- In fact, this non-fact was horribly wrong. The halftime score of Super Bowl IX was 2-0.
- Average daily trading in the US equity markets has tripled since early 2020.
- Kalshi and Polymarket were both running free grocery promotions last week.
- Switzerland is going to vote on a plan to limit its population to 10mm people.

- Finland has enough battery storage for electricity to last six minutes.
- Finland gets 25% of its electricity from wind.
- Italy is the only Olympic hockey team without any NHL players.
- 12 of the Italian hockey players are not from Italy (20 total players).
- Rory Sabatini, who is from South African, played golf for Slovakia in the 2021 because his wife was Slovakian. He won a silver medal. (To be fair, he was required to become a citizen of Slovakia).
- The alligator equivalent to hibernation is called brumation.

## **February 5, 2026**

- As of 1-Feb, 95% of Lake Erie is frozen over.
- Update: The San Francisco initiative to establish a reparations fund for black residents has received \$0 in private funding. By mandate, it will receive \$0 public funding.
- Land-use regulation in Housing accounts for about 40% of the productivity gap between construction vs the rest of the economy.
- The winter Olympics are considering adding “cyclocross” and cross-country running because of “global warming.”
- Microsoft data tells us that white collar workers are digitally interrupted (emails/instant messages/chats/etc) at work every two minutes.
- Minute Maid (Coca Cola) is discontinuing its line of frozen juice concentrates after 80 years.
- The former CEO of Citigroup has pledged \$120mm to the Vet school at UC-Davis. Their dog received cancer treatment at the school’s hospital in 2018. The dog did not survive.
- Of the 389 billionaires who have died since 2015, six were in helicopter crashes.
- According to X, baby stingrays look like aliens trapped in ravioli.
- The world’s largest flower has finally bloomed after a decade in the making. It is the Rafflesia in Indonesia.
- There is a website dedicated to the countdown of McDonald’s McNugget-Caviar release.
- On Feb 1, Orlando (24 degrees) was colder than Juneau (33).
- The US has the largest wild sea scallop industry in the world.
- Most of the scallops eaten in the US are imported.

## **January 30, 2026**

- Mixue Ice Cream & Tea is the world’s largest restaurant chain (by number of locations).
- Kaja Kallas, the Prime Minister of Estonia when Russia invaded (the) Ukraine, was one of the most vocal critics of Russia. It turns out, her husband’s company made over \$1.5mm in profits in direct dealings with Russia after her call for cutting off all ties with the country.
- Michael Saylor, the CEO of Strategy (fka MicroStrategy...name change!) and resident pumper of Bitcoin, bought the website hope.com.
- The sticker price for 1-year tuition to Yale is about \$72k. When you add room & board and others fees, it is almost \$99k.
- 3.58 billion people use Facebook (or Instagram) every day.

- Patek Philippe watches sell for an 11% premium in the secondary market. This is down from 19% last year and 38% in 2024.
- Tik Tokker Khaby Lame (???) signed a \$975mm deal to monetize his 360mm social media followers.
- When asked why Manufacturing was still showing sluggish activity, Kevin Hassett (director of the National Economic Council) said companies will “turn those machines back on.”
- Saudi Arabia and the rest of the Middle East burn 1.8mm barrels of oil per day for electricity.
- The Middle East flares (burns for no reason other than to get rid of it) over 5 billion cubic feet per day of natural gas.
- 2026 will be only the second year in MLB since 1922 without an active player who has won a World Series with the Yankees. 1995 is the only other year.
- A Bexar County (San Antonio) judge has been indicted for handcuffing a defense attorney in court. She has previously been reprimanded for decorating her courtroom and for congratulating winning attorneys on social media. Her name is Speedlin Gonzalez.

### **January 23, 2026**

- Don Meredith once said about Tom Landry, “He is such a perfectionist that if he were married to Raquel Welsh, he’d expect her to cook.” (We appreciate his proper usage of the subjunctive “were.”)
- The Bureau of Labor Statistics measures health insurance inflation by how much insurers must pay out in claims...not by the premiums that consumers pay.
- Mr. Beast had 68,000,000,000 views on YouTube in 2025 (including more than a few by the Chalk Creek household).
- 3M once put \$3mm in a glass case at a Canadian bus stop. If you could break the glass with just your body, you got to keep the cash. Nobody got the money.
- China burns 56% of the world’s coal output. It burns 20x that of the entire European Union and 8x that of the US. China has tripled its coal usage since 2000.
- The owner of three Las Vegas casinos in the Downtown area will accept Canadian dollars (CAD) on par with the USD. USDCAD is currently trading at about 1.37 (one dollar buys 1.37 CAD).
- International visitors account for about 12% of Las Vegas tourism. In 2024, Canadians made up about 38% of this international total. That is now down to about 21%.
- New England typically generates 27% of its electricity from burning oil. This will approach 40% this weekend.

### **January 16, 2026**

- The share of Americans taking a GLP-1 drug (for diabetes or weight loss) has doubled from 6% in May of 2024 to 12% in November of 2025.
- According to data firm Circana, GLP-1 households spend more money eating out than non-GLP-1 households...25% more!
- DraftKings just lost a Massachusetts Gaming Commission ruling that forces it to pay out ~\$930k in baseball bets to a single bettor. This bettor discovered that DraftKings did not

price different “total hits in a playoff series” separately. That is, DraftKings did not think if a player had seven hits in a series, then that same player would definitely have six hits in the series!

- Propane production in the US has almost quintupled in the last 15 years (500k bpd to almost 2.5mm bpd).
- Amazon is suing Saks and trying to stop it from getting new cash. Amazon invested \$475mm in Saks when it bought Neiman’s.
- Matthew McConaughey has trademarked himself (eight specific trademarks have been approved by the US Patent and Trademark Office...these include short video and audio clips).
- U-Haul has a Growth Index which tracks which cities see the most inbound moving trucks. Dallas, Houston, and Austin were the top three in the country in 2025.
- Stan Kroenke, owner of the Los Angeles Ram, Denver Nuggets, Colorado Avalanche, and Arsenal FC, is now the largest private landowner in the US after buying over 900k acres in New Mexico recently. He owns a total of over 2.7mm acres. This is twice the size of Delaware.
- Part of California’s budget to rectify homelessness includes about \$10mm a year on alcohol.
- The former mayor of Chicago Lori Lightfoot is being sued by JP Morgan for an unpaid credit card balance of \$11k.
- This season the Chicago Bears are 3-3 when down by 10 points or more in the final five minutes of the game. The rest of the NFL is 3-158.
- Kurt Cobain loved Weird Al Yankovic’s parody of Smells Like Teen Spirit.
- In a game of chess, there are approximately  $10^{40}$  possible board outcomes.
- Puissance means “raise to the power of.”
- The Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario has fined FanDuel \$350k for failing to identify “match fixing activity” in the Czech Table Tennis Star Series.
- Scientists have determined that people with peanut allergies should “microdose” on peanuts to build up tolerance.
- The Oakland A’s, who are moving to Vegas, have been denied the trademarks “Las Vegas Athletics” and “Vegas Athletics.” The names were deemed to be too generic.
- Winston Churchill was allowed to drink alcohol in America during Prohibition because he got hit by a car on Fifth Avenue (he looked the wrong way!). His doctor prescribed him alcohol which was a legal exemption in the Volstead Act.
- The Indianapolis Colts ran fake punts on back-to-back plays. After getting the first down on the first fake punt, the Colts left the punt team out there and ran a play. They caught the Texans defense with too many players on the field.
- Trader Joe’s tote bags can sell for as much as \$10k on eBay in Korea (according to the WSJ, but we are skeptical).

## January 9, 2026

- The Seahawk’s beat the Rams with the first 2-point conversion in overtime history.
- China has increased its auto exports from about 300k in 2010 to about 7mm in 2025.
- The Fairmount area in Fort Worth is considered the largest “bungalow-neighborhood” in America.

- 10,000 people showed up at Ryan's Place in Fort Worth in 1911 to witness the city's first airplane landing. The pilot was named Roland Garros. The French Open tennis center is named after him.
- Roland Garros was a rugby player...not a tennis player.
- Jim Beam is shutting down its main bourbon distillery indefinitely. It accounts for about 33% of the company's total production.
- The production cycle of a bottle of Jim Beam is about four years.
- The US Postal System introduced the zip code in 1963.
- The Boston Bruins players that climbed into the stands to fight the Madison Square Garden fans after a game against the Rangers in 1979 were fined \$500.
- There are no bridges over the Amazon River.
- Gulf of America oil production has almost doubled since the dip in 2020.
- No hurricanes made landfall in the US in 2025.
- There are 36 candidates to be President of Peru.
- American households currently have an average of 2.8 subscriptions. This is down from 4.1 in 2024 and 4.4 in 2023. This category includes streaming, delivery, apps, and more.
- The kicker for San Diego State had the highest accuracy rate of any kicker in history earlier this season. His nickname is "The Hefty Lefty."
- There was a previous player nicknamed "The Hefty Lefty." It was Jared Lorenzen (a quarterback who had a cup of coffee with New Jersey's Football Giants).
- Nevada passed a law that eliminates the mandated middleman rule in disseminating horse racing data. Bugsy Siegel started this government enforced gift back in the 1940s.
- New York has banned single-use Styrofoam coolers.
- Pets can be included in restraining orders in Pennsylvania.
- California has changed the law pertaining to plastic bags at grocery stores five times in the last 11 years.
- Plastic waste increased by 47% in 2024 because of one of these California laws.
- A new law in California allows you to return a rental car whenever you want (within a few days).
- Another new California law: Pets must be at least one year old to be sold.
- And another California law: Corn tortillas must contain folic acid.
- And another: Declawing cats is now illegal.
- And one more: Diwali is now an official holiday in California.
- Virginia's 6% sales tax now goes to 10% in restaurants or on other prepared food.
- Video Killed the Radio Star was the first and last song every played on MTV.
- Jim Harbough has more career rushing yards than Bo Jackson.
- About a third of all college football players entered the transfer portal on the first day.
- The Boston Marathon did not allow women to run the race until 1972. In 1966, a woman jumped out of the bushes and unofficially ran the race. In 1967, a woman entered the race with her initials. When she was discovered, an official tried to tackle her. Her friends fought him off, and she finished the race.
- First-cousin marriage is legal in New York and California (among others).
- Austin has 19 buildings taller than 492 feet. In 2017, it only had three.
- There is a golf course in South Dakota that abuts a school football field. There is a track around the field. There is a fence around the track. The end zone of the football field is considered "in bounds" on the golf hole.

- A \$400k shipment of lobsters was recently hijacked in Massachusetts.
- The term “Dixie” comes from the \$10 bills issued by Citizens Bank in Louisiana in the 1850s and 1860s. “Dix” is the French word for 10. The bills were not legal US tender. But they were widely accepted in the riverboat trade.
- Airport rides account for 15% of Uber’s mobility bookings.
- Utah allows AI to renew medical prescriptions.
- Barnes & Noble is looking to become a public company again. It has 721 stores in the US.