**July 23, 2025**

* The only #1 ranked golfers in the world to win the British Open are Tiger Woods and Scottie Scheffler.
* Lee Westwood and Luke Donald are the only #1 ranked golfers to have never won a major championship.
* Centenary University in Hackettstown, New Jersey has a new Ph.D. in Happiness Studies.
* China announced that it is going to build a $167b dam on the Yarlung Tsangpo river.
* Washington DC elects tis own mayor and council members, but congress controls the budget of the district.
* Japan’s Kansai International Airport (KIX) claims to have never lost a piece of luggage in its history (built in 1994).
* China has a new bullet train that can travel at 373mph.
* Europe’s oldest mummy is known as Otzi.
* A hot “item” on Etsy these days is, apparently, witchcraft.  Influencers and the like have been promoting the purchase of curses and spells.  One example is the “Bring your ex lover back” spell for $7.  The company behind it has over 44,000 sales.
* Metaphysical Services are prohibited on the Etsy platform according to its posted rules.
* A California financial advisor has been arrested for running a $10mm Ponzi scheme.  Since 1998, he has been promising his clients he had “exclusive access to government and other bonds that paid exorbitant rates of return, including rates exceeding 20%.”  These magical bonds were also tax-free.

**July 16, 2025**

* At a McDonald’s, the rubber mat around the Play Place costs over $10k.
* Over 4,000 people have been murdered in Port-au-Prince this year.
* Five African grey parrots have been removed from a UK zoo because they were cursing and laughing at visitors.
* The Buffalo Bills have the best odds to make the playoffs for an AFC team.
* JP Morgan is opening a new office in Amsterdam because it has hired too many people.  Literally, the new hires have no place to sit.
* IBM recently laid off 8,000 HR employees.  They are being replaced by an AI agent.  The new chatbot’s work will include processing and delivering terminations.
* The state of Ohio is giving the Cleveland Browns approx. $300mm out of its unclaimed funds account to help the team build a new stadium.
* In golf, you get free relief from fire ants but not regular ants.
* In 2017, the Dallas Cowboys had 55,000 visitors to training camp.  Last year, the total was less than 25,000.
* Fortune telling is illegal in New York City.
* 75% of restaurant orders in the US are for delivery or take-out.
* If you order “take-out” in London, they do not know what you are talking about.  The same with “to-go.”  You have to say “take-away.”  (We found this mind-numbing during our years there.)
* 64% of those on board the Hindenburg survived the crash.

**July 3, 2025**

* The Golf Channel claims that Detroit and Atlanta are the only large cities to host regular PGA Tour stops (within the city boundaries was the disclaimer).
* Fort Worth is 50% larger than Detroit and almost 100% larger than Atlanta.  (We wish FW were smaller, but the absurdity of the statement was annoying.)
* The financial advisor who stole client funds to buy a mini-golf / putt-putt operation in New Jersey has been sentenced to more than eight years in prison.
* Six Americans were arrested in South Korea for trying to send miniature bibles, rice, and USD into North Korea.  The contraband was in 1600 bottles aboard ships.
* An Abraham Lincoln-signed copy of the 13th Amendment sold for $13.7mm.  It is one of four copies held by private collectors.
* Since 2018, the average age of a casino visitor has dropped from 50 to 42.
* One of the schemers involved in the rigging of the Texas Lottery (we discussed this previously, some smart but shady investors bought up all the possible combinations a few years ago) touted himself as a “crypto thought leader.”
* Ozzy Osborne is coming out with a cosmetics line.
* Pumpkin seeds have more protein than beef.
* McDonald’s has a promotion in Canada called the International Menu Heist.  It is colloquially called the Axis Menu.  It consists of food from Japan, Germany, and Italy.
* Jaguar’s European sales fell 97.5% in April.  They sold 49 cars across the continent.

**June 25, 2025**

* An adult moose eats about 50lbs of vegetation a day.
* The former Chief Marketing Officer of the CFA Institute, the securities industry body that gives tests and preaches business ethics, was arrested for embezzling $5mm.
* During WW2, the US government lowered the speed limit to just 35mph.  It was called the Victory Speed to help ration rubber supplies.
* The Big Inch was an oil pipeline built in the US during WW2.  It connected the oil fields of East Texas to the refineries in the Northeast.
* The little Inch was a pipeline for refined petroleum products.
* A global diamond thief has been arrested and found guilty in a NY court.  His method was slight of hand.  He would enter Tiffany’s, ask to see a $250k diamond, and then he would replace it with a fake.
* During the peak Virus Fear, Citadel built a trading floor in a Marriot ballroom in Florida.  It took five days.  It normally takes a year to build a trading floor.
* In Illinois, there are 80 schools without a single child that can perform math at grade level.
* Fernando Tatis Jr, the Padres superstar, is suing the company that “bought” a piece of his future earnings back in 2017.  In 2018, Tatis praised the company and the contract for enabling him to be a better baseball player.  Now he doesn’t want to pay them the $34mm he owes them.
* The Straight of Malacca sees the largest amount of petroleum transported through its waters.  The Straight of Hormuz is second.
* The USA women’s U16 basketball team beat Panama 131-12.
* We once lost a high school basketball game 125-40.  That team was a NYC all-star team.  All 12 players could dunk, all of them played in college, and a few played in the NBA.  They took it easy on us.
* One of the billionaire founders of Jane Street was duped into giving millions of dollars to what he thought was a relief effort in (the) South Sudan.  The Harvard professor behind the effort was actually buying guns and rocket launchers to stage a coup.  Jane Street was the firm where Sam Bankman Fried got his start.  (They must be very good at looking the other way.)
* A horse elevator in Manhattan (West 24th Street in Chelsea) that was built in the 1880’s is finally going out of commission because of safety regulations.
* After watching a video of this elevator, we are convinced that our apartment building in NYC in the early 2000’s had an old horse elevator in it.  (Multiple readers have lived in this same apartment…please chime in…we are talking about the freight elevator to the basement.)

**June 18, 2025**

* New York City’s annual budget is almost as high as the budgets of the largest city in each of the other 49 states combined.
* Alabama has a ski resort.
* Odisha, India experiences a mass “turtle nesting” every year.  This year set the record with over 700,000 turtles showing up on the beach.
* The not-so-dormant Mount Lewotobi Laki-laki in Indonesia recently erupted.  It created a column of ash over five miles high in the sky.
* The oldest tree in China is a 4,500 year-old cypress tree.
* Pakistan has the sixth largest air force in the world.
* An Englishman is attempting to walk from Chile to England.  He started 27 years ago.  He just entered Europe.  He expects it to take him one more year to make it home.
* The grandson of the 10th President, John Tyler, recently died.  (We had previously marveled at the 138-year spread in age).
* The latest controversy in the Scripps National Spelling Bee involves participants being asked to spell geographic locations.
* The Louvre has a cap on daily visitors of 30,000.
* Pace University had a computer-generated voice call the names of graduating students.
* A Walmart shopper accidentally rang up $1300 in avocados.  He then called the police and accused the store of stealing from him.
* A golden toilet worth $6.4mm was stolen from a British mansion.  The burglars evaded capture for four years before being caught.  The toilet has never been recovered.
* There is an academic study that suggests a Wall Street analyst with the same name as the public CEO will have more accurate earnings estimates of that company.
* There is a Twitter/X account, Pentagon Pizza Report, that purports to monitor pizza delivery activity around the Pentagon in order to predict military stress/action.
* A California man was arrested for his part in a $1.6mm cargo heist.  His name on the state-issued license was “No Name Given.”
* The marital trust created from Jimmy Buffet’s estate has co-trustees… his late wife and his business manager.  She wants access to the $275mm and he will not give it to her.
* The prisoners cheering in Johnny Cash’s Folsom Prison Blues were added after the recording. (We think we have used this one before, but we are listening to Johnny Cash as we write this.)

**June 11, 2025**

* A pet zebra was on the loose in Tennessee for nine days.  He was caught Sunday.
* After 23andMe filed for bankruptcy, the stock rallied about 1,000%.
* PredictIt has a bet listing “Will Jesus Christ return in 2025.”  The NO price is 97%.
* 4% of the sand at Normandy beach is broken-down shrapnel from D-Day.
* 20 men from Bedford, Virgina died on D-Day.
* The stomach acid of a vulture is 100x stronger than that of a human.
* The current athletic director of Florida A&M has been arrested for defrauding her former employer.  She charged about $24k on her corporate card for personal expenses.  Some of this included withdrawing cash at casinos.
* The average annual cost of in-state college tuition (and room and board) this past year was $30k.  It was $49k for out of state public universities.  It was $63k for private universities.  The Ivy Leagues “schools” averaged about $90k.
* A UK police officer has been fired after he was caught making it look like he was working/typing when he had left the police station.  His intricate ruse was to put a weight on his keyboard, specifically the letter Z, for long periods of time.

**June 4, 2025**

* Trump’s uncle was awarded the Nation Medal of Science in Engineering Sciences in 1983.  He was one of the leading researchers in nuclear physics and radiation therapy (cancer treatments).
* Ethiopian Airlines is Africa’s largest carrier.
* When CNN launched in 1980, media analysts nicknamed it the Chicken Noodle Network.
* From May 2 to June 1, Scottie Scheffler had the same number of wins as the Colorado Rockies (3).
* 137 people attended the Rockies-Marlins game in Miami.  Colorado got its 4th win in a month.
* The US has 17x more $10b companies than the EU (the WSJ counts these as “from scratch” companies that are less than 50 years old).
* China has 69% of the world’s high-speed rail tracks.  Spain has the second most with 6%.  (China’s are most likely trains to nowhere.)
* Riding a motorcycle on the Garden State Parkway was illegal from 1961 to 1975.  You could get 30 days in jail.
* A golfer in the women’s US Open drove the green on a par 4.  She finished with a 6.
* A different golfer also drove the same green.  She finished with an 8.
* 25% of all food stamps are spent on junk food.
* A dentist qualified for the men’s US Open.
* The Weather Channel is the most trusted news source in America according to a recent poll.
* Many investors in Europe are giving up their ESG aspirations.  Some want to rebrand it Energy, Security, and Geostrategy.
* Nigeria is cracking down on “spraying cash” at parties.  The act (literally throwing money in the air) has been recently punished by six months in jail.
* In Nigeria, there is a cottage industry of young entrepreneurs selling small bills at a premium to party goers.
* Apple does not recognize the word “cockswain.”
* A California woman is suing a Thai restaurant for its spicy dish called Dragon Balls which contains bird’s eye chilies.  She probably drives with McDonald’s coffee between her legs, too.
* American chicken feet are a delicacy in China.
* In Australia, Bitcoin ATM customers aged 50 and older account for 72% of the transactions.
* Lima syndrome is the opposite of Stockholm syndrome.
* One of our first forays into financial writing was covering the terrorist seizure of the Japanese embassy (ambassador residence, technically) in Lima, Peru in 1996.

**May 28, 2025**

* The Bombardier Beetle sprays boiling acid (literally 212 degrees) against predators.
* Before the Civil War, America’s second-largest export was ice.
* Dusty Baker has played or coached in about 1.5-3% of all Major League Baseball games.
* Major League Baseball is the oldest professional sports league in the world.
* Bangladesh has about 20% more people than Russia (171.5mm vs 143.8mm).
* Bangladesh is about 9% the size of Russia (57k sq miles vs 6.6mm sq miles).
* Germany, France, Italy, Spain, and the UK all have US government travel advisory warnings of “Increased Caution.”
* Poland, Czech, Hungary, and Slovakia all have “Normal Precautions” status.

**May 22, 2025**

* The Tokyo Stock Exchange was founded in 1878 to primarily trade bonds.
* The New York Stock Exchange has bonds listed for trading.
* There were Cuban, pre-Castro bonds listed on the NYSE until 1995.  These were bonds that the Batista government issued before the 1959 revolution.  Castro defaulted on them in 1960.  Their maturity data was 1977.
* There are 60 Louis Vuitton stores in China.  There are three in India.
* Texas Instruments was founded to help search for oil.
* Shellac (the wood stain) is made from the Lac beetle found in India and Thailand.
* When Alaska first became part of the US, it was called the Department of Alaska.
* When a criminal financial advisor was being arrested in California, he evaded the police by using an “underwater scooter.”  Alas, he pulled this move in a lake.  He was apprehended 25 minutes later when he came ashore.
* Mauritius has 5,100 millionaires.
* A recent survey finds that 44% of Washington DC restaurants expect to close this year.
* “Studies” tells us that the 70-year-old of today has the same cognitive ability of a 53-year-old 25 years ago.  (Goldman has a demographics research team which tells us this stat…so we are inclined to believe it…and we want to believe it!)
* The Rams play all five bird teams in the NFL this year.
* A US District Court judge referenced the Simpsons in a recent opinion.
* Any non-alcoholic concessions at the PGA Championship were free with your admission.
* Ford is suing one of its lawyers for over-billing.  This includes an instance of one layer billing 57.5 hours in one day.

**May 14, 2025**

* British people are called “limeys” because the Royal Navy was the first to treat (and later prevent) scurvy with citrus.  Limes were the cheapest and most abundant.
* College lacrosse’s all-time leader in assists is currently playing in the NBA for the Golden State Warriors.
* Lacrosse is officially the national summer sport of Canada (literally a law passed in 1994).
* When Bon Scott, the lead singer of AC/DC, died in 1980, the coroner’s report officially classified his death as “death by misadventure.”
* Local governments in the UK are up in arms over a property tax avoidance scheme.  Agricultural companies do not have to pay property tax.  So, owners of office buildings without tenants have turned them into “snail farms.”  These typically consist of one box holding two snails.
* This story warms our hearts because as a former tenant in a residential building in the UK, we were responsible for paying the “council tax”  (property tax).
* If you do not pay your “council tax,” a collector will come to your flat and literally take your television and anything else of value to cover the liability (this happened to a friend).
* A child in Ohio ordered 70,000 Dum-Dum lollipops on Amazon.  His mom had given him Amazon-ordering privileges.
* In England, a baby’s pacifier is called a dum-dum.
* NYU researchers tell us that your average retail investor spends six minutes researching a trade.
* 90% of all imports into the US fall under the de-minimis exemption of $800.  The average shipment is only $54.
* Microsoft has a new metric for evaluating its workforce.  They call it “good attrition.”  They measure if the company is happier after someone is laid off.

**May 7, 2025**

* Jobless Claims jumped higher last week because New York schools were on spring break.  Bus drivers, cafeteria workers, and other support staff can file for unemployment benefits during school breaks.  (Just when we think we have heard it all.)
* Chewing gum often contains plastic.
* The winner of the LPGA’s Chevron Championship made the customary leap into the pond off the 18th green.  She cannot swim and had to be rescued.
* Craig Ranch golf course has 27 bridges.
* Luigi the Musical opens next month in San Francisco.  It celebrates the recent assassination of the United Health executive.
* The Maine legislature has stripped a representative of her right to vote in the chamber because she made public comments opposing a bill.
* Microsoft is shutting down Skype after 21 years.
* Secretariat won the 1973 Kentucky Derby by 2.5 lengths.  The second-place horse has the second fastest time ever in the Derby.
* Every horse in the 2025 Derby was related to Secretariat.
* Police in Utah pulled over a seven-year-old boy driving his mom’s car heading to McDonalds.  He and his five-year-old sister had made it nine miles.

**April 30, 2025**

* Google posted an $8b unrealized gain in its investment in SpaceX.  Google owns about 5% of the $350b company.
* Long-time NFL quarterback Derek Anderson (2005-2018) is now a caddy on the PGA Tour.
* The NBA has an official award called the Hustle Award.
* About 87% of the Australian population lives within 35 miles of the coast.
* The Bluetooth symbol comes from combing King Harald Bluetooth’s initials (in Futhark runes).
* China has a pig facility that is 26 stories tall and covers 8.6mm Square feet.
* Adam, Neumann, the founder and destroyer of WeWork, has a new real estate entity worth $2.5b.  The new company is called Flow (as in we know which way the money will flow).
* There is a bill in the California legislature that would decriminalize welfare fraud below a threshold of $25k.
* A new bill in the Senate to ban trading for elected officials is called the Pelosi Act.
* The National Public Housing Museum has opened in Chicago.  It has been in the planning stages for 18 years.
* California does not have any interstate gas pipelines.
* Two of California’s eight refineries are scheduled to close in the next year.
* The Dayton Dragons (single-A minor league baseball) have the longest home-sellout streak in all of US professional sports.
* 95% of Ibuprofen in America comes from China.
* 667 flights into or out of DFW were canceled today (and still counting).
* Pouches of Smoked Baby Clams (the other Chicken of the Sea) have increased in price by 75% in the last month.  Federal inmates have never been so mad, but they will pay the new price.
* This is a prime example of differing elasticities on tariffed products…people may not pay the vig on cheap plastic junk from China…but they will pay it for sweet, delicious, pouched clams.

**April 23, 2025**

* Food stamps account for 5% of Coke’s US sales.
* The UAE intends to use Artificial Intelligence to write new laws (and amend existing ones).  No word if this applies to its Sharia or civil laws.
* The formal mutual defense treaty between the US and Taiwan expired in 1979.
* 37% of Harvard’s budget is paid from its endowment.
* China supplies about 70% of the world’s rare earth minerals.
* Rare earths are 17 metals in Group 3 of the Periodic Table.
* On his company’s conference call, the Zions bank CEO asked ChatGPT for an economic outlook.  It answered with a limerick.
* Chipotle is opening its first restaurant in Mexico.
* Taco Bell has zero restaurants in Mexico (it tried opening stores twice).
* In Birmingham, England, garbage collectors have been on strike for six weeks.
* There is a cabinet position in the UK government called “Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero.”
* All four of the American “original six” NHL teams missed the playoffs for the first time ever.
* NHL TV viewership is down 27% vs last year.
* Steve McMichael, the late, great defensive tackle for the Bears during the 80’s, once kicked off for the team.
* The population of Japan has declined for 14 years in a row.
* Nirvana had the best MTV Unplugged performance of all time.

**April 18, 2025**

* China, Taiwan, and Singapore just celebrated a holiday called Tomb Sweeping Day.
* We have been corrected on John Qunicy Adams.  Our source is from Braintree, MA which used to be the same as Quincy, MA.  We shall defer to his expertise (and we honestly do not remember our source).
* John Qunicy Adams referred to himself as JQA.
* At a recent week’s tour stop in San Antonio, a PGA golfer was able to take free relief because of fire ants.
* The real name of the president of Nintendo America is Bowser (gotta have young kids to get this one).
* A pack of cigarettes in New Zealand can cost up to $50 (online says highest price is $35, but our boots on the ground tell us otherwise).
* One of the largest politically-driven hacking organizations in the world calls itself NoName057(16).
* The No Name Golf Tournament directors disavow all knowledge.
* Over a third of all men’s basketball players have entered the transfer portal (for the second year in a row).
* There are over 9100 CVS stores in America.  Arkansas has 23.
* There is a new state law forcing CVS to close its stores in Arkansas.
* Wesley Snipes never threw a baseball in Major League.
* There is a Major League Baseball player with a batting average higher than his on-base percentage.
* Airplanes in the 1930s had wicker chairs.
* The 12th President, Zachary Taylor, died 16 months into office after eating too many cherries and drinking spoiled milk at a 4th of July celebration.
* After 141 years of conspiracy theories circling Taylor’s death, neutron activation on his remains proved that he was not poisoned.  He died from gastroenteritis.
* India has cut its tariffs on American whiskey from 150% to 100%.

**April 3, 2025**

* A single company owns 75% of the apartments in Irvine, California.  The same company owns almost every shopping center and office space.  It also owns the local newspaper
* Newsmax was worth 30% more than News Corp.
* China is selling so-called “green” bonds.
* A 1968 Volvo has the record for most miles driven: 4mm through 2020.
* The Final Four has all four #1 seeds for only the second time ever.
* Tea is called “chai” in some countries if it spread there by land.  If by sea, then it is “tea.”
* Japan has a “right to vanish” law.
* Quincy was not a true part of the name of John Quincy Adams.  He was just born in Quincy, MA (pronounced Quinzy).
* Sign languages in the US and the UK are different.
* Rivian is spinning off a division into a new company called Also.  (One of our long-running theories is that dumb names are bad for stocks.)
* The list of items targeted by Canada for retaliatory tariffs include flame throwers, fake beards, church bell cases, live monkeys, decoy birds, grenade launchers, rolling papers…and manatee meat.

**March 26, 2025**

* El Salvador went to the IMF looking for a $1.4b loan.  The IMF said ok with one condition:  El Salvado could not buy any more Bitcoin (El Salvador was the first country to adopt Bitcoin as legal tender).  El Salvador agreed, got the money…and immediately bought more Bitcoin.
* Contractors for Stub Hub stole 993 tickets to Taylor Swift and other events.  The crooks sold their bounty on Stub Hub.
* A Chinese aluminum trader has been sentenced to life in jail after creating fake inventories and scamming the market for about $1b.
* The new Prime Minister of Canada is not a current member of Parliament.  He will have to sit in the public gallery during House of Common debates.
* Brazil has destroyed an eight-mile stretch of rainforest in order to build a highway for a one-time event…the COP30 climate summit.
* A North Dakota court has ruled that Greenpeace must pay Energy Transfer almost $700mm in damages caused from the group’s illegal protests over a pipeline.
* The median monthly rent in Manhattan reached a record in February at $4,471.
* Harvard offers a class in remedial math.
* Only two underdogs reached the sweet sixteen in March Madness.
* March Madness averages 8.5 upsets for the tournament according to the NCAA.
* The NCAA describes an upset as a team beating another that was five seeds better.
* Texas has the 9th longest streak of making the NCAA tournament at 14 years (1999-2012).
* Kansas is number #1 at 28 years (1990-2017)
* Door Dash is starting a program that will allow customers to finance their food orders.
* Pharmaceutical commercials account for 15% of all TV ads.
* Disney has sold over $2.6b in retail products of Lilo & Stitch.
* Snow White’s opening box office was Disney’s worst live acts remake ever.  It cost over $350mm to produce (cost data never includes marketing…many investors in movie projects had discovered this the hard way) while generating $43mm.
* Spielberg’s flop 1941 made $95mm in 1979 dollars (not just opening weekend).
* 50% of all new nuclear power generation is being built in China and India.
* China and India are building coal powered electricity generation at over five times the amount of nuclear.
* China is building more coal-powered generation than all existing coal powered plants in the US.
* Dollar Tree bought Family Dollar for $9b in 2015.  It is now selling it for $1b.
* There is a mountainous rock formation in the Tasman Sea called Ball’s Pyramid.  It is taller than it is wide (562m vs 300m…pardon our use of the metric system).

**March 5, 2025**

* New tow-trucks will be illegal in California once the 2024 inventories are sold.
* A 1950 law was introduced to keep the federal workforce below 2m people.  This was the birth of contract and grant workers.
* As of 2020, there are more than three times as many contract and grant workers as federal employees (6.8mm vs 2.2mm excluding USPS.)
* In 1975, 20% of Americans moved homes every year.
* Today, fewer than 7% of Americans move each year.
* The first zoning laws in the country were prohibitions on laundry mats.  This was a not-so-subtle attempt to segregate communities.  Obviously, it was in California.
* Berkeley, California was the first city to impose zoning laws that prohibited apartment buildings.
* Citigroup accidentally posted $81,000,000,000,000…that is 81 trillion…to a customer account.  It was supposed to be a $280 payment.
* The CEO of Palantir does not know how to drive a car.
* Back in 2019, after protesting an oil pipeline in North Dakota over environmental concerns, Greenpeace left behind 48,000,000 pounds of garbage.
* The Strategic Petroleum Reserve can drain 4.4mm barrels of oil per day.  It can refill  barrels at only 0.785mm bpd.
* There is a basketball player for Florida Gulf Coast University with over 2mm social media followers.  He is a walk-on whose social media theme is “Road to 1 point.”  He finished his college career with 0 points.
* Trump’s address of the joint session of Congress last night was not a State of the Union speech since he was just elected.
* In 2023, someone bought all the tickets in the Texas Lotto to guarantee himself the winning combination.  He won.  He even asked the lottery commission beforehand if he could do this…and they said yes!  (Matt Levine uncovered this one for us.)

**Feb 26, 2025**

* The median age of homebuyers in the US is 56.  This is up from 45 in 2021.
* 82% of the world’s population lives in the Eastern Hemisphere.
* Parts of Africa, Europe, and Asia are in the Western Hemisphere.
* Central America is part of the continent of North America.
* Central America is not part of the region known as North America.
* The SS United States, the iconic cruise ship built in 1951 which has sat in disrepair for over 30 years, is being remediated to be sunken as an artificial reef.
* The SS United States still holds the transatlantic speed record.  It used only 2/3 of its power to set the record.
* Lede is spelled this way supposedly to avoid confusion with lead (which Webster says referred to the strip of metal that would separate lines of type when printing newspapers).

**Feb 19, 2025**

* The average age of a passenger car in the US is 14 years.
* Much of the architecture at the University of Texas El Paso is Bhutanese.
* A headline from the Cleveland newspaper in 1925 read, “Cross-word Mania Breaks Up Homes – Neglected Cleveland Wives Plan Divorces.”
* The best Super Bowl square is 0-0 (expected value of $6.83 in a $100 pool).  The worst square is 2-2 (expected value of only $0.02).  (We will try to post this in a timelier fashion next year!)
* The strongest job growth in 2024 was in Rochester, MN (+6.5%).  The worst was in Ocean City, NJ (-6.7%).
* The holiday on Monday is legally known as Washington’s Birthday.  There is no such thing as Presidents’s Day.
* The origin of the modern day “aid industry” is thought to be the famine in Nigeria in 1968.  This aid package is thought to have extended the Nigerian civil war by 18 months (per the New Yorker which is saying something).
* Louisiana has the third longest state coastline in the US.
* Mexico is only 137 miles wide at its thinnest point (Isthmus of Tehuantepec).
* All three vans are the same size (go ahead, measure them).

**Feb 12, 2025**

* 335k people let (fled) Hong Kong for Canada when the territory passed back to Chinese hands in 1997.
* Chinese/HK immigrants comprise 5% of Canada.
* A Polish javelin thrower who won the silver in Tokyo decided to auction off the medal to help an infant get heart surgery.  A Polish supermarket chain won the auction for $125k.  It then returned the medal to her.
* The DraftKings odds of a golfer hitting a hole-in-one on the Saturday of the WM Phoenix Open was +450 (bet $100 to win $450).  There is a reason we are long DKNG.
* Cocoa prices have tripled in the last year.
* 21% of Hershey’s profits in 2024 was from Cocoa derivatives ($460mm out of $2.2b).
* John Deere was a hit back in 1837 because he invented the self-cleaning steel plow.
* There is some new academic research declaring that there are Unintended Consequences of Rebalancing by pension fund managers.  When presented with the paper, comments from the managers included, “We know about that.”
* The worst secret on Wall Street in the 1990’s was that the State of New Jersey rebalanced its portfolio every Tuesday at 1pm.
* 62.8% of total gaming revenue in Nevada is generated by public companies.
* For these public companies, gaming is less than 36% of total revenue.
* Energy Transfer is suing Greenpeace for illegally shutting down its pipeline in North Dakota a few years ago (this is one of many lawsuits, but this one is coming to a head as the trial starts later this month).
* Greenpeace is suing Energy Transfer in the Netherlands for violating the EU’s new freedom of speech laws.  Greenpeace hopes to “send a message to corporate bullies.”
* Disney is removing some warning language before movies including Dumbo and Peter Pan.  The old warning read, “the film includes negative depictions and/or mistreatment of people or cultures.”
* ESPN is doubling down on not understanding how a sports conference can “only” have a .500 winning percentage playing against each other.
* California plans to levy a $1b assessment on the private insurers to help cover the claims from the Los Angelese fires.
* New Yorkers made $2.48b in sports bets in January.
* Super Bowl betting in Nevada dropped 20% versus last year.
* Nevada sports books set a record for Super Bowl revenues at $22.1mm.
* When Kansas City was down 24-0 in the 2Q, the in-game line was KC +14.5.
* Someone bet $71k on the coin flip.  His Tails call won.

**Feb 5, 2025**

* As recently as 2023, Iraq flared as much excess gas as the country consumed.  Iraq says it has now cut this flaring by 70%.
* The Norwegian parliament has collapsed after the ruling Labor party forged ahead with the EU’s clean energy “directives.”  Collapsed = coalition parties withdrew, and ministers resigned.
* If you go through the Panama Canal starting in the Caribbean, you sail from the northwest to the southeast.
* Bally’s is being sued for conducting a stock offering only open to women and minorities (the one we discussed recently that was offering 99% leverage on the deal in order to get the women and minorities in the door).
* Trump will be the first sitting President to attend the Super Bowl (how can this be?).
* Robinhood announced it was taking bets on the “Pro Football Championship.”  The NFL owns the rights to “Super Bowl,” and Robinhood was surely not going to pay any licensing fees.
* The CFTC (Commodities Futures Trading Commission) shut down Robinhood’s attempt to accept sports bets via futures contracts.
* Olive Garden is being accused of using hotdogs buns instead of bread sticks.
* The Grammy’s peak viewership was in 1984 thanks to Michael Jackson and his Thriller album.
* The brief resurgence of the Grammy’s in 20212 was due to a tribute to Whitney Houston.

**Jan 29, 2025**

* In order for Bally’s to open a casino in Chicago, 25% of the ownership entity must be comprised of women or minorities.
* Bally’s has created a new entity which will do a public offering.  Bally’s very creative bankers have structured the deal whereby some investors can buy equity at a 90% discount.  Bally’s will lend you the rest of the money (nonrecourse to you, you just cannot take profits until the loan is repaid).  But you get the full voting rights.  Voila, women and minority owned!
* Chinese bankers are offering to run the CATL (the giant EV battery maker) IPO in Hong Kong for 0.01% fees.
* Coffee accounts for 69% of caffeine intake in America.  This is up from 54% about 10 years ago.
* Energy drinks represent 6% of caffeine.
* When your EZ-Pass does not pay the $4 toll in Delaware, you get assessed $87.50 in fees.  One of these is a $15 fee labeled “Combat Violent Crimes.”
* According to Redfin, 71% of real estate agents did not close any deals in 2024.
* The city of Los Angelese says it will cost $170k to clean up each burned house.
* People cannot warm up their cars in Ottawa for more than one minute according to a new city by-law.
* The head coach of the Rhode Island basketball team is unimpressed that the SEC is “only” 54-54 in conference games.
* One of the proposed remedies for global warming is to sprinkle diamond dust in the atmosphere so the sun’s light is reflected into space.
* There is a bill in the US Senate that aims to address the impacts on global warming from anesthesia.  The Department of Ecology would be tasked with studying these “greenhouse gases.”
* The US, apparently, has a Department of Ecology.

**Jan 22, 2025**

* The snowplow operator who cleared a spot for the New England Patriots kicker in 1982 was on work release from Walpole State Prison.
* In 1954, British dentists blamed buck teeth on kids watching tv on their stomachs with their hands under their chins.
* The president of Venezuela, Nicolas Maduro, wants to “liberate” Puerto Rico, and he wants to do it with “Brazilian troops.”  He made these comments at the International Anti-Fascist Festival in Caracas.
* The “wisdom of the crowd” concept was derived from a guess-the-weight-of-an-ox contest in 1907.
* Texas Wesleyan has won 75 national championships in table tennis since 2002.
* Melania Trump is 54 years old.
* Spy vs Spy was created in 1961.
* The US is building a new embassy in South Sudan at a cost of $784mm.
* South Sudan’s annul GDP is about $7b.
Hary Caray, the late great Chicago baseball announcer, kept a drinking diary.  During the early 70’s, he averaged 3.5 bars per night (2604 bar stops from 1970 to 1971).

**Jan 15, 2025**

* Almost 6% of all workers in Virginia and DC are employed by the federal government.
* South Dakota has the lowest percentage of workers that are federal government employees.
* The federal government owns about 80% of the land in Nevada.
* The federal government owns less than 2% of the land in Texas.
* US bought the US Virgin Islands from Denmark in 1917.
* Greenland’s population is 57k.
* The toll for the largest ships to pass through the Panama Canal is $100k.  This is up from $80k last year.
* Scorigami!  Houston’s drubbing of San Diego 32-12 was the 1091st unique score in NFL history.
* The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau wants to regulate Robux (the pretend money inside of the video game system Roblox).
* There is an arcade in New York that has a “claw” machine.  It costs $50 to play.  You can win an Hermes Picotin bag worth $3600.
* When we used to walk through Harrod’s London on rainy days on our way home from work, we always noticed an uptick in security when we walked near the Hermes bags.
* One of the popular markets on the betting/prediction site Polymarket is if New York City will abandon its congestion pricing regime by this summer.
* Over half the cigarettes smoked in California, New York, and New Mexico are illegal.

**Jan 8, 2025**

* Colorado wants to start transporting stored energy via rail.
* 50% of all Nvidia employees are worth over $25mm.
* The Democratic Republic of Congo produces over 75% of the world’s raw cobalt.
* China produces over 75% of the world’s purified cobalt.
* Javier Milei has four cloned Mastiffs.
* Facebook said its fact-checkers were the problem with misinformation.  The Fact-checkers fact-checked this as false (for real).
* Facebook is getting rid of fact-checkers.
* During the Houston-Tennessee game, CBS cut to the studio to show a highlight of the Houston-Tennessee game.
* According to U-Haul, the top five states that people moved to in 2024 were South Carolina (1), Texas, North Carolina, Florida, and Tennessee.
* The new TGL golf league, the indoor golf played on a screen, is paying “fans” $200 to fill seats in the studio.
* Our beloved Cleveland Browns have had 40 starting QBs since 1999 (we update this one every so often).
* Walmart, Amazon, and Costco make up 17% of all retail sales in the US.  It was 11% in 2014.
* Kirby Pucket’s Sam’s Club ID card sold at auction for $270.
* A Notre Dame football player had his name on his jersey written in Chinese for the Sugar Bowl.
* Jack Nicklaus’s first career victory as a professional golfer was the US Open.