

## Quick Hits 2024

### Dec 31, 2024

- Not a Scorigami! While watching the Ravens trounce the Texans 31-2 on Christmas, all we could think of was whether this was a unique score in NFL history. Alas, it was not. It has happened twice with the most recent being in 1965.
- The swimming pool over the basketball court in the movie It's a Wonderful Life is real (Beverly Hills High School).
- The bearded vulture is the only known animal whose diet consists of bone.
- An Amazon delivery driver in Massachusetts dumped 80 packages in the woods because he was "stressed" about meeting on-time delivery demands.
- It is illegal for businesses to offer "Ladies Night" promotions in California, New York, New Jersey, Minnesota, Iowa, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Washington, and Wisconsin.
- Members of the military not in uniform were not allowed to salute the flag until 2009 (National Defense Authorization Act of 2008 with an amendment in 2009).
- Saudi Arabia has solar powered laser lights across its desert. They highlight routes and water sources for lost travelers.
- Marina Bay Sands (Singapore) is the most profitable casino in the world.
- Vermont has "safe injection sites" where drug addicts can shoot up fentanyl. The center is funded by a settlement from...pharmaceutical companies.
- Oregon passed a law to recategorize self-employed home healthcare workers. They now are forced to pay union dues.
- A new law in Minnesota prohibits the consumption of beaver meat. You can kill a beaver on your property; you just cannot eat it.
- Goaltending is a penalty in football.
- The Pop Tarts Bowl had sprinkles painted on the sidelines.

### Dec 24, 2024

- Oreos will not burn under a blow torch.
- North Dakota State and South Dakota State have won 11 out of the last 13 Division 1 FCS football national championships.
- The Dakota State schools have had 7 different coaches over this span.
- Gunter High School has won more playoff games (5) in Cowboys Stadium than the Cowboys (3).
- Rickey Henderson led the league in steals when he was 39 years old (66).
- The head coach of the Green Bay Packers spends \$100 a week on his hair.
- 30 states in the US have a smaller population than Los Angeles County.
- Brazil's northernmost point is closer to Canada than it is to Brazil's southernmost point.
- Finland's lake Neitokainen is shaped just like Finland.

### Dec 18, 2024

- Scorigami! Dan Campbell's boneheaded loss 48-42 to Buffalo was the 1090th unique score in NFL history.
- Herschel Walker graduated from Georgia this week 42 years after leaving for the NFL.
- Walt Disney founded his namesake company at the age of 22 (in 1923).
- The 2001 University of Miami football team would have finished 8-4 if their offense never scored a TD. (They won the national championship 12-0.)
- Copper Harbor in Upper Michigan is the furthest one can get from an interstate highway in the contiguous 48 states (driving miles...so not as the crow flies).
- Bitcoin is trading its entire supply every three weeks.
- The Minnesota Satanists have an altar set up (legally) in the state capitol building in St. Paul.
- The crypto Bro that bought the banana artwork for \$6.2mm did, indeed, eat the banana.
- An autonomous driving expert (there is one?) thinks Tesla can capture anywhere from 2-70% market share.
- In college, we were once assigned a two-page paper for our final grade. After some bellyaching from a few uptight students...they wanted a more challenging assignment... our professor changed the assignment: The paper could be 2-12 pages.
- The Houthis are planning a seminar and webinar to educate people on "the security of navigation in the Red Sea." The terrorists have literally emailed trade groups asking for discussion points.
- The latest Continuing Resolution to temporarily fund the government includes changing some terms. Criminal "Offender" will be replaced with "Justice-involved individual."

### **Dec 11, 2024**

- Scorigami! Miami beating the Jets 32-26 is the 1089th unique score in NFL history (this one surprises us).
- Walt Disney founded his namesake company at the age of 22 (in 1923).
- A professional poker player has plead guilty to scamming clients in a sports betting ring. This guy advertised on the radio that he had inside information on sporting events including dirty referees.
- Six Apple employees ran a charity scam...collecting and keeping a matching contribution from the company. Costanza would be proud.
- The Province of Newfoundland changed its name in 2001 to Newfoundland and Labrador.
- A Bitcoin miner called Hut 8 has announced a \$500mm stock offering and a \$250mm stock buyback.
- New York state is going to hand out money to help combat inflation. Fox Butterfield strikes again!
- The rarest statistic in Major League Baseball is hitting two grand slams in the same inning (Fernando Tatis).

- Google’s new “quantum” computing chip “solved a standard computation in < 5 minutes that would take a leasing supercomputer over  $10^{25}$  years, far beyond the age of the universe(!).”
- William Safire, the late, great maven word known for his grammar and pronunciation prowess, added an “e” to the end of his name... for easier pronunciation.
- A drunk driver in Long Island decided to reenact Ground Hog Day and take his Honda down the LIRR train tracks.

#### **Dec 4, 2024**

- The Clean Air Act (amended from the Air Quality Act of 1967) exempts California from following federal law pertaining to environmental standards.
- A portfolio manager for Western Asset Management has been indicted for allocating better trades to the portfolio that paid him better (and worse trades to the portfolios that paid him less). The SEC says the chances these allocations were random is “less than one in a one trillion.” So, you are telling me there is a chance.
- Scorigami! When the Memphis Grizzlies beat the Portland Trailblazers 134-89 on November 10th, that was the 3,147th unique score in NBA history. (No, we are not going to make this a recurring theme...we were just curious if NBA tracking existed at all.)
- ETFs that provide leverage on MicroStrategy stock (the company that borrows money to buy more Bitcoin which in turn enables the company to borrow more money) are having a tough time borrowing from their banks. Last week, the two largest funds had credit lines of over \$1b. Now they can only borrow up to \$50mm.
- Mobile shopping has accounted for about 53% of all online shopping since Nov 1.
- Josh Allen is the first QB in NFL history to catch a TD, run for a TD, and pass for a TD in a single game.
- Josh Allen became the fifth NFL QB to catch a TD pass from himself.
- The University of Utah offers a Feminist Cannabis Studies class.

#### **Nov 27, 2024**

- The SEC has collected \$8.2b in fines in 2024 (so far).
- A company called Quantum Computing is over 500% this month. It has a market cap of almost \$1b. It has \$311k in sales for this year.
- Quantum Computing was a beverage company six years ago.
- 63% of all outstanding mortgages were issued after 2018.
- There is a water ETF. Its largest holding is Marriott.
- New York state is now banning pet stores from selling cats and dogs.
- Part of Greenland is further east than Iceland (we might have used this one before, forgive us.)
- Someone bet \$100 on Kent State to win the College Football Playoff. The odds were 10,000-1.
- Kent State went 0-12 this year.

## Nov 20, 2024

- Scorigami! Detroit beating JAX 52-6 was the 1088th unique score in NFL history.
- The UK is attempting to force Wales to create “dog-free zones to help make the outdoors ‘anti-racist’.”
- Super Micro has been unable to file its quarterly report because the special committee investigating fraud allegations, “has other works that is ongoing.”
- Mike Tyson once offered a zookeeper \$10k to let him into the gorilla cage and “smash that silverback’s snot box.”
- Milton Friedman once said he would abolish 10 or 11 of the 15 cabinet level departments in the US government.
- A Virginia man’s EXZ-Pass was charged \$576 after driving 45 miles on a toll road. The charges were not in error (crazy surge charging and three axles).

## Nov 13, 2024

- Uber drivers are paid \$1.36 per mile in New York City.
- 2 billion people have stayed in an AirBNB.
- The former Oakland Athletics team will now only be known as the Athletics while it plays the next three seasons in Sacramento.
- Six states have fewer Representatives in the House than Senators.
- Every county in Oklahoma voted for Trump (only state).
- Every county in Massachusetts, Hawaii, and Rhode Island voted for Harris.
- Delaware and Hawaii have 5 counties.
- Texas has 254 counties.
- Alaska and Louisiana do not have counties (boroughs and parishes).
- Connecticut and Rhode Island have physical regions called counties, but they do not have governments.
- Rhode Island was one of three New England states that had large moves in favor of Trump (RI, MA, and CT were all in the top 6 states with more Trump support vs 2020).
- Loving County, Texas is the smallest in the US by population. It has 67 residents.
- The Congressional Budget Office (CBO), by law, cannot not assume the US will ever enter a recession when making its calculations/forecasts.
- A candidate running for the House of Representatives in Alaska was in federal prison. He has never been to Alaska. He got 1% of the vote.
- 79k pounds of butter have been recalled by the FDA because the packaging did not have the warning that it “Contains Milk.”
- There is a stock in China with the English name “Trump Big Wisdom Win.”
- In 1937, the goalie for Arsenal stayed on the field for 15 minutes after the game was canceled due to fog. He had no idea the game had been canceled.
- Yale is offering a class about Beyonce and “her legacy.”
- Freddie9999, the French guy who bet on Trump across the board, kept his identity anonymous so his kids would not know he is rich. (Kudos to the random Twitter guy who claimed to be a professional political bettor who was able to drill down this guy’s identity.)

## **Nov 4, 2024**

- 31% of the Japanese population lives in Tokyo.
- The expected increase in data center power usage by 2030 is likely to be equivalent to three New York Cities.
- Sam Darnold has been tackled for a safety for three different teams in five years.
- Tesla gained more market value on its earnings day than the total values of GM and Ford combined.
- The Denver Broncos eat 700 Uncrustables a week.
- The NFL consumes 80,000 Uncrustables during the season.
- Notre Dame has more touchdowns at Met Life stadium than the Giants and Jets combined (both play their home games there).
- Abercrombie and Fitch once paid its disgraced CEO \$4mm to not use the corporate jet for more than \$200k in personal use.
- Russia has fined Google 20 decillion dollars.
- A player named Will Smith has won the World Series five years in a row.
- The Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act of 1971 allows for anyone in the US to get a free horse.
- Dragonflies have almost 360-degree vision.
- A great quote from Thomas Sowell: “There are only two ways of telling the complete truth, anonymously and posthumously.”

## **Oct 23, 2024**

- Some Facebook employees have been fired for using their in-office meal credits to buy items for home use (detergent, toothpaste, etc.).
- One fired Facebook employee responded, “It was almost surreal that this was happening.” She had a \$400k salary.
- New York state has the most ski resorts in the US.
- It is rumored that Uber is looking to buy Expedia. The current CEO of Uber was the CEO of Expedia from 2005 to 2017. He still holds \$30mm of Expedia stock.
- Data centers consume 26% of Virginia’s power.
- The US government spent \$882b on interest payments in 2024 (fiscal year Oct 1 to Sept 30).
- The US Treasury highlights (brags) that interest as a percentage of GDP was only 3.9% (second highest ever behind 1991’s 4.7%).
- The last full-size K-Mart in the country closed this past weekend. It was in the Hamptons of all places.
- TGI Friday’s was created by a guy who wanted to meet women. The original singles’s bar, as it was known, created the “happy hour.”

40% of owner-occupied homes in the US do not have a mortgage.

## **Oct 16, 2024**

- Scorigami! The only thing the Cowboys are good for these days is getting beat so badly that we get a unique NFL score (1087th all time).
- Sphere Entertainment has a 16-member board of directors. Nine of them are in the Dolan family.

- The first dictator of Turkmenistan after the collapse of the Soviet Union was Saparmurat Niyazov. He renamed himself Turkmenbashi (“Father of Turkmen”).
- An NFL bettor turned \$10 into \$131k with a 16-leg parlay wager (must win all the bets to get paid). The 16th bet, all involving NFL games, was the Bills covering the 2.5 point spread. The Bills won by 3.
- USC sells a fan experience during which you can pay to run out of the tunnel with the team onto the field before kickoff. A Penn State fan signed up and ran with the team in his Penn State gear.
- A public company called Bright Minds Biosciences rallied 1500% on Tuesday. Its market cap went from \$4mm to \$172mm. No news on the stock.

### **Oct 9, 2024**

- 23mm American taxpayers stopped itemizing deductions after 2019.
- A Canadian man is suing his broker for evaporating his \$415mm account. This 35-year-old had built his fortune from \$88k in 2019 by trading options. Recap: \$88k -> \$415mm -> \$0.
- Sunday’s NFL slate lasted 15 hours and 27 minutes.
- Vanderbilt has been fined \$100k for its students charging the field after its upset over Alabama.
- Vanderbilt is auctioning off pylons, game balls, and goal posts from the game.
- Uber announced that it will take you from Manhattan to LaGuardia for \$18. The small print: you have to ride with strangers with specific pick-up and drop-off locations.
- A funny guy on X posted: “Uber has invented buses.”
- The biggest holder of Donald Trump shares on the betting site Polymarket is an account named Fredi9999. He has \$6.4mm in positions. There is speculation that it is Musk!
- Korea has banned short selling until March 31 of next year. Penalties include life in prison.

### **Oct 2, 2024**

- Motorola was started in 1928 as a car radio company.
- The Three Mile Island nuclear facility that is reopening was shut down in 2019 (not 1979...that was a different unit).
- From 2008 to 2023, the US economy grew 82%. Europe grew 6% (in dollars).
- Hydrangeas turn purple when the soil is acidic and pink when alkaline.
- 1247 MLB baseball players have had Tommy John surgery since the Tommy himself had it 50 years ago.
- The Spanish language dropped three letters in 2010.

### **Sept 25, 2024**

- One of the reasons the stock market crashed in 1973 was that a third of all loans from New York banks were used to buy stock on margin.
- There is a biker in NYC that rides the Citi Bikes back and forth between the docking stations. He gets paid \$0.20 for each ride. He made \$60k last year. We

prefer the Spotify arbitrage in which the guy played his own music to the tune of \$10mm. (Matt Levine of Bloomberg is a hawk on these schemes.)

- McDonald's soon to be released hamburger, named the Big Arch, will have 1030 calories.
- There are more MRI machines in Pittsburgh than all of Canada.
- The United Kingdom does not believe in prescreening for prostate cancer.
- Apartment prices in Buenos Aires have dropped 40% in real terms since the government scrapped price controls.

### **Sept 18, 2024**

- China is raising its mandatory retirement age from 60 to 63 for men (women are tiered and lower).
- 9% of US adults aged 18-35 do not want to have children because of global warming.
- Scorpions glow under UV light.
- The federal government owns 80% of the land in Nevada.
- Scorigami! The Sants's throttling of the Cowboys 44-19 is the 1086th unique score in NFL history.
- The number of full-time real estate agents in the US dropped 14% in 2023 (vs 2022) to 440k...the lowest number since 2014.
- There were 10mm people playing Roblox at 10am CDT this past Saturday.
- The average age of the frontline soldier in (the) Ukraine is 43.
- The length of freight trains in America grew by 25% from 2008 to 2017.
- The longest trains today routinely measure over 2.5 miles.

### **Sept 11, 2024**

- Scorigami! San Fran beating the Jets 32-19 was the first time that score has happened in the NFL. It is the 1085th unique score in NFL history.
- New York state has a new law requiring large retailers to install panic buttons by 2027.
- Shoplifting is still an unprosecuted crime in New York state.
- The late, great Charlie Munger lauded Costco and its membership fee not for the incremental income but for the self-filtering of the customer base.
- There were four winners on the Senior PGA tour last year who had their kids caddying for them. All four golfers are named Steve.
- The Cleveland Browns have had 38 starting QBs since 1999.
- A man has been arrested for allegedly misusing Spotify. He created over 100,000 songs using AI. He then created over 10,000 bots to stream these songs 24-7 on Spotify. He then collected over \$10mm in royalties. The government says it is fraud. We say it is genius.
- Adam Neumann received an ancillary bonus of \$5.9mm from WeWork when he was CEO. This payment was for use of the name "We" which apparently Neumann owned. This reminds us of Dan Snyder getting paid to put the Redskins logo on his personal jet (no wonder his minority investors hated him).

### **September 4, 2024**

- Scottie Scheffler’s caddy won more money this year than Jack Nicklaus did in his PGA career.
- The US fertility rate hit 1.62 births per woman in 2023. This is down from 3.7 in 1960. (h/t WGAM).
- Shortly after the city of Richmond, California extorted Chevron for \$550mm (a “settlement” to avoid a \$1 per barrel refining tax), Chevron announced it was moving its headquarters from San Ramon, California to Houston.
- Chevron was founded in California in 1879.
- There are no Interstate Highways 50 or 60. They were skipped to avoid confusion with the US Highways 50 and 60 which were around before the interstate system.
- Interstate Minor Highways have three digits. If the first digit is an even number, then the Minor returns to the Major. If the first digit is odd, then it does not connect back.

### **August 28, 2024**

- A 2,492-carat diamond was found in Botswana. It is the second biggest on record. It is about the size of your palm.
- Tractor Supply, Deere, Harley Davidson, and Brown Forman have all dropped their DEI initiatives. Brown Foreman, the owner of Jack Daniels, announced that it would make employee goals tied to business performance. (Lots of other companies have announced similar moves.)
- Canada has a wealth distribution policy colloquially called the Equalization Payments. The western provinces, Alberta, Saskatchewan, and British Columbia, receive nothing.
- 25% of Alberta residents want to secede from Canada.
- The communists are protesting the Dalai Lama meeting with the US administration.
- 90% of Americans live within 10 miles of a Walmart store.
- Christie’s revenues have dropped about 50% in two years.
- If Tether were a money market fund (and not a shadowy issuer of a s “stablecoin” which is used to convert USD in Bitcoin), it would be the eighth largest fund-holder of Treasury Bills.
- The volcanic crater Sundhnuks in Iceland is having its sixth eruption in the last year. It was dormant for 800 years up until 2021.
- The CFO of Builders FirstSource said the company was “committed to not having a lazy balance sheet” in response to its increased buyback.
- NASA defines a “White Supremacy Culture” with terms including ‘Perfectionism’ and “Sense of Urgency.”
- Bloomberg ran a story about a finance guy getting arrested for assaulting his wife. The subtitle of the article added, “Also accused of evading \$160 in tolls...”
- Danny Jansen played for both the Toronto Blue Jay and the Boston Red Sox in the same game this year.
- Pavel Durov, the arrested Telegram founder, claims he has fathered over 100 children (he has been a frequent sperm donor).



- The seven basin states of the Colorado River divvied up the water (for takeaway use) back in 1922 with the signing of the Colorado River Compact. Nevada, one of the lower basin states, has seen its population grow from 81k to 4mm (4800%). California's population, also a lower basin state, has grown from 4mm to 38mm (850%).

#### **August 21, 2024**

- Circle K, a Canadian company, is buying 7-Eleven, a Japanese company.
- A judge ruled that people with HIV can enlist in the army.
- Olympic prize money is not subject to federal tax if your total compensation is under \$1mm.
- Track & Field bonuses (World Athletics awards separate prize money for gold medals) are subject regardless of your total income.
- California taxes you no matter what. So does France.
- A real headline from CNBC: "The Taylor Swift London Eras Tour unlikely to move the needle on the Bank of England's rate policy, analyst says."
- Some energy prices in Europe have been negative for the last week.
- The only three baseball players to play in three straight World Series with three different teams are Don Baylor, Eric Hinske, and Will Smith.
- The Chicago White Sox retired Harold Baines's number while he was playing for the Texas Rangers.
- Lumber prices are all the way back to their pre-Virus Fear level of \$375 per 1,000 board feet. This is down from \$1200 in 2021 and 2022...and most people forget that lumber prices crashed to \$425 in between these two \$1200 peaks...now that is volatility.

#### **August 14, 2024**

- If you go into any bar in Nantucket and ask for Paul, you get a free beer (few ounces).
- In water polo, after a foul is committed, any player can take the penalty shot.
- The Bank of Japan's balance sheet is 5x bigger than the Fed's relative to each's economy.
- In the fencing portion of the pentathlon, if two participants draw during the first round-robin, they both register a loss.
- Pentathlon athletes do not bring their own horses. They have 20 minutes to get acclimated to a random horse.
- The men's high jump in the 2021 Olympics ended in a tie (the top two chose against doing a jump-off when they had the same height jumped in the regular competition).
- Almost every football field runs north-south to avoid the sun being directly in the line of play.
- Amherst College's football field runs east-west.
- US and China GDP account for 43% of global activity.
- Mark Grace had the most hits in major league baseball in the 1990s.
- The day after tomorrow is called overmorrow.

- Disney is trying to get a lawsuit dismissed. It involves a woman who died from an allergic reaction at Disney Springs. Disney claims the dead woman's family agreed to settle all disputes in arbitration when they signed up for Disney+ five years ago. (h/t WGAM)

### **August 7, 2024**

- Diet Coke has 35% more caffeine than regular Coke.
- There were over 270k tickets available for the Paris Olympics the week before they started.
- Paris hotel prices dropped 41% from their recent peak.
- Tesla's workers in its German factory have stolen 65,000 coffee mugs.
- CrowdStrike, the company responsible for shutting down most of the world's computers, sent out \$10 gift cards to its customers to apologize.
- Africa's per-capita petroleum demand is 5% of America's.
- Almost 2/3 of Japanese households are dual-income.
- The IOC instructs its media partners to not use the "problematic" terms "male" and "female."
- There is a new study that reports carrying a golf bag is easier than using a pull-cart (688 calories burned per round vs 756).
- The South Sudan does not have a single indoor basketball court.
- In badminton, it is important to know which way the indoor wind drift is blowing.
- Milton, Mass has the second highest recorded wind speeds on earth (186mph in 1938).
- The two men that won gold and silver in skeet shooting for America both live in Fort Worth.
- Synchronized swimming is now called artistic swimming.
- Olympic boxing awards two bronze medals in every event.
- Katie Ledecky can swim while balancing a glass of chocolate milk on her head.
- Snoop Dog is getting paid \$500k a day to be at the Olympics.

### **July 13, 2024**

- Greece has introduced a six-day workweek. Greece!
- There are more banks in the US than publicly listed companies.
- In the recent UK election, the Reform UK party received about 14% of the total vote. It only won five of the 650 seats (about 0.8%).
- CNBC commented that "it seems like these 100 point moves in the index keep getting easier."
- Barcelona had 3k people protesting tourism this past weekend.
- Tourism is responsible for 130k jobs in Barcelona.

### **July 3, 2024**

- To cool off an overheating dog, you should spray its paws with water. The same is true for humans. It took the death of a young NFL star in 2001 to discover this.
- 14.7% of McDonald's ice cream machines are broken.
- Congress passed a specific act in 1980 to build a road in Alaska. It has yet to be built.

- July 1 was Bobby Bonilla Day. He collected another \$1.19mm. This runs until 2035 when he will be 72 years old. He also collected \$550k from the Orioles. This contract runs through 2028.
- The Golf Channel: Bryson DeChambeau has never finished in the top 30 of the (British) Open. Golf Channel whispering: Except for a top 10 finish two years ago.

### **June 26, 2024**

- Convicted felon Martin Shkreli is being sued for playing music. Years ago, he bought a one-of-a-kind album recorded by Wu-Tang Clan. He paid \$2mm. When he got out of jail (all sorts of fraud), he had to sell his prized album to pay back his creditors (court mandated, obviously). He unloaded it for \$4.75mm. Of course, being a slimy felon, he made copies and is now playing it during live streams on YouTube.
- Ferrari makes the same amount of dollar profit as 27 Teslas.
- Netflix is creating its own popcorn which will be sold in stores.
- New research tells us that companies that use “words like ethical, integrity, and responsibility” in their annual reports are often “associated with a variety of negative outcomes.”
- The first video phone was created in 1964.
- The first hand-held calculator patent was issued in 1974.
- Nine people have died from shark attacks in Hawaii during the last 30 years.
- The next three golf tournaments on the Senior Tour are all majors.
- Denmark is going to tax ranchers for the methane emissions from their cows and pigs.
- Johnny Manziel was drafted in the 28th round of the MLB draft in 2014.
- Olympic housing in Paris this summer does not have any air conditioning. The US (and others) are bringing their own units.

### **June 19, 2024**

- The Big 12 conference is considering selling naming rights to Allstate. The two names rumored are “The Big Allstate Conference” and “The Allstate 12 Conference.”
- No left-hander has ever won the US Open (golf). They have won the other three majors.
- India has added over 100mm toilets in the last 10 years.
- About 50% of all digital transactions globally occur in India.
- Approximately 20,000 birds are killed each year in California by burning from solar panel reflections.

### **June 12, 2024**

- Heading into the NBA finals, 84% of all bets and 69% of all money bet was on the Mavericks.
- In the weeks leading up to D-Day, a British newspaper had crossword puzzles with answers including Utah, Omaha, and Overlord (and other code words used by the Allies). It was reported as an unfathomable coincidence. But the words were

likely overheard by schoolboys who contributed to the puzzles. The children played next to a military base.

- Joey Chestnut turned down a 4-year, \$1.2mm contract to eat in the Nathan's hotdog eating contest. He now has his own Netflix special for Labor Day weekend.
- Sales of lottery tickets in Japan grew 37% last year.
- Shortly after D-Day, the USS Texas needed to shoot its bomb shells further as the allied forces advanced and pushed the German line backyards. The captain of the battleship decided to flood one torpedo blister (an anti-torpedo bulge on the side of battleships) to tilt the ship 2 degrees to ensure the necessary angle for more distance.
- Nike lost its bid to trademark the word "footware."

### **June 5, 2024**

- JP Morgan estimates that Berkshire Hathaway owns 3% of the Treasury bill market.
- A Treasury bond is either 20 or 30 years, a note is between two and 10 years, a bill is under one year.
- 80% of all new cars in 2024 have been "greyscale" in color. This means white, black, grey, or silver.
- 40% of sports cars are non-greyscale.
- Asics, the running shoe company, is Japanese.
- 25% of Paris marathon finishers ran in Asics.
- The first debt incurred by the US was used to buy gunpowder. It was a loan in British Pounds in 1775. (Perhaps there is a lesson to be learned here.)
- There is a bill in the Canadian parliament that would give the Health Minister full power to override any government approvals for "OTC drugs, natural health products, and medical devices."
- An MLB player has been permanently banned for gambling on baseball games. He won only 4.3% of his \$150k in wagers.
- Jensen Huang, the founder and CEO of Nvidia, was asked to sign a woman's shirt, on her breast, while she was wearing it. He obliged.
- Someone is bidding over \$2k for marijuana butt smoked by Snoop Dog.
- In last week's Canadian Open, a player's caddie fell and hurt himself. They pulled a random fan out of the gallery to carry the bag in his place.
- Supermac of Ireland has failed in its attempts to revoke McDonald's trademark on the term Big Mac. But it has successfully won the right to use the term Chicken Big Mac.
- AB Inbev had to get special permission to brew Corona in Germany because the beer contains rice and corn. German law restricts beer ingredients to malt, hops, yeast, and water.

### **May 29, 2024**

- GameStop sold \$933mm of stock during the last week.
- Ben Hogan finished in the top 3 in 48% of the pro tournaments he entered.

- Prisoners in California can choose the gender of the guards that conduct strip searches.
- Illinois passed a bill to change the word “offender” to “justice-impacted individual.”
- Sony is reportedly in talks to buy the Queen music catalogue for \$1b.
- The inaugural season of the Professional Women’s Hockey League had teams without nicknames. The six cities were followed by PWHL.

### **May 22, 2024**

- Amherst College is now offering a major in Asian American and Pacific Islander Studies. They must hate Native Hawaiians.
- The Kyle Fair was a bust. The 750 people named Kyle that gathered in Kyle, TX pales in comparison to the 2300 Ivans that met in Bosnia seven years ago. We reported on the first Kyle Fair last year which attracted 1500. We do not expect to report on the 2025 version.
- Dozens of cannabis plants were spotted (and removed) from the garden of the Wisconsin State Capitol grounds.
- The Northeast Gasoline Supply Reserve is being shut down. It was established in the wake of Super Storm Sandy (not to be called a hurricane...if you are an insurance company looking to not pay claims). The 1mm barrel reserve was never tapped and will be sold. Gasoline is not stable enough to store for long periods of time.
- Petrobras, the state-controlled oil company of Brazil (yet still publicly traded if you dare), has had eight CEOs in five years.
- The owner of the Italian soccer league winner (inter Milan) defaulted on its debt to its private equity lender (private credit, as it were). The management of the team is still from the old owner. The president of the club is blasting the new owner for adding “risks to the club that could seriously jeopardize its stability.”
- Detroit’s population recently grew for the first time since 1957.

### **May 15, 2024**

- The average consumer spends \$61 a month on streaming services. This is up from \$48 last year.
- The Swiss Army Knife company (aka Victorinox) is going to make a knifeless version.
- May is Asian American Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander (AANHPI) heritage month.
- The mayor of NYC wants to hire illegal aliens as lifeguards because they are “excellent swimmers.”
- Microsoft’s partner OpenAI is going to first release its app on the Mac.
- Japanese electricity demand is set to increase for the first time in 20 years.
- The Minnesota legislature is looking to pass a bill that will allow for people registering to vote can use “in a van down by the river’ as their home address.
- Zimbabwe’s new currency is called the ZIG.

- Two pandas in a Chinese zoo are actually dogs that have been dyed black and white.

### **May 9, 2024**

- Exxon closed its deal to acquire Pioneer. Oddly, the founder and CEO of Pioneer, Scott Sheffield, was served up as the scapegoat to get the deal done. The FTC demanded he not be on the new XOM board to prevent him “from engaging in collusive activity that would potentially raise crude oil prices.”
- Did Costanza actually make the Major League Baseball’s uniforms this year?
- The average 30-year mortgage lasts less than 10 years.
- Apple’s \$110b stock buyback is bigger than the economies of Guatemala, Bulgaria, Luxembourg, and Panama (each one, not combined).
- The Carolina Hurricanes (hockey) are limiting home playoff ticket sales to residents of the Carolinas and southern Virginia.
- The UK has converted one of its largest electricity generation plants from coal burning to wood burning. The UK considers burning wood a “renewable” energy.
- Tiger Woods finished in the top three in 53% of all the tournaments he played over a 10 year stretch.
- A record \$210.7mm was bet on the Kentucky Derby.
- A man who attacked Dave Chappelle in concert is sewing the concert venue for not having the proper security.

### **May 1, 2024**

- Novo Nordisk’s market capitalization is bigger than its home country’s economy (Denmark).
- Greece is building its first skyscraper.
- CZ was sentenced to four months in jail. Recall he stole billions as the founder of terrorist-enabling crypto firm Binance. He is estimated to be worth \$30b.
- A Pennsylvania court has ruled that Perrier water can be taxed as it is soda and not essential water. This case started because someone was annoyed at the \$0.24 tax on a 16-ounce bottle (she sued in 2019).
- There are 34mm people in America of Irish descent. The current population of Ireland is 5mm.

### **April 24, 2024**

- The highest ranking for a US airport in the World Airport Awards is #24 by Seattle-Tacoma.
- Whitesnake’s “Here I Go Again” was originally recorded and released in 1982 to very little fanfare. When the band members changed (all but the lead singer), they rereleased it in 1987. It reached #1.
- The University of Utah has the second most NCAA gymnastics championships.
- Only eight colleges have ever won the NCAA team gymnastics championship (started in 1982).
- A California bill will do away with Clear, the airport screening system that allows you to cut the security line. The author of the bill says, “The least you can expect when you have to go through the security line at the airport is that you don’t suffer

the indignity of somebody pushing you out of the way to let the rich person pass you.”

#### **April 17, 2024**

- Congressman Sheila Jackson Lee thinks the moon is made up “mostly of gases.”
- Minneapolis is rethinking its mandatory driver pay hike after Uber and Lyft decided to take their business elsewhere.
- US employees of TikTok cannot sell their stock awards, yet they are on the hook for the tax owed.
- Meta’s Reels product has a 79% ad-hit ratio with Gen Z’ers...this is the percentage of users in this demographic that has purchased a product from an ad during a Reels view.
- More American adults drank coffee in the last day than water. (This is according to the national Coffee Association.)
- A single Las Vegas Sands casino property in Singapore had \$1.2b in revenues in the first quarter.
- Homeowners being able to rent their homes for two weeks a year tax-free is called the Augusta Rule.

#### **April 10, 2024**

- Mass General Hospital thinks it is racist to drug test newborn crack babies.
- Jersey Mike’s is reportedly for sale. The asking price is \$8b.
- The CEO founder bought a single sandwich shop in 1956. He was 17 years old.
- Overdue property taxes in New York City have jumped over 30% in three years (almost \$900mm in total).
- TikTok’s parent company had \$120b in revenues in 2023 and \$40b in operating income (EBITDA).
- There are over 420 submarine fiber cables under the world’s seas that transmit over 99% of the internet network.
- The aggregate length of these cables is more than three times the distance from the earth to the moon.
- The Regent International apartment building in Hangzhou, China houses approximately 20,000 people.

#### **April 4, 2024**

- Amazon’s “Just walk out” grocery checkout is not powered by AI but rather cameras and 1,000 people in India.
- “Journalists” flying on Air Force One have been warned to stop stealing souvenirs from the airplane.
- Canada Goose, the parka maker, has closed its Aspen store and is opening one in Hawaii.
- The MTA (the NY authority that runs the subway and other NY-only tolls) is demanding that the NYC Marathon organizers pay it for lost revenue due to the Verrazano bridge being closed to cars during the race.
- The Verrazano tolls collect \$750k a day according to the MTA.

- The WSJ reports that the company Super Micro is more commonly known as Supermicro.
- California has run out of money for its shark detection system.
- One of the earliest documented uses of a mechanical bull for entertainment purposes was in New Jersey in the 1930s. (Chalk Creek Junior was curious about Mickey Gilley, so down the rabbit hole we went.)

### **March 27, 2024**

- Lactose-intolerant coffee drinkers have filed a lawsuit against Starbucks for charging extra for plant-based milk.
- It is illegal for Chinese nationals to gamble in Singapore casinos.
- Petrobras, the national oil company of Brazil, spent \$40b to build out 115k barrels of refining capacity. It could have bought 6mm barrels of refining capacity for the same amount of money.
- In Oakland, there were almost 14,000 cars reported abandoned during a six month stretch in 2023. The police will not respond to abandoned or stolen cars. The city is spending \$1mm on excess storage for all the stripped cars.
- Scottie Scheffler's caddie has made more money on the course than Rory McIlroy this year.
- BYU could not be a 5-seed in the NCAA tournament because they will not play on Sundays.
- Subway is dropping Coke for Pepsi.
- The number of mentions of "ESG" during management conference calls has dropped from over 3,000 at the beginning of 2022 to about 1,200 now (probably round-tripping back to zero soon).
- A Texas man has legally changed his name to "Literally Anybody Else," and he is officially running for president (he has filed with the FEC).
- 5,000 shares of Trump's SPAC were exchanged for \$10.87 instead of waiting one day and selling them at over \$42.
- Robinhood is issuing a gold credit card that is actually made of gold.

### **March 20, 2024**

- A scammer in Buffalo fraudulently filed bankruptcy for two other unrelated companies. Presumably this guy did so to make money by shorting the stocks involved. But he filed the petitions via mail...as in USPS.
- 40% of India's 1.4b population is under the age of 25.
- Ireland held a referendum to change some of the language in its constitution. Critics labeled the wording as being the equivalent of "the woman's place is in the home." The actual language is more contorted, "The State recognizes that by her life within the home, woman gives to the State a support without which the common good cannot be achieved." The vote was not successful.
- Ireland's population in 1961 was 95% Catholic. It was 69% in 2022.
- The CEO of Palantir said, "The best thing that could happen to short sellers is we will lead their coke dealers to their homes after they can't pay their bills."



- PETA is asking schools to stop saying “cheese” during photos. We are supposed to say “nutritional yeast” to get smiles from the children.
- Minneapolis has passed a city ordinance increasing the minimum wage for Lyft and Uber drivers. Lyft and Uber have announced plans to cease operations in Minneapolis.
- The NCAA pays about \$2mm for each game of March Madness (\$2mm for each team making the tourney, \$2mm more for each win). The NCAA pays out this money to the conferences (not the teams) over six years.
- Cocoa prices have doubled in 2024.
- An 11 foot, 750lbs alligator was seized from a home outside Buffalo. No word if it was owned by the fake bankruptcy filer.

### **March 6, 2024**

- Rihanna was paid \$6mm (some reports have it at \$9mm) to perform at a wedding in India.
- Rihanna has not performed a concert in eight years.
- A student housing building in College Station has a \$47mm note on it. It has 173 units (\$272k per unit).
- In 2019, San Francisco had more drug users (injection, not smoking) than high school students.
- San Francisco has just passed a referendum to require a drug test to receive welfare (presumably you need to not have drugs in your system, but maybe it is the other way around).
- California is proposing a bill that will provide interest free mortgages to illegal immigrants. No downpayment. No monthly payments at all.
- Otter Tail County, MN has 1,000 lakes, the most in the country.
- There is a proposed law in Canada that will criminalize the promotion of fossil fuels (speaking nicely about them).
- The Dartmouth men’s basketball team voted to unionize (not many NIL deals coming down the pipe for the Ivy League).
- In India, 78% of people over the age of 15 have a bank account. This is up from 44% in 2011.
- Renderings of the prospective ballpark for the A’s in Las Vegas do not have bullpens, air conditioning, luxury suites, or lighting.

### **February 29, 2024**

- Texas has 15,300 wind turbines in operation.
- Reddit is issuing its users shares in its IPO. But the company is warning them that their ownership might increase the volatility of the shares.
- The ex-PM of Thailand faces prosecution for insulting the royalty.
- The husband of a mergers and acquisitions manager at BP overheard his wife talking about a prospective deal. The husband bought shares of the target company and made a killing. He fessed up to his wife. She ratted him out to BP. BP fired her. She divorced him. He is going to jail.

- A woman lost an \$800k disability payment because she was busted participating in a tree-throwing competition.
- Some desert landslides go up hill (a “retrogressive” slide).
- Green was the most popular car color in the mid 90’s.

#### **February 21, 2024**

- Any Super Bowl bets not related to the actual game on the field are illegal (i.e. any bet involving Taylor Swift).
- The top securities regulator in India, when asked about retail traders buying options, said “If you need diabetes and high blood pressure, then go into this market.”
- China issued more permits for coal plants in 3Q2023 than all of 2021.
- The holiday we just celebrated is still technically Washington’s Birthday... not President’s Day.
- Morgan Stanley is being sued after issuing a \$1b margin call against a billionaire. The lawyers attribute part of the move to “snobbery.”

#### **February 14, 2024**

- The first Super Bowl commercials in 1967 cost \$37k for 30 seconds. This past game’s price tag was \$7mm.
- The NFL spent \$1mm to grow special grass for the Super Bowl.
- U2 played at the new Sphere in Vegas two days before the Super Bowl. Tickets could be had for \$70.
- No Alabama football player has ever scored in the Super Bowl.
- Walmart sells 37% of all televisions in the US.
- New York state taxes online sports betting companies 51% of gross gaming revenues.

#### **February 7, 2024**

- The British navy had more personnel in the Revolutionary War than today.
- US Bitcoin mining uses more electricity than the state of Utah (2.3% of the nation’s).
- There is an upstart sports competition trying to take on the Olympics. It is called the Enhanced Games. There is no drug testing as it, “openly celebrates scientific innovation.”
- A single software application, Geth, is responsible for maintaining the Ethereum network at the largest crypto platforms. Decentralized?
- Some blogger has an article in Ski magazine in which she subtitled, “the ski bum lifestyle is physically dangerous for black people.”
- Six Michael Jordan sneakers sold for a total of \$8mm at auction. They were sold as individual sneakers.
- On particularly windy days in England, the electricity regulator pays wind farms to not generate electricity as the grid cannot handle excess generation.
- The US has not implemented the changes from the 15% global minimum tax which was passed into law in 2021. Other countries are taxing US companies per this global agreement.

- The National Association of Realtors has trademarked the term “realtor.”
- The National Association of Realtors is the second largest lobbying machine in the US (only behind the Chamber of Commerce).
- The 5-Hour Energy guy who bought the rights to Sports Illustrated only to put it out of business reportedly told the staff upon taking control, “The amount of useless stuff you guys do is staggering.”

#### **January 31, 2024**

- Saudi Arabia accounts for only 3% of the global supply of natural gas.
- Saudi Arabia generates a third of its electricity by burning oil.
- 10% of all full-time remote workers were laid off in 2023.
- 25% of young adults who live with their parents say their “sense of independence” has improved.
- There are approximately 1.5 billion empty apartment/condo units in China (some estimate this to be as high as 3b units).
- “Scientists” in the Netherlands have determined that the recent -44.6C temperature in Sweden would actually have been -51C without climate change.

#### **January 24, 2024**

- Sports Illustrated is going out of business...sorta. The magazine has been under a license agreement between two companies...one that owns the brand and the one that publishes it. The one that publishes it is being taken over by the guy who started 5-Hour Energy. Before he bought the whole company (there is still a pending tender offer), he decided to buy stock and bonds of the company in the market. He accumulated enough stock to fire the board of directors putting himself in control. He stopped paying the licensing fee to the owner of the SI brand, and then he fired all the staff of the magazine. To recap: 5-Hour Energy guy paid a lot of money to buy the rights to a brand and then he terminated his rights to the brand.
- Joey Gallo struck out 42.8% of his plate appearances last season with a .177 batting average.
- North Dakota is the third largest oil-producing state.
- The WWE (pro wrestling) bagged a 10-year \$5b distribution contract from Netflix.
- The head of Southwest’s flight attendants’ s union is upset that the airline “does not value employees equally.” She was referring to the different contracts offered to pilots.
- Dean Phillips, the only democrat challenger to Biden, won 20% of the vote in the NH primary. He will get zero delegates.
- Adrian Beltre had a hit off 9% of all the players to ever throw a pitch in a MLB game.
- A California woman was arrested for stealing \$2500 worth of Stanley drinking tumblers. An arrest in California is the real headline!
- A Californian congressman, Ted Lieu, is introducing a bill to ban pest glue traps.

#### **January 17, 2024**

- Hertz is selling 20k EVs to buy...ahem...gas powered cars.
- 21% of adults in the US say they are not drinking alcohol this January (we do not believe this).
- 29% of adults say they will drink on fewer days during January (we do believe this).
- NBC paid the NFL \$110mm to stream the Chiefs-Dolphins playoff game exclusively on Peacock.
- The average rent for studios to two-bedroom apartments in the largest 50 metro areas in the US has been down seven straight months. The median rent is now \$1,717.
- The claim that a dog in Portugal was the world's oldest on record is now being challenged. The dog died last year at supposedly 31 years old.
- The Emmy's on Monday drew 4.3mm viewers.
- Supreme Court justice Neil Gorsuch's mother was the EPA administrator at the time of the original Chevron Deference case.
- Qantas Airlines had 14 fatal crashes between 1927 and 1951.

#### **January 10, 2024**

- The NFL accounted for 93 of the top 100 TV broadcasts during 2023.
- The first blue fin tuna auction of the season in Japan sold for \$789k. That is a little over \$1500 a pound. This fish is sometimes called Black Diamond...not to be confused with the black apples in India!
- A 13-year-old beat the game of Tetris. He cleared 1511 lines in 40 minutes. The game then just ended.

#### **January 3, 2024**

- There is an apple native to Tibet called the Black Diamond. It is a dark purple color.
- Nunchakus are a training device more so than a weapon.
- 3% of the world's population has gray eyes.
- India is the only country that has both lions and tigers in the wild.
- White tigers only exist in captivity (and are not a separate species).
- Scorigami! Baltimore beat Miami 56-19, It was the 1084th unique score in NFL history.
- The US Navy has the world's second and fifth largest air forces.
- Juul's private share price has collapsed from \$279 in 2018 to \$1.07 today.