



STIFEL *Bits*

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The Appetizer

“I am very much in the camp of ‘make Pluto a planet again.’”

– NASA chief Jared Isaacman on his thoughts about Pluto during a U.S. Senate Appropriations subcommittee hearing.

Now, on to the numbers. Drum roll, please ...

- **17.3 miles per hour:** The **speed limit** inside a recycling and waste facility in Appleton, Wisconsin. Management hopes the decimal point makes drivers “pause.”
- **\$669,000:** The median annual **revenue per employee** among tech companies in the S&P 500, 14% higher than the median for the entire index.
- **9 seconds:** The amount of time it took an artificial intelligence coding agent to **wipe out the production database** and the backups of a small car rental software startup.
- **10,000:** The approximate number of **new exoplanet candidates** uncovered from NASA telescope data.
- **100,000+:** The number of accounts on Polymarket that have **recorded losses of at least \$1,000** since January 2025, almost double the number with comparable gains.

Dig In

Global Energy Shift

OPEC might want to check its group chat ... because members are starting to leave it on read. The UAE's decision to exit the cartel grabbed headlines, but the bigger story has been unfolding for years: OPEC's grip on global oil markets has been quietly slipping.

Blame a few things – most notably the U.S. shale boom and the 2015 repeal of the crude export ban, which helped turn the U.S. into an energy heavyweight. America now produces roughly 20% of global oil (up from around 8% in 2009), and last year alone pumped a record 13.6 million barrels per day. Not bad for a country that used to worry about running out.

Meanwhile, the UAE has been itching to produce more oil but kept bumping into OPEC quotas. Going solo gives it room to ramp up output toward approximately five million barrels per day by 2027 – more supply, more competition.

The takeaway: This isn't just an exit; it's a power shift. Energy markets are becoming less cartel-driven and more competitive, with geopolitics – not OPEC – calling the shots. And with tensions still simmering globally, oil prices may stay elevated ... just with a different cast of influencers.

Check out our latest [Sight|Lines](#) for more.

Weekly Specials

In England, [windows](#) aren't just small, they're optimized. Rules say 95% of adults must be able to clean them, and more specifically, 95% of women aged 64-75 (yes, really), without stretching. That means strict reach limits – about 72 inches up, 22 inches out. The result? Tiny windows sized for safety ... not scenery.

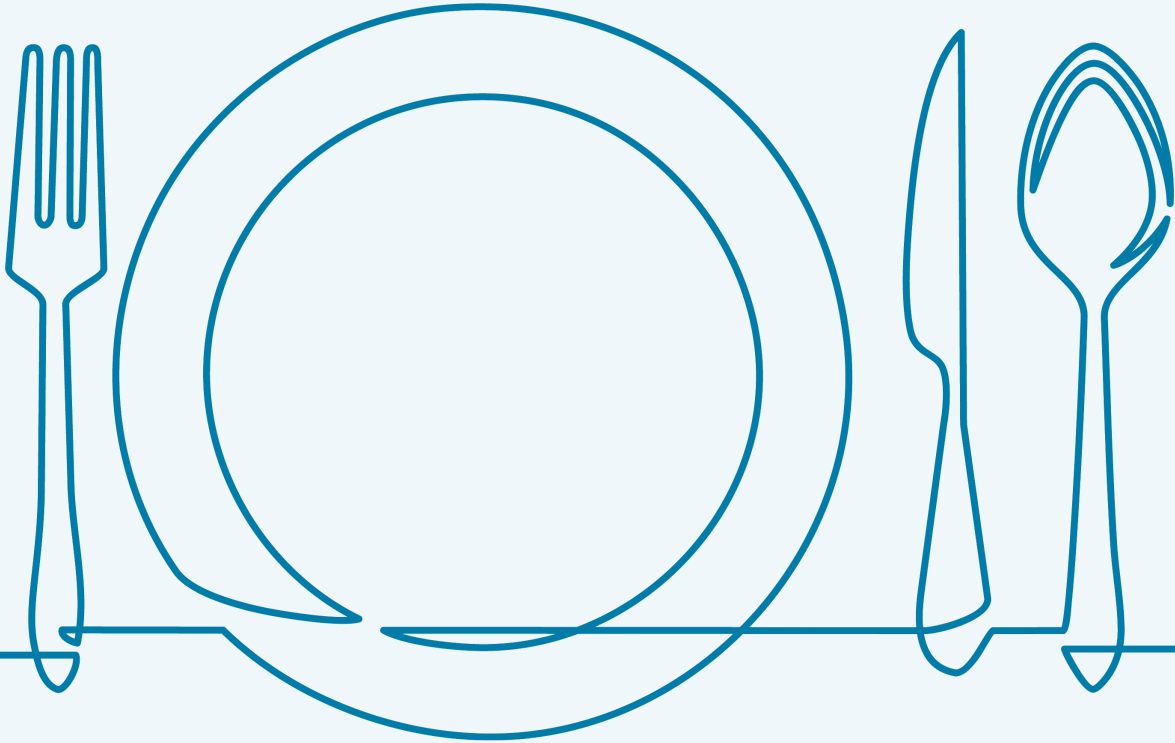
San Francisco has a new celebrity, and he weighs around 2,000 pounds. Meet [Chonkers](#), a sea lion built like a beanbag chair. He belly-flopped onto Pier 39, stole everyone's spot, and stayed. Locals are obsessed. Other sea lions? Less so. Personal space is apparently a human concept.

The [New York Times](#) just dropped a dream dinner party: the 30 greatest living American songwriters. Over 250 insiders weighed in, so yes, Taylor Swift made it (the Swifties can rest), alongside Jay-Z and Paul Simon. Honestly, it's less a ranking and more the inspiration for your next perfect road trip soundtrack.

Everyone has a passion. Mine is a nice glass of Chablis. Others? [Bell hunting](#) ... Yes, really, and no judgment. There's a whole crew chasing down replicas of the Liberty Bell like it's a national scavenger hunt. No Philly trip? No problem. There's probably one near your local fire station. Freedom, and road trips, ring everywhere ... :)

Corporate Lunch

- **SpaceX** says its total addressable market could hit **\$28.5 trillion**. Aiming high, but when your business model is literally “leave Earth,” I guess it makes sense that the ceiling is ... nonexistent.
- **Snickers** debuted its **“Stuck” campaign**, showing a hiker so paralyzed by hunger-induced indecision that he’d rather spend hours drafting the perfect rescue text than actually get saved because ... *you’re not you when you’re hungry.*
- **Tesla** has officially begun **Cybercab production**, with videos showing the gold autonomous vehicles driving themselves off the assembly line – this time without steering wheels or brakes. It looks like we didn’t just hand over the reins to AI, we removed the reins entirely.
- **Quicken** casts kids as **“stressed-out small business founders”** in its latest campaign to drive engagement – because nothing captures true financial stress (and gets a laugh) like a seven-year-old worrying about chocolate chip margins.
- **Joby Aviation** completed its **first NYC test flight**, sending an electric air taxi from JFK to Manhattan, meaning New Yorkers, we might soon be able to add “helicopter ride” as a casual commute option.



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