



STIFEL *Bits*

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The Appetizer

“We just kind of ran out of runway.”

– Spirit Airlines CEO Dave Davis in an interview with CNBC on the airline’s bankruptcy.

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

- **\$955:** The **median savings** for all employed U.S. adults between the ages of 21 and 64.
- **20 years:** How long **Google Translate** has been around. It now supports over 250 languages and has over a billion monthly users.
- **\$109,000:** The amount of **mortgage debt** the average U.S. household owes.
- **2%:** The annualized growth in **U.S. GDP** in the first quarter of 2026.
- **Two miles:** The distance a **coyote swam** across the notoriously dangerous waters of the San Francisco Bay to reach Alcatraz Island, twice as far as biologists initially expected.

Dig In

The Final Descent

Is it a bird? A plane? It's a bright yellow ... wait. Well, we know one thing it's not: a Spirit plane. Too soon? Spirit Airlines has officially entered its final descent, grounding its yellow-bus fleet for good after decades as the king of ultra-low-cost carriers. Somewhere right now, a leasing company is playing the world's least relaxing game of "Where's Waldo?"

This wasn't a sudden engine failure but a slow-motion outcome years in the making. The budget carrier had been running on fumes for years, weighed down by debt, a **blocked** JetBlue merger on antitrust grounds, and a business model that relied on cheap oil. While legacy airlines like Delta and United are currently rolling out "rescue fares" for stranded travelers, the industry is now bracing for the "Spirit Effect."

For travelers, the concern isn't about just one struggling airline; it's about the loss of a price floor. Spirit's bare-bones pricing had pressured larger competitors to keep their own basic fares in check. With one fewer player on the leaderboard, market concentration is increasing, creating a landscape where fare hikes become more possible, even for travelers **who never flew Spirit themselves**.

Translation: Even if you've never willingly boarded a bright yellow plane, your wallet might miss it.

Weekly Specials

The average lifespan of a stuffed animal is ... questionable – it either gets lost on vacations, abandoned at airports, or quietly retired because it's become too haunted-looking for public appearances. One man in Japan is changing that, by offering **spa-like treatments for plushies**, giving your childhood bestie a glow-up, a deep clean, and *a second chance at life*.

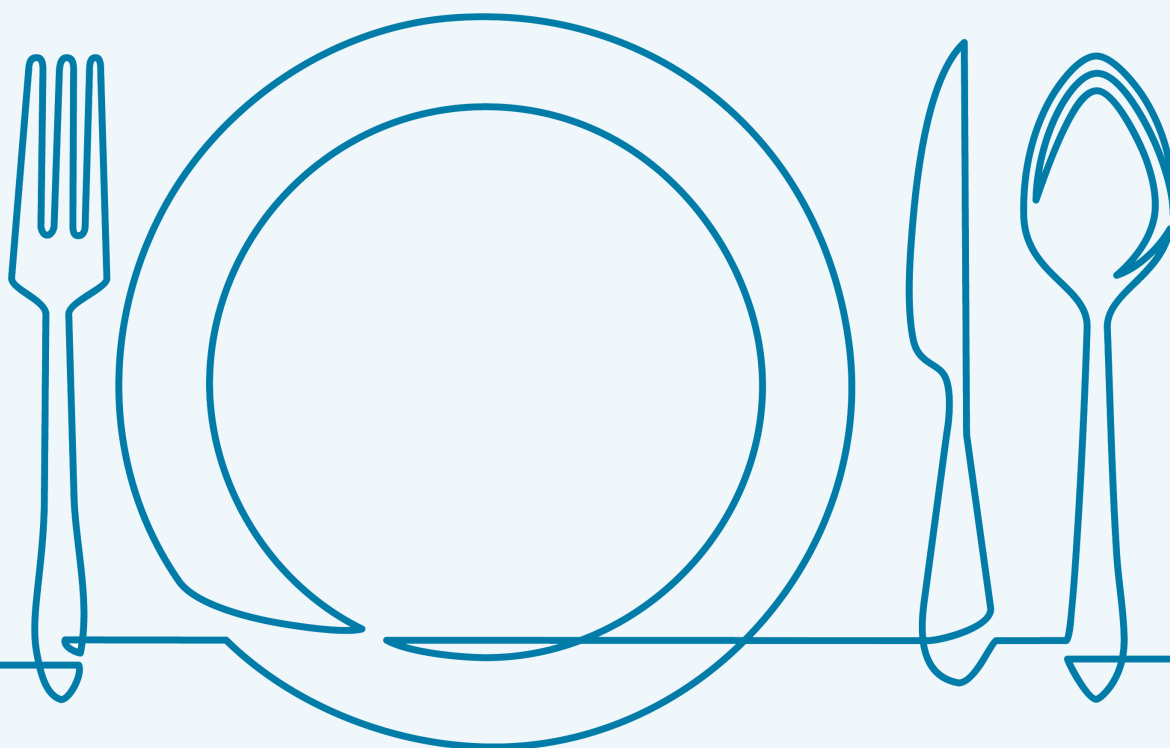
China's \$1 billion fix for aging infrastructure: **8,500 artificial intelligence robots** that open control boxes, spot electrical leaks, and handle daily maintenance ... basically a tireless robot workforce that never calls in sick or asks for overtime. Yay for productivity?

With AI everywhere and nonstop headlines about robots "taking jobs," it's easy for graduating students to feel doomed before their first LinkedIn post. But fear not: There are still **places** where college grads are actually landing *real, well-paying jobs* that haven't been outsourced to our future robot managers.

Need a break from the Jersey Shore chaos and the Coney Island obstacle course of strollers, seagulls, and mystery smells? Why not roll the dice on one of the beaches from the **2026 World's Best Beaches list**. With airfare climbing faster than your blood pressure at TSA – and Spirit Airlines ghosting us entirely – Siesta Beach, Florida, might be the move.

Corporate Lunch

- **AMC** is set to **screen live concerts** through its Arena One partnership, meaning the future of live music may soon involve a 64-ounce Coke, reclining seats, and buttered popcorn.
- **Anheuser-Busch** just posted its **first sales increase in three years**. “Economic uncertainty” pairs surprisingly well with a cold one.
- **Delta** said it will **stop serving snacks and drinks** on short flights this summer as airlines deal with rising fuel costs ... **Schedules extra time to secure replacement Biscoffs and chocolate quinoa crisps.**
- **Uber** will now let you **book hotels** in a deal with Expedia, giving budget travelers dangerous new ideas, like wondering if they can “Uber Share” a one-bedroom hotel suite with a stranger to save 50%.
- **SpaceX** wants to **blast data centers into orbit** ... taking “cloud computing” beyond the stratosphere, while simultaneously introducing the next frontier of cybersecurity threats: extraterrestrials.
- **Meta** is reportedly building a **consumer version of AI agent OpenClaw**, but with the code name “Hatch,” because nothing says “totally safe consumer AI” like naming it after something that eventually breaks out on its own.



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