



STIFEL *Bits*

March 19, 2025

The Appetizer

“This is not five-years-away problem, this is a few-years-away problem.”

– Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang on when he believes **humanoid robots will be widely used** in factories.

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

- \$3,000 per ounce: The price gold reached on March 14 for the first time ever.
- 4.25%-4.5%: The current fed funds rate, which was kept unchanged last week.
- \$20 million: The expected combined **auction sale price** for game-worn Michael Jordan and Kobe Bryant rookie jerseys.
- \$6.1 billion: The record-breaking **price** at which a group led by private equity executive William Chisholm is purchasing the Boston Celtics.
- 42 miles: The length of the **U.S.’s longest conveyor belt**. Located in Texas and New Mexico, it is longer than the width of Rhode Island and is used to transport sand for hydraulic fracturing.
- 70%: The percentage of the world’s population that did **at least one kind thing** in the last month.

Dig In

Gravity Hits Different

288 days later – astronauts Sunita Williams and Barry Wilmore are back on Earth – cue the dramatic touchdown music. Do they get overtime pay? There’s plenty of movies that glamorize space travel ... but they tend to skip over what really happens to your body after nearly a year of floating around and surviving on freeze-dried ice cream.

Extended time in zero gravity? Not exactly a spa day. It leads to muscle loss, weaker bones, and sometimes, even blurry vision. Your body basically forgets what gravity feels like. Sure, astronauts get to work out in space, but jogging while strapped to a treadmill doesn’t exactly compare to a run in the park.

Now that they’re back, it’s all about **recovery**: physical therapy, medical testing, and re-training muscles and balance. Oh, and the occasional reminder that no, you can’t just float to the bathroom anymore.

Space travel is incredible – but not without its challenges. Speaking of space, a quick shameless plug of our **Long-Term Investment Themes** to see the opportunities we see in, (you guessed it) space. We’re glad to see Sunit and Barry safely back on Earth – and we’re wishing them both a speedy recovery.

Weekly Specials

Starting this fall, **Harvard will cover tuition** for students from families earning up to \$200,000. That's a big deal – tuition is \$56,500, or \$82,866 with all the bells and whistles. Just one catch: you still need to beat that ~3.6% acceptance rate.

No income tax in Florida? Check. And now, **property tax** might be on the chopping block too. Lawmakers are floating bills to lighten the load on homeowners, especially after U.S. property values jumped 27% from January 2020 to July 2024. But without property taxes, the state might have to raise sales taxes, leaving local governments in a financial pickle.

Finance bros and gals, dust off those cowboy hats – Wall Street is headed south. The **Nasdaq** exchange is riding into Dallas, making a bold move from its New York roots. Texas has been determined to boot the Northeast off its business throne, and Nasdaq's arrival just might be the latest step in that corporate showdown.

Most **iguanas** these days stick to Florida and Mexico, but a few lucky lizards are living the dream on the tropical, turquoise water paradise of Fiji. How'd they get there? Millions of years ago, they surfed across the Pacific on floating vegetation, surviving a wild 5,000-mile ocean trip.

Corporate Lunch

Amazon Echo will lose the “**Do Not Send Voice Recordings**” option as the company is ending the privacy feature on March 28. However, anyone using that feature will automatically be opted into the “Don't Save Recordings” option. Whether we believe the recordings aren't saved is a different story ...

Adobe is attempting to turn data into dollars with the launch of **AI agents**. These agents include a chatbot for website navigation and an agent assisting in website design.

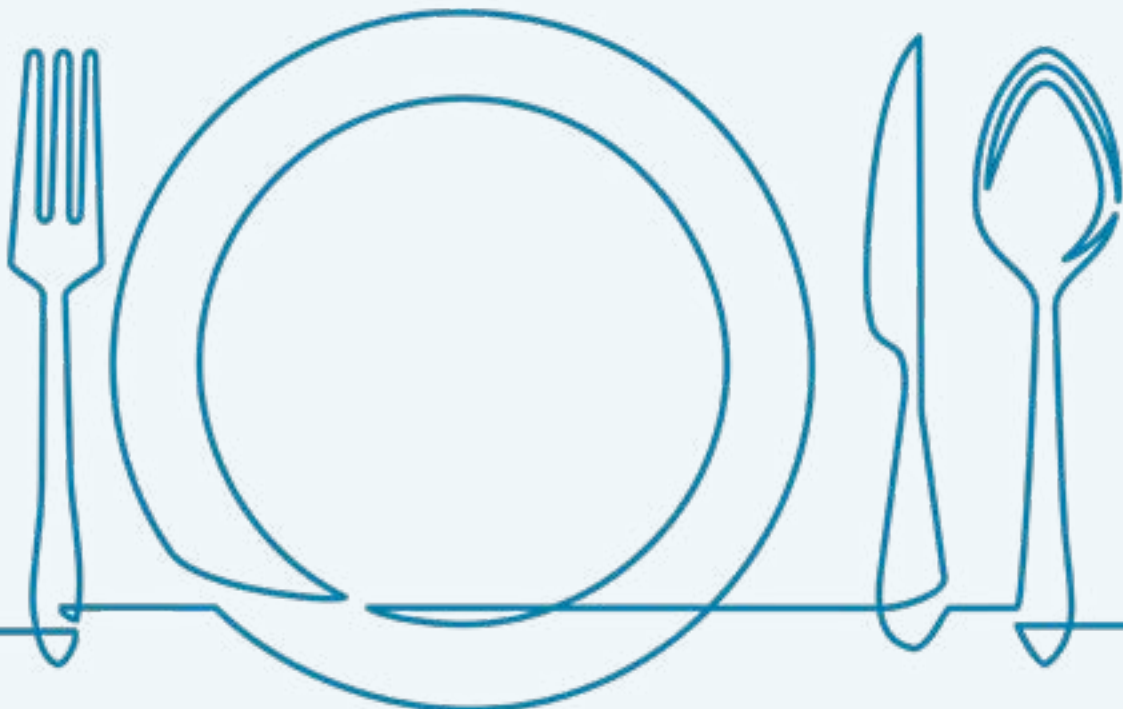
Comcast's NBCUniversal struck a new \$3 billion deal to extend their exclusive **Olympics rights**. It seems like NBC is not ready to pass the (Olympic) torch just yet.

Forever 21 is prepping to close all of its U.S. stores following a **bankruptcy** filing. Its fashion legacy will be “forever” in our closets.

Frontier Airlines is offering **free checked bags** after **Southwest** ended its two free checked bags policy. Which airline is going to offer free flights first?

Ferrari car buyers are getting younger – 40% of new clients are **under 40 years old**. Maybe the more-than-two-year wait time is the reason why?

Shares of Major League Baseball's **Oakland A's** are being valued at \$2 billion to help fund a new Las Vegas domed stadium. Who will they call from the **bullpen** to pitch these shares?



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