



Monday, Mar. 11, 2024

- 1. “Oppenheimer” dominated the 96th Academy Awards last night.**
What to know: Christopher Nolan’s epic about the creation of the atomic bomb won seven Oscars, including best picture, director and actor.
The big moments: Emma Stone’s surprise best actress win for “Poor Things,” Ryan Gosling crushing “I’m Just Ken,” some strong red carpet looks - and a naked John Cena.
- 2. Donald Trump was criticized for mocking President Biden’s stutter.**
The details: Trump ridiculed Biden at a Saturday campaign rally in Georgia. It was the latest insult Trump has hurled at his election rival, and it drew outrage from disability advocates.
In related news: Sen. Katie Boyd Britt (R-Ala.) defended using a sex-trafficking story from 20 years ago to attack Biden in her State of the Union rebuttal.
- 3. Congress prevented a partial government shutdown.**
How? The Senate approved legislation Friday, hours before a shutdown deadline, to fund roughly 30% of the government until Sept. 30.
What now? Funding for the rest of the federal government — including the Defense, State and Homeland Security departments — is set to run out March 22.
- 4. Ramadan began without a cease-fire in the Israel-Gaza war.**
Why? Hamas wants Israel to agree to a more permanent cease-fire. Biden had hoped for a six-week pause in fighting before the start of the Muslim holy month today.
What else to know: Celebrities including musician Billie Eilish and actor Mark Ruffalo wore red pins on the Oscars red carpet to show their support for a cease-fire in Gaza.
- 5. News agencies pulled a photo of the Princess of Wales with her children.**
Why? It was manipulated, the AP, Getty Images, AFP and Reuters said. Kensington Palace had claimed the photo, released yesterday, was taken by Prince William last week.
Zooming out: This was the first official photo of Catherine, formerly Kate Middleton, since she had abdominal surgery months ago. Her absence has fueled frenzied speculation.
- 6. New homes in the U.S. are getting smaller - and cheaper.**
How small? Median new home sizes shrank by 4% last year, census data shows. Major home builders are prioritizing narrower houses with fewer doors, windows and cabinets.
Why? They’re less expensive for builders and buyers, as high prices and mortgage rates have made housing unaffordable. But it would take years to build enough homes to meet demand.
- 7. The Pentagon said the U.S. isn’t hiding crashed alien spacecraft.**
What to know: There’s no evidence that aliens have visited Earth, the Defense Department said in a report released Friday. It reviewed U.S. investigations into UFOs from 1945 to now.
So why have there been so many sightings? People mistake “ordinary objects and phenomena” for alien craft, investigators found.



1. crushing - severe, devastating
2. to mock - to laugh at someone
to hurl - to throw something with a lot of force
trafficking - the act of buying or selling something illegally
3. State Department - Foreign Ministry
4. celebrity - famous person
5. Kensington Palace - home of the Prince and Princess of Wales (William and Kate)
Frenzied - uncontrolled and excited
6. median - medium-sized
mortgage - Hypothek

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