



Monday, March 24, 2025

**1. Greenland criticized an “aggressive” trip planned by U.S. officials.**

**This week:** National security adviser Michael Waltz and second lady Usha Vance will visit the island as Trump continues his push to acquire it from Denmark.

**Zooming out:** Trump says Denmark isn’t protecting Greenland. And Trump is prompting U.S. allies to rethink their dependence on American weapons.

**One more thing:** Russian President Vladimir Putin commissioned a “beautiful portrait” of Trump.

**2. Senior tax officials are bracing for a potential 10% drop in revenue.**

**Why?** It’s tied to changing taxpayer behavior and U.S. DOGE Service cuts. Meanwhile, the IRS is nearing a deal with ICE to share addresses of suspected undocumented immigrants.

**In other news:** Elon Musk’s DOGE seems to have exaggerated claims of fraud in Social Security. And Trump said he didn’t sign a controversial proclamation — so who, or what, did?

**3. The death toll in Gaza passed 50,000 people yesterday.**

**What to know:** The milestone comes less than a week since Israel broke the ceasefire with Hamas. Experts say the Gaza Health Ministry’s figure is probably an undercount.

**What now?** Israel is considering a new ground operation in Gaza that could include a months-long military occupation — but it hasn’t been able to destroy Hamas.

**4. Pope Francis made his first public appearance in five weeks.**

**What to know:** Francis was released from the hospital yesterday after a bout with double pneumonia and two respiratory episodes that almost cost him his life.

**The appearance:** The pope seemed alert but weakened. He waved and thanked a crowd of well-wishers from a balcony of the hospital in Rome.

**5. Families are finding out from the JFK files that their relatives were CIA assets.**

**What to know:** Records about President John F. Kennedy’s assassination, released last week, are revealing how people’s parents, grandparents and spouses took part in spycraft.

**Zooming out:** The unredacted records uncovered other CIA secrets and provided historians with threads to pull on to help them understand the 1963 assassination.

**6. The men’s college basketball Sweet 16 is set.**

**So far, few surprises:** Arkansas, coached by John Calipari, is the lowest seed (10th) to advance. And the defending champs lost. Games resume Thursday.

**Today:** The women wrap up their second round, with games starting at noon Eastern.

**In other sports news:** The Major League Baseball season is upon us, and we have some bold predictions.

**7. A lightbulb in California has been burning for 124 years.**

**What you’re looking at:** The Centennial Bulb, named in 2001 when it marked its 100th consecutive year of illumination. It hangs at a fire station in Livermore.

**How has it survived?** It runs at a low wattage and was made with long-lasting filaments. It cost 40 cents in 1901 and shows no signs of burning out just yet.



Vocabulary 24/03/25:

- |    |                       |   |
|----|-----------------------|---|
| 1. | to prompt -           | to cause, to make something happen                                    |
| 2. | to brace -            | to prepare yourself for something unpleasant                          |
|    | IRS -                 | Internal Revenue Service (federal tax authority)                      |
| 4. | respiratory episode - | interruption of breathing   |
| 5. | JFK -                 | John F. Kennedy   |
|    | unredacted -          | not shortened or changed (unredigiert)                                |
|    | CIA -                 | Central Intelligence Service  |
|    | asset -               | here: a useful person   |
|    | spycraft -            | espionage   |
| 6. | Sweet 16 -            | tournament of the last 16 teams in a sport competition (Achtelfinale) |
|    | NCAA -                | College Basketball League   |
| 7. | filament -            | here: a thin wire that lights up inside an electric light bulb        |
|    | wattage -             | power level in watts  |

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