



Monday, March 9, 2026

1. Iran named a new supreme leader to replace the slain Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

Who? Khamenei's son, Mojtaba Khamenei. The selection cements hard-line theocratic rule in the nation and sends a strong message of defiance against President Donald Trump.

Inside Iran: New video shows what appears to be a U.S. missile landing near a school where Iranian officials said 175 people, including dozens of children, were killed last week.

Since the war began: Trump has been on an unpredictable posting spree.

2. The assault on Iran is causing widespread economic damage.

Key impacts: The conflict is interrupting shipments of electronics, pharmaceuticals and precious metals. In the U.S., a rapid increase in gas prices is showing no sign of slowing.

War-proof your budget: Our personal finance columnist Michelle Singletary has four pieces of expert advice, including tackling your debt and doing an audit of your gas usage.

3. After slashing federal jobs, the Trump administration is ramping up hiring.

Last year: Elon Musk and DOGE purged hundreds of thousands of federal workers. But now, the Trump administration is quietly retreating from one of its early priorities.

Why? The recent hiring push is unfolding under new rules designed to give the White House greater influence over the government's 2 million-person civilian workforce.

4. ICE has picked untested companies to oversee new warehouse detention centers.

Across the nation: The Trump administration plans to convert industrial warehouses into large-scale holding centers. Two will be rapidly built by industry newcomers.

As opposition to the warehouse plan grows: The Department of Homeland Security has been feeding talking points to Republican leaders to help them defend the project.

5. Cargo thieves are stealing millions of dollars in tech hardware.

What's happening? Losses from the theft of goods in transit surged 60% in the U.S. last year. Thieves are targeting pricey computer parts that are driving AI and tech booms.

A new kind of heist: Increasingly sophisticated strategies are being deployed to steal from truck trailers. Companies and the trucking industry are struggling to keep up.

6. Difficult people in your life might make you age faster.

In a new study: People with more "hasslers" in their lives suffered chronic stress and elevated biomarkers linked to aging. Each hassler increased the pace of aging by 1.5%.

Another potential health threat: GLP-1 drugs such as Ozempic and Wegovy can raise your risk of bone and tendon injury, including osteoporosis and gout, a new study suggests.

7. You can still see the northern lights before they fade.

More than 90 million miles away: The sun's 11-year cycle is downshifting, which will mean fewer aurora displays. But it's not too late to catch the show at some destinations.

Back on Earth: This year could have one of the strongest El Niño climate events on record. It could push global temperatures to record levels, particularly in 2027.



Vocabulary 09/03/26

1. Mojtaba Khamenei
defiance - behaviour in which you refuse to obey someone or something
to topple - to cause to lose balance and fall down
2. gas - petrol
AAA - American Automobile Association
3. to slash - to very much reduce something
to ramp up - to increase the speed, power or cost of something
to purge - to get rid of people from an organisation
4. detention - arrest
5. heist - a crime in which valuable things are taken illegally from a place or person
6. hassler - someone who causes difficulties or trouble
7. to downshift - to become slower
DIY - do it yourself

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