

The Breakfast Table Times

TODAY'S NEWS, MADE FOR KIDS

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TOP STORY

U.S.-Canada Trade Talks Collapse as Tariffs Rise

WASHINGTON, AUG. 25, 2026 — Trade talks between the United States and Canada broke down this week. Tensions between the two countries are rising fast. The Trump administration announced new tariffs on Canadian goods. Tariffs are taxes placed on goods imported from another country. The new tariffs cover about \$20 billion worth of Canadian products. Companies often pass these extra costs on to shoppers. President Trump has also threatened to add even more tariffs soon. Canadian officials have not yet said how they will respond. Economists warn that lumber, food, and cars could become pricier. The dispute adds new uncertainty between the two neighboring countries.

BACKGROUND

Tariffs have been a major tool in recent U.S. trade policy, used to pressure trading partners on various issues.

Why it matters: *Higher tariffs can raise prices on many products American families buy, from groceries to vehicles.*

What to watch: *Watch for how Canada responds and whether more tariffs are added in the coming weeks.*

Source: Maine Public, <https://www.mainepublic.org/> ; Democracy Now!, 'Headlines for August 25, 2026,' <https://www.democracynow.org/2026/8/25/headlines>

NATION & WORLD

U.S. Launches New Sanctions Push Against Iran

WASHINGTON, AUG. 25, 2026 — U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent announced a new plan against Iran this week. The plan is called 'Operation Economic Outcast.' It aims to isolate Iran by pressuring other countries and companies. Officials warned that businesses working with Iran could face new penalties. The expanded sanctions target several industries. These include aviation, digital assets, gold, shipping, and technology. Sanctions are penalties meant to limit a country's access to money and trade. U.S. officials say the goal is to weaken Iran's economy. It's part of a larger U.S. strategy toward Iran.

BACKGROUND

The U.S. has used economic sanctions against Iran for decades as a tool of foreign policy.

Why it matters: *Sanctions can affect global trade and show how countries use economic pressure instead of military action.*

What to watch: *Watch for how Iran and other countries respond to the new sanctions.*

Source: Just Security, 'Early Edition: August 25, 2026,' <https://www.justsecurity.org/155154/early-edition-august-25-2026/>

Ukraine Marks Independence Day Amid War

KYIV, UKRAINE, AUG. 25, 2026 — Ukraine marked its Independence Day this week. The country's president spoke to mark the anniversary. Ukraine has been fighting a war since Russia invaded in 2022. The conflict has lasted more than four years. Independence Day is an important holiday for Ukrainians. It celebrates Ukraine's freedom from Soviet rule in 1991. This year's celebration took place while the war continues. Many Ukrainians have been affected by the fighting. World leaders continue to watch the war closely.

BACKGROUND

Ukraine became independent from the Soviet Union in 1991. Russia invaded Ukraine in 2022, starting a war that continues today.

Why it matters: *The war affects millions of people and remains a major topic in world news.*

What to watch: *Watch for updates on the war and any new peace talks.*

Source: WORLD News Group, 'Tuesday morning news: August 25, 2026,' <https://wng.org/podcasts/tuesday-morning-news-august-25-2026-1787602718>

Congo Records Its Deadliest Week Yet in Ebola Outbreak

KINSHASA, CONGO, AUG. 25, 2026 — Congo is having its worst week yet in an Ebola outbreak. Health officials say more people died this week than ever before. Ebola is a serious illness. It spreads when people touch body fluids from someone who is sick. Ebola can cause fever, weakness, and sometimes death. Health workers in Congo are trying hard to stop it from spreading. Groups from other countries are sending medical supplies to help. In past outbreaks, doctors used vaccines and quick treatment to save lives. Experts around the world are watching Congo closely right now.

BACKGROUND

Ebola outbreaks have occurred periodically in Central Africa for decades, and international health agencies often assist local responses.

Why it matters: *Ebola can spread quickly and is often deadly, so containing outbreaks quickly protects public health worldwide.*

What to watch: *Watch for updates on case numbers and international aid efforts.*

Source: WORLD News Group, 'Tuesday morning news: August 25, 2026,' <https://wng.org/podcasts/tuesday-morning-news-august-25-2026-1787602718>

U.S. Resumes Strikes on Suspected Drug Boats

WASHINGTON, AUG. 25, 2026 — The U.S. military resumed strikes on suspected drug boats this week after a two-month pause. The Pentagon said the strikes target boats in the eastern Pacific and Caribbean Sea. U.S. Southern Command said one recent strike killed two people. Officials said the boat was on a route often used for drug trafficking. The military campaign against these boats began almost a year ago. Southern Command says at least 223 people have been killed in strikes so far. Supporters say the strikes help stop illegal drugs from reaching the United States. Critics have raised questions about how targets are identified before a strike. The strikes remain a controversial part of U.S. anti-drug efforts.

BACKGROUND

The military campaign against drug-trafficking boats has continued for nearly a year, mostly in international waters near Latin America.

Why it matters: *The strikes raise questions about military tactics, international law, and how the U.S. addresses illegal drug trafficking.*

What to watch: *Watch for further details on the strikes and any government response.*

Source: Havana Times, 'International News Briefs for Tuesday, August 25, 2026,' <https://havanatimes.org/news/international-news-briefs-for-tuesday-august-25-2026/>

GOVERNMENT

Supreme Court Backs New Limits on Mail-In Voting

WASHINGTON, AUG. 25, 2026 — The U.S. Supreme Court ruled this week in favor of new limits on mail-in voting. The case involved rules pushed by the Trump administration. Mail-in voting lets people vote by mailing their ballot instead of visiting a polling place. Supporters of the limits say they help ensure election security. Opponents argue the limits could make voting harder for some people. The ruling could affect how states run future elections. Voting rules are often decided by both state and federal courts. This decision adds to ongoing debates about how Americans cast their ballots.

BACKGROUND

Mail-in voting expanded significantly during the COVID-19 pandemic and has remained a topic of political debate since.

Why it matters: Voting rules affect how easily people can participate in elections, a core part of American democracy.

What to watch: Watch for how states adjust their voting rules in response to this ruling.

Source: Democracy Now!, 'Headlines for August 25, 2026,' <https://www.democracynow.org/2026/8/25/headlines>

SCIENCE & TECH

NASA Says Artemis II Moon Mission Remains On Track

WASHINGTON, AUG. 25, 2026 — NASA says its next moon mission is on track. The mission is called Artemis II. It will send astronauts flying around the moon. No crew has flown this close to the moon in fifty years. NASA finished early checks on the plan. Officials say the checks look good so far. The Artemis program wants to send astronauts back to the moon's surface. Later missions may even help prepare trips to Mars. Space fans are excited to watch this program grow.

BACKGROUND

The Artemis program is NASA's effort to return astronauts to the moon and eventually prepare for missions to Mars.

Why it matters: A successful crewed lunar flyby would mark a major milestone in human space exploration.

What to watch: Watch for updates on the Artemis II launch timeline.

Source: NASA, 'NASA on Track for Future Missions with Initial Artemis II Assessments,' <https://www.nasa.gov/missions/nasa-on-track-for-future-missions-with-initial-artemis-ii-assessments/>

SPORTS

Giants Shut Out Reds 5-0

SAN FRANCISCO, AUG. 24, 2026 — The San Francisco Giants shut out the Cincinnati Reds 5-0 on Monday night. A shutout means the losing team did not score any runs. The Giants' pitching staff kept the Reds off the scoreboard the entire game. San Francisco's offense provided enough runs to secure a comfortable win. The victory continues an important stretch of games for the Giants this season. Every win matters as teams jockey for playoff positioning in late August. The Giants will look to build on this momentum in upcoming games.

BACKGROUND

Late-season games often carry extra weight as teams compete for playoff spots.

Why it matters: Strong performances in August can shape a team's chances heading into the postseason.

What to watch: Watch how the Giants perform in their next series.

Source: ESPN, 'Giants 5-0 Reds (Aug 24, 2026) Game Recap,' https://www.espn.com/mlb/recap/_gameId/401816660

Yankees Beat Blue Jays 8-3 to Close Out Series

NEW YORK, AUG. 23, 2026 — The New York Yankees beat the Toronto Blue Jays 8-3 on Sunday. The win closed out a series between the two American League teams. New York's offense provided plenty of run support in the victory. The Yankees have been fighting for playoff positioning in a crowded American League. Every game counts as the season heads into its final stretch. Sunday's win offered a strong finish to the series against Toronto. The Yankees will look to carry that momentum into their next games.

BACKGROUND

The Yankees have been competing for a strong playoff position in the American League this season.

Why it matters: Wins in late August can affect a team's playoff seeding heading into October.

What to watch: Watch how the Yankees perform in their next series.

Source: ESPN, 'Yankees 8-3 Blue Jays (Aug 23, 2026) Final Score,' https://www.espn.com/mlb/game/_gameId/401816643/blue-jays-yankees

OUR TEAMS

San Francisco Giants	Giants 5, Reds 0
Giants pitching staff recorded a shutout at home on Monday night.	

SOUTHERN MAINE

Vance Visits Brewer Defense Manufacturer

BREWER, MAINE, AUG. 24, 2026 — Vice President JD Vance visited a factory in Brewer, Maine, this week. The factory is called Compotech. It makes parts used for defense technology. This was Vance's second trip to Maine this year. He praised the company for making things in America. He said it helps keep U.S. troops safe overseas. Vance also talked about the border and drugs. He said tighter border rules have helped lower overdoses in Maine. He said overdoses dropped 17% this year. The visit comes as Maine gets ready for elections.

BACKGROUND

Vance has visited Maine multiple times this year as national attention turns to the state's upcoming elections.

Why it matters: Visits from national leaders can highlight local businesses and shape political debates ahead of elections.

What to watch: Watch for more campaign visits to Maine as the elections approach.

Source: Portland Press Herald, 'Live updates: What JD Vance said in Brewer about key Maine midterm races,' <https://www.pressherald.com/2026/08/24/jd-vance-to-speak-soon-at-brewer-defense-manufacturer/>