

The Breakfast Table Times

TODAY'S NEWS, MADE FOR KIDS

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TOP STORY

Meta Agrees To Multi-Billion Dollar Child Safety Settlement

OAKLAND, CALIF. — Meta will pay billions of dollars to settle a lawsuit. Several states said the company's apps could hurt kids' mental health. A trial had just started in Oakland, California. California's attorney general spoke about the case in court. Instead of finishing the trial, Meta agreed to settle. The exact amount has not been shared yet. Supporters hope this pushes companies to make safer apps. Millions of families use Meta's apps every day. Experts say new safety rules could follow this deal.

BACKGROUND

Several U.S. states sued Meta, saying its apps were designed to keep kids scrolling for long periods.

Why it matters: The settlement could change how tech companies protect young users online.

What to watch: Watch for details on what safety changes Meta agrees to make.

Source: PBS NewsHour, <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/show/august-26-2026-pbs-news-hour-full-episode>; NPR, <https://www.npr.org/sections/news/>

NATION & WORLD

Country Legend Dolly Parton Dies At 80

NASHVILLE, TENN. — Dolly Parton died this week at age 80. She was a country music singer and songwriter. Her songs told real stories about American life. Fans loved her humor and warm heart. She also started a program called the Imagination Library. It sends free books to children across the country. Fellow singer Martina McBride shared kind memories of her. People everywhere are honoring her music and generosity. Her songs are expected to inspire musicians for years.

BACKGROUND

Parton spent more than six decades writing and performing country music.

Why it matters: Her death is a major moment for fans of American music and for families who used her children's book program.

What to watch: Watch for public tributes and possible details about memorial plans.

Source: NPR, <https://www.npr.org/sections/news/>; PBS NewsHour, <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/show/august-26-2026-pbs-news-hour-full-episode>

Measles Deaths Reported In Pennsylvania

HARRISBURG, PA. — Health officials in Pennsylvania shared sad news this week. Two unvaccinated people died after getting measles. These are the first measles deaths in the U.S. this year. Measles spreads quickly among people who are not vaccinated. Doctors say the measles vaccine works very well. It protects most people who receive it. Officials are asking families to check their vaccination records. This comes as students get ready for school. Health experts say strong vaccination rates protect entire communities.

BACKGROUND

Measles cases have increased recently in areas where fewer children have received vaccines.

Why it matters: Health officials say these deaths highlight the importance of keeping vaccination rates high.

What to watch: Watch for updates on additional cases connected to this outbreak.

Source: Just Security Early Edition, <https://www.justsecurity.org/155288/early-edition-august-26-2026/>

GOVERNMENT

Iran And Oman Propose Plan For Key Waterway

WASHINGTON — Iran and Oman have proposed a plan to keep shipping safe through the Strait of Hormuz. This narrow waterway carries much of the world's oil. The plan includes a temporary shipping channel and mine-clearing efforts. Meanwhile, U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio spoke with several foreign leaders this week. He said the United States does not plan new strikes against Iran for now. Officials say the U.S. will instead rely on other pressure, like economic sanctions. The Strait of Hormuz is one of the most important oil shipping routes in the world. Any disruption there can affect gas prices for people everywhere. Diplomats hope this new plan can help reduce tensions in the region.

BACKGROUND

The Strait of Hormuz has been a source of tension after months of conflict involving Iran.

Why it matters: The strait carries much of the world's oil, so any instability there can affect prices everywhere.

What to watch: Watch to see whether the shipping plan is formally adopted and whether tensions ease.

Source: Everything Briefing, <https://everythingbriefing.substack.com/p/august-26-2026>; Just Security Early Edition, <https://www.justsecurity.org/155288/early-edition-august-26-2026/>; CNN, <https://www.cnn.com/2026/08/26/world/live-news/iran-war-trump>

MONEY & WORK

Target Removes Costume After Complaints

MINNEAPOLIS — Target removed a children's Halloween costume this week. Shoppers said it looked like old racist stereotypes. The company apologized to customers right away. Target said it takes feedback from shoppers seriously. It is now reviewing how it picks costume designs. This is not the first time a store faced this kind of criticism. Many retailers now check costumes more carefully before selling them. Parents say they want costumes that are fun, not hurtful. Companies are learning to respond quickly to online complaints.

BACKGROUND
Retailers have faced similar criticism in past years over costume designs seen as offensive.

Why it matters: *The incident shows how quickly companies must respond to public concerns raised on social media.*

What to watch: *Watch for whether Target changes how it reviews future costume designs.*

Source: NPR, <https://www.npr.org/sections/national/>

SCIENCE & TECH

Webb Telescope Captures Lion's Head Nebula

GREENBELT, MD. — NASA's James Webb Space Telescope has captured a stunning new image of the Lion's Head Nebula. The image was released as the space agency's Astronomy Picture of the Day. A nebula is a massive cloud of gas and dust where new stars often form. Webb's powerful infrared instruments let scientists see details normally hidden from view. Researchers use images like this to study how stars are born and evolve. The nebula gets its name from its resemblance to a lion's mane. Scientists say such images help people understand the scale and beauty of the universe. NASA regularly shares new space images with people around the world.

BACKGROUND
The Webb telescope uses infrared cameras to see through thick clouds of space dust.

Why it matters: *Studying nebulas helps scientists understand how new stars form.*

What to watch: *Watch for more Webb images revealing new details about star formation.*

Source: NASA Science, <https://science.nasa.gov/image-article/apod-2026-august-26-jwst-images-the-lions-head-nebula/>

SPORTS

Yankees Roll Past Astros, Giants Fall To Reds

NEW YORK — The New York Yankees beat the Houston Astros 9 to 3 on Tuesday, riding a strong offensive performance. New York's hitters put together several multi-run innings to secure the win. Meanwhile, the San Francisco Giants fell to the Cincinnati Reds 10 to 9 in a tightly contested game. The Giants mounted a late rally but came up just short. Both results affect the teams' positions as the regular season heads toward its final stretch. The Yankees continue to push for a strong postseason spot. The Giants will look to bounce back in their next matchup. Fans in both cities are watching the standings closely as September approaches.

BACKGROUND
Both teams are trying to secure strong positions before the playoffs begin in October.

Why it matters: *Late-season wins and losses can determine which teams make the playoffs.*

What to watch: *Watch how both teams perform in their next series this week.*

Source: ESPN, https://www.espn.com/mlb/game/_/gameId/401816682/astros-yankees; ESPN, https://www.espn.com/mlb/game/_/gameId/401816690/reds-giants

OUR TEAMS	
New York Yankees	Defeated the Houston Astros, 9-3 <i>Yankees improved their record with a strong offensive showing on August 26.</i>
San Francisco Giants	Lost to the Cincinnati Reds, 10-9 <i>Giants fell short despite a late rally on August 26.</i>

SOUTHERN MAINE

New School Year Begins In Lewiston

LEWISTON, MAINE — School started this week in Lewiston, Maine. Students returned to classrooms and saw old friends. Teachers welcomed them with fun first-day activities. These activities helped kids ease back into routines. The Maine Department of Education shared a helpful guide online. It gives families tips about schedules and health rules. It also lists support services for students. Districts across the state are getting ready for a busy fall. Local leaders say a smooth start matters most. Families are encouraged to read school updates closely.

BACKGROUND
Maine schools regularly share resources to help families prepare for the school year.

Why it matters: *A smooth start to the school year helps students and teachers settle into routines quickly.*

What to watch: *Watch for updates from local districts about schedules and support services.*

Source: WGME, <https://wgme.com/news/local/new-school-year-begins-in-lewiston>; Maine DOE Newsroom, <https://mainedoenews.net/2026/08/19/2026-2027-maine-doe-back-to-school-backpack-resource-available-online/>