

The Breakfast Table Times

TODAY'S NEWS, MADE FOR KIDS

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TOP STORY

NASA Speeds Up Plans for Next Moon Missions

CAPE CANAVERAL, FLA. — NASA is moving quickly toward its next Moon missions, Artemis II and Artemis III. Artemis II will send astronauts around the Moon without landing. It will act as an important test flight. Artemis III aims to land astronauts on the Moon's surface again. That would be the first Moon landing in more than 50 years.

NASA's administrator said this month he feels extremely confident about a 2027 launch. Teams are preparing the Orion spacecraft and the powerful SLS rocket. Officials say progress is moving faster than it did before earlier Artemis milestones. That is notable since the program has faced delays in the past.

Why it matters: A successful Artemis program would mark the first crewed Moon missions in more than 50 years.

Source: NASA Artemis blog (nasa.gov/blogs/artemis/2026/08/); NASA Artemis II page (nasa.gov/mission/artemis-ii/); Spaceflight Now (spaceflightnow.com/2026/08/14/nasa-administrator-extremely-confident-in-artemis-3-launch-in-2027/)

GOVERNMENT

Congress Races to Avoid a Government Shutdown

WASHINGTON — Congress is racing to pass a federal budget bill. Lawmakers face a deadline this fall. Senate Republicans want to avoid a government shutdown. A shutdown happens when Congress fails to approve funding for federal agencies. During a shutdown, many offices close.

Some workers do not get paid until a deal is reached. This push comes before the November midterm elections. Voters will choose many members of Congress then. Lawmakers returned from their August break with limited time left. Leaders from both parties say they want to avoid disrupting families and businesses.

Why it matters: The results affect whether federal workers get paid and services stay running smoothly.

Source: The Washington Post ([washingtonpost.com/business/2026/08/03/spending-trump-nominees-top-hectic-senate-agenda-ahead-august-break/](https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/2026/08/03/spending-trump-nominees-top-hectic-senate-agenda-ahead-august-break/)); Conference Board Policy Backgrounder ([conference-board.org/research/policy-backgrounders/congress-moves-closer-to-avoiding-government-shutdown](https://www.conference-board.org/research/policy-backgrounders/congress-moves-closer-to-avoiding-government-shutdown))

SCIENCE & TECH

Engineers Stack Rocket Boosters for Next Moon Launch

CAPE CANAVERAL, FLA. — Engineers at NASA's Kennedy Space Center are building giant rocket boosters. These boosters are needed for the next Artemis Moon mission. So far, workers have stacked four of ten segments inside a building called High Bay 3. The solid rocket boosters help launch the powerful SLS rocket off the ground. They separate from the rocket once the flight is underway.

Building and stacking the segments takes careful engineering. Each piece must line up exactly right. NASA says this hardware work is moving faster than earlier mission preparations did. Once complete, the boosters will help send Orion and its crew toward the Moon.

Why it matters: Watching hardware progress helps show whether NASA can meet its Moon mission timeline.

Source: NASA Artemis blog (nasa.gov/blogs/artemis/2026/08/); NASA Moon to Mars (nasa.gov/humans-in-space/artemis/)

SPORTS

Yankees, Red Sox Split Doubleheader in Tense Series

NEW YORK — The Yankees and Red Sox are playing a tense, four-game series. Both teams are chasing playoff spots. On Friday night, New York won a tight game, 1-0. Paul Goldschmidt hit the go-ahead home run. Left fielder Cody Bellinger threw out a runner at home plate to end a late Boston threat.

Saturday's doubleheader made up a game rained out back in June. Boston took the opener, winning 6-0. That result slowed New York's momentum heading into the second game. The two rivals played that game later the same day. Every contest in this series carries extra weight, since both teams need a strong finish to reach October.

Why it matters: The results affect both teams' chances of making the playoffs this fall.

Source: ESPN ([espn.com/mlb/game/_/gameId/401874913/red-sox-yankees](https://www.espn.com/mlb/game/_/gameId/401874913/red-sox-yankees), [espn.com/mlb/game/_/gameId/401816702/red-sox-yankees](https://www.espn.com/mlb/game/_/gameId/401816702/red-sox-yankees)); MLB.com ([mlb.com/stories/game/823501](https://www.mlb.com/stories/game/823501))

OUR TEAMS

New York Yankees Lost Game 1 of Saturday's doubleheader to Boston Red Sox, 6-0

The opener at Yankee Stadium made up a game rained out in June; the Yankees also played Game 2 later that day as part of a four-game series with playoff stakes.

SPORTS (CONT.)

Giants Wrap Up Preseason, Turn to Season Opener

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — The New York Giants wrapped up their preseason on Friday. They beat the New York Jets to close out the preseason. Head coach John Harbaugh's team now turns to the regular season. Their opener will be against the Dallas Cowboys.

Preseason games let teams test their rosters before games start counting. Coaches use these weeks to see which players earn regular roles. Fans will find out soon how the new-look Giants perform when games count. The regular season opener against Dallas will be an early test for the team.

Why it matters: *How the roster comes together in preseason can shape the team's whole season.*

Source: ESPN ([espn.com/nfl/game/_/gameId/401873303/giants-jets](https://www.espn.com/nfl/game/_/gameId/401873303/giants-jets)); NBC New York ([nbcnewyork.com/news/sports/giants/watch-giants-jets-preseason-game-live/6541605/](https://www.nbcnewyork.com/news/sports/giants/watch-giants-jets-preseason-game-live/6541605/))

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SOUTHERN MAINE

Shark Sightings Keep Southern Maine on Alert

PORTLAND, MAINE — Shark sightings have become a regular summer story along the southern Maine coast. Local news outlets have published several reports about where sharks were seen. Shark encounters remain rare overall. Experts say sightings can rise when water warms and baitfish move closer to shore.

Lifeguards and town officials keep reminding swimmers to follow basic safety rules. That includes swimming near a lifeguard and avoiding spots where fish are schooling. Officials say there is no reason to panic. Still, staying alert in the ocean is always a good idea.

Why it matters: *Following beach safety tips helps keep swimmers safe as sightings continue.*

Source: Portland Press Herald ([pressherald.com/2026/08/13/explore-shark-sightings-southern-maine/](https://www.pressherald.com/2026/08/13/explore-shark-sightings-southern-maine/))

Sudden Storms Leave Damage Across Southern Maine

SOUTHERN MAINE — Sudden, powerful storms swept across southern Maine recently. The storms brought strong winds and hail to several communities. Local reports described toppled trees and power outages. Some areas also saw minor damage to homes and property.

Crews worked quickly to clear roads and restore electricity. Meteorologists say sudden severe weather can develop fast in late summer. That can catch residents off guard with little warning. Town officials urged people to keep an emergency plan ready. That plan should include flashlights and a way to get weather alerts.

Why it matters: *Being prepared for sudden severe weather helps keep families and property safe.*

Source: WGME ([wgme.com/news/local/sudden-storm-brings-strong-winds-hail-to-southern-maine-weather-rain-thunder](https://www.wgme.com/news/local/sudden-storm-brings-strong-winds-hail-to-southern-maine-weather-rain-thunder))

GOOD NEWS

161st Acton Fair Draws Crowds to Southern Maine

ACTON, MAINE — The Acton Fair is underway in southern Maine. This year marks its 161st year. The fair brings the community together every summer. It features farm animal exhibits, carnival rides, live music, and classic fair food. Visitors come from across the region to attend.

Agricultural fairs like this one have deep roots in Maine tradition. They began long ago as a way for farmers to show off livestock and crops. Organizers say many families return year after year. The fair also supports local vendors and community groups like 4-H clubs. These groups rely on fair season for fundraising and outreach.

Why it matters: *Local fairs like this support small businesses, youth groups, and community traditions.*

Source: WGME ([wgme.com/news/local/161st-acton-fair-underway-in-southern-maine](https://www.wgme.com/news/local/161st-acton-fair-underway-in-southern-maine))