

The Breakfast Table Times

TODAY'S NEWS, MADE FOR KIDS

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TOP STORY

NASA Launches Roman Space Telescope Into Orbit

CAPE CANAVERAL, FLA. — NASA launched a huge new telescope on Sunday morning. It is called the Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope. A SpaceX Falcon Heavy rocket carried it into space. The rocket lifted off from Cape Canaveral, Florida. Liftoff came at 7:26 a.m. Eastern time. About thirty minutes later, Roman separated from the rocket.

The telescope then began checking its own systems. Roman is expected to work for five to ten years. Scientists will use it to study how the universe has grown. It will also hunt for planets circling far-off stars. Those planets are called exoplanets. Researchers hope Roman helps explain dark energy, a mysterious force pulling galaxies apart.

BACKGROUND

The telescope is named after Nancy Grace Roman, NASA's first chief astronomer.

Why it matters: Roman could help scientists understand dark energy and find new planets outside our solar system.

What to watch: NASA will spend months testing Roman's instruments before its science mission formally begins.

Source: Space.com (<https://www.space.com/news/live/nancy-grace-roman-telescope-live-updates-nasa-readies-roman-for-launch-august-30-2026> and <https://www.space.com/space-exploration/launches-spacecraft/spacex-roman-space-telescope-falcon-heavy-launch-what-time>); Bloomberg (<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2026-08-30/spacex-set-to-launch-nasa-s-dark-energy-hunting-space-telescope>); ScienceDaily (<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2026/08/260823094140.htm>)

GOVERNMENT

Congress Returns to Face Government Funding Deadline

WASHINGTON — Members of Congress are back in Washington after their summer break. They face an important deadline at the end of September. By then, lawmakers must pass bills to keep funding the government. If they fail, many federal offices and services could shut down temporarily.

This kind of pause is known as a government shutdown. Shutdowns can delay paychecks for federal workers and disrupt public services. Leaders from both parties say they want to avoid a shutdown this year.

Negotiations over spending bills are expected to continue through September.

BACKGROUND

Government shutdowns happen when Congress does not approve funding before the fiscal year ends.

Why it matters: A shutdown could delay paychecks and pause some public services families rely on.

What to watch: Watch for Congress to introduce spending bills before the September 30 deadline.

Source: The White House Government Shutdown Clock (<https://www.whitehouse.gov/government-shutdown-clock/>); MOAA (<https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2026-news-articles/advocacy/august-recess-ends-whats-next-for-congress-before-the-election/>); Wikipedia, '2026 United States federal government shutdowns' (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2026_United_States_federal_government_shutdowns)

MONEY & WORK

How a Shutdown Could Hit Paychecks

WASHINGTON — A government shutdown can affect workers in many jobs. Federal employees may not get paid on time during a shutdown. Some workers are told to stay home without pay. Others must keep working but wait for back pay later.

Contractors who work with the government can lose income too. Shutdowns can also slow services like passport offices and small business loans. Most workers eventually receive their full pay once funding resumes. Still, families can face real stress waiting for missed paychecks.

BACKGROUND

Federal shutdowns have happened several times in recent decades, sometimes lasting weeks.

Why it matters: Even a short shutdown can create money worries for workers and their families.

What to watch: Watch for whether Congress passes a short-term funding bill to buy more time.

Source: The White House Government Shutdown Clock (<https://www.whitehouse.gov/government-shutdown-clock/>); MOAA (<https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2026-news-articles/advocacy/august-recess-ends-whats-next-for-congress-before-the-election/>)

SCIENCE & TECH

What Will the New Telescope Study?

CAPE CANAVERAL, FLA. — Roman is now in space, but its real work is just beginning. Scientists want Roman to help explain dark energy. Dark energy is a strange force pushing galaxies apart. No one knows exactly what dark energy is yet. Roman will take wide pictures of huge parts of the sky.

That will help scientists track how the universe has expanded over time. Roman will also hunt for exoplanets, which are planets around other stars. Its wide camera can spot exoplanets that older telescopes might miss. Researchers hope Roman's discoveries answer some of astronomy's biggest questions.

BACKGROUND

Roman is named after Nancy Grace Roman, NASA's first chief astronomer.

Why it matters: Learning about dark energy and finding new planets could change what we know about space.

What to watch: Watch for Roman's first test images later this year.

Source: Space.com (<https://www.space.com/news/live/nancy-grace-roman-telescope-live-updates-nasa-readies-roman-for-launch-august-30-2026>); ScienceDaily, 'NASA is about to launch a powerful new eye on the universe' (<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2026/08/260823094140.htm>); Bloomberg (<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2026-08-30/spacex-set-to-launch-nasa-s-dark-energy-hunting-space-telescope>)

SCIENCE & TECH (CONT.)

NASA Delays Crew-13 Launch After Spacecraft Leak

CAPE CANAVERAL, FLA. — NASA and SpaceX have delayed a launch to the space station. The mission is called Crew-13. It was set to carry new astronauts to the orbiting lab. Engineers found a leak in the Dragon spacecraft. Officials postponed the flight to investigate the problem. Checking for leaks before launch is a normal safety step. NASA has not yet announced a new launch date. The Crew-13 astronauts will keep training while engineers work. Meanwhile, the current crew remains safely aboard the space station.

BACKGROUND

Dragon spacecraft regularly fly astronauts to the International Space Station for NASA and SpaceX.

Why it matters: Safety checks like this help make sure astronauts stay safe during launch.

What to watch: NASA will announce a new launch date once the leak is fixed.

Source: Bloomberg, 'NASA, SpaceX Delay ISS Crew-13 Launch to Investigate Dragon Spacecraft Leak' (<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2026-08-30/nasa-spacex-postpone-iss-mission-launch-after-spacecraft-leak>)

SPORTS

Yankees Blow Out Red Sox in Bronx Finale

NEW YORK — The Yankees wrapped up their series against the Red Sox on Sunday. New York won the finale by a score of 16 to 1. The blowout win capped a mixed weekend between the two rivals. Fans in the Bronx watched New York's offense pile up runs early. The Yankees and Red Sox are longtime American League rivals. Both teams are trying to climb the standings late in the season. Sunday's result gave New York plenty of momentum heading into the week.

BACKGROUND

The Yankees and Red Sox are longtime rivals in the American League East.

Why it matters: A big win like this can boost a team's momentum late in the season.

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

Source: ESPN (https://www.espn.com/mlb/game/_/gameId/401816732/red-sox-yankees); MLB.com Gameday (<https://www.mlb.com/gameday/red-sox-vs-yankees/2026/08/30/823502/final>); MLB.com (<https://www.mlb.com/stories/game/823502>)

Giants Close Out Preseason With Win Over Jets

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — The New York Giants closed their preseason with a win over the Jets. The final score was 23 to 6. The Jets forced two early turnovers, but Giants still pulled ahead. Preseason games help coaches decide who makes the final roster. Both teams now shift focus to the regular season. Rosters must be trimmed down before the season begins. Fans will soon see final lineups for opening day. Preseason wins do not count in the standings, but confidence still matters.

BACKGROUND

NFL teams must trim rosters to 53 players before the regular season begins.

Why it matters: Final roster decisions affect how competitive each team will be this season.

What to watch: Watch for roster cut announcements from both teams in the coming days.

Source: Giants.com (<https://www.giants.com/news/instant-analysis-giants-close-preseason-with-23-6-win-over-jets>); NewYorkJets.com (<https://www.newyorkjets.com/news/jets-giants-game-recap-08-28-2026>); Big Blue Interactive (<https://bigblueinteractive.com/2026/08/28/new-york-giants-23-new-york-jets-6/>)

OUR TEAMS

New York Yankees Yankees 16, Red Sox 1

Sunday's American League East series finale in the Bronx.

SOUTHERN MAINE

Maine's 2026 Election Season Underway

AUGUSTA, MAINE — Maine voters will head to the polls this November. They will choose a new governor for the state. Voters will also elect one U.S. senator from Maine. Several seats in the Maine House of Representatives are on the ballot too. Candidates from different parties are campaigning across the state this fall. Local debates and town hall events are expected in the coming weeks. Election officials are also preparing polling places for voting day. Maine residents can check with local town offices for registration details.

BACKGROUND

Maine holds elections for governor, U.S. Senate and the state House on a regular schedule.

Why it matters: These races will decide who represents Maine in Augusta and in Washington.

What to watch: Watch for candidate debates and primary results in the coming weeks.

Source: Wikipedia, '2026 Maine elections' (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2026_Maine_elections); Wikipedia, '2026 United States Senate election in Maine' (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2026_United_States_Senate_election_in_Maine); Wikipedia, '2026 Maine gubernatorial election' (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2026_Maine_gubernatorial_election); Wikipedia, '2026 Maine House of Representatives election' (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2026_Maine_House_of_Representatives_election)