

The Breakfast Table Times

TODAY'S NEWS, MADE FOR KIDS

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TOP STORY

Oil Prices Rise as US Squeezes Iran's Economy

WASHINGTON — The United States and Iran have been at war since earlier this summer. Now the US is trying a new way to win. On Wednesday, President Trump promised to hurt Iran with money and trade instead of only soldiers. The US Navy is blocking ships from leaving Iran's ports. Those ports sit on the Strait of Hormuz, a narrow strip of sea. Much of the world's oil passes through it. With less oil moving, the price of oil rose about 2 percent this week. Leaders from both countries have talked about a deal. They have not reached one yet.

Why it matters: *When oil costs more, the gas your family buys for the car usually costs more too.*

Source: CNN, CNBC, Reuters

NATION & WORLD

Russia Attacks Ukraine's Capital Overnight

KYIV — Russia fired missiles and drones at Kyiv, the capital of Ukraine, during the night. At least 14 people were killed, and other towns across the country were hit too. Ukraine and Russia have been at war since 2022, when Russia invaded its neighbor. Rescue crews rushed to the damaged buildings to help people and put out fires. Leaders from other countries have spent months trying to arrange peace talks, but the fighting has continued. Ukraine sits about 5,000 miles from Maine, so the war does not put people here in danger.

Why it matters: *Many Ukrainian families have moved to the US to stay safe, and some kids in American schools came from there.*

Source: AP, Reuters, BBC

A Big Election Is Coming This November

WASHINGTON — This fall, Americans will vote in a big election. It fills every seat in the House of Representatives. The House is one half of Congress. Congress is the group of people who write our country's laws. All 435 House members are up for election. About a third of the Senate is too. The Senate is the other half of Congress. These are called midterm elections. They land halfway between the elections for president. The votes decide which side controls Congress. That changes which new laws can pass. Election Day is Tuesday, November 3.

Why it matters: *The people chosen help decide things like how much money schools get and what your family pays in taxes.*

Source: AP, congress.gov

MONEY & WORK

The US Lost Jobs Last Month

WASHINGTON — Every month the government counts how many jobs the country gained or lost. The newest count, for July, surprised experts. Instead of adding jobs, the US lost about 23,000 of them. That means more people are looking for work and having a harder time finding it. The share of people without a job, called the unemployment rate, ticked up a little. When companies feel unsure about the future, they slow down their hiring. Some experts think this could push the Federal Reserve, the bank that guides the whole economy, to make borrowing money cheaper.

Why it matters: *When jobs are harder to find, families spend more carefully, which slowly changes prices at the store.*

Source: AP, CNBC, NBC News

SCIENCE & TECH

Telescope Finds How Our Galaxy Grew Up

BALTIMORE — Scientists using the Hubble Space Telescope solved an old mystery about the Milky Way, the galaxy our planet lives in. Billions of years ago, a smaller galaxy crashed into the young Milky Way and became part of it. The new study shows our galaxy started growing this way earlier than anyone thought. Galaxies are giant groups of stars, dust, and planets held together in space. By studying the paths of very old stars, scientists can look back in time to see what happened. The Milky Way holds more than 100 billion stars today.

Why it matters: *The Sun and Earth are part of the Milky Way, so this is the story of how our own corner of space was built.*

Source: NASA, ESA/Hubble

Shooting Stars Filled the August Sky

Every August, Earth passes through a trail of dust left behind by a comet. The tiny bits burn up in our sky as streaks of light called meteors, or shooting stars. This yearly show, named the Perseids, is one of the best of the year. At its peak this month, people in dark places could see dozens of meteors every hour. The dust specks are often no bigger than a grain of sand. They move so fast that they glow bright white when they slam into the air high above us.

Why it matters: *The next big meteor shower comes in December, and all you need to watch is a dark backyard and some patience.*

Source: NASA

SPORTS

Yankees Beat the Orioles on the Road

BALTIMORE — The New York Yankees won 5-3 against the Baltimore Orioles on Wednesday night. The win was a big one. The Yankees are pushing to reach the playoffs this fall. Baseball's regular season runs until the end of September. Every win matters now while teams fight for a spot. The Yankees and Orioles play in the same division. That means games between them count for extra in the standings. Good pitching and timely hitting carried New York to the win.

Why it matters: *If the Yankees keep winning, they could still be playing deep into October when the World Series is decided.*

Source: MLB.com, ESPN

Sea Dogs Win as a Star Returns to Portland

PORTLAND — The Portland Sea Dogs, Maine's minor league baseball team, won 7-5 at home this week. The night was special because Roman Anthony, a young Boston Red Sox star, played for the Sea Dogs while he recovered from an injury. Players often join a minor league team for a few games to get back in shape before returning to the big leagues. Anthony hit a home run in his return, and the Portland crowd cheered him on. The Sea Dogs are chasing a playoff spot of their own.

Why it matters: *The Sea Dogs play right in Portland, so it's a chance to watch a future big-league star up close for the price of a cheap ticket.*

Source: Portland Sea Dogs, MiLB.com

OUR TEAMS

Yankees Won 5-3 at Baltimore

A key win in the AL East race with the playoffs coming

SOUTHERN MAINE

York Hospital Will Join a Larger Maine Network

YORK, MAINE — State regulators said yes to a plan for York Hospital to join MaineHealth, the biggest health care group in the state. York Hospital has served the town on its own for more than 100 years. Joining MaineHealth connects it to many other hospitals and doctors across Maine. Leaders of the hospital say the change will help it afford new equipment and keep offering care close to home. Some people worry that big networks can feel less personal than a local hospital. The two sides still have a few steps to finish before the merger is complete.

Why it matters: *This is the hospital many York families go to when someone is sick or hurt, so how it runs matters to the whole town.*

Source: Portland Press Herald, Maine Public, Bangor Daily News

GOOD NEWS

A National Park Opens Its Trails to More Visitors

SPRINGDALE, UTAH — Zion National Park in Utah is now lending special all-terrain wheelchairs so more people can explore its trails. The chairs have big, rugged wheels that roll over dirt, rocks, and bumps a regular wheelchair cannot handle. That means visitors who use wheelchairs can reach beautiful spots that were once out of reach. Park rangers say Zion is one of the first national parks to offer them, and the chairs are free to borrow. The idea is simple: the outdoors should be open to everybody.

Why it matters: *It means a kid who uses a wheelchair can roll right up to a canyon view next to their friends and family.*

Source: Good News Network

WORD OF THE DAY

blockade

When ships or supplies are stopped from getting in or out of a place, usually during a fight between countries.

Used in a sentence: If your little brother stood in the doorway and would not let anyone into your room, that would be a blockade.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

1977

NASA launched the Voyager 2 spacecraft. It is still flying today, more than 15 billion miles from Earth, sending signals back from beyond our solar system.

TALK ABOUT IT

1. The US is using money and trade to pressure Iran instead of only its army. When is it fair to use money as a weapon, and when isn't it?
2. York Hospital is trading some of its independence to join a bigger group. When is it worth giving up doing something your own way to get more help?
3. Zion is lending wheelchairs so more people can enjoy the park. What is one place in your town you would change so everyone could use it?