

The Daily Scoop

TODAY'S NEWS, MADE FOR KIDS

SATURDAY, AUGUST 22, 2026

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TOP STORY

U.S. Puts a 50% Tax on Some Canadian Goods

WASHINGTON — The United States began charging a 50% tariff on some Canadian goods early Saturday. A tariff is a tax a country puts on things brought in from somewhere else. The new tax covers about \$20 billion of what Canada sells us, roughly one out of every twenty dollars' worth.

Trade talks fell apart Friday night. The U.S. trade office said Canada backed out of a deal both sides had agreed to earlier in the week. Canadian leaders do not tell it that way.

Prime Minister Mark Carney said Canada will match the tax dollar for dollar. He also promised help within days for Canadian workers who lose their jobs.

Why it matters: Stores here pay the tax at the border, so some groceries and building supplies could get more expensive.

Source: AP, Al Jazeera, CNBC

NATION & WORLD

Gas Prices Hit Their Highest August Level Ever

WASHINGTON — Gas in the U.S. now costs about \$4.06 a gallon, close to a dollar more than it cost a year ago. It is the highest August price ever recorded.

The reason is a war. The U.S. and Israel have been fighting Iran since late February. Shipping slowed through the Strait of Hormuz, a narrow neck of water that about a fifth of the world's oil passes through.

This week President Trump announced what he called economic warfare on Iran. The plan punishes other countries and companies that keep buying Iranian oil. Peace talks between the two countries missed a deadline on August 17 and have not restarted since.

Why it matters: Higher gas prices show up in the family car and in the price of anything a truck delivers.

Source: AAA, NPR, CNBC

Plane Crash in Alaska Kills All Eight on Board

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA — A small charter plane crashed Thursday afternoon in western Alaska. All eight people on board died. Two were pilots and six were passengers.

The plane left Anchorage and was landing at Cape Newenham, a radar station about 450 miles west of the city. Radar stations watch the sky over Alaska and keep track of planes flying near the border.

The people on board worked at that station. Two of them worked for the Army Corps of Engineers. Nobody knows yet why the plane went down. The National Transportation Safety Board, the agency that investigates crashes, has started its work.

Why it matters: Alaska is so spread out that many towns can only be reached by small plane, so flying is part of ordinary life there.

Source: NPR, CBS News, NBC News

GOVERNMENT

Supreme Court Lets White House Ballroom Work Go On

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court said Friday that work can keep going on a huge new ballroom at the White House, at least for now.

A judge ordered the work stopped in March. He said Congress, which controls how the government spends money, never approved it. The Trump administration says the building is needed for security and should not have to wait.

The ballroom sits where the East Wing used to be. It covers about 90,000 square feet, twice the size of the main White House. It is expected to cost taxpayers more than \$300 million. The court has not decided the case yet.

Why it matters: The real fight is over who decides how the country spends money, the president or Congress.

Source: NPR, CNN, CNBC

MONEY & WORK

Families Will Spend a Record Amount on School Stuff

WASHINGTON — Families with kids in kindergarten through 12th grade plan to spend about \$864 on back-to-school shopping this year. That is a few dollars more than last year. Added up across the country, it comes to \$43.3 billion, a record.

The numbers come from a survey of 7,677 shoppers by the National Retail Federation, a group that speaks for stores.

Electronics cost the most, about \$293 per student. Clothes come next at \$250, then shoes at \$174. Pencils, notebooks and the rest of the school list are the smallest piece, about \$146.

Why it matters: The supply list your teacher hands out is the cheapest part of going back to school.

Source: National Retail Federation, AP

SCIENCE & TECH

NASA Clears Its New Telescope for an August 30 Launch

CAPE CANAVERAL, FLA. — NASA said Friday that its newest space telescope is ready to fly. The Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope will launch August 30 on a SpaceX Falcon Heavy rocket from Florida.

Roman's mirror is the same size as the Hubble telescope's. But Roman can photograph a piece of sky about 100 times wider in a single shot. That lets it survey huge numbers of stars quickly.

Scientists will use it to hunt for planets around other stars. They will also study dark energy, the force that seems to be pushing the universe apart. Nobody knows what it is.

Why it matters: You can watch the launch live on August 30, and the pictures Roman sends back will be free for anyone to look at.

Source: NASA, SpaceNews

SPORTS

Yankees Hold Off Toronto 3-1 at Home

BRONX, N.Y. — The Yankees beat the Toronto Blue Jays 3-1 on Friday night at Yankee Stadium. Toronto actually got more hits, nine to New York's four. They just could not turn them into runs.

Spencer Jones put the Yankees ahead in the second inning with a two-run home run. Cam Schlichter pitched well enough to win. David Bednar finished it for his 30th save of the season.

Toronto went 1-for-14 with runners in scoring position. Manager John Schneider said his team needed one big hit and never got it. The teams play again this weekend.

Why it matters: *These two teams share a division, so games against each other count double in the standings race.*

Source: FOX Sports, Bleacher Report

Sea Dogs Fall 11-1 to the Team Ahead of Them

PORTLAND, MAINE — The Portland Sea Dogs lost 11-1 to the Reading Fightin Phils on Thursday night at Hadlock Field. The game was close through seven innings before Reading pulled away.

Will Turner hit his 14th home run of the year. Justin Gonzales, ranked the second-best young player in the Red Sox system, homered in his very first Double-A game.

Portland sits second in its division, a game and a half behind Reading. That is the same team it just lost to. The Sea Dogs have sold out 22 games this season, 11 of them since the All-Star break.

Why it matters: *Hadlock Field is about an hour from York, and Double-A is where most future Red Sox play first.*

Source: Portland Sea Dogs game notes

OUR TEAMS

Yankees Won 3-1 vs. Toronto

Series with Toronto continues this weekend in the Bronx

SOUTHERN MAINE

Sharks Spotted Off Two Local Beaches

KENNEBUNKPORT, MAINE — People spotted sharks off two Southern Maine beaches Thursday. One was Gooch's Beach in Kennebunk. The other was Goose Rocks Beach in Kennebunkport.

Kennebunkport police posted a warning asking swimmers to stay alert. If you see one, they said, walk calmly out of the water, tell the people around you, and call the police.

This has been a busy summer for sightings. Wells Beach closed to swimmers on August 12 after a shark was seen. There were sightings in Biddeford and Scarborough too. Great white sharks follow seals up the coast in late summer.

Why it matters: *This is the stretch of coast where a lot of York families swim in August.*

Source: Portland Press Herald, WGME

GOOD NEWS

An Otter Returns to the Bronx River After 100 Years

BRONX, N.Y. — A river otter has turned up along the Bronx River in New York City. It is the first one recorded there in about 100 years.

A scientist named RJ Hawkins set up cameras that switch on when something moves past. One of them photographed the otter on June 23. The Bronx Zoo announced the find this week.

Otters only settle where the water is clean and the fish are plentiful. Biologists treat them as a report card on a river. Pollution and trapping drove them out generations ago. Beavers came back to the same river in 2007.

Why it matters: *People spent decades cleaning up that river without knowing whether it would work. It worked.*

Source: Wildlife Conservation Society, Gothamist, CBS New York

WORD OF THE DAY

tariff

A tax a country charges on goods brought in from another country. The company doing the importing pays it, not the country that made the goods.

Used in a sentence: If there were a tariff on hockey sticks from Canada, the ones at your local shop would cost more.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

1989

Nolan Ryan struck out Rickey Henderson for his 5,000th career strikeout, the first pitcher ever to reach that number. He was 42 years old and pitched four more seasons after that.

TALK ABOUT IT

1. The U.S. and Canada are each taxing the other's goods to get the other side to give in. If a friend did something you didn't like, would making things harder for them get you what you want?
2. Families spend about twice as much on electronics as on actual school supplies. If you had \$864 for the school year, how would you split it up?
3. It took decades of cleanup before one otter showed up on a camera in the Bronx. Is that worth the money? How would you decide?