

The Daily Scoop

TODAY'S NEWS, MADE FOR KIDS

SUNDAY, AUGUST 23, 2026

EDITION NO. 1

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TOP STORY

US Adds New Sanctions on Iran

WASHINGTON — The United States put a new round of sanctions on Iran this week. Sanctions are punishments that make it hard for a country to buy and sell things. Iran's foreign ministry called them a "declaration of war on all nations." The two countries have been fighting since February.

President Trump said Iran "would love to make a deal, but they're not ready to make the right deal in my opinion." He also said he treats the Strait of Hormuz as American territory right now. That strait is a narrow lane of water between Iran and Oman. A large share of the world's oil is shipped through it.

Why it matters: *Oil that cannot move through that water is why gas costs more at every station in Maine.*

Source: Al Jazeera, CNN

NATION & WORLD

US Puts Big Tariffs on Canadian Goods

WASHINGTON — Trade talks between the United States and Canada fell apart Friday night. Early Saturday, the United States began charging a 50% tariff on about \$20 billion of Canadian goods. A tariff is a tax on things brought in from another country.

The list covers machines, dairy, steel, lumber, cars, and hockey gear. Oil and gas were left off. Canada's prime minister, Mark Carney, said the terms were unfair. He promised to match the tariffs dollar for dollar. The US trade office said Canada backed out of a deal it had already agreed to.

Why it matters: *Canada sells Americans more goods than almost any other country, so some prices here could go up.*

Source: Al Jazeera, Axios, NBC News

GOVERNMENT

Judge Throws Out a Visa Ban on 75 Countries

NEW YORK — A federal judge threw out a rule that had blocked people from 75 countries from getting immigrant visas. A visa is written permission to move to another country.

Judge Jeannette Vargas ruled Saturday that the rule broke a law Congress wrote. That law says an officer must look at each person one at a time. The State Department had argued that people from those countries were likely to need government help. It has not said whether it will appeal. The rule had been in place since January, and it kept many families apart.

Why it matters: *Some kids in American schools have waited months for a parent or grandparent to be allowed in.*

Source: PBS NewsHour, Al Jazeera, NPR

MONEY & WORK

Gas Hits Its Highest August Price Ever

WASHINGTON — Gas cost more this week than in any August on record. The average price for a gallon of regular gas hit \$4.10 on Thursday. That is three cents more than last week and about 97 cents more than a year ago.

Filling a 15-gallon tank now costs roughly \$15 more than it did last summer. The reason is crude oil, which sits near \$80 a barrel because ships cannot move safely through the Strait of Hormuz. Walmart said shoppers are making trade-offs and buying less on each trip to the store.

Why it matters: *Money your family spends on gas is money it cannot spend on something else.*

Source: AAA, Walmart earnings release

SCIENCE & TECH

Astronomers Spot the Fastest Star in Our Galaxy

GARCHING, GERMANY — Astronomers found the fastest star ever seen in the Milky Way. It is called S301, and it circles the giant black hole at the center of our galaxy.

S301 moves about 25,000 kilometers every second. That is 8% of the speed of light. It finishes a full lap in 8.7 years, shorter than any star measured there before. A team led by Felix Mang in Germany used four big telescopes in Chile working together as one. They hope S301 will show them how fast the black hole spins. That answer is at least ten years away.

Why it matters: *This star covers more distance in one second than your family car will cover all year.*

Source: European Southern Observatory, Nature, Science News

Scientists Crack a 100-Year-Old Cat Mystery

MORIOKA, JAPAN — For more than a hundred years, scientists wondered why cat kidneys are packed with blobs of fat. Now they know.

The blobs store 13 special fatty acids that end up in a cat's urine. Every cat has its own mix, and the mix stays the same over time. That turns a cat's mark into a chemical name tag other cats can read for at least a day. Masao Miyazaki led the work at Iwate University in Japan. His team found similar chemicals in lions, tigers, and leopards. Nobody has proven yet that wild cats use them to tell each other apart.

Why it matters: *Your cat is not being gross when it marks the house. It is signing its name.*

Source: Current Biology, Japan Times, Science

SPORTS

Blue Jays Edge the Yankees 4-3

NEW YORK — The Yankees lost 4-3 to the Toronto Blue Jays on Saturday at Yankee Stadium. It snapped a short winning streak. New York had beaten Toronto 3-1 on Friday and Baltimore 6-1 on Thursday.

The Yankees are 73-56 and sit second in the American League East. The same two teams close out their series Sunday afternoon. After that the Yankees host Houston for three games, then head to Boston next weekend. Toronto is chasing the same division title, so these games matter more than most.

Why it matters: *The Yankees and Blue Jays are close enough that one game could decide the division.*

Source: MLB.com, ESPN, Baseball-Reference

New England Is Out at the Little League World Series

SOUTH WILLIAMSPORT, PA. — The Little League World Series is down to 12 teams. New England's team, from Bridgewater, Massachusetts, was knocked out Saturday. Hamilton, Ohio beat them 10-0 in four innings, and two Ohio pitchers gave up no hits at all.

Bridgewater reached Pennsylvania by beating Gray, Maine 8-0 in the regional final. Three no-hitters have been thrown in two days. On Sunday night the Atlanta Braves and Milwaukee Brewers play the Little League Classic on a small field nearby, with the young players in the stands. The championship game is August 30.

Why it matters: *Every player on that field started in a local league, the same way York Little League works.*

Source: Little League International, NBC Boston

OUR TEAMS

Yankees

Lost 4-3 to Toronto on Saturday

Record 73-56, second in the AL East. Play Toronto again Sunday, then host Houston Aug. 25-27.

SOUTHERN MAINE

Kittery Starts Strict Water Rules

KITTERY — Kittery started strict water rules Monday. Homes with odd-numbered addresses may water outside on Mondays and Thursdays. Even-numbered addresses get Tuesdays and Fridays. Nobody may water on weekends, and only between 8 p.m. and 7 a.m.

A first violation brings a warning. A second brings a \$100 fine. The town's ponds are as low as they usually are in November. About 886,000 people in Maine now live in an area with some level of drought. Southern Maine has had roughly half its normal rain this year.

Why it matters: *If the dry weather holds, more York County towns will add rules like Kittery's.*

Source: Portland Press Herald, Maine Public, US Drought Monitor

Sharks Seen Off Kennebunk Beaches

KENNEBUNKPORT — Police warned swimmers Thursday after sharks were seen off Gooch's Beach in Kennebunk and Goose Rocks Beach in Kennebunkport. Maine beaches from Georgetown down to Wells have had short swim closures all summer.

Marine biologist Matt Davis says most sharks here are young white sharks, six to eight feet long, chasing striped bass and bluefish. The species is slowly recovering after the United States banned hunting them in the late 1990s. White sharks take 30 to 35 years to have young of their own. Scarborough Beach now patrols with jet skis and drones every day.

Why it matters: *More sharks off Maine is a sign the ocean is healthier, and a good reason to swim near a lifeguard.*

Source: Portland Press Herald, Bangor Daily News

GOOD NEWS

A River Otter Turns Up in the Bronx

BRONX, N.Y. — A hidden camera caught a river otter along the Bronx River in New York City. It is the first one recorded in the Bronx in about 100 years.

RJ Hawkins, a scientist at the Bronx Zoo, has run cameras on that river since 2024. He said he could hardly believe the pictures. Otters vanished long ago because of pollution, lost habitat, and trapping. Volunteers and city workers have spent decades pulling out trash and cleaning the water. Beavers came back in 2007. Otters need clean water and plenty of fish, so this is a bigger step.

Why it matters: *A river people had given up on came back because people kept working on it.*

Source: Wildlife Conservation Society, CBS New York, Gothamist

WORD OF THE DAY

tariff

A tax a country charges on things brought in from other countries.

Used in a sentence: If there were a tariff on sneakers made in Vietnam, your next pair would cost more at the store.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

1977

On August 23, 1977, a pilot named Bryan Allen pedaled an aircraft called the Gossamer Condor around a mile-long figure-eight course in California. It was the first lasting, steered flight powered only by a human body.

TALK ABOUT IT

1. Kittery fines people who water their lawns on the wrong day. Is a fine a fair way to save water, or would something else work better?

2. The Bronx River took decades of cleanup before an otter came back. Would you work on something for 30 years if you might not see it finish?

3. Bridgewater lost 10-0 and went home. If you were their coach, what would you say in the dugout afterward?