

The Breakfast Table Times

TODAY'S NEWS, MADE FOR KIDS

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TOP STORY

Congress Averts Shutdown Before Midterms

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Congress faced a tight deadline last week. Lawmakers needed to pass a new spending law. Without it, many government offices would have closed. This kind of closure is called a shutdown. The House and Senate agreed on a short-term spending bill instead.

It funds the government for several more weeks. Leaders wanted to avoid a shutdown before the November elections. Shutdowns can delay paychecks for federal workers. They can also close some public offices and parks. This deal gives Congress more time to work on a longer budget.

BACKGROUND

The federal government must pass spending bills to stay open. When lawmakers cannot agree, some offices must close until a deal is reached.

Why it matters: A shutdown can delay paychecks for workers and pause some government services that families use.

What to watch: Congress will need to agree on a longer-term budget before the short-term bill runs out.

Source: CNN (<https://www.cnn.com/2026/09/01/politics/congress-government-shutdown-midterms>); NBC News (<https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/congress/senate-leaders-reach-deal-avert-shutdown-2026-elections-rcna590564>); NPR via Houston Public Media (<https://www.houstonpublicmedia.org/npr/2026/09/01/nx-s1-5951536/congress-averts-a-government-shutdown-ahead-of-the-midterms/>)

NATION & WORLD

Weather Cancels Classes in the Philippines

MANILA, PHILIPPINES — Schools across parts of the Philippines canceled classes on Monday. Local officials made the call because of bad weather. Heavy rain can flood roads and make travel unsafe. Suspending classes protects students and teachers during storms.

This kind of announcement is common in the Philippines during storm season. Officials will decide later when it is safe to reopen schools. Families are encouraged to check local alerts for updates. The Philippines often faces strong storms in early September. Similar closures have happened in past years for safety.

BACKGROUND

The Philippines often faces typhoons and heavy rain, especially in late summer and early fall.

Why it matters: Class suspensions protect students and teachers from unsafe travel conditions.

What to watch: Watch local announcements to see when schools reopen.

Source: GMA News Online (<https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/serbisyo/publiko/walangpasok/1001383/walang-pasok-class-suspensions-for-monday-september-7-2026/story/>)

GOVERNMENT

What Is a Government Shutdown?

WASHINGTON, D.C. — A government shutdown happens when Congress cannot agree on funding. Federal agencies must pause work that is not considered essential. Many employees may be told to stay home without pay. Essential workers, like air traffic controllers, keep working during a shutdown.

Shutdowns have happened several times in United States history. Each time, lawmakers eventually agree on a new funding bill. Experts say shutdowns can cost the government money and slow services. That is one reason both parties often try to avoid them. This year, Congress avoided a shutdown by passing a stopgap bill.

BACKGROUND

Shutdowns happen when Congress and the president cannot agree on funding bills by a deadline.

Why it matters: Understanding shutdowns helps students see how the government pays for public services.

What to watch: Look for how often short-term bills are used instead of full-year budgets.

Source: Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget (<https://www.crfb.org/papers/government-shutdowns-qa-everything-you-should-know>); Wikipedia, '2026 United States federal government shutdowns' (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2026_United_States_federal_government_shutdowns)

SPORTS

Padres Take Series Finale From Yankees

SAN DIEGO, CALIF. — The New York Yankees lost the final game of their series on Sunday. The San Diego Padres won by a score of four to three. Yankees starter Gerrit Cole struggled on the mound. He allowed back-to-back home runs early in the game.

Padres sluggers Fernando Tatis Jr. and Manny Machado both connected for homers. New York had bounced back the day before, winning five to one. San Diego also took the series opener on Friday. That gave the Padres two wins in the three-game set. The Yankees now hope to regroup before their next series begins.

BACKGROUND

The Yankees and Padres played a three-game series in San Diego this past week.

Why it matters: Late-season games can affect a team's chances of making the playoffs.

What to watch: Watch how the Yankees' pitching staff performs in upcoming games.

Source: ESPN (https://www.espn.com/mlb/game/_/gameId/401816840/yankees-padres); MLB.com Gameday (<https://www.mlb.com/gameday/yankees-vs-padres/2026/09/06/823253>); CBS Sports (https://www.cbssports.com/mlb/gametracker/boxscore/MLB_20260906_NYY@SD/); Pinstripe Alley (<https://www.pinstripealley.com/yankees-scores-standings/206312/yankees-game-recap-score-padres-gerrit-cole-consecutive-homers-tatis-cronenworth-machado-miller-spencer-jones-rosario>)

OUR TEAMS

New York Yankees Lost 4-3 to the San Diego Padres

Sept. 6 game in San Diego; Gerrit Cole allowed back-to-back home runs as the Padres took the three-game series, two games to one.

SPORTS (CONT.)

Giants Release 2026 Schedule

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — The New York Giants released their official 2026 schedule. Fans can now see which teams the Giants will face this season. The schedule includes matchups against NFC East rivals. Those rivals are the Dallas Cowboys, Philadelphia Eagles, and Washington Commanders.

Games against division rivals often decide playoff spots. The full NFL season includes many exciting matchups every week. Giants fans are already planning which games to watch. Ticket sales and preseason plans are moving forward too.

BACKGROUND

NFL teams release their schedules months before the season begins, showing fans which opponents they will face and when.

Why it matters: The schedule helps fans plan which games to attend or watch, and it gives coaches a roadmap for the season.

What to watch: Watch for how the Giants perform against their NFC East rivals this season.

Source: Giants.com (<https://www.giants.com/news/nfl-schedule-2026-new-york-giants-tickets-information-cowboys-eagles-commanders>); NFL.com (<https://www.nfl.com/schedules/2026/by-team/new-york-giants>)

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SCIENCE & TECH

NASA's September Sky Guide Highlights Eclipse

WASHINGTON, D.C. — NASA released its skywatching guide for September 2026. The guide tells stargazers which planets are visible this month. It also features recent photos from a solar eclipse. During an eclipse, the moon passes between Earth and the sun.

This blocks sunlight and darkens the sky for a short time. NASA's photo pages showed the eclipse's shadow moving across the ground. Scientists and photographers around the world captured the rare event. NASA encourages families to look up and enjoy the night sky.

BACKGROUND

NASA publishes monthly guides to help people find planets and other objects in the night sky.

Why it matters: Learning to observe the sky safely helps students understand space science firsthand.

What to watch: Look for NASA's next skywatching guide at the start of next month.

Source: NASA Science, 'What's Up: September 2026 Skywatching Tips' (<https://science.nasa.gov/solar-system/skywatching/whats-up-september-2026-skywatching-tips-from-nasa/>); NASA APOD, 'Chasing the Moon's Shadow' (<https://science.nasa.gov/image-article/apod-2026-september-5-chasing-the-moons-shadow/>); NASA APOD, 'Solar Eclipses and Culture' (<https://science.nasa.gov/image-article/apod-2026-september-2-solar-eclipses-and-culture/>)

SOUTHERN MAINE

Maine Education Department Issues Weekly Update

AUGUSTA, MAINE — Maine's Department of Education shared its weekly update on September 4. The update gives schools information as the new year begins. It includes notes for teachers, staff, and families. Districts use these updates to plan lessons and events.

The start of a school year involves many moving parts. Buses, classrooms, and staff schedules all need coordination. State updates help keep everyone on the same page. More updates will come throughout the school year. Families can find the full update on the state's website.

BACKGROUND

Maine's Department of Education regularly issues updates to help schools navigate the new academic year.

Why it matters: Clear communication between the state and local districts helps schools run smoothly for students and staff.

What to watch: Watch for future weekly updates as the school year continues.

Source: Maine DOE News, 'Maine DOE Update – September 4, 2026' (<https://mainedoenews.net/2026/09/04/maine-doe-update-september-4-2026/>)

GOOD NEWS

Fall Festival Season Kicks Off Across Maine

PORTLAND, MAINE — Maine is starting its busy fall festival season. Towns across the state are holding harvest fairs and craft shows. Visitors can enjoy picking apples, visiting pumpkin patches, and eating local food. Some festivals have live music and farm animals to see.

Visit Maine's website lists many events this month. These fun gatherings bring neighbors together after a busy summer. Cooler weather makes it a nice time to be outside. Many families visit a fall festival every year. Local farms and shops often get more visitors during this time.

BACKGROUND

Maine hosts many harvest fairs and community festivals each September, drawing visitors from around the region.

Why it matters: These events support local businesses and give families fun ways to enjoy the fall season.

What to watch: Check Visit Maine's calendar for festival dates near you.

Source: Visit Maine, Festivals & Events (<https://visitmaine.com/festivals-events/>)