

The Breakfast Table Times

THE DAY'S NEWS, IN FULL

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2026

EDITION NO. 17

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TOP STORY

America Marks 25 Years Since September 11 With Ceremonies, Honors

WASHINGTON, D.C. — This week marks the 25th anniversary of the September 11, 2001, attacks that killed nearly 3,000 people. On Tuesday, President Trump stood near a steel beam from the World Trade Center's South Tower. He said the battered beam shows that America's strength cannot be destroyed by fire. The beam was brought by the Tunnel to Towers Foundation, named for firefighter Stephen Siller. Siller ran through the Brooklyn-Battery Tunnel on foot to help others on September 11. He later died while trying to save people inside the towers. On Friday, exactly 25 years later, the beam will travel back through that same tunnel.

During the ceremony, Trump also awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom to Welles Crowther. Crowther is remembered as the 'Man in the Red Bandana' for his heroic actions that day. He guided many survivors to safety inside the South Tower before it collapsed. Crowther died while trying to rescue more people trapped inside the building. His story remains one of the most well-known acts of courage from September 11.

Many students today were born years after the attacks took place. Anniversaries like this help pass down important history to new generations. Schools and communities are holding ceremonies this week to honor victims and first responders. Educators say remembering September 11 teaches lessons about courage, service, and unity.

BACKGROUND

The September 11 attacks involved hijacked airplanes striking the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and a field in Pennsylvania, reshaping U.S. security policy for decades.

Why it matters: Milestone anniversaries like this one help younger generations understand a defining moment in American history while honoring the sacrifices of first responders and victims' families.

What to watch: Watch for additional 9/11 commemorations nationwide through Friday, including the beam's ceremonial return trip through the Brooklyn-Battery Tunnel.

Source: World News Group, Wednesday Morning News (<https://wng.org/podcasts/wednesday-morning-news-september-9-2026-1788897891>); Your Erie, Today's Top Stories (<https://www.youerie.com/news/local-news/todays-top-stories/todays-top-stories-september-8-2026/>)

NATION & WORLD

Sununu Wins New Hampshire Special Senate Primary

MANCHESTER, N.H. — New Hampshire voters headed to the polls this week for a special election to fill a U.S. Senate seat. Republican candidate John E. Sununu won his party's primary in Manchester, setting up his run in the general election. Sununu addressed supporters shortly after his primary victory was announced Tuesday night. Special elections like this one fill seats that become vacant outside the normal election cycle.

Primaries allow each political party to choose the candidate who will represent them in the final election. Voters registered with a specific party typically vote only in that party's primary contest. Sununu now advances to face the winner of the Democratic primary later this year. His campaign is expected to focus on issues important to New Hampshire voters, including the economy and jobs.

This race is drawing national attention because it comes just months before the November midterm elections. Control of the U.S. Senate could be affected by the outcome of races like this one. Analysts say special elections often serve as early indicators of voter mood heading into bigger contests. Both parties are expected to invest heavily in the general election campaign this fall. Voter turnout in special elections can vary widely depending on local interest and timing.

BACKGROUND

New Hampshire's Senate seat became open earlier this year, triggering a special election under state law.

Why it matters: The result could influence which party controls the Senate and offers an early read on voter sentiment before the midterms.

What to watch: Watch for the Democratic primary results and the scheduled date of the general election in the coming weeks.

Source: World News Group, Wednesday Morning News (<https://wng.org/podcasts/wednesday-morning-news-september-9-2026-1788897891>)

NATION & WORLD (CONT.)

Allies Move to Restrict Trade in Israeli Settlement Goods

LONDON, ENGLAND — Several Western countries announced new restrictions this week on goods produced in Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank. France and Canada joined the United Kingdom in banning the import of these settlement products. The move marks a significant shift among longtime allies of Israel regarding policies in the region. Officials say the bans target goods specifically linked to settlements, not products from within Israel itself.

The United Kingdom also announced a broader reset of its diplomatic relations with Israel this week. Britain's foreign minister used unusually strong language while explaining the government's decision. The announcement reflects growing international debate over settlement expansion in the West Bank. Diplomats say these steps could affect trade relationships between Israel and several European nations.

International disputes over the West Bank have persisted for decades without a lasting resolution. Analysts say coordinated actions by multiple countries can carry more diplomatic weight than actions taken alone. The policy changes may influence ongoing negotiations and international discussions about the region's future. Officials from Israel have not yet issued a detailed public response to the announcements. The debate highlights broader tensions over how the international community addresses the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Officials say further diplomatic talks are expected in the coming weeks.

BACKGROUND

Israeli settlements are communities built by Israel in the West Bank, a territory that has been the subject of international dispute for decades.

Why it matters: *Changes in how Western allies engage with Israel can shape diplomatic and economic relationships in the region for years to come.*

What to watch: *Watch for Israel's official response and whether other countries adopt similar restrictions in the coming weeks.*

Source: NPR, World News (<https://www.npr.org/sections/world/>)

GOVERNMENT

Congress Averts Shutdown, Extends Funding to December

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The U.S. House of Representatives passed a bipartisan bill this week to keep the federal government funded through December 11. Lawmakers approved the measure by a lopsided vote of 370 to 48, reflecting broad support from both parties. The bill now heads to President Trump, who is expected to sign it into law. Passing the bill helps the government avoid a shutdown just weeks before the November midterm elections.

Government shutdowns occur when Congress fails to approve spending bills needed to fund federal agencies. This Congress previously set a record for the longest government shutdown in United States history. That earlier shutdown disrupted federal services and delayed paychecks for hundreds of thousands of workers. Lawmakers from both parties said they wanted to avoid a repeat shutdown ahead of the campaign season.

By pushing the funding deadline to December, Congress delayed further budget fights until after the elections. Analysts say this timing gives lawmakers more room to campaign without the distraction of a funding crisis. However, the same disagreements over spending levels are expected to resurface later this year. Voters will likely hear more about government funding decisions as the midterm elections approach. Both parties say they hope to avoid similar showdowns in future funding cycles.

BACKGROUND

A government shutdown happens when Congress cannot agree on legislation to fund federal operations, forcing many agencies to pause nonessential work.

Why it matters: *Avoiding a shutdown keeps government services running and removes a politically risky issue from the campaign trail for now.*

What to watch: *Watch for renewed funding negotiations as the new December 11 deadline approaches.*

Source: CNN Politics (<https://www.cnn.com/2026/09/01/politics/congress-government-shutdown-midterms>); NPR (<https://www.npr.org/2026/09/01/nx-s1-5951536/house-government-funding-vote-midterms>)

MONEY & WORK

Hannaford Settles Manager Pay Lawsuit for \$9 Million

PORTLAND, MAINE — Grocery chain Hannaford has agreed to pay \$9 million to settle a lawsuit involving how it compensated store managers. The settlement resolves claims that the company failed to properly pay managers for overtime work. Hannaford operates numerous stores throughout Maine and other parts of New England. The company has not publicly admitted to any wrongdoing as part of the agreement.

Wage and labor disputes like this one often arise when employees believe they were misclassified or underpaid. Under federal and state labor laws, certain workers must receive overtime pay for hours beyond a standard work week. Settlements allow companies to resolve disputes without going through a lengthy trial process. Affected employees may be eligible to receive a portion of the settlement funds.

Cases like this highlight ongoing scrutiny of how retailers classify and pay their workers. Legal experts say wage disputes remain common across the retail and grocery industries nationwide. The outcome could prompt other companies to review their own pay practices for store managers. Consumers in Maine may also pay closer attention to labor practices at stores they frequent. State officials say they will continue monitoring wage compliance among major retailers. Consumer advocacy groups praised the settlement as a step toward fair pay.

BACKGROUND

Wage and hour laws set rules for how employees must be paid, including overtime for hours worked beyond 40 per week.

Why it matters: Settlements like this can affect workers' paychecks and encourage companies to review their payroll practices.

What to watch: Watch for details on how affected employees can claim settlement funds in the coming months.

Source: Central Maine News (<https://www.centralmaine.com/news/>)

Rising Minimum Teacher Pay Puts Pressure on Maine School Budgets

AUGUSTA, MAINE — Maine's minimum salary for public school teachers is increasing this year under a new state policy. Supporters say raising the minimum pay helps schools recruit and retain qualified teachers. However, some school districts are questioning whether their budgets can absorb the higher costs. Smaller and rural districts often have less flexibility in their overall spending than larger districts.

School funding in Maine comes from a combination of state aid and local property taxes. When mandated costs rise, districts must either cut other programs or seek additional revenue. Some local officials worry that raising taxes to cover pay increases could strain family budgets. Teachers unions argue that competitive pay is necessary to prevent staff shortages in classrooms.

The debate reflects a broader national conversation about how to fund public education fairly. Several other states have also raised minimum teacher salaries in recent years. Education officials in Maine are expected to review district budgets this fall. The outcome could shape how the state approaches teacher pay policy in future years. Some parents say they support higher pay if it improves classroom stability. Officials expect ongoing budget discussions throughout the fall legislative session. Analysts say the policy could influence teacher recruitment trends statewide.

BACKGROUND

Public school funding typically comes from a mix of state and local sources, which can create disparities between wealthier and poorer districts.

Why it matters: How states balance teacher pay with school budgets affects both educators' livelihoods and the quality of education students receive.

What to watch: Watch for how individual school districts adjust their budgets this fall to meet the new minimum pay requirement.

Source: Central Maine News (<https://www.centralmaine.com/news/>)

SCIENCE & TECH

Apple Unveils Foldable iPhone Ultra at Major Product Event

CUPERTINO, CALIF. — Apple held one of its most anticipated product events of the year this week. The company introduced several new devices, including updated iPhone models and a redesigned Apple Watch. Rumors leading up to the event also pointed to new AirPods and additional accessories. Tech analysts had described the event as a major showcase for Apple's latest innovations.

Among the most notable announcements was Apple's first foldable phone, called the iPhone Ultra. Foldable phones use flexible screens that allow the device to fold in half for easier portability. Two new iPhone 18 Pro models were also unveiled alongside the foldable design. Industry watchers say foldable technology could represent the next major shift in smartphone design.

This event marked one of the first major product launches under new Apple CEO John Ternus. Ternus recently took over leadership of the company and had teased a 'huge launch' in advance. Analysts will be watching closely to see how the new devices perform in the marketplace. Consumer reaction to the foldable iPhone could influence how other companies approach future phone designs. Preorders for the new devices are expected to begin within the next few weeks. Retail analysts predict strong early demand for the foldable model.

BACKGROUND

Apple has released new iPhone models nearly every year since 2007, with each generation typically introducing updated features and designs.

- Why it matters:** Apple's product decisions often influence broader trends across the technology industry, affecting competitors and consumers alike.
- What to watch:** Watch for official pricing, release dates, and early reviews of the new foldable iPhone in the weeks ahead.

Source: 9to5Mac (<https://9to5mac.com/2026/09/03/apple-will-launch-six-major-new-products-next-week-heres-whats-coming/>)

SPORTS

Judge's Return Sparks Yankees Past Rockies, 5-3

NEW YORK, N.Y. — The New York Yankees defeated the Colorado Rockies 5-3 on Tuesday night at Yankee Stadium. The game featured a tense pitching duel between two very different starting rotations. Right-hander Cam Schlichter, a serious contender for the American League Cy Young Award, started for New York. He faced Rockies starter Gabriel Hughes in a closely contested matchup. Both pitchers limited scoring opportunities through the early innings. New York's offense finally broke through late to secure the victory.

The night's most significant storyline centered on Aaron Judge's return to the lineup. Judge had missed nearly two months while recovering on the 60-day injured list. He is widely regarded as one of baseball's most dominant power hitters. His absence had weighed heavily on the Yankees during a critical stretch of the season. In his first at-bat back, Judge struck out against Hughes. The moment served as a reminder that even elite players need time to readjust after a long layoff. Despite that early setback, his presence appeared to energize his teammates.

New York's bullpen, which has been reliable throughout September, closed out the final innings without trouble. The win improved the Yankees' record to 81 wins and 62 losses, keeping them firmly in playoff contention. Colorado fell to 55 wins and 88 losses, extending a difficult season. The two teams will conclude their series on Wednesday, giving Judge another chance to find his timing. Manager Aaron Boone said the team plans to ease Judge back into regular duty gradually. With the season winding down, every remaining game carries extra weight for New York's playoff push.

BACKGROUND

Aaron Judge is one of the Yankees' key power hitters and has previously won league MVP honors.

- Why it matters:** Judge's return could strengthen the Yankees' lineup as the team competes for playoff positioning late in the season.
- What to watch:** Watch how Judge performs in the coming games as he works to regain his regular-season form.

Source: Yahoo Sports (<https://sports.yahoo.com/articles/rockies-homer-yankees-2-1-022741431.html>); MLBDB Box Score (<https://www.mlbdb.com/score/new-york-yankees-vs-colorado-rockies-823500>)

OUR TEAMS

New York Yankees Yankees 5, Rockies 3

Aaron Judge returned to the lineup after a long injury absence and was struck out by Rockies starter Gabriel Hughes in a tight pitching battle before New York's bullpen closed out the win.

SOUTHERN MAINE

South Portland Ranks 17th on Fortune's Family-Friendly Cities List

SOUTH PORTLAND, MAINE — South Portland has once again earned national recognition as one of the best places to live for families. Fortune magazine ranked the city 17th on its annual list highlighting family-friendly communities across the country. This marks the second time in recent years that South Portland has appeared on the list. City officials say the recognition reflects years of investment in schools, parks, and public services.

Rankings like Fortune's typically consider factors such as school quality, safety, affordability, and community amenities. Local leaders credit strong schools and accessible recreation areas for helping the city stand out. Residents often point to the sense of community as a key reason families choose to settle there. City officials say they plan to continue investing in programs that support families and young people.

The ranking brings positive attention to Southern Maine at a time when many communities compete for new residents. Local business leaders say national recognition like this can help attract new families and investment. Community members expressed pride in the achievement, calling it a reflection of shared effort. City leaders say they hope to build on this momentum in future years. Officials say they plan to highlight the ranking in future tourism materials.

BACKGROUND

Fortune's annual rankings evaluate cities nationwide based on quality-of-life factors that matter most to families.

Why it matters: National recognition can boost local pride and potentially attract new residents and businesses to the region.

What to watch: Watch for how city officials highlight this recognition in future community planning and promotional efforts.

Source: South Portland, ME Official Website (<https://www.southportland.gov/>)

GOOD NEWS

Coordinated Operation Rescues Nearly 80 Missing Children

WASHINGTON, D.C. — A coordinated law enforcement operation this week led to the rescue of nearly 80 missing children across multiple states. Officials say the operation involved collaboration between several local, state, and federal agencies. Investigators worked for weeks to track down leads and locate the missing children safely. Most of the children have since been reunited with their families or placed with appropriate caregivers.

Missing children cases can be especially difficult to solve, often requiring extensive investigative resources. Law enforcement officials say operations like this rely heavily on shared information between different agencies. Advances in technology have also helped investigators track leads more efficiently in recent years. Officials emphasized that community tips often play a critical role in locating missing children.

The successful operation highlights the importance of continued investment in child safety programs nationwide. Advocacy groups say public awareness campaigns can help prevent children from going missing in the first place. Officials say they hope to build on the success of this operation with future efforts. Families affected by the rescues expressed gratitude for the officers' dedication and hard work. Officials plan to review the operation for lessons that could improve future efforts. Community members praised the officers for their persistence and dedication.

BACKGROUND

Missing children cases are investigated by a range of agencies, including local police, the FBI, and organizations dedicated to child safety.

Why it matters: Successful operations like this demonstrate how coordinated efforts among agencies can directly protect vulnerable children.

What to watch: Watch for updates on how officials plan to expand cooperation between agencies to prevent future cases.

Source: World News Group, Wednesday Morning News (<https://wng.org/podcasts/wednesday-morning-news-september-9-2026-1788897891>)