

The Breakfast Table Times

THE DAY'S NEWS, IN FULL

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PAGE 1 OF 5

TOP STORY

Nation Marks 25th Anniversary of September 11 Attacks

NEW YORK — SEPT. 12, 2026 — This week marks the 25th anniversary of the September 11, 2001 attacks. Nearly 3,000 people died that day in New York, Washington, D.C., and Pennsylvania. Ceremonies were held at memorial sites in all three locations on Friday. The New York ceremony began at 8:30 in the morning. Family members of victims read the names of loved ones aloud. This tradition has continued every year since the attacks occurred.

The anniversary also honored first responders who rushed toward danger that day. Firefighters and police officers were among those who helped save lives. Many responders later developed serious illnesses linked to their work at the attack sites. Their sacrifice remains a central part of the day's remembrance. Communities across the country marked the occasion with moments of silence and service projects. Educational programs also reached students who were born after the attacks took place.

News coverage noted that the attacks led to the longest war in United States history. The events of that day also reshaped national security policy for a generation. Twenty-five years later, historians say the anniversary offers a chance to teach younger generations. Many students today have only read about the attacks in history books. Officials expect similar ceremonies to continue in future years. The country continues to process the impact of that day.

BACKGROUND

The September 11, 2001 attacks killed nearly 3,000 people and remain one of the deadliest days in American history, prompting lasting changes to national security and foreign policy.

Why it matters: *The anniversary offers a moment for national reflection and a chance to pass on the history to younger generations who did not live through the event.*

What to watch: *Additional commemorations and educational programs are expected in communities nationwide in the coming days.*

Source: PBS News Hour, 'September 11, 2026 - PBS News Hour full episode,' <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/show/september-11-2026-pbs-news-hour-full-episode>; 9/11 Memorial Visitor Guide, <https://www.vibenyctours.com/post/september-11-2026-9-11-memorial-visitor-guide>

NATION & WORLD

Houthi Rebels Seize Red Sea Island as U.S. Adds Sanctions on Iran-Backed Groups

SANAA, YEMEN — SEPT. 12, 2026 — Iran-backed Houthi rebels in Yemen have seized a small island near the Red Sea. The island sits at the entrance to one of the world's busiest shipping lanes. Ships carrying oil, natural gas, and consumer goods travel through this narrow waterway between Europe, Africa, and Asia. Any disruption there could ripple through global trade. The Houthis have attacked commercial vessels in this region before, raising concerns about further threats.

Separately, the U.S. Treasury Department announced new sanctions this week aimed at groups backed by Iran. The sanctions target companies and individuals accused of funding Hezbollah and related militias across the region. Treasury officials named entities based in Iraq, the United Arab Emirates, Lebanon, and Turkey. Many of those named are accused of supporting Kata'ib Hezbollah, an Iraqi paramilitary group linked to Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps. The sanctions are meant to cut off funding networks that sustain armed groups throughout the Middle East.

Together, the island seizure and the new sanctions highlight rising tension across the Middle East. Analysts warn that instability in the Red Sea could push up fuel prices for consumers worldwide. Higher shipping costs often translate into higher prices for everyday goods at home. U.S. officials say they will keep watching the situation closely in the weeks ahead. Global trade groups are also monitoring how this standoff might affect supply chains and shipping routes.

BACKGROUND

The Red Sea is a vital corridor for global shipping, and Houthi attacks on vessels since 2023 have already disrupted trade routes and raised insurance costs for shippers.

Why it matters: *Continued instability in the region could affect global oil prices and the cost of goods shipped worldwide.*

What to watch: *Watch for responses from shipping companies and whether other nations increase naval patrols in the area.*

Source: PBS News Hour, <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/show/september-11-2026-pbs-news-hour-full-episode>; Just Security, 'Early Edition: September 11, 2026,' <https://www.justsecurity.org/156946/early-edition-september-11-2026/>

GOVERNMENT

Republicans Hold First-Ever Midterm Convention Ahead of November Elections

WASHINGTON — SEPT. 12, 2026 — Republicans wrapped up the first-ever midterm convention held by a major U.S. party this week. Traditional conventions typically take place before presidential elections, not midterms. This gathering instead focused on strategy for the November midterm elections. Party leaders used the event to rally supporters and outline priorities. Control of Congress is at stake in this fall's elections.

Midterm elections often serve as a referendum on the sitting president's policies. Both parties are already investing heavily in advertising and voter outreach. Analysts say turnout will likely determine which party controls the House and Senate. Historically, the president's party tends to lose seats in midterm elections.

The new convention format could become a regular tool for both parties going forward. Democrats have not announced whether they will hold a similar event. Voters will get their first major signal of the election's direction in November. All 435 House seats and about a third of Senate seats are on the ballot this fall. State and local offices, including governorships, are also being decided in many parts of the country. The results will shape which party controls the House and Senate for the next two years. That balance of power can affect everything from taxes to national policy debates.

BACKGROUND

Midterm elections take place two years into a president's term and often reflect voter sentiment about the party in power.

Why it matters: *The November elections will determine which party controls Congress and shapes national policy for the next two years.*

What to watch: *Watch for how both parties adjust their messaging as campaign season intensifies through the fall.*

Source: PBS News Hour, <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/show/september-11-2026-pbs-news-hour-full-episode>

Congress Averts Shutdown, Setting Up December Funding Deadline

WASHINGTON — SEPT. 12, 2026 — Congress voted this week to keep the federal government funded through December 11. The move avoids a shutdown just weeks before the November midterm elections. The House passed the stopgap spending bill by a wide bipartisan margin, 370 to 48. The Senate had already approved the same measure back in August. President Trump is expected to sign the bill into law.

The bill extends current spending levels with only a few exceptions. It effectively delays any funding fight until after voters go to the polls. This has been a difficult year for government funding overall. The country experienced two record-long shutdowns over the past twelve months. One lasted 43 days and centered on a dispute over health insurance subsidies. A separate 76-day shutdown hit the Department of Homeland Security.

Lawmakers from both parties said they wanted to avoid a third disruptive shutdown this year. Government shutdowns can delay paychecks for federal workers and disrupt public services. Some lawmakers have even discussed reforming the process to prevent future shutdowns altogether. For now, the December deadline sets up another funding decision right after the elections. Analysts say the timing gives both parties room to campaign without a shutdown looming. Federal agencies will continue operating under existing budget levels until the new deadline arrives.

BACKGROUND

The current Congress has already seen two lengthy shutdowns this year, including a 43-day dispute over health subsidies and a 76-day closure at Homeland Security.

Why it matters: *Avoiding a shutdown keeps federal workers paid and government services running through the fall election season.*

What to watch: *Lawmakers will face another funding decision in mid-December, right after the midterm elections conclude.*

Source: NPR, 'Congress averts a government shutdown ahead of the midterms,' <https://www.npr.org/2026/09/01/nx-s1-5951536/house-government-funding-vote-midterms>; CNN, 'Congress votes to avert government shutdown ahead of midterm elections,' <https://www.cnn.com/2026/09/01/politics/congress-government-shutdown-midterms>

MONEY & WORK

U.S. Job Growth Surges in August, Beating Expectations

WASHINGTON — SEPT. 12, 2026 — The U.S. economy added 162,000 jobs in August, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported. That figure came in nearly three times higher than economists had expected. The unemployment rate held steady at 4.1 percent, unchanged from July. Job growth was strongest in food services and local government education. Wage growth also remained modest, giving the Federal Reserve room to consider future policy moves.

The report also revised July's numbers, erasing an earlier reported decline of 23,000 jobs. That revision suggests the labor market was stronger over the summer than first believed. Economists had worried about a slowdown in hiring earlier this year. August's numbers offered a more optimistic picture for workers and employers alike. Manufacturing and retail hiring were more mixed across different parts of the country.

Steady job growth can boost consumer confidence and household spending. It may also influence decisions by the Federal Reserve on interest rates. Officials often watch monthly jobs data closely for signs of economic health. Analysts will be watching whether September's report continues this stronger trend. Families budgeting for back-to-school and holiday spending may benefit from a stronger job market. Still, some economists caution that one month of data does not guarantee a lasting trend. The next jobs report is due in early October, ahead of the elections.

BACKGROUND

The Bureau of Labor Statistics releases monthly employment data that tracks hiring, unemployment, and wage trends across the country.

Why it matters: Stronger-than-expected job growth suggests the economy may be more resilient than many economists predicted this summer.

What to watch: Watch for the September jobs report in early October and any Federal Reserve response to the data.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 'Employment Situation Summary,' <https://www.bls.gov/news.release/emp/sit.nr0.htm>; PNC Economics Research, https://www.pnc.com/content/dam/pnc-com/pdf/aboutpnc/EconomicReports/EconomicUpdates/2026/PNC_Economics_Research_Payrolls_4_September_2026.pdf

SCIENCE & TECH

NASA Invites Public to Claim a Pixel of the Cosmos

GREENBELT, MD. — SEPT. 12, 2026 — NASA is inviting the public to claim a single pixel from the telescope's first images. The telescope is named after Nancy Grace Roman, an early NASA astronomer. It launched earlier this year on a journey of nearly one million miles. Its destination is a stable point in space known as L2.

At L2, Roman will scan enormous portions of the sky in extraordinary detail. Scientists hope the telescope will reveal new clues about dark matter and dark energy. These mysterious forces make up most of the universe but remain poorly understood. Roman may also help astronomers detect new planets outside our solar system. Roman's wide field of view lets it capture far more sky than Hubble in a single image.

Each pixel in Roman's images will show a piece of space at a resolution never achieved before. NASA's public pixel campaign lets people claim a small piece of an upcoming discovery. The initiative aims to build public interest in the mission before its first images are released. Officials say the approach mirrors past NASA efforts to involve the public in space science. Researchers expect the first full images to be released within the coming months. Space agencies around the world are watching the mission closely for its scientific potential.

BACKGROUND

The Roman Space Telescope is designed to study dark matter, dark energy, and distant exoplanets from its position at the L2 point beyond Earth's orbit.

Why it matters: The mission could reshape scientific understanding of the universe's structure and history.

What to watch: NASA is expected to release Roman's first full images within the coming months.

Source: NASA Science, <https://science.nasa.gov/>

SCIENCE & TECH (CONT.)

Saturn's South Pole Reveals a Mysterious 10-Sided Pattern

PASADENA, CALIF. — SEPT. 12, 2026 — Scientists have discovered a strange new atmospheric pattern surrounding Saturn's south pole. The newly identified shape has ten sides, earning comparisons to a decagon. It stands in contrast to Saturn's famous six-sided hexagon at the north pole, which has intrigued astronomers for decades. Researchers used archived data from the Hubble Space Telescope to make the discovery. The finding surprised researchers who had expected any new pattern to resemble the familiar hexagon shape.

Unlike the long-standing northern hexagon, the new southern pattern appears to be relatively recent. Hubble observations suggest the shape only formed within the past several years. Scientists are still studying what atmospheric forces might create such a symmetrical pattern. Saturn's poles experience extreme jet streams that can produce unusual and long-lasting shapes. Some scientists believe seasonal changes on Saturn could be linked to the pattern's sudden appearance.

The discovery adds a new piece to the puzzle of how gas giant atmospheres behave. Jupiter, Saturn, and other large planets often display complex, swirling weather systems. Understanding Saturn's poles could help scientists model atmospheres on planets outside our solar system as well. Researchers say further observations will be needed to confirm exactly how the pattern formed and how long it will last. NASA plans to continue monitoring Saturn using both Hubble and other telescopes in the years ahead.

BACKGROUND

Saturn's north pole has featured a well-studied six-sided storm pattern, known as a hexagon, for decades.

Why it matters: *The discovery could help scientists better understand atmospheric behavior on gas giant planets.*

What to watch: *Researchers plan continued observations to determine how long the newly discovered pattern will last.*

Source: ScienceDaily,
https://www.sciencedaily.com/news/space_time/space_exploration/

SPORTS

Bellinger's Three-Run Homer Lifts Yankees Past Mets, 6-4

NEW YORK — SEPT. 12, 2026 — Cody Bellinger crushed a three-run homer in the second inning against Mets rookie Nolan McLean, delivering the decisive blow in a 6-4 Yankees victory over their crosstown rivals. Ben Rice also connected for a home run, adding to an offensive surge in a contest carrying unusual emotional significance for both franchises. Rookie outfielder Spencer Jones contributed an early RBI single. Ryan McMahon later added a crucial insurance run with a base hit in the eighth inning.

The victory arrived on a night that commemorated the 25th anniversary of the September 11 attacks. Fans at Yankee Stadium observed a solemn moment of silence before the opening pitch. New York improved to 85-62 on the season, extending its remarkable stretch of 17 victories in the last 24 games. Manager Aaron Boone praised his players afterward for maintaining composure during an emotionally demanding week for the city. The triumph pushed the Yankees to a season-high 23 games above the .500 mark, underscoring their sustained momentum.

Despite the impressive win, the Yankees still trail Tampa Bay by three games in the competitive American League East standings. They maintain a comfortable five-and-a-half game advantage over Boston for the league's first wild-card position. Rookie left-hander Zac Thornton is scheduled to start Saturday's contest for the Mets. He will oppose Yankees ace Gerrit Cole, who carries an 8-8 record this season. Both clubs enter the weekend series eager to build additional momentum before the stretch run.

What to watch: *The Yankees and Mets continue their series Saturday, with Gerrit Cole facing Mets rookie Zac Thornton.*

Source: CBS Sports, 'New York Mets vs. New York Yankees Box Score,'
https://www.cbssports.com/mlb/gametracker/boxscore/MLB_20260911_NYM@NY

OUR TEAMS

New York Yankees

Yankees 6, Mets 4 (Friday, Sept. 11, 2026)

Cody Bellinger hit a three-run homer and Ben Rice also went deep as the Yankees improved to 85-62. Gerrit Cole starts Saturday against Mets rookie Zac Thornton.

SOUTHERN MAINE

Maine Releases First Fall Foliage Report of 2026 Season

AUGUSTA, MAINE — SEPT. 12, 2026 — Maine has released its first fall foliage report of the 2026 season. The report, issued this month, tracks how leaf colors are changing across different regions of the state. Foliage watchers monitor color changes weekly throughout the fall season. Early reports typically show only the beginnings of color change in higher elevations. This year's early report offers a first glimpse for residents and visitors planning fall trips.

Fall foliage season is an important part of Maine's tourism economy each year. Visitors travel from across the country and around the world to see the changing leaves. Southern Maine communities often see an influx of visitors as colors move south through October. Local businesses, including inns and shops, depend on the seasonal boost in visitors. Popular activities during the season include scenic drives, hiking, and apple picking events.

State officials plan to release updated foliage reports on a regular basis throughout the season. These reports help travelers time their trips to see peak colors. Weather conditions, including temperature and rainfall, can influence how vivid the colors become. Maine's official tourism office typically promotes foliage season through websites and social media updates. Statewide data collection typically continues into November as colors move from north to south. Officials encourage checking updated reports before planning long weekend trips.

BACKGROUND

Fall foliage tourism is a significant contributor to Maine's economy, drawing visitors from across the country each autumn.

Why it matters: *The report helps residents and visitors plan trips to see Maine's seasonal color change.*

What to watch: *State officials are expected to release updated foliage reports throughout September and October.*

Source: WABI-TV, 'Maine releases first fall foliage report of 2026,' <https://www.wabi.tv/2026/09/09/maine-releases-first-fall-foliage-report-2026/>

GOOD NEWS

International Observe the Moon Night Set for September 19

WASHINGTON — SEPT. 12, 2026 — People around the world will celebrate International Observe the Moon Night on September 19. The annual event encourages families and communities to look up and learn about the moon together. NASA helps organize the celebration, which began years ago as a way to connect the public with lunar science. Events typically include telescope viewings, hands-on activities, and presentations about space exploration. This year's event falls on a Saturday, making it easier for families to participate together.

The night also highlights how the moon has influenced cultures and traditions throughout human history. Communities across the country, including libraries, museums, and schools, often host their own local events. Organizers say no special equipment is required to take part. Anyone with clear skies can look up and observe the moon from their own backyard. Some communities also pair the night with discussions about recent lunar missions and discoveries.

NASA has promoted the event for more than a decade to engage the public in science. The celebration coincides with ongoing lunar exploration missions planned by NASA and international partners. Officials hope the event inspires young people to consider careers in science and space exploration. Families interested in participating can find local event listings through NASA's website. The event serves as a reminder of how accessible space science can be for everyday observers.

BACKGROUND

International Observe the Moon Night began as a NASA-supported effort to connect people worldwide with lunar science and exploration.

Why it matters: *The event offers an accessible, free way for families to engage with space science together.*

What to watch: *Local libraries, museums, and schools are expected to host viewing events on September 19.*

Source: NASA Science, <https://science.nasa.gov/>