

The Breakfast Table Times

TODAY'S NEWS, MADE FOR KIDS

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TOP STORY

Nation Marks 25 Years Since Sept. 11 Attacks

NEW YORK — SEPT. 12, 2026 — This week marks 25 years since the September 11 attacks. Nearly 3,000 people died in New York, Washington, D.C., and Pennsylvania. Ceremonies were held at memorials in all three places. Families read aloud the names of loved ones lost.

The anniversary also honored firefighters, police officers, and volunteers who helped that day. Many communities held moments of silence and service projects this week. Some students learned about the attacks for the first time in class. Leaders said the country still works to remember and learn from that day.

BACKGROUND

The September 11, 2001 attacks were among the deadliest in U.S. history and led to major changes in security and foreign policy.

Why it matters: *The anniversary is a chance for the country to remember victims and honor first responders.*

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

NATION & WORLD

Rebels Seize Island Near Key Red Sea Shipping Route

SANAA, YEMEN — SEPT. 12, 2026 — 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 and goods often pass through this narrow waterway.

The Houthis are backed by Iran and have attacked ships before. Taking the island could let them control which ships pass through safely. Countries around the world are watching the situation closely. Higher shipping costs could affect prices on goods people buy.

BACKGROUND

The Red Sea is a major route for oil and cargo ships traveling between Europe, Africa, and Asia.

Why it matters: *Control of the shipping lane could affect global trade and fuel prices.*

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

GOVERNMENT

Republicans Hold First-Ever Midterm Convention

WASHINGTON — SEPT. 12, 2026 — Republicans just wrapped up a brand-new kind of convention. It happened before this fall's elections, not before a presidential race. That has never happened before in American history.

Party leaders used the event to talk about their plans. They want more voters to support their candidates this November. Millions of Americans will vote for Congress this fall. Those elections will decide who controls the House and Senate. Both parties are already campaigning hard for votes.

BACKGROUND

Political conventions are large gatherings where parties set goals and energize supporters.

Why it matters: *The midterm elections in November will decide control of Congress.*

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

Congress Avoids Shutdown Ahead of Midterms

WASHINGTON — SEPT. 12, 2026 — Congress voted this week to keep the federal government funded through December 11. The House passed the plan by a wide margin, 370 to 48. The Senate had already approved the same measure in August.

President Trump is expected to sign the bill into law. This move avoids a shutdown just before the November elections. The country has already seen two long shutdowns this past year. One lasted 43 days, and another at Homeland Security lasted 76 days.

BACKGROUND

A government shutdown happens when Congress fails to approve funding, forcing many federal offices to close.

Why it matters: *This deal keeps paychecks flowing to federal workers and delays a political fight until after elections.*

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

MONEY & WORK

Hiring Picks Up as U.S. Adds 162,000 Jobs in August

WASHINGTON — SEPT. 12, 2026 — The U.S. economy added 162,000 jobs in August, according to a new government report. That number was much higher than experts had expected. The unemployment rate stayed steady at 4.1 percent.

Restaurants and local schools were among the industries that hired the most workers. Officials also revised July's job numbers, erasing an earlier reported decline. The report suggests the job market is stronger than many thought this summer. Steady hiring can help families feel more confident about spending money.

BACKGROUND

Each month, the Bureau of Labor Statistics tracks how many jobs are added or lost nationwide.

Why it matters: Strong job growth can boost family incomes and confidence in the economy.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, <https://www.bls.gov/news.release/empstn.nr0.htm>

SCIENCE & TECH

NASA Invites Public to Claim a Piece of Space

GREENBELT, MD. — SEPT. 12, 2026 — NASA wants the public to claim a pixel from its newest space telescope. The telescope is named after astronomer Nancy Grace Roman. It is traveling nearly a million miles to reach a spot called L2.

Once it arrives, Roman will scan huge parts of the sky. Scientists hope it will reveal clues about dark matter and dark energy. It may also help find new planets outside our solar system. Each pixel in its images could show a piece of space never seen before.

BACKGROUND

The Roman Space Telescope is designed to study dark matter, dark energy, and distant planets.

Why it matters: The project lets everyday people connect with a major scientific mission.

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

Saturn's South Pole Reveals Mysterious 10-Sided Shape

PASADENA, CALIF. — SEPT. 12, 2026 — Scientists have discovered a strange new pattern near Saturn's south pole. The shape has 10 sides and surrounds the pole like a giant ring. It reminds researchers of the famous six-sided hexagon at Saturn's north pole.

Unlike the hexagon, this 10-sided pattern seems to be new. Data from the Hubble Space Telescope suggests it only recently formed. Scientists are not yet sure what causes these strange shapes in Saturn's atmosphere. The discovery could help explain how weather works on giant gas planets.

BACKGROUND

Saturn's north pole has long featured a famous six-sided storm pattern called a hexagon.

Why it matters: Studying these odd shapes could teach scientists more about weather on giant planets.

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

SPORTS

Yankees Rally Past Mets on Bellinger's Big Blast

NEW YORK — SEPT. 12, 2026 — Cody Bellinger hit a three-run homer to lead the Yankees past the Mets, 6-4. Ben Rice also homered as New York improved to 85-62 on the season. The win came on a night honoring the 25th anniversary of Sept. 11.

The Yankees have now won 17 of their last 24 games. They sit three games behind Tampa Bay in the AL East. New York also leads Boston by five-and-a-half games for a wild card spot. Ace Gerrit Cole is set to start Saturday's game against the Mets.

Source: CBS Sports, https://www.cbssports.com/mlb/gametracker/boxscore/MLB_20260911_NYM@NYY/

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 the Season

AUGUSTA, MAINE — SEPT. 12, 2026 — Maine has released its first fall foliage report of the season. Foliage watchers track how leaf colors change across the state each week. The early report helps people plan trips to see the colors. The report comes from state foliage experts.

Fall is a popular time for visitors in Maine. Many people enjoy driving or hiking to see colorful leaves. Reports like this one are released regularly throughout autumn. Southern Maine residents can look forward to updates in the coming weeks.

Why it matters: The report helps families plan trips to see Maine's fall colors.

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

GOOD NEWS

Moon-Watching Event Invites Families to Look Up

WASHINGTON — SEPT. 12, 2026 — Next week, families around the world can look at the moon together. This special night happens every year in September. It is called International Observe the Moon Night.

Many towns will host fun moon events. People can look through telescopes and learn cool facts. The moon has inspired stories in many cultures for ages. NASA hopes families everywhere will host their own moon parties. This year's event falls on September 19. Anyone with clear skies can join in and watch the moon.

BACKGROUND

International Observe the Moon Night began as a way to connect people worldwide with lunar science.

Why it matters: It's a simple, free way for families to learn about space together.

What to watch: The event takes place September 19, with activities planned in many communities.

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