

The Breakfast Table Times

TODAY'S NEWS, MADE FOR KIDS

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2026

EDITION NO. 21

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TOP STORY

Congress Passes Bill to Avoid Shutdown

WASHINGTON — Congress passed a temporary spending bill this month. The bill stops a government shutdown before the November elections. Lawmakers from both parties voted for it. A shutdown could close some offices. It could also delay paychecks for many workers.

This kind of bill is called a stopgap. It gives Congress more time to agree on a full budget. Leaders wanted to keep parks and offices open. The vote came after weeks of talks between Democrats and Republicans. Experts say another funding deadline will come later this year.

BACKGROUND

Government shutdowns happen when Congress cannot agree on funding before money runs out.

Why it matters: This agreement keeps government services running and protects paychecks for federal workers ahead of the elections.

What to watch: Watch for Congress's next spending deadline in the coming months.

Source: CNN, <https://www.cnn.com/2026/09/01/politics/congress-government-shutdown-midterms>; Nextgov/FCW, <https://www.nextgov.com/policy/2026/09/shutdown-threat-lifted-house-passes-stopgap-spending-bill/415755/>; Wikipedia, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2026_United_States_federal_government_shutdowns

MONEY & WORK

August Jobs Report Released

WASHINGTON — The government released its jobs report this week. It covers hiring numbers from August. The report shows how many jobs were added or lost. It also shows the unemployment rate. That number tells us how many people are looking for work.

Experts watch this report every month. It helps them understand if the economy is growing. Business owners also use the data to plan hiring. This report is one of the most watched updates in the country. The next report will come out in early October.

BACKGROUND

The jobs report comes out on the first Friday of each month and covers the previous month's hiring data.

Why it matters: This report helps show whether more Americans are finding work or struggling to find jobs.

What to watch: Watch for the next jobs report, covering September data, expected in early October.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, <https://www.bls.gov/news.release/empsit.nr0.htm>; BLS archive, https://www.bls.gov/news.release/archives/empsit_09042026.htm

SCIENCE & TECH

NASA Begins Testing New Space Telescope

CAPE CANAVERAL, FLA. — NASA is testing a new space telescope called Roman. It launched into space earlier this year. Engineers are checking every part before science begins. This testing stage is called commissioning. It can take several months to finish.

Roman will study dark energy and distant galaxies. It can also look for planets outside our solar system. Its camera can see a much wider view than older telescopes like Hubble. Scientists hope Roman will help explain how the universe is growing. Once testing ends, Roman will begin its main science work.

BACKGROUND

The telescope is named after Nancy Grace Roman, NASA's first chief astronomer.

Why it matters: Roman could help scientists answer major questions about the universe's expansion and discover new planets.

What to watch: Watch for updates as NASA completes testing and Roman begins its science mission.

Source: Space.com, <https://www.space.com/news/live/nancy-grace-roman-telescope-live-updates-nasa-begins-spacecraft-commissioning-september-2026>; Wikipedia, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2026_in_spaceflight

NASA's September Skywatching Guide

WASHINGTON — NASA shared tips for watching the sky this September. You can see bright planets after sunset. The Moon will also change shape throughout the month. NASA posts a sky guide like this every month.

You do not need special equipment to enjoy the view. A clear sky and a little patience are enough. NASA suggests looking low on the horizon after dark. The guide also mentions any meteor showers this month. Families and hobby astronomers enjoy these simple tips. Check NASA's website for exact viewing times.

BACKGROUND

NASA publishes a skywatching guide every month describing what's visible in the night sky.

Why it matters: These tips make astronomy accessible to anyone with a clear view of the sky.

What to watch: Check NASA's website for specific viewing times for planets and the Moon this month.

Source: NASA Science, <https://science.nasa.gov/solar-system/skywatching/whats-up-september-2026-skywatching-tips-from-nasa/>

SPORTS

Mets Rout Yankees in Subway Series

NEW YORK — The New York Yankees fell to the New York Mets, 12-2, in their latest Subway Series matchup on September 12. The Mets scored early and often, building a big lead that the Yankees could not overcome.

Subway Series games between the Yankees and Mets always draw plenty of attention from New York baseball fans. The lopsided score marked one of the Mets' more convincing wins of the season. Yankees players will look to bounce back in their next scheduled game. Both teams continue to jockey for playoff positioning as the regular season nears its final weeks.

BACKGROUND

The Subway Series refers to games between New York's two Major League Baseball teams, the Yankees and Mets.

Why it matters: *The result affects both teams' momentum as the regular season winds down.*

What to watch: *Watch how each team performs in their remaining games as the playoff race continues.*

Source: ESPN, https://www.espn.com/mlb/game/_/gameId/401816909/mets-yankees; MLB.com, <https://www.mlb.com/stories/game/823496>

Giants and Cowboys Renew Rivalry

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — The New York Giants host the Dallas Cowboys this weekend at MetLife Stadium. Both teams hope to win an early season game. The Giants and Cowboys have been longtime rivals for many years. Their games often draw large crowds and big TV audiences.

Coaches expect a tough matchup between two teams still finding their rhythm. A win could boost either team's confidence heading into the next few weeks. Fans on both sides are expected to fill the stadium. This early game could shape momentum for both teams this season.

BACKGROUND

The Giants and Cowboys are longtime NFC East rivals who have faced each other for decades.

Why it matters: *An early-season win can help set the tone for a team's confidence going forward.*

What to watch: *Watch how each team's offense performs in the season's early weeks.*

Source: Bleacher Report, <https://bleacherreport.com/game/dallas-cowboys-vs-new-york-giants-2026-9-13-19-20>; Big Blue Interactive, <https://bigblueinteractive.com/2026/09/11/preview-dallas-cowboys-at-new-york-giants-september-13-2026/>; NFL.com, <https://www.nfl.com/schedules/2026/by-team/new-york-giants>

OUR TEAMS

New York Yankees Lost 12-2 to the New York Mets

Subway Series game played September 12, 2026, at Yankee Stadium.

SOUTHERN MAINE

Maine's Governor Race Heats Up

PORTLAND, MAINE — Maine voters will pick a new governor this November. Candidates have been campaigning across the whole state. They visit both big cities and small towns. The race often focuses on jobs, schools, and health care.

Local papers like the Portland Press Herald cover the campaign closely. They report on debates and public events. As Election Day gets closer, more people are expected to vote. Towns are helping residents learn how to register. The next governor will help set state policy for years to come.

BACKGROUND

Maine holds a gubernatorial election every four years to choose its top state leader.

Why it matters: *The next governor will help shape state policy on issues like education and health care.*

What to watch: *Watch for candidate debates and campaign events as Election Day approaches in November.*

Source: Wikipedia, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2026_Maine_gubernatorial_election; Portland Press Herald, <https://www.pressherald.com/news/localstate/>

Southern Maine Gets Ready for Fall

GRAY, MAINE — Summer is turning into fall across Southern Maine. Days are getting cooler and shorter. The National Weather Service office in Gray tracks these changes. They issue forecasts for the whole region.

Farmers and outdoor businesses often adjust their schedules in September. Towns in Cumberland and York counties plan fall festivals. Weather can change quickly during this time of year. Residents are encouraged to check forecasts often. Mornings are cooler while afternoons stay milder. Fall foliage season will soon follow.

BACKGROUND

The National Weather Service office in Gray, Maine, provides forecasts for Southern Maine and surrounding areas.

Why it matters: *Seasonal weather changes affect local farming, tourism, and daily planning across the region.*

What to watch: *Watch local forecasts for the start of fall foliage season and cooler temperatures.*

Source: National Weather Service, Gray, Maine, <https://www.weather.gov/gyx/>; Portland Press Herald, <https://www.pressherald.com/news/>