

The Breakfast Table Times

TODAY'S NEWS, MADE FOR KIDS

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TOP STORY

Congress Reaches Deal to Avoid Government Shutdown

WASHINGTON — Lawmakers in Washington reached a deal to fund the government. The deal came just days before a possible shutdown. A shutdown could have closed some offices. It might have delayed paychecks for many workers.

Leaders from both parties backed the plan. It keeps government programs running through the fall. The deal came as elections get closer this year. Some lawmakers now want new rules for shutdowns. These new rules could make shutdowns less likely. For now, parks and services will stay open. Workers will keep receiving their regular paychecks.

Why it matters: *This deal keeps government workers paid and public services running smoothly instead of shutting down right before elections.*

Source: NPR, <https://www.npr.org/2026/09/01/nx-s1-5951536/house-government-funding-vote-midterms>; 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>

NATION & WORLD

Leaders Discuss Peace Efforts in the Middle East

JERUSALEM — Officials in the Middle East held talks this week. The talks focused on a recent strike and an ongoing hostage situation. Israeli leaders said the operation helped free hostages. Other officials debated the effects of the strike.

The discussions are part of larger efforts to reduce fighting in the region. Leaders from other countries, including the United States, have joined the talks. Many families around the world are watching closely and hoping for peace. The situation remains complex, and updates continue each day.

Why it matters: *Disputes over military actions can affect delicate hostage talks and international relationships in the region.*

Source: The Times of Israel, <https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog-september-13-2026/>

GOVERNMENT

Should Congress Change Shutdown Rules?

WASHINGTON — Lawmakers just avoided a government shutdown. Now some in Congress want to fix the whole process. They say shutdown threats happen almost every year. These threats cause problems for workers and agencies.

Some lawmakers want automatic funding extensions. This would keep services running during budget fights. Other lawmakers worry this idea removes pressure to make deals. They plan to study the idea before the next deadline. Many voters will watch how Congress handles this issue. The debate could shape future budget fights.

Why it matters: *How Congress handles funding deadlines affects workers' paychecks and public trust in government.*

Source: Government Executive, <https://www.govexec.com/management/2026/07/lawmakers-avoid-shutdown-and-reconsider-getting-rid-them-entirely/414949/>

MONEY & WORK

What a Shutdown Would Have Cost Workers and Businesses

WASHINGTON — A shutdown could have delayed paychecks for many workers. Small businesses that work with the government also worried. They feared missing payments for their work.

Experts say past shutdowns slowed the economy. They also delayed things like passports and small loans. This time, lawmakers made a deal in time. That deal helped avoid these problems for now. Experts warn the risk could return later this year. Congress still needs a longer plan for funding. Families with government jobs hope for more stable pay.

Why it matters: *Shutdown risks can ripple beyond Washington, affecting workers, contractors, and local businesses.*

Source: The Conference Board, <https://www.conference-board.org/research/policy-backgrounders/congress-moves-closer-to-avoiding-government-shutdown>; Government Executive, <https://www.govexec.com/management/2026/07/lawmakers-avoid-shutdown-and-reconsider-getting-rid-them-entirely/414949/>

SCIENCE & TECH

NASA Shares September Skywatching Tips

NASA — NASA released tips this month for watching the night sky. September offers good views of bright planets after sunset. The Moon's phases are also changing this month.

Skywatchers do not need special equipment to enjoy the show. A clear night and a dark spot away from lights help. NASA suggests checking their skywatching guide for exact times planets will be visible. Families can turn a simple evening outside into a science lesson. It is a fun way to learn about space together.

Why it matters: *Skywatching guides make astronomy easy and fun for families and students to enjoy together.*

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

SPORTS

Yankees Shut Out Mets 2-0 in Subway Series

NEW YORK — The New York Yankees beat the Mets 2-0 on Sunday. The game was played at Yankee Stadium. Strong pitching kept the Mets off the scoreboard the entire game.

The win capped a competitive series between the two crosstown rivals. Yankees fans celebrated the shutout. The Mets look to regroup for their next matchup. Both teams continue their push through the rest of the regular season. Fans on both sides are looking forward to their next meeting.

Why it matters: *The result matters to fans following the historic Yankees-Mets rivalry each season.*

Source: ESPN, https://www.espn.com/mlb/game/_/gameId/401816924/mets-yankees; MLB.com, <https://www.mlb.com/gameday/mets-vs-yankees/2026/09/13/823495/final/box>

Giants Open Season with Win Over Cowboys

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — The New York Giants defeated the Dallas Cowboys 28-20 on Sunday. The game was their season opener at MetLife Stadium. The Giants controlled much of the game despite a late Cowboys push.

The win gives Giants fans an encouraging start to the season. Dallas will look to bounce back next week. New York hopes to build on this early momentum. Both teams still have a long season ahead. Fans on both sides are excited for the season to continue. The rivalry between these two teams goes back decades.

Why it matters: *Season-opening wins can build early confidence and momentum for a team's schedule ahead.*

Source: ESPN, https://www.espn.com/nfl/game/_/gameId/401872930/cowboys-giants; Pro-Football-Reference, <https://www.pro-football-reference.com/boxscores/202609130nyg.htm>

OUR TEAMS

New York Yankees Yankees 2, Mets 0

Final score from Sunday's Subway Series game at Yankee Stadium.

New York Giants Giants 28, Cowboys 20

Final score from Sunday's season-opening game at MetLife Stadium.

SOUTHERN MAINE

Maine Education Department Shares September Updates

AUGUSTA, MAINE — Maine's Department of Education shared a new update. It gives news for schools across the state. The update helps teachers and families too. The new school year has just begun.

State leaders talked about programs that help students. These programs also add new classroom tools. Schools should read the update and tell parents the key points. Leaders say clear news helps students start the year well. Families can find the full update on the department's website.

Why it matters: *Clear updates from the state help schools and families coordinate at the start of the school year.*

Source: Maine DOE Update, <https://mainedoenews.net/2026/09/04/maine-doe-update-september-4-2026/>

GOOD NEWS

Maine Farms Prepare for Fall Festivals

AUGUSTA, MAINE — Maine's farm office is helping plan fall events. These events will happen at farms across the state. They include apple picking and pumpkin patches. Families can enjoy many fun activities.

Organizers hope the events bring people together. The events also help local farmers earn money. Many schools plan class trips to nearby farms. Officials say these events are a fun way to enjoy harvest time. Families across the state look forward to visiting local farms.

Why it matters: *Fall farm events support Maine's agricultural economy and give families fun ways to learn together.*

Source: Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, <https://www.maine.gov/dacf/about/calendar/event.shtml>