

# The Breakfast Table Times

TODAY'S NEWS, MADE FOR KIDS

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## TOP STORY

### Congress Passes Bill To Avoid Shutdown Before Elections

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Lawmakers in Washington reached a deal this week to keep the government funded. The House passed a short-term spending bill just weeks before the November elections. Earlier this year, a partial shutdown lasted less than four days.

The new bill funds government agencies for a limited time. It gives Congress more time to negotiate a longer budget deal. Leaders from both parties wanted to avoid another disruption before the midterms. Federal workers and services can continue running without interruption.

#### BACKGROUND

A government shutdown happens when Congress fails to pass funding bills on time. This can stop many federal services and delay paychecks for workers.

**Why it matters:** *This funding fight could shape how voters view Congress heading into the midterm elections. It also determines whether government services stay open without interruption.*

**What to watch:** *Watch for further negotiations on a longer-term budget deal before funding runs out again.*

Source: NBC News (nbcnews.com/politics/congress/senate-leaders-reach-deal-avert-shutdown-2026-elections-rcna590564); ABC7 New York (abc7ny.com/post/us-government-shutdown-update-2026-house-passes-short-term-funding-bill-avoid-before-election/19776082/)

## NATION & WORLD

### Poll Shows Shutdown Fight Could Affect Midterm Elections

BOSTON, MASS. — A new poll says the government shutdown fight might hurt Republicans this fall. A team of researchers asked voters how they felt about it. Many people said they were angry about the fighting in Washington. They want leaders to work together instead.

The poll comes as both parties get ready for hard races this year. Experts say voters can change their minds because of shutdowns. Some voters said they want lawmakers to avoid another shutdown. No one knows yet how big this effect will be in November.

#### BACKGROUND

Polls measure public opinion by asking a sample of voters about current events. This survey focused on reactions to the recent government shutdown.

**Why it matters:** *Elections often hinge on how voters feel about recent events in Washington. This poll suggests the shutdown could influence key races this November.*

**What to watch:** *Watch for more polls as Election Day approaches in November.*

Source: Northeastern University College of Social Sciences and Humanities (cssh.northeastern.edu/republicans-get-warning-about-government-shutdown-in-new-poll/)

## GOVERNMENT

### Maine Voters Prepare For Governor And Senate Races

AUGUSTA, MAINE — Maine voters will make big choices this November. They will elect a new governor and decide a U.S. Senate race. Candidates have been campaigning across the state for months.

The races are drawing attention from around the country. Both contests could affect the balance of power in Washington and Augusta. Election officials say turnout is expected to be high. Voters can find information about candidates and polling places through the state's election website.

#### BACKGROUND

Maine holds statewide elections every four years for governor and periodically for U.S. Senate seats. This year both races appear on the same ballot.

**Why it matters:** *The outcomes could shape state policy and help decide which party controls the U.S. Senate. Local elections also affect schools, roads, and other services.*

**What to watch:** *Watch for debates and new polls as Election Day nears in November.*

Source: Wikipedia (en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2026\_Maine\_gubernatorial\_election); Wikipedia (en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2026\_United\_States\_Senate\_election\_in\_Maine)

## MONEY & WORK

### Federal Workers Received Back Pay After Shutdown

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Earlier this year, part of the government shut down for a few days. Many workers were sent home without pay. The shutdown ended in under four days. Lawmakers reached a deal to reopen the government.

Once it reopened, workers got their back pay. Experts say even short shutdowns can hurt families. Bills and paychecks get delayed during that time. Federal offices also had to catch up on paperwork. Lawmakers hope the new funding deal will stop another shutdown before the election.

#### BACKGROUND

Federal law generally guarantees back pay for workers after a shutdown ends. Even so, families can face real stress while waiting for missed paychecks.

**Why it matters:** *Shutdowns affect far more than politics in Washington. They can delay paychecks for millions of workers and slow government services nationwide.*

**What to watch:** *Watch whether Congress can agree on a longer funding plan before the current bill expires.*

Source: Government Executive (govexec.com/management/2026/02/partial-shutdown-ends-less-four-days-after-it-began/411160/); Federal News Network (federalnewsnetwork.com/government-shutdown/2026/02/what-to-know-about-the-partial-government-shutdown-and-its-impact/)

SCIENCE & TECH

NASA Says Artemis II Moon Mission Remains On Track

WASHINGTON, D.C. — NASA says its Artemis II mission remains on schedule. The agency finished a round of safety reviews this summer. The mission will send four astronauts around the Moon without landing. It follows an earlier uncrewed test flight that circled the Moon safely.

Engineers spent months studying data from that test flight. Then they gave the new mission a green light. Officials say Artemis II is an important step toward Moon landings. NASA has not yet announced an exact launch date.

**BACKGROUND**

Artemis II will be the first crewed mission in NASA's Artemis Moon program. It comes after Artemis I, an uncrewed test flight that launched in 2022.

**Why it matters:** A successful Artemis II mission would clear the way for future Moon landings. It also tests new spacecraft systems needed to keep astronauts safe.

**What to watch:** Watch for NASA to announce a specific launch window in the coming months.

Source: NASA ([nasa.gov/missions/nasa-on-track-for-future-missions-with-initial-artemis-ii-assessments/](https://nasa.gov/missions/nasa-on-track-for-future-missions-with-initial-artemis-ii-assessments/)); NASA ([nasa.gov/artemis-ii-news-and-updates/](https://nasa.gov/artemis-ii-news-and-updates/))

SPORTS

Yankees Drop Close Game To Twins

MINNEAPOLIS, MINN. — The New York Yankees lost a close game to the Minnesota Twins on Wednesday night. The final score was 5-4 in favor of the Twins. The game stayed tight until the final innings. New York managed several scoring chances but could not pull ahead.

The loss came during a crucial stretch of the regular season. Both teams are trying to secure spots in this year's playoffs. Yankees fans hope for better results as the season winds down.

**BACKGROUND**

The Yankees and Twins are both competing for playoff positioning in Major League Baseball. Late-season games like this one carry extra weight.

**Why it matters:** Every win or loss now can affect which teams make the postseason. Fans are watching the standings closely.

**What to watch:** Watch upcoming Yankees games to see if they can climb back in the standings.

Source: MLB.com ([mlb.com/stories/game/823655/](https://mlb.com/stories/game/823655/)); ESPN ([espn.com/mlb/game/\\_gameld/401816968/yankees-twins](https://espn.com/mlb/game/_gameld/401816968/yankees-twins))

Giants Kick Off 2026 NFL Season

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — The New York Giants' 2026 NFL season is now underway. The team released its full schedule earlier this year. It includes matchups against division rivals like the Cowboys, Eagles, and Commanders. Fans are watching closely to see how the roster performs.

The Giants hope to build on recent seasons in a tough NFC East division. Coaches have emphasized improvement on both offense and defense. Early games will help shape expectations for the rest of the year.

**BACKGROUND**

The Giants play in the NFC East alongside the Cowboys, Eagles, and Commanders. The 2026 schedule was released earlier this year ahead of the season.

**Why it matters:** A strong start can boost team confidence and fan excitement. Division games often play a big role in playoff chances.

**What to watch:** Watch how the Giants perform against division rivals in the coming weeks.

Source: Giants.com ([giants.com/news/nfl-schedule-2026-new-york-giants-tickets-information-cowboys-eagles-commanders/](https://giants.com/news/nfl-schedule-2026-new-york-giants-tickets-information-cowboys-eagles-commanders/)); Wikipedia ([en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2026\\_New\\_York\\_Giants\\_season](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2026_New_York_Giants_season))

OUR TEAMS

New York Yankees

Lost 4–5 to the Minnesota Twins

Wednesday, Sept. 16, 2026 — regular season game in Minneapolis

SOUTHERN MAINE

Cumberland Fair Kicks Off Fall Festival Season In Maine

CUMBERLAND, MAINE — Fall festival season has started in southern Maine. The Cumberland Fair is a long local tradition. It has rides, animal shows, and yummy food. Families come from all over to enjoy the fun. The fair happens every year to celebrate the harvest. Thousands of people visit each September.

Organizers say the fair helps local farmers and small businesses. Visitors can also find games, live music, and craft displays. Many other fall fairs happen in towns across Maine through October.

**BACKGROUND**

Cumberland Fair has been held in Maine for well over a century. It is part of a long tradition of agricultural fairs across New England.

**Why it matters:** Fall fairs support local farmers and bring communities together. They also celebrate Maine's agricultural heritage.

**What to watch:** Watch local calendars for fair dates in your area this fall.

Source: Visit Maine ([visitmaine.com/festivals-events/](https://visitmaine.com/festivals-events/)); Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry ([maine.gov/dacf/about/calendar/event.shtml](https://maine.gov/dacf/about/calendar/event.shtml))

GOOD NEWS

NASA Announces Crew For Historic Artemis III Moon Landing

WASHINGTON, D.C. — NASA revealed the astronauts chosen to fly on Artemis III. This mission aims to land humans on the Moon again. It would be the first Moon landing since the Apollo era ended. NASA plans for the crew to land near the Moon's south pole.

The announcement excited students and space fans across the country. Officials said the astronauts have trained for years to prepare. NASA has not confirmed an exact launch date. But officials say mission planning continues steadily.

**BACKGROUND**

Artemis III would be NASA's first attempt to land astronauts on the Moon since Apollo missions ended in the 1970s. It follows Artemis I and Artemis II, which test new spacecraft without landing.

**Why it matters:** A successful landing would mark a historic achievement in space exploration. It could also inspire a new generation of scientists and engineers.

**What to watch:** Watch for updates on training milestones and a confirmed launch date.

Source: Spaceflight Now ([spaceflightnow.com/2026/06/09/live-coverage-nasa-to-unveil-artemis-3-crew-provide-updates-on-mission/](https://spaceflightnow.com/2026/06/09/live-coverage-nasa-to-unveil-artemis-3-crew-provide-updates-on-mission/)); NASA+ ([plus.nasa.gov/scheduled-video/nasas-artemis-iii-announcement/](https://plus.nasa.gov/scheduled-video/nasas-artemis-iii-announcement/))