

The Breakfast Table Times

TODAY'S NEWS, MADE FOR KIDS

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PAGE 1 OF 2

TOP STORY

Congress Works to Pass 2026 Budget

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Lawmakers in Washington are working on the 2026 federal budget. A budget is the government's plan for spending money. Congress and the White House must agree on funding for schools and roads. This process can be hard when leaders disagree. If they don't agree in time, parts of the government could shut down.

A shutdown can delay paychecks and pause some services. Both political parties say they want to avoid a shutdown this year. Talks are expected to continue in the coming weeks. Many Americans are watching closely, since the budget affects their communities.

BACKGROUND

Congress must pass spending bills every year to fund the government. Disagreements have led to shutdowns in past years, including 2018 and 2019.

Why it matters: The budget decides funding for schools, health programs, and other services many families rely on.

What to watch: Watch for whether Congress reaches a deal before funding runs out.

Source: Wikipedia, '2026 United States federal budget,' https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2026_United_States_federal_budget

NATION & WORLD

U.S. Diplomats Meet With World Leaders

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The U.S. State Department shared its public plan for September 17. The plan lists meetings with leaders from other countries. Diplomats talk about trade, safety, and new agreements. These meetings happen almost every day.

News groups around the world also covered these talks this week. Officials discussed shared problems and possible solutions. These small talks add up over time. They help countries work together smoothly. Learning about this helps kids understand how the world connects.

BACKGROUND

The State Department manages U.S. relationships with other countries and regularly publishes schedules of diplomatic meetings.

Why it matters: Diplomatic talks can affect trade, travel, and international cooperation.

What to watch: Watch for any official statements following this week's meetings.

Source: U.S. Department of State, 'Public Schedule – September 17, 2026,' <https://www.state.gov/releases/office-of-the-spokesman/2026/09/public-schedule-september-17-2026>; Havana Times, <https://havanatimes.org/news/international-news-briefs-for-thursday-september-17-2026/>

GOVERNMENT

Maine's 2026 Senate Race Draws Attention

AUGUSTA, MAINE — Maine voters will choose a new U.S. senator in 2026. Local news groups are helping people get ready to vote. The Maine Monitor published a voter guide about the candidates and issues. A new survey asked Maine residents what matters most to them.

This survey tracks opinions across the state over time. Election officials say guides and surveys like these help people make good choices. Campaigns will keep reaching out to Maine voters in the coming weeks. Both local and national attention should grow as Election Day gets closer.

BACKGROUND

Maine's U.S. Senate seat is up for election in 2026, drawing attention from voters and political groups.

Why it matters: The outcome could affect Maine's representation in Washington.

What to watch: Watch for more polls and campaign events as Election Day nears.

Source: The Maine Monitor, '2026 Maine Voter Guide,' <https://themaine-monitor.org/elections/>; Wikipedia, '2026 Maine Senate election,' https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2026_Maine_Senate_election; Siena Research Institute, <https://sri.siena.edu/2026/09/17/special-maine-trust-for-local-news-siena-maine-progress-report/>

MONEY & WORK

Treasury Department Shares Economic Updates

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The U.S. Treasury Department shares regular news about money and taxes. This week, it posted new updates as usual. Treasury workers manage the government's money. They also collect taxes from people and businesses.

Other officials watch these updates closely. The news can hint at future choices about prices or interest rates. Learning about the Treasury helps families understand money decisions. More updates will come out in future weeks. These reports also affect businesses big and small.

BACKGROUND

The Treasury Department manages federal money, collects taxes, and oversees financial rules.

Why it matters: Treasury decisions can affect interest rates and the overall economy.

What to watch: Watch for future updates on inflation or spending.

Source: U.S. Department of the Treasury, 'Press Releases,' <https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases>

SCIENCE & TECH

Science News Tracks Space and Ancient History

NEW YORK, N.Y. — Scientists around the world made new discoveries in 2026. These ranged from outer space to ancient history. Space agencies have been studying planets, stars, and other mysteries beyond Earth. Archaeologists have been digging up ancient tools, bones, and artifacts. These finds help us understand how people lived long ago.

Science news sites have tracked these discoveries all year. They share updates with the public often. Learning about space and archaeology helps students understand the universe and history. New findings are announced often, so there is always something new to learn. Teachers use these discoveries to make science lessons more fun.

BACKGROUND

Science outlets track ongoing research in fields like archaeology and space exploration throughout the year.

Why it matters: *New discoveries help us understand both history and the universe.*

What to watch: *Watch for new findings from ongoing digs and space missions.*

Source: ScienceDaily, <https://www.sciencedaily.com/>; Sci.News, <https://www.sci.news/>; Space.com, <https://www.space.com/>; Wikipedia, '2026 in archaeology,' https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2026_in_archaeology

SPORTS

Giants Beat Cowboys 28-20

ARLINGTON, TEXAS — The New York Giants earned a football win this week, beating the Dallas Cowboys by a score of 28 to 20. The victory came during an NFL game between two longtime rival teams. Giants players and coaches celebrated the win as part of their 2026 season schedule.

Football fans across New York were excited to see their team come out on top against a division rival. The Giants will continue playing games throughout the fall as part of the regular NFL season. Coaches say each game helps the team build momentum heading into the following weeks. Fans are hopeful the team can keep up strong performances as the season continues.

BACKGROUND

The Giants and Cowboys are longtime NFL rivals who play each other regularly.

Why it matters: *Wins help teams build momentum during the season.*

What to watch: *Watch for the Giants' next matchup later this season.*

Source: ESPN, 'Giants 28-20 Cowboys (Sep 13, 2026) Box Score,' https://www.espn.com/nfl/boxscore/_/gameId/401872930

Yankees Head To Arizona For Diamondbacks Series

PHOENIX, ARIZONA — The New York Yankees will play the Arizona Diamondbacks starting September 19. The games are part of the team's 2026 schedule. They will be played at Chase Field in Arizona late in the season. Both teams hope the series will help their playoff chances.

Late-season games often matter most for teams chasing a playoff spot. The Yankees and Diamondbacks rarely play each other. That makes this matchup feel less familiar than division games. Analysts say every game counts this time of year. Fans will watch closely as the Yankees play down the stretch.

BACKGROUND

The Yankees and Diamondbacks play in different leagues and meet only a few times each season.

Why it matters: *Late-season games can affect which teams make the playoffs.*

What to watch: *Watch how the Yankees perform in Arizona this weekend.*

Source: ESPN, 'New York Yankees Schedule,' https://www.espn.com/mlb/team/schedule/_/name/nyy/new-york-yankees; Baseball-Reference, <https://www.baseball-reference.com/previews/2026/ARI202609190.shtml>

SOUTHERN MAINE

Maine Weather Shifts From Summer To Fall

PORTLAND, MAINE — Maine is moving from summer warmth into cooler fall weather this September. Temperatures will drop slowly, with cooler mornings and shorter days becoming common. The change also brings colorful leaves. Colorful leaves are a big reason visitors travel to Maine each fall.

Residents are starting to trade summer clothes for warmer layers. Farmers and orchards are preparing for the fall harvest. Apple picking is one popular fall activity. Forecasters say fall weather can change quickly. People should be ready for both warm and cool days. Many families look forward to fall traditions like visiting pumpkin patches.

BACKGROUND

Maine's weather typically shifts from warm summers to cool, colorful autumns.

Why it matters: *The seasonal change affects daily routines, farming, and tourism.*

What to watch: *Watch for updates on peak foliage timing this fall.*

Source: WGME, 'September in Maine: From summer warmth to fall chill,' <https://wgme.com/news/arc-maine/september-in-maine-from-summer-warmth-to-fall-chill>

GOOD NEWS

Lamoine Publishes Fall Community Events Calendar

LAMOINE, MAINE — The town of Lamoine, Maine posted its fall events calendar. It shows fun activities for the whole family. Small towns often plan events like this in fall. These events help neighbors get together.

Fall weather makes outdoor gatherings more comfortable for everyone. Local leaders say the calendar keeps everyone informed. People can check the town's website for updates. Enjoying time together builds a strong community. Some events include cleanups and fall festivals. Everyone in Lamoine is welcome to join in.

BACKGROUND

Many small Maine towns post community event calendars online for residents.

Why it matters: *These events help build connections among neighbors.*

What to watch: *Watch the town website for new fall events.*

Source: Town of Lamoine, Maine, 'Events for September 17, 2026,' <https://www.lamoine-me.gov/events/2026-09-17/?shortcode=f0b1cb7d>