

The Breakfast Table Times

THE NEWS, MADE SIMPLE

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TOP STORY

Banks Raise a Big Money Rate

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Federal Reserve is a group of banks. It watches how the country's money is doing. This week, it raised an interest rate. An interest rate is the cost to borrow money.

The rate is now near 4 percent. This is the first raise since 2023. High gas prices helped cause the change. Loans may cost a little more now.

BACKGROUND

The Fed changes this rate a few times each year.

Why it matters: It can change how much things cost to borrow.

What to watch: Watch to see if rates go up again soon.

GOVERNMENT

Congress Works to Avoid Shutdown

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Congress passed a short-term funding bill. It will keep the government open. Lawmakers want to avoid a shutdown. Elections are coming up soon.

Earlier this year, a shutdown lasted four days. That shutdown affected many workers. This new bill should stop another one.

BACKGROUND

Part of the government closed for a few days in February.

Why it matters: It helps workers get paid and keeps offices open.

What to watch: Watch for more voting before the election.

SPORTS

Yankees Star Judge Goes on Injured List

PHOENIX, ARIZ. — Aaron Judge is a Yankees star player. He hurt his right calf muscle. He is going back on the injured list. Judge had just returned from a rib injury.

He only played seven games this time. The Yankees played in Arizona on Friday. The team is chasing a playoff spot.

BACKGROUND

Judge missed many games earlier this year with a rib injury.

Why it matters: He is one of the best hitters on the team.

What to watch: Watch to see how long Judge must rest.

SOUTHERN MAINE

Fall Weather Arrives in Maine

PORTLAND, MAINE — Summer is ending in Maine. The air is turning cooler now. Fall officially begins later this month. Leaves will soon change color.

Many families enjoy picking apples in fall. Cooler days mean warm sweaters and jackets. Maine's fall season is a favorite time.

BACKGROUND

Fall starts later this month across Maine.

Why it matters: Cooler weather means fun fall activities begin.

What to watch: Watch the leaves start to change color soon.

GOOD NEWS

Maine Towns Plan Fall Fun

PORTLAND, MAINE — Many Maine towns are planning fall events. Craft groups will set up fall markets. Families can shop for handmade gifts. Downtowns will host fun weekend activities.

Local artists will share their work. These events help small towns and shops. Everyone is invited to join the fun.

BACKGROUND

Maine towns often hold fall fairs each year.

Why it matters: These fairs help local shops and artists.

What to watch: Watch for event dates in your town.