

From: Symmes, Brian
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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Associated Press: Gov. Haley: Opening day for health exchange a mess

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=l6zcRr6k

Seanna Adcox

Gov. Nikki Haley said Tuesday's opening day for enrolling in health insurance through the federally run online marketplace is a mess. The Republican governor has actively opposed the federal health care law and its implementation. But Haley says her office is trying to help people who are calling in with questions and their problems with signing up. "They're frustrated. They're wondering if they're doing something wrong because they're getting error messages, or they're calling for information. It's both," she said. "We're trying to triage."

Note: "Our job is to get the information out there. The fed's job is to make it work. Unfortunately, it's not working," she said. "We're going to continue doing what we can, but this is continuing to be the mess we thought it would be."

Greenville News: S.C. National Guard won't process same-sex benefits at state facilities

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20131001/NEWS/310010159>

Tim Smith and Rudolph Bell

State Adjutant General Robert Livingston says the state's National Guard is in the process of moving its family benefit identification process from state to federal facilities so it will not conflict with state law that does not recognize same-sex marriage. Livingston said the state is complying with a U.S. Department of Defense directive that the military begin providing benefits to spouses in same-sex marriages following a U. S. Supreme Court decision that struck down the federal Defense of Marriage Act.

Note: Haley spokesman Doug Mayer said the governor supports Livingston's decision "to uphold the state constitution by electing not to process benefits from same-sex couples and instead refer them to federal facilities. The governor, like the majority of South Carolinians, supports traditional marriage as defined between one man and one woman, and in accordance with state law, will continue to uphold those values," Mayer said.

Associated Press: GOP states offer little help on buying insurance

<http://www.wmbfnews.com/story/23579461/gop-states-offer-little-help-on-buying-insurance>

Bill Barrow

On the day consumers start perusing newly launched federal online health exchanges, Republican governors who oppose President Barack Obama's insurance overhaul are mostly sitting on their hands. But the law is going into effect without them. South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley said employees at her state Medicaid agency fielded calls from residents, including some who were frustrated by error messages from online exchanges slowed by heavy traffic. She said the agency would try to help, but she was quick to take a swipe at the law and its federal backers.

Note: "Our job is to get the information out there. The fed's job is to make it work. Unfortunately, it's not working," Haley said. "We're going to continue doing what we can, but this is continuing to be the mess we thought it would be."

Obamacare Rollout News:

Associated Press: Insurance Web Site Overwhelmed By First-day Shoppers

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=hSb1AgJI

Joey Holleman

The first-day rush to sign up for the new Health Insurance Marketplace, or simply curiosity about it, overwhelmed the healthcare.gov website Tuesday. Computer system experts predicted crashes when this

major component of the Affordable Care Act went live for the first time, and they were right. People who tried to register ran into long waits to start and balky web pages once they got into the system. Meanwhile, few people were showing up to talk with groups tasked with helping people navigate the system. Charles Noble, who is helping with Eau Claire Cooperative Health Center's insurance registration effort, looked on the bright side.

Greenville News: Glitches reported as Affordable Care Act takes effect

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20131001/NEWS/310010147/Glitches-reported-Affordable-Care-Act-takes-effect>

Liv Osby

Today's roll-out of the Affordable Care Act marketplaces wasn't as smooth as the Obama Administration had hoped. Heavy traffic at www.healthcare.gov by mid-morning prompted the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to tweet: "We apologize for the technical difficulties. We are working to fix these issues as soon as possible. Thank you for your patience!" And a visit to the website revealed a message that said: "We have a lot of visitors on our site right now and we're working to make your experience here better. Please wait here until we send you to the login page." Daniel Kilpatrick of Greenville tried several times to get on the marketplace beginning at 8:30 a.m. But he gave up after running into a wall.

Post and Courier: Early glitches make signing up for health insurance through new insurance marketplace difficult

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20131001/PC16/131009969/1006/>

Lauren Sausser

Residents in South Carolina and around the country can shop for health insurance for the first time today on www.healthcare.gov, the federal government's new health insurance marketplace, but the website is running slowly at the start. A message on the website explains, "We have a lot of visitors on our site right now and we're working to make your experience here better. Please wait here until we send you to the login page. Thanks for your patience!" Another error message indicated the website is struggling to create accounts for those who need to sign up for insurance.

Greenville News: CNN reporting live from downtown today as Obamacare rolls out

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2013310010109>

Rudolph Bell

CNN's chief medical correspondent is in Greenville today conducting man-on-the-street interviews as the healthcare reform law popularly known as Obamacare rolls out across the country. Sanjay Gupta, who is also a practicing neurosurgeon in Atlanta, is reporting live periodically from City Hall throughout the day. The CNN Health Care Express rolls to Lexington, Ky., on Wednesday and to Baltimore, Md., on Thursday, according to a news release from the Atlanta-based cable channel. Today is the first day that consumers can shop for health insurance on special online exchanges under President Obama's Affordable Care Act.

Island Packet: Low-key opening expected for health insurance marketplace

<http://www.islandpacket.com/2013/10/01/2715289/low-key-opening-expected-for-health.html#storylink=cpy>

Dan Burley

Three and a half years after the law was passed, consumers will get their first look at the Affordable Care Act on Tuesday when enrollment begins in the new online health insurance marketplace. In Beaufort and Jasper counties, more than 32,000 uninsured residents will have the choice of 27 insurance plans offered by three companies. But area insurance agents, health agencies and officials who have rushed to prepare employees and customers for the marketplace in recent months don't expect Tuesday to bring much excitement or a flood of applicants.

South Carolina News:

Associated Press: DOJ, SC reach settlement over HIV inmate policy

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=1faP2XJl

Meg Kinnard

The federal government on Tuesday settled a dispute with South Carolina's prisons over a policy segregating HIV-positive inmates, making the state the last in the nation to formally take steps to end such a practice. The settlement follows the Corrections Department's July announcement it would stop the practice. At that time, officials gave no date for that process to begin, and agency Clark Newsom said Tuesday the department is in the process of training and educating staff. South Carolina had been one of two states that

separated HIV-positive inmates. Last year, a judge struck down a similar policy in Alabama following a lawsuit by several inmates supported by the American Civil Liberties Union.

Post and Courier: Turnout light this morning in Senate 42 election

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20131001/PC16/131009995/1006/turnout-light-this-morning-in-senate-42-election>

Robert Behre

The turnout this morning was as light, as was expected, in the three-way special election to fill the state Senate District 42 seat. The seat has been empty since May, when Sen. Robert Ford resigned amid ethical and health woes. By 10:15 a.m., 26 voters had shown up at the two Charleston precincts that vote at the Charleston Water System building on St. Philip Street. "It's quiet," said Patrick Lee, deputy director of the Charleston County Board of Elections and Voter Registration. "It's just a routine election."

Associated Press: Ceremony honors SC domestic violence victims

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=VKi1yLj6

Meg Kinnard

Four years ago, Sandra Dayse was severely beaten by a man she loved. On Tuesday, she told an audience gathered to honor victims of domestic violence that escaping that situation has given her a new lease on life. "I learned the hard way that domestic violence does not discriminate," Dayse told a crowd of several hundred gathered at the Statehouse in Columbia. "There were red flags that rose ... but I chose to ignore them." Dayse shared her story as part of this year's Silent Witness Domestic Violence ceremony. The annual event, hosted by Attorney General Alan Wilson, honors the South Carolina men and women killed because of domestic violence the year before.

Spartanburg Herald Journal: Amazon to hire 1,000 seasonal workers at Spartanburg County facility

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20131001/ARTICLES/131009973/1083/ARTICLES?Title=Amazon-will-hire-1-000-at-Spartanburg-County-facility>

Trevor Anderson

Seattle-based online retailer Amazon.com announced Tuesday it will hire more than 1,000 full-time workers for its Spartanburg County Fulfillment Center as it ramps up employment across the country to meet increased demand during the holiday season. Amazon spokeswoman Kelly Cheeseman said the company will also add "thousands and thousands" of workers at its facility in Lexington. The company said it is hiring 70,000 full-time seasonal employees to fill orders this year, a 40 percent increase compared to last year's 50,000 workers. The jobs come with health care benefits and pay 94 percent of the wages of regular full-time workers.

Local News:

Greenville News: Local defense contractors brace for impact from government shutdown

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20131001/NEWS/310010123/Local-defense-contractors-brace-impact-from-government-shutdown>

David Dykes and Eric Connor

Defense contractors, including Lockheed Martin, which does military aircraft maintenance in Greenville County, were bracing for the impact of the government shutdown. "Lockheed Martin is disappointed that an agreement could not be reached to avert a government shutdown, and we are hopeful for a quick resolution," the company said in a statement. "We will continue to conduct business with the same dedication to our purpose and commitment to our customers. Unless we are directed otherwise by our customers, our facilities will remain open, and our employees will continue to receive their pay and benefits. We will monitor the situation and provide regular communications to our employees throughout this process." A spokesman for Greenville-based Michelin North America, another defense contractor, said the company wasn't commenting on the shutdown "or any impacts it may have."

Greenville News: Greenville County to look at sales tax increase to fix roads, bridges

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20131001/NEWS/310010132/Greenville-County-look-sales-tax-increase-fix-roads-bridges>

Rudolph Bell

Members of Greenville County Council say they might vote today to begin the process of holding a countywide referendum on whether to increase the sales tax by 1 percent to raise money for improving roads and bridges. Council meets at 4:30 p.m. at County Square to consider whether to create a special

commission that would compile a list of projects that might be funded with the sales tax, which the county says would generate \$65 million a year over eight years. County Council Chairman Bob Taylor said he was not expecting council to vote today but he couldn't say for sure.

The State: Columbia Council To Debate Mayoral Pay Hike, Cost Of Upcoming Elections

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=5soalwj0

Clif LeBlanc

The cost of this fall's elections and a possible pay raise for Columbia's mayor are on City Council's to-be-discussed list for Tuesday. It's unclear if either issue will be settled, but the conversation is likely to be lively. Some council members, including Mayor Steve Benjamin, have questioned the \$191,269 estimate the Richland County elections office submitted in July for running the Nov. 5 race to fill four seats on council. County elections director Howard Jackson has said that price tag includes the possibility of a runoff, which is unlikely.

The State: Strong-mayor referendum will cost Columbia taxpayers \$121,033

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/10/01/3013901/strong-mayor-referendum-will-cost.html#storylink=cpy>

Clif LeBlanc

Columbia City Council voted Tuesday to spend \$121,033 to open all 72 city precincts for the Dec. 3 referendum on a strong-mayor form of government. The sum is on top of about \$191,000 the Richland County elections office plans to bill the city for the Nov. 5 City Council elections. Council has balked at the Nov. 5 price tag and has yet to vote to pay it. Council members knew when they voted last month to put the strong-mayor question before voters in December that it would cost the city additional money.

Government Shutdown News:

McClatchy Washington Bureau: Military towns brace for Round Two of sequester

<http://www.miamiherald.com/2013/10/01/3663157/military-towns-brace-for-round.html#storylink=cpy>

William Douglas

Defense contractor Brian Kent doesn't like the sound he hears from Washington about the automatic budget cuts known as sequestration. It's the sound of a lot of talk and little action, and Kent says it's hurting his business and others headquartered outside the gates of Fort Bragg in Fayetteville, N.C.

Note: "It's the most disappointed I've ever been as a member of Congress," said Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., whose state is home to eight military installations. "I'm disappointed in my party for even embracing the concept of sequestration if we failed to achieve \$1.2 trillion in cuts. I'm disappointed in the commander in chief above all."

Note: "Communities that depend on that footprint are going to be economically devastated – it would be like major industries closing," he said. "That's the side effect of sequestration that no one thought much about."

Associated Press: Obama hits GOP 'ideological crusade' in shutdown

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20131001/PC05/131009971/1177/obama-hits-gop-x2018-ideological-crusade-x2019-in-shutdown>

Andrew Taylor

Congress hung "Closed" signs on a big swath of the government Tuesday and sent home 800,000 workers in what President Barack Obama labeled an "ideological crusade" by the GOP. On Capitol Hill, Democrats and Republicans traded blame for the first partial government shutdown in nearly two decades. Barricades sprang up early Tuesday at the Lincoln Memorial and other monuments, and the National Park Service was turning off 45 fountains around the capital city. National parks from Acadia in Maine to Denali in Alaska followed suit, as did many federal workplaces. Agencies like NASA and the Environmental Protection Agency were virtually shuttered.

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