

From: Symmes, Brian
To:
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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Associated Press: Haley says government shutdown talk is frustrating

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

Gov. Nikki Haley said Monday that members of her Cabinet are talking to their counterparts in the federal government to prepare for any disruptions from the possible shutdown at midnight. Haley said Monday that the discussions had taken place all day and she didn't have details on what might happen if Congress fails to reach an agreement and partially shuts down.

Note: "Our hope is that they quickly come to a resolution, that there is some strong leadership that steps up - because government shutdowns are not the answer," Haley said.

Note: "It's very frustrating that we're even dealing with a government shutdown. This would never happen in South Carolina because people would never allow it to happen in South Carolina," Haley said.

Note: "This doesn't come down to our delegation," Haley said. "This comes down to leadership. If government shut down in South Carolina, it would be my fault."

The Item: Haley visits Shaw

http://www.theitem.com/news/local_news/haley-visits-shaw/article_8c358194-0ba0-530b-88bf-52f03008e601.html

Braden Bunch

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley said sequestration is taking its toll on Shaw Air Force Base after a tour of military facility on Monday, adding the funding cuts indicate a misplacement of priorities for the federal government. The governor said she came to the Sumter base to tour the facilities with local military officials so she could get a first-hand view of the conditions while hearing the concerns from the commanders. One of the biggest concerns, Haley said, was the impact sequestration was having on training military personnel.

Note: "They're not strengthening the military at a time when we're experiencing more threats than we ever had, so it does make you question the priorities of D.C." Haley said.

Note: "If you start cutting the training, then all of a sudden you're defending from behind, which is never what we want to have happen," Haley said. "You can lose a building, or you can lose a movie theater, but when you start to cut on training, you're actually losing the future ability to protect the country."

Associated Press: Ex-Haley chief of staff takes over SC prison dept.

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=qBI2Va7v

Gov. Nikki Haley's former chief of staff is officially taking the helm of the state's prisons agency. Bryan Stirling is assuming control of the South Carolina Department of Corrections on Tuesday. Last month, Haley announced that she had selected Stirling to replace Bill Byars, who is retiring after decades in public service. Before serving as Corrections director, Byars headed up the state's Department of Juvenile Justice. Stirling served as Haley's chief of staff for about a year. The University of South Carolina School of Law graduate came to her administration from the attorney general's office, where he served as a deputy under top prosecutor Alan Wilson and his predecessor, Henry McMaster.

Associated Press: Haley criticized for Citadel board appointment

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=99bmMgLF

Seanna Adcox

Democrats criticized Gov. Nikki Haley on Monday for replacing The Citadel's only black board member with a white campaign donor. She contends that race didn't factor into her decision. Party officials and Democratic legislators accused Haley of pay-to-play politics for her appointment of South Carolina Bank and Trust executive Greg Lapointe of Greenville. He replaces Columbia businessman James McQuilla, an appointee of former Gov. Mark Sanford. House Minority Leader Todd Rutherford called it politics at its worst.

Note: "We look at what the institution wants and what positions will be beneficial. In some cases, that may

be three women and three minorities on a board. In other cases, it may be no woman or no minorities," she said. "We look in total what we've got instead of looking at each individual one."

Note: "This is nothing more than manufactured outrage that once again exposes the Democrats willingness to attempt to score political points at all costs," said spokesman Doug Mayer.

The State: Haley Draws Fire Over Citadel Appointment; Democrats Want GOP Candidate To Apologize
http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=OYoD927y

Democrats criticized Gov. Nikki Haley on Monday for replacing The Citadel's only black board member with a white campaign donor. Haley responded that race didn't factor into her decision. Party officials and Democratic legislators accused Haley of pay-to-play politics for her appointment of S.C. Bank and Trust executive Greg Lapointe of Greenville. He replaces Columbia businessman James McQuilla, an appointee of former Gov. Mark Sanford. Haley appointed McQuilla to the Commission on Higher Education, which oversees all S.C. public colleges and universities.

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

The State: Loftis-Retirement Investment Commission Settlement Points To Larger Problem
http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=Kzb85IKV

Editorial

We're relieved that state Treasurer Curtis Loftis and the other members of the state's Retirement System Investment Commission finally reached a truce in their spat over his access to confidential investment documents. Although Mr. Loftis seemed to be more of the provocateur, the fact is that one person can't maintain a feud. There was plenty of peevishness on both sides, with too little willingness to move past personal slights for the good of our state. The larger and more important fact is that as long as our laws concerning the Investment Commission and the treasurer remain as they are, it's incumbent upon the commission to make some accommodations for the treasurer.

Post and Courier (Guest Column): Why the federal government shutdown is warranted

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20131001/PC1002/131009982/1021/obamacare-issues-justify-a-shutdown>

Congressman Mark Sanford

We've all been subject to much back and forth about how government will be funded after Monday. Accordingly I'd like to offer a few thoughts, though as I write resolution is uncertain. One, we've lost the forest for the trees. At the end of the day, I think the issue is much greater than whether one likes or dislikes Obamacare, or even the appropriateness of using the current legislative tools employed to have an effect. There is a constitutional issue at play that really hasn't been discussed, but one that I think provides legitimacy to the Republican House's attempts to delay the implementation of this new law. Quite simply, the selective implementation of that law warrants its delay.

Post and Courier: No way to run a government

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20131001/PC1002/131009979/1021/no-way-to-run-a-government>

Editorial

Here's a bitter irony. Even if the government shuts down today because House Republicans and Senate Democrats can't agree to delay today's effective date for portions of the Obamacare Act, it won't halt the relentless forward march of the controversial health care law. Even if other government functions must shut down because Congress has not appropriated operating funds, Obamacare has its own dedicated resources that will not be affected by the shutdown. The House and Senate have adopted resolutions to fund the government for the next two to three months until the next big showdown, over the debt ceiling, is resolved. But the Democratic Senate opposes the Republican House demand that Obamacare be delayed for one year. Republicans don't have the Senate votes needed to sustain the House position.

Times and Democrat: Sound advice with or without Obamacare

http://thetandd.com/news/opinion/editorial/sound-advice-with-or-without-obamacare/article_acff72c6-2a29-11e3-914a-001a4bcf887a.html

Editorial

THE ISSUE: Sign-up day. OUR VIEW: Many questions remain as key health care reform provisions begin. "Today is an important day for South Carolinians who have struggled to find quality, affordable health insurance for themselves or their families. Those working citizens who have been uninsured or underinsured can begin signing up today — Oct. 1 through March 31, 2014 — for a health insurance policy on the federal

marketplace, sometimes called the exchange, that will become effective on Jan. 1, 2014.” The words of 6th District Congressman James Clyburn in a column from Sunday’s Times and Democrat were meant as educational and celebratory.

Greenville News: No excuses for delays in database

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20131001/OPINION/310010068/Editorial-No-excuses-delays-database>

Editorial

It is unfathomable that South Carolina still does not have a computer system in place to track delinquent child support payments 25 years after a federal law was passed requiring such a system. The state is the only one in the nation that has not complied with this law. The federal law requiring that states create a system that make it easier to track those who are delinquent in child support payments was passed in 1988. South Carolina was given a deadline of 1997 to have its system active, and has yet to have it operational. The state just fired its most recent contractor, the third that has worked on developing the system.

South Carolina News:

The State: Richland's Joyce Dickerson to seek Scott's U.S. Senate seat

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20131001/NEWS10/310010085/Richland-s-Joyce-Dickerson-seek-Scott-s-U-S-Senate-seat>

Dawn Hinshaw

Richland County Councilwoman Joyce Dickerson said Monday she's running for the U.S. Senate. Dickerson, a Democrat representing the St. Andrews and Blythewood areas since 2005, said she has no illusions about the difficulties of running against incumbent Sen. Tim Scott in a Republican state. But, she said: “He was selected, not elected, and guess what? He has never run a statewide campaign” either. In December 2012, Gov. Nikki Haley tapped Scott to fill Jim DeMint's term once DeMint took a job with a conservative think-tank.

Seneca Journal: SDOC to feel impact of Obamacare this week

<https://upstatetoday.com/2013/10/sdoc-to-feel-impact-of-obamacare-this-week/>

Greg Oliver

While the stalemate by Congress over Obamacare has threatened to shut down the federal government as early as today, the impact of the controversial health care initiative on schools will begin Friday. The Affordable Care Act (ACA), which took effect last April, but whose reform has been delayed until 2015, stipulates that health, dental and vision benefits must be offered to any employee who exceeds 30 hours per week “during a certain time period.” Those benefits would last a year, regardless of whether or not the employee remains above the 30-hour threshold.

Associated Press: 3 candidates running for Robert Ford's old seat

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=4vrcY9uS

Three candidates are vying in a special election to fill the state Senate seat vacated by the resignation of Robert Ford. Democratic Marlon Kimpson faces Republican Billy Shuman and Libertarian Alex Thornton in Tuesday's election in District 42 in the Charleston area. Kimpson emerged from a six-way Democratic primary and runoff to win his party's nomination. The heavily Democratic district includes the northern end of the Charleston peninsula, neighborhoods in the city's West Ashley section and reaches into North Charleston and Dorchester County.

Post and Courier: Polls open in Senate 42 election

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20131001/PC16/131009995/1006/polls-open-in-senate-42-election>

Robert Behre

The polls are now open in the three-way special election to fill the state Senate 42 seat. The seat has been empty since May, when Sen. Robert Ford resigned amid ethical and health woes. Voters will choose between Democrat Marlon Kimpson, a Charleston lawyer; Republican Billy Shuman, a North Charleston real estate agent; and Libertarian Alex Thornton, a professional photographer. A light turnout is expected between now and when the polls close at 7 p.m.

Greenville News: Voters say roads fix a 'quality of life' issue

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20131001/NEWS/310010070/Voters-say-roads-fix-quality-life-issue>

Nathaniel Cary

Southern Media and Opinion Research Inc. polled 400 likely voters in Greenville County in August regarding local transportation issues. The poll shows voters overwhelmingly want the right to vote on a local sales tax that would be used to fix roads and bridges across the county. The poll also shows that many voters prefer a "roads-plus" plan that would include funds for mass transit, sidewalks and bike trails — 43 percent prefer the roads-plus plan, 38 percent prefer only to fix roads and bridges, and 14 percent wouldn't support either option.

Post and Courier: South Carolina students' pass rate on U.S. history end-of-course exam sees big jump
<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20131001/PC16/131009985/1389/south-carolina-students-x2019-pass-rate-on-us-history-end-of-course-exam-sees-big-jump>

Diette Courrege Casey

More South Carolina students passed their end-of-course exams during the 2012-13 school year, and Lowcountry students generally saw better scores on those tests. Students statewide and locally saw the biggest gains on the U.S. history and Constitution test, but the overall pass rate on that exam still was lower than the three other subjects tested, according to results released today by the South Carolina Department of Education. Students statewide and locally saw the biggest gains on the U.S. history and Constitution test, but the overall pass rate on that exam still was lower than the three other subjects tested, according to results released today by the South Carolina Department of Education.

Aiken Standard: SRR surpasses halfway point in closing tanks

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20130930/AIK0101/130939980/1007/AIK0101/srr-surpasses-halfway-point-in-closing-tanks>

Derrek Asberry

Savannah River Remediation, the liquid waste contractor at the Savannah River Site, passed the mid-way point in grouting two liquid waste tanks at SRS. According to a recent press release, the liquid waste contractor poured the one-millionth gallon of specially-formulated cement grout into Tanks 5 and 6 on Sept. 23. Reports indicate that it took 625 cement trucks to reach one million gallons. As of today, that number has escalated to 748 cement trucks. From this point, the contractor has about 800,000 gallons to go before the two waste tanks will be grouted and operationally closed.

Post and Courier: Charleston School of Law founder Westbrook: InfiLaw is not the only option for school's future

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20130930/PC16/130939934/1389/csol-founder-westbrook-says-options-exist-besides-infilaw-for-school-x2019-s-future>

Diane Knich

Charleston School of Law founder and board member Edward Westbrook says there are at least three options for the future of the school that would be better than selling to the for-profit InfiLaw System. Westbrook presented the details of those options in a letter last week to retired U.S. magistrate judges George C. Kosko and Robert S. Carr, the other two remaining founders and board members. The alternatives include the school: Paying Kosko and Carr a portion of the value of their shares, and remaining a limited liability corporation while the school stabilizes. Kosko and Carr could stay on as board members, but the school also would have respected members of the legal community join the board.

Associated Press: SC law enforcement agencies set for training

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

Law enforcement agencies from across the Upstate are set to participate in an annual training exercise. The 3rd Annual Upstate Shield Training Exercise is scheduled for Tuesday in Pendleton. Organizers say the exercise known as "Upstate Shield" is intended to give agencies an opportunity to share ideas, learn new skills and establish working relationships. Several sheriffs and chiefs from different departments are expected to speak, and there are also various scenarios and breakout sessions throughout the day.

The State: Survey: Hispanics Like Pope Francis And The Democratic Party

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=FxeDoX8V

Cathy Lynn Grossman

A new survey of Hispanic political and religious values finds they're overwhelmingly Democrats who hold a largely negative view of the Republican Party. But a Public Religion Research Institute survey released Sept. 27 at the Religion Newswriters Association conference finds that their religious profile is shifting: - Today, 53 percent identify as Catholic, but 69 percent said they had a Catholic upbringing. - The biggest area of growth is evangelical Protestantism. Thirteen percent told pollsters they are evangelical today,

compared with 7 percent who said they had an evangelical upbringing.

Local Reactions to Gov't Shutdown:

Island Packet: Civilian military employees to take brunt of shutdown in Beaufort County

<http://www.islandpacket.com/2013/09/30/2714322/civilian-military-employees-to.html#storylink=cpy>

Matt McNab

More than 1,200 civilian defense employees could be sent home from work Tuesday in Beaufort County, casualties of the federal government shutdown. Up to 1,200 civilian workers at Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort alone could be furloughed Tuesday morning, Sgt. Marcy Sanchez said. And Sue Partridge, president of the local American Federation of Government Employees union, said 60 percent of her chapter's membership -- about 480 people -- will be furloughed. "They're holding us hostage," Partridge said. "We still have more furloughs coming next year, and we haven't got raises in four years. Meanwhile, insurance has gone up every year. Now we're in the middle of a lot of drama in Washington. It hasn't been a good day."

Post and Courier: Shutdown's local impact

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20130930/PC16/130939928/1006/what-to-expect-in-the-lowcountry>

The last tour boat from Fort Sumter — for who knows how long — to the embarkation point off Liberty Square in Charleston arrived at 4:45 p.m. Monday. Tourists Linda and George Grey of New Jersey were on board. They joked with some of the other 200 passengers about what the pending government shutdown would mean for them when it came to getting themselves off of the historic site where the Civil War began. "We laughed about that if we didn't make the boat, we'd be stuck out there," she said of the possibility that no more tours would move this week.

Rock Hill Herald: Government shutdown would close Head Start, cancel events at Kings Mountain park

<http://www.heraldonline.com/2013/09/30/5259127/government-shutdown-would-shutter.html#storylink=cpy>

Andrew Dys

If a federal government shutdown is not averted this week, local Head Start pre-kindergarten classes for 864 students will be canceled after Friday, and the annual Kings Mountain battle events in western York County will be called off, officials said Monday. Head Start has money to last through this week but would have to close after that unless the federal shutdown is stopped, said Walter Kellogg, executive director of Carolina Community Actions, the agency that administers the federal program for low-income families in York, Chester, Lancaster and Union counties.

Georgetown Fire News:

Sun News: State dept. of Parks, Recreation and Tourism helps Georgetown

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/2013/09/30/3743820/state-dept-of-parks-recreation.html#storylink=cpy>

Amanda Kelley

The S.C. Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism plans to help promote Georgetown following the Front Street fire that destroyed seven historic buildings. Duane Parrish, director of the department visited the town Monday afternoon, according to a press release. "Governor [Nikki] Haley wants people to continue visiting Georgetown," he said. "She wants them to see the treasure and history you have in this community and she wants us to help share the message that you're open for business."

Seneca Journal: Congregation hopes to rebuild onsite

<https://upstatetoday.com/2013/10/congregation-hopes-to-rebuild-onsite/>

Mikayla Krezberger

State Sen. Thomas Alexander stooped down just outside the charred sanctuary of Walhalla Presbyterian Church Monday and picked up one of many tithing cards scattered in the ashes — a reminder of the seemingly calm Sunday service the week before a fire destroyed much of the historic church. But, out of the ashes that are piled in wet clumps in the ceiling-less sanctuary, Alexander says the congregation plans to rebuild on the site of the burned-out building. "Before this church was built — almost 100 years ago — the old church sat on this same spot," Alexander, a lifelong congregation member, said. "We've been serving God right here on this corner in Walhalla for a long time. We hope to continue to do so."

Post and Courier: Georgetown Times to donate \$25,000 in fire aftermath

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20130930/PC16/130939923/1006/georgetown-times-to-donate->

25000-in-fire-aftermath

After the devastating fire on Front Street in Georgetown last week, The Georgetown Times is donating \$25,000 to the Fire Relief Fund sponsored by the Georgetown Business Association. The Georgetown Business Association, the United Way and the Chamber of Commerce have worked together with numerous banks in the area to set up the Fire Relief Fund. A committee representing those agencies will review requests for assistance and allocate the funds. John Carr, publisher of The Georgetown Times said, "We at The Georgetown Times are struck by the speed and generosity of the support generated so far. We are glad we are able to take part and hope that all residents and businesses who are able consider doing so as well."

Local News:

Times and Democrat: Stoudemire stands by slavery analogy

http://thetandd.com/news/local/stoudemire-stands-by-slavery-analogy/article_064c92d6-2a49-11e3-acdc-0019bb2963f4.html

Martha Rose Brown

South Carolina House Minority Leader Rep. J. Todd Rutherford is calling for House District 93 Republican candidate Charlie Stoudemire to apologize for remarks Stoudemire made last week comparing government assistance to slavery. In a press release Monday, the Columbia Democrat said "I wish we could get through one election in South Carolina without a Republican making a bigoted remark. Mr. Stoudemire got his facts wrong during his rant and insulted the millions of hard-working South Carolinians fighting to find or keep their jobs while Nikki Haley and other Republicans stack the deck against them." Rutherford's press release linked to The Times and Democrat's video coverage of the Sept. 26 gathering of the Calhoun County Republican Party. During the meeting, Stoudemire said he'd like to work with school officials to develop a plan to help kids achieve.

The Item: State director brings mental health message to The Sumter Rotary

http://www.theitem.com/news/local_news/state-director-brings-mental-health-message-to-the-sumter-rotary/article_d22d128d-35c8-50e2-ace3-f41e401801c0.html

Jade Anderson

While the S.C. Department of Mental Health has had a rich history, it has faced challenges during difficult economic times. "In the last three and a half years, we've lost \$90 million in state-appropriated funding, and 40 percent of our entire budget comes from state funding," said John Magill, state director of the S.C. Department of Mental Health and featured speaker for The Sumter Rotary Club on Monday. The Santee-Wateree Community Mental Health Center - which serves Sumter, Clarendon, Lee and Kershaw counties - has also seen reductions.

Aiken Standard: Professor cites objections to Obamacare

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20131001/AIK0101/131009994/1007/AIK0101/professor-cites-objections-to-obamacare>

Rob Novit

A Georgia Regents University associate dean and professor cited strong objections to the Affordable Care Act on Monday – the day before health insurance exchanges began. From his own analysis, said Dr. Mark Thompson, the Act won't save families \$2,500, but will increase their health costs by \$7,450, he told Aiken Rotary Club members on Monday. Thompson is a professor and associate dean of the university's MBA program. "There are a lot of rules that are very vague and some that still need to be written," he said, "... This is a 2,000-page bill that is underestimating the cost."

Associated Press: Meetings in Beaufort focus on bases, sequestration

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/2013/oct/01/meetings-beaufort-focus-bases-sequestration/>

Leaders in Beaufort are holding meetings this week focusing on the effects of federal budget cuts and possible base closures. The Beaufort Gazette reports the sessions are scheduled for Tuesday at the University of South Carolina Bluffton campus and Thursday at the USC-Beaufort campus. They feature speakers from the Beaufort Regional Chamber of Commerce's Military Enhancement Committee. Jack Snider, a retired commander at the Beaufort Marine Corps Air Station, is scheduled to provide an update on area bases. The air station is preparing for the arrival next year of the military's Joint Strike Fighter.

Aiken Standard: Local help is available to help navigate Obamacare

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20131001/AIK0101/131009991/1007/AIK0101/local-help-is-available-to-help-navigate-obamacare>

DeDe Biles

The Affordable Care Act's Health Insurance Marketplace opens officially today. Most individuals and their dependents, who don't already have health insurance, are required to get coverage if they don't want to pay a penalty. Aiken County and other South Carolina residents can go online and visit www.healthcare.gov to sign up and select a plan. Open enrollment will continue until March 31, 2014. People have until Dec. 15 to get health coverage that will begin on Jan. 1, 2014. They have until March 31 to avoid penalties.

Sun News: Horry County Schools students top state in end-of-course test scores

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/2013/10/01/3744533/horry-county-schools-students.html#storylink=cpy>
Vicki Grooms

Students at Horry County Schools topped those statewide in the S.C. End-of-Course Examination Program, with higher average scores in three of four subjects and higher passage rates in all subjects, according to data released Tuesday by the S.C. Department of Education. State EOC exams are given in middle and high school in the four core content areas of algebra, biology, English and U.S. history and the Constitution. Test results count for 20 percent of each student's final grade in a course, and they are used as a performance measure on state report cards.

Rock Hill Herald: 2 in 5 SC students don't pass history, Constitution exam

<http://www.heraldonline.com/2013/10/01/5261247/2-in-5-sc-students-dont-pass-history.html#storylink=cpy>
Rachel Southmayd

At midnight Monday, a deadline struck and Americans learned whether their Congress was able to fulfill its constitutional duty to pass a budget and continue to pay the government's bills. At the same time, the latest scores from South Carolina's end-of-course exams were released, showing that just three out of five high school students could pass the "U.S. History and the Constitution" exam. Locally, three of 13 public high schools in York, Chester and Lancaster counties have passing rates lower than 50 percent, according to results released today by the state Department of Education.

Island Packet: Beaufort County School District has mixed results on end-of-course exams

<http://www.islandpacket.com/2013/10/01/2714466/beaufort-county-school-district.html#storylink=cpy>
Sarah Bowman

The number of Beaufort County students who passed four key high school exams topped state averages in two subject areas but fell below the state average in the other two. The school district also had mixed results compared with its 2012 pass rates for end-of-course exams. The percentage of students who passed the exams rose in two subjects -- English and U.S. history -- compared with last year's results. However, pass rates in biology and algebra slipped slightly. The percentage of students passing the English and biology exams rose above the statewide percentages, but the district saw lower pass rates in the algebra and U.S. history exams.

Associated Press: Columbia ceremony honors domestic violence victims

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

South Carolina's top prosecutor is again hosting a somber ceremony to honor residents who were killed as a result of domestic violence. Attorney General Alan Wilson is scheduled to hold the Silent Witness Domestic Violence ceremony at the Statehouse in Columbia on Tuesday. As he does each year, Wilson plans to call the names of each man and woman killed by domestic violence in 2012. This is the event's 16th year and also features life-size silhouettes representing each victim. A bell also rings once for each person.

National News:

Associated Press: Congress plunges nation into government shutdown

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268773/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=xcnEv3dR
Andrew Taylor

Congress plunged the nation into a partial government shutdown Tuesday as a long-running dispute over President Barack Obama's health care law stalled a temporary funding bill, forcing about 800,000 federal workers off the job and suspending most non-essential federal programs and services. The shutdown, the first since the winter of 1995-96, closed national parks, museums along the Washington Mall and the U.S. Capitol visitors center. Agencies like NASA and the Environmental Protection Agency will be all but shuttered. People classified as essential government employees - such as air traffic controllers, Border Patrol agents and most food inspectors - will continue to work. The health care law itself was unaffected as

enrollment opened Tuesday for millions of people shopping for medical insurance.

Politico: Obama on government shutdown: 'Congress has not fulfilled its responsibility'

<http://www.politico.com/story/2013/10/government-shutdown-barack-obama-shutdown-97609.html#ixzz2gTHeEf7I>

Carrie Budoff Brown

The administration issued the order late Monday to begin shutting down the government — the first in 17 years — following a day of brinkmanship, blame and failed efforts by President Barack Obama, the House and the Senate to break the impasse. At midnight, Obama appeared on Armed Forces Television with a video message directed at troops and Defense Department personnel stationed abroad. “Every time, you’ve met your responsibilities and performed with extraordinary professionalism, skill and courage,” Obama said. “Unfortunately, Congress has not fulfilled its responsibility. It has failed to pass a budget and, as a result, much of our government must now shut down until Congress funds it again.”

Associated Press: Health insurance markets open; success to be seen

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268773/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=HzNxn37d

Carla K. Johnson

Millions of Americans will be able to shop for the first time Tuesday on the insurance marketplaces that are at the heart of President Barack Obama's health care reforms, entering a world that is supposed to simplify the mysteries of health coverage but could end up making it even more confusing, at least initially. Whether consumers will be pleased with the experience, the premiums and the out-of-pocket costs of the plans offered to them will finally start to become clear. Tuesday's rollout comes after months of buildup in which the marketplaces, also known as exchanges, have been both praised and vilified.

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