

THE DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE WEEKLY UPDATE

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE DNC COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

September 27, 2013

HEADLINE OF THE WEEK— TIME: DEMOCRATS GO ON OFFENSE ON OBAMACARE DEFUND EFFORT

"The DNC launched the website 'ThisIsObamacare.com,' highlighting the popular provisions of the Affordable Care Act and the serial Republican votes to repeal them. Supporters of the bill are asked to join 'Team Obamacare,' and when they select their state are presented with a list of benefits in their own backyard and provided with a list of Republicans to tweet at with the text, 'I'm tired of Republicans like @johnboehner trying to take away my #Obamacare. Join me & fight back.' [TIME [9/27/13](#)]

President Obama and President Clinton speak at the Clinton Global Initiative

President Obama joined former President Bill Clinton at the Clinton Global Initiative Annual Meeting on Tuesday for a conversation about the benefits and future of the Affordable Care Act.

The two presidents shared the stage for an hour, highlighting the health care enrollment process that begins next week.

"The fact is that we have been, up until recently, the only advanced industrialized nation on Earth that permits large numbers of its people to languish without health insurance," said President Obama. "So this is going to be a good deal for those who don't have health insurance. Those who already have health insurance get better health insurance. And the best part of the whole thing is, because of these changes we initiated in terms of how we're paying providers, health care costs have grown, as you pointed out, Mr. President, at the slowest rate in 50 years."



The Presidents continued their conversation by going through the need to get individuals registered for the program to help the law succeed.

Click [here](#) to read the transcript of their discussion.

[President Obama Gives Healthcare Preview in Maryland](#)

On Thursday, President Obama spoke at Prince George's Community College in Maryland to promote the Affordable Care Act enrollment that opens on October 1st.



The President spoke to the importance and benefits the new health care law will provide American citizens. During his remarks, President Obama highlighted programs in America's past that were met with resistance due to political reasons, but eventually helped improve the lives of Americans.

"As we implement, there are going to be glitches and there are going to be certain states that for political reasons are resisting implementation. And we're just steadily working through all that stuff. The same was true when Medicare was started. The same was true when Social Security got started. There were folks who, for political reasons, resisted

implementation. But once it got set up, people started saying, this is a pretty good deal; it gives me a little more security."

To read The President's full speech click [here](#).

Wednesday's Front pages

The Department of Health and Human Services announcing lower than expected healthcare cost premiums was covered on front pages of newspapers across the country:

Lonely Dallas

INSIDE: Read what's 'Made in Central Wisconsin'

Report: Exchange choices offer savings

6 in 10 buying individual insurance could pay less than \$100 a month

By Richard Rynan

Every day across central Wisconsin, hundreds of local business owners are busy, choosing and providing, for customers and selling a mounting array of products and services.

And for many of those business owners, a story of pride and dedication is waiting to be told.

So, the idea for "Made in Central Wisconsin," an award-winning magazine, was born. The magazine is published by the Central Wisconsin Business Association and is a quarterly publication.

Now it's 10 years young. "Made in Central Wisconsin" features profiles of more than 300 local business owners.

It's a celebration of the region's business and industry, and a source of information for business owners and consumers alike.

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Exchange rates to be lower than expected

By Richard Rynan

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Report: Exchange choices to offer rate savings

Monthly premium costs could be less than \$100

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CHARTING COURSE

NEW APPS LET PARENTS KEEP TABS ON BABY

PREGNANT HALLANDALE MOM BACK IN CUSTODY

MIAMI HERALD

U.S.: Obamacare cost below forecast

Consumers who have to buy health insurance through the online exchanges will have plenty of options, but they won't find out the actual cost until they start next week.

By Erik S. Rein, Patricia Hynes and Kathleen Kiersey

It's a relief for many people who are worried about the cost of health insurance. The federal government's latest report says that the average monthly premium for a benchmark plan in 2014 will be less than \$100 a month.

That's a significant drop from the \$1,200 a month that was expected just a few months ago.

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Palm Beach Post

Local Obamacare rates beat forecast

Insurance premiums are lower than projected despite the state's lack of negotiation

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Obamacare to cost less, feds say

But residents will get fewer choices than other states

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Tampa Bay Times

Cost of health plans out

Insurance premiums are lower than projected despite the state's lack of negotiation

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Texans to have array of insurance options

By Loch Meese

Residents of the Houston area and Texas will have dozens of insurance plans from which to choose when marketplaces under the Affordable Care Act open Tuesday — with the average monthly premium costing as little as \$10 for a family of four.

A report released Wednesday

THE BRONX

Feds unveil new prices for health insurance

Some N.J. premium rates expected to drop

By Richard Rynan

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Industry braces for law's impact

Businesses, and individuals, see likely opportunity

By Richard Rynan

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[Weekly Address: Congress Must Act to Avert Default and Shutdown](#)

In his weekly address, President Obama spoke about the financial crisis five years ago and the improvements the economy has seen. The President highlighted two big decisions in the coming weeks for Congress and the disastrous results if they can't get the job done to both avoid a government shutdown and to pay the bills Congress has already racked up. Watch it [here](#).



[The Real Life Impact of a default](#)

The Republican Party's plan to shut down the government and default on our obligations unless Obamacare is gutted would have a devastating impact on ordinary Americans and the overall economy.

- For our service members, a government shutdown would mean **a suspension in pay.**
- Some Social Security benefits for seniors "**could be delay[ed] and new claims may be not be processed.**"
- For small business owners, a government shutdown poses a real threat as it would likely mean **small business loan applications** would not materialize.
- **Lifesaving clinical trials at the National Institute of Health** could turn new patients away.
- According to **The Denver Post**, long-term flood recovery efforts could be jeopardized too.

A shutdown would be devastating for ordinary Americans from military families and seniors to small business owners and those people in need of health care. But the GOP's recklessness doesn't end there. They are willing to go further, forcing a default on our nation's obligations trying to stop Obamacare.

Mark Zandi, former economic advisor for John McCain's Presidential campaign has said that a **default over the debt limit would cause a severe recession** and U.S. Chamber of Commerce President Thomas Donohue said "**it is insane not to raise the debt ceiling.**"

To read the full memo the DNC put out this week click [here](#).

[How the GOP Shutdown Threat Over Obamacare is Playing in the States](#)

For the Republicans:



VS.

For the Democrats:



In the States

See below for a look at this week's news from states across the country.

- In Virginia, the candidates squared off in the second gubernatorial debate. Democratic candidate Terry McAuliffe kept Ken Cuccinelli on the defensive as Cuccinelli had to address his record of extreme positions on issues that impact Virginians and unyielding allegiance to the Tea Party. After the debate [Robert McCartney](#) of the Washington Post said this of Cuccinelli, "Virginia voters are right to be suspicious that he would act as governor just as he did as the state's top lawman. Unless he can reverse that perception— or McAuliffe stumbles — Cuccinelli faces a tough path to win the governorship."
- This week in Colorado, [Vice President Biden met with Governor Hickenlooper](#) to survey the damage caused by recent flooding in the state, which caused widespread mudslides and landslides. President Obama signed an Emergency Declaration for federal funding for the affected areas.
- This week in the South, Obamacare was met with open arms as premiums came in lower than expected. [Insurance premiums offered in the exchanges](#) in Georgia, [Florida](#), and [Tennessee](#) were among the lowest in the country. Local news coverage has been [positive](#) since the Department of Health and Human Services released the state exchange figures.
- This week in New Jersey, the New Jersey Democratic Party put out a [memo](#) calling out Governor Chris Christie for flip flopping on whether or not he supports a government shutdown in order to hold Obamacare hostage. Christie had previously said, "You have to use every bit of leverage you have to be able to negotiate," [Star-Ledger, [1/9/13](#)] and just yesterday when things started to look bad for the Republican caucus he said, "a government shutdown would be 'a failure,' and that it would be 'irresponsible.'" [CBS News, [9/26/13](#)].

DNC Chair on National Voter Registration Day

DNC Chair Debbie Wasserman Schultz released the following statement in recognition of National Voter Registration Day, September 24:

"The right to vote is a defining feature of democracy, one that gives every citizen equal power in determining those who will represent them in government. Every year, National Voter Registration Day serves as a reminder of the importance of registering to vote, so that on Election Day you can go to the polls, cast your ballot and make your voice heard."

"Today there will be thousands of dedicated volunteers in the field, helping citizens take advantage of their rights as Americans. For those who don't encounter one of those volunteers, remember that you can get information about registering online at www.NationalVoterRegistrationDay.org.

"The Democratic Party will continue to work to protect voting rights and oppose barriers like voter-ID laws that prevent too many Americans from casting a ballot. We know that the more people vote, the more certain we all can be that our government is truly 'of the people, by the people, for the people.'"