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# A Sign Of The Times

## Confusion Surrounds What Is And Is Not Shutdown

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF  
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At her Yankton tourism office, Jacquie Fuks has received calls from travelers fearing the federal shutdown will ruin their travel plans.

One call even came from a woman headed to the Black Hills, 300 miles away. "Her family had been planning this once-in-a-lifetime trip for a year, and they're

concerned they aren't going to see Mount Rushmore," said Fuks, executive director of the Southeast South Dakota Tourism Association.

It's all part of the uncertainty surrounding the partial federal government shutdown and its impact on national parks and other federal facilities.

### also

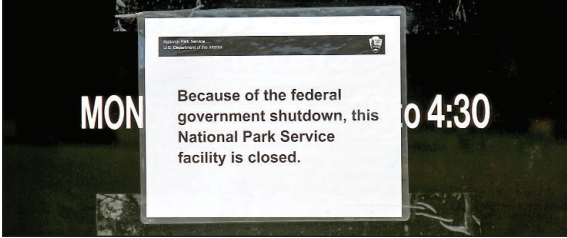
■ Obama, Legislators Meet On 2nd Day of The Shutdown.  
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The National Park Service has closed sites, including the Missouri National Recreational River (MNRR) office in Yankton. Interim Superintendent Steve Thede and Ranger Dugan Smith couldn't be reached Wednesday for comment, but Thede has told the media that his seven employees have been furloughed.

In addition, this weekend's Missouri River clean-up at Verdel, Neb., which included the NPS, has been canceled because of the shutdown and a forecast of inclement weather.

The federal shutting of programs has affected other area facilities.

## MISSOURI NATIONAL RECREATIONAL RIVER



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

This sign taped to the door of the National Park Service (NPS) headquarters in Yankton Tuesday spelled out the situation as the NPS was one of the many agencies impacted by the federal shutdown in Washington. It was reported that seven local NPS workers have been furloughed pending the resolution of the D.C. showdown.

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## Mum's The Word



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

The growing season may be done, but plants still have some life left in them. On Wednesday, members of Keep Yankton Beautiful (KYB) planted yellow mums, kale and fountain grass in some of the downtown Yankton planters to add some color to the fall season. KYB director Amanda Johnson (center) and KYB board member Tom Nelson worked with City of Yankton urban forestry specialist Lisa Kortan to plant the fall annuals in the planters.

## Navigator: Residents Ask Insurance Questions

BY DIRK LAMMERS  
Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS — Although the website for the federal health insurance marketplace is in high demand, a South Dakota coordinator said Wednesday she's still fielding calls from people who aren't sure how President Barack Obama's health care law will affect them.

South Dakota is one of 36 states letting the federal government run its health exchange, where con-

sumers can compare plans and buy health insurance. But nonprofits and advocacy groups funded by federal grants are helping residents navigate the system and sign up for coverage.

Kim Jones of the South Dakota Navigator Coalition said people are getting through on the website, but that she also took several calls Wednesday and set up several appointments to meet with residents to discuss coverage options.

"The calls I've handled today had nothing to do with the website,"

Jones said. "They had to do with people being unaware with the Affordable Care Act and what it might mean for them."

The marketplaces represent a turning point in the nation's approach to health care, the biggest expansion in coverage in nearly 50 years. The Obama administration hopes to sign up 7 million people during the first year and aims to

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# Reduction In Business UI Tax Burden Suggested

BY BOB MERCER  
State Capitol Bureau

PIERRE — South Dakota businesses would see an estimated \$11 million reduction in their unemployment insurance taxes in 2014 under a plan that received another tweak Wednesday by a state advisory council.

The plan would need the governor's recommendation followed by approval from the Legislature in 2014 to take effect Jan. 1, 2015.

It would allow the unemployment trust fund to reach the council's target balance of \$78 million by the end of 2015 while reducing the amounts paid by all employers.

Rep. Susan Wismer, D-Britton, contacted state Labor Secretary Pam Roberts and several members of the unemployment insurance advisory council.

Wismer, a certified public accountant, made the case for allowing the wage base to increase to \$15,000 as previously planned.

"She brought a good point and our numbers reiterate that point, and it's new information," Roberts said.

The wage base is part of the complex formula used to calculate an employer's payment. An employer pays the unemployment insurance tax on the amount paid to a worker up to the amount of the wage base.

Shawn Lyons, executive director for the South Dakota Retailers Association, said he'd like to look over the numbers for a few months before the session begins in January. He had suggested keeping the wage base at \$14,000.

The council had met Monday and voted to recommend a plan that would hold the wage base at \$14,000 and adjust the reserve ratios for all employers so they could pay less.

The council re-voted Wednesday, after considering Wismer's point, to let the wage base rise to \$15,000 and further

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## Showcase Tour Makes A Stop In Yankton

BY NATHAN JOHNSON  
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Eastern South Dakota has a workforce shortage, and regional economic development officials tried to close the gap this week by connecting employers with employment recruiters.

The Advantage South Dakota 2013 Jobs Showcase Tour visited a dozen communities during the course of Tuesday and Wednesday, and its last stop was in Yankton. It included representatives from seven Sioux Falls-area employment recruiting companies.

Advantage South Dakota is a regional economic development initiative of NorthWestern Energy, along with the communities it serves, including Aberdeen, Chamberlain, DeSmet, Freeman, Huron, Madison, Milbank, Mitchell, Redfield, Webster and Yankton. As of last week, there were approximately 2,700 jobs available among those communities.

"As (members of Advantage South Dakota) meet quarterly, we hear from communities that they need housing and labor," said tour leader Jerry Bertsch, NorthWestern's key accounts

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# Local Manufacturers Collaborate To Contribute To Mining, Construction



ROB NIELSEN/P&D

Gary Schulte (left) and Steve Meteer (right) of Dakota Trailer stand in front of a partially complete radiator that will eventually be installed on a Caterpillar D11T. Dakota Trailer and L&M Radiators collaborate in a shared facility to build radiators for construction and mining equipment.

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is part of a series of articles exploring Yankton's manufacturing industry during South Dakota Manufacturing Week.

BY ROB NIELSEN  
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In addition to building trailers, the Yankton manufacturer has worked in conjunction with L&M Radiator of Hibbing, Minn., to help build radiators for some of the largest mining and construction vehicles in the world. Dakota Trailer is a weld vendor supplying



welded radiator frame assemblies to L&M Radiator. Overseeing the radiator division of

Dakota Trailer is Production Manager Gary Schulte, who has been working at the plant for 2 1/2 years after previously working in construction.

"It's been a really good job," he said. "It's challenging

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