

The Obama Timeline – Part II

The Doomed Presidency

October 2013

On October 1, the government begins its “shutdown”—or, more accurately, what Paul Roderick Gregory calls at Forbes.com a “reduction in non-essential discretionary spending.” Obama sends an email to federal employees advising them of the action—and placing the entire blame on Congress. Obama calls the workers “noble” and, strangely, notes that “more than 50 current or former Federal employees have received the Nobel Prize for their efforts.” In a partisan attack, Obama states, “This shutdown was completely preventable. It should not have happened. And the House of Representatives can end it as soon as it follows the Senate’s lead, and funds your work in the United States Government without trying to attach highly controversial and partisan measures in the process.’ (The Senate and Obama can end it as well, by passing and signing any of the continuing resolutions passed by the House.) “...And your families apprised and informed of what is happening. And I will continue to do everything in my power to get the House of Representatives to allow our Government to reopen as quickly as possible, and make sure you receive the pay that you have earned.” (Obama apparently does not care that his message is found offensive by the many Republicans and conservatives who work in government. Additionally, Obama also broke the law with his email. TeaPartyNation.com notes that “Federal Workers are not allowed to send partisan/political emails to other government workers using their government email accounts while they are on duty. They do not expect to read any partisan emails either, especially from the government.”) [49284, 49285, 49287]

The shutdown is actually only a partial shutdown, as very few services will be curtailed and most Americans will not notice any problems. According to Garth Kant at WND.com, “Social Security checks would still be mailed, Medicare and unemployment benefits would keep coming and food stamps would still be issued. The military would still be up and running, and Congress passed legislation Monday to ensure pay for the military’s 1.4 million active duty personnel, although the Pentagon could furlough 400,000 civilian workers and delay training and contracts. The mail would still be delivered, because the U.S. Postal Service runs on income from stamps and other postal fees. Federal meat inspections should continue as usual. The FDA would still issue high-risk recalls but might suspend routine safety inspections. School lunches and breakfasts would still be served. Air travel would continue as federal air traffic controllers would remain on the job. Security screening should not take much longer, because ‘the majority of our officers who screen passengers/luggage will remain on the job,’ TSA spokesman Ross Feinstein tweeted. Federal inspectors would still enforce safety rules. Those who leave the country would still be able to get back home, as most U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers are expected to remain on duty. Embassies and consulates overseas would stay open to provide services to American citizens. The processing of passport and

visa applications are paid for by fees, so they would continue.” [49056, 49057, 49073, 49075, 49443]

“The State Department warns that consular operations abroad would only remain open as long as ‘there are sufficient fees to support operations.’ Also unaffected would be services for national security and human safety, border security, coastal protection, law enforcement, counter-terrorism efforts, federal prisons and Amtrak service. The Justice Department would remain almost fully staffed. Federal courts would stay in session. IRS audit appointments would be canceled, but taxes would still have to be paid. The National Weather Service would continue forecasting and issuing warnings and the National Hurricane Center would keep tracking storms. Veterans would still be able to visit hospitals, get mental health counseling and have prescriptions filled at VA health clinics. National parks, monuments and museums would close, the Census Bureau would stop collecting data, gun permits would be delayed and applications for small business loans would be suspended. White House press secretary Jay Carney said senior nutrition grants, which provide meals for 2.5 million elderly Americans, would not be funded in a shutdown. Borrowers and first-time home buyers seeking government-backed mortgages could face delays. The Federal Housing Administration would not underwrite or approve new loans during a shutdown. Processing of government-backed loans to small businesses would be suspended. Federal occupational safety and health inspectors would probably suspend workplace inspections, except in situations in which danger is imminent. The Environmental Protection Agency would furlough all but 1,069 of its 16,200 workers. The National Labor Relations Board would send home 1,600 of its 1,611 employees, and the Commodity Futures Trading Commission would furlough 652 of its 680 employees. According to White House numbers, at least 825,000 of the more than 2 million federal workers would be furloughed. The government was last shut down in early 1996, and the closure lasted almost four weeks.” (Socialist Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA) says the shutdown is “as dangerous as the break-up of the Union before the Civil War.” But even the Department of Justice states that the “shutdown” term “is an entirely inaccurate description.”) [49056, 49057, 49073, 49075]

It is worth noting that most government spending is “entitlement spending,” such as Social Security benefits, Medicaid, Medicare, unemployment compensation, and disability benefits. Because those programs are not in the category of “discretionary spending,” they do not require a continuing resolution for their funding—they simply continue. Discretionary spending is only a small part of government, and it is programs in that category that require funding via appropriations bills and the annual budget process—a process the Democrat-controlled Senate has neglected to follow for four years. (If Obama wanted to, he could arguably declare all federal spending “essential” and there would not even be a partial shutdown of federal activities.)

Despite the partial shutdown, the Obama administration finds the money to pay someone to set up a web page at WhiteHouse.gov that trolls for “shutdown sob stories.” The site asks, “How Has the Government Shutdown Affected You?” and invites Americans to tell their stories. [49585]

Again in full campaign mode even though there is no campaign, Obama delivers an angry, partisan, demagogic, scare-mongering speech criticizing Republicans for shutting down the government (even though it was the Democrat-controlled Senate that refused to approve any of the three continuing resolutions passed by the GOP-controlled House). Behind Obama stand several Americans hand-picked to showcase the implementation of ObamaCare, to whom he refers with sob stories about how his health care legislation has changed their lives dramatically for the better. Obama says, “Republicans in Congress chose to shut down the federal government. Let me be more specific: one faction of one party in one house of Congress in one branch of government shut down major parts of the government. All because they didn’t like one law. This Republican shutdown did not have to happen.” (CNN makes the mistake of having leftists Wolf Blitzer and Gloria Borger debate the issue and the speech with former House Speaker Newt Gingrich who, Breitbart.com’s John Nolte notes, effectively “clean[s] their clocks.” Nolte also observes, “[O]ne of the reasons our government is shut down is because ...Obama felt no pressure from the media to negotiate. He knew they had their [the Democrats’] back. Had the media been consistent in their long-held principle about ‘bipartisan compromise,’ Obama might have come to the table and offered something the GOP could accept.” In other words, Obama assumed he could not lose the argument, with ABC, CBS, NBC, CNN, and MSNBC continually portraying the Republicans as evil creatures who want sick people to die without health care.) [49038]

In an attempt to illustrate the danger of a partial shutdown, Obama states, “The federal government is America’s largest employer.” (At Townhouse.com Michael Schaus] notes that Wal-Mart has 2.2 million employees; the federal government has 2.5 million. But “The Federal Government, unlike Wal-Mart or any other private enterprise, is unaccountable to business models, market concerns, or even customer satisfaction.” And, of course, Wal-Mart gives the customer something desired in exchange for its income—which can hardly be said for many aspects of the federal government. Americans would suffer far more from a Wal-Mart shutdown than a government shutdown. More importantly, Wal-Mart does not have 800,000 “non-essential” employees, as does the federal government. At the Department of Education, 95 percent of its employees are considered “non-essential” and are being furloughed during the government’s partial shutdown.) [49041, 49068, 49103, 49137]

Obama also brags that he signed legislation guaranteeing military pay would continue during the partial shutdown. (House Republicans insisted on that legislation, not Obama—who prefers hurting as many people as possible during the shutdown so he can use that as leverage against the GOP.)

Obama claims ObamaCare will help the “50 million people” in the nation who are without health insurance. (Throughout the push to pass ObamaCare, the administration claimed there were 30 million uninsured.) He states, “It is unconscionable that in one of the most advanced nations in the world, there are nearly 50 million people who lack health insurance and millions more who have burdensome co-payments and deductibles.” (In addition to the claim of 50 million being absurd, the statement is also a lie: the health insurance sold on the ObamaCare exchanges will *also* have co-payments and deductibles.

In fact, for many Americans they will be higher and more burdensome than what applied with the insurance they may have had prior to ObamaCare. ObamaCare's "bronze plan," for example, has a \$5,000 deductible and massive out-of-pocket limits.)

Obama provides the telephone "hotline" at which callers can get ObamaCare information in "150 languages." (Some might argue that a nation is headed toward its downfall when its government has to fund services and translators for 150 languages.) [49061]

Obama wrongly claims, "Veterans who've sacrificed for their country will find their support centers unstaffed." (In fact, since 2009 the Veterans Administration has been funded one year in advance. No veteran will lose services because of the partial shutdown.) [49081]

Obama says, "Now, like every new law, every new product roll-out, there are going to be some glitches in the sign-up process along the way that we will fix. I've been saying this from the start. For example, we found out that there have been times this morning where the site's been running more slowly than it normally will. The reason is because more than one million people visited healthcare.gov before 7:00 in the morning. To put that in context, there were five times more users in the marketplace this morning than have ever been on medicare.gov at one time. That gives you a sense of how important this is to millions of Americans around the country, and that's a good thing." (The site is not just "running slowly," it is generally not responding at all. Further, that millions of Americans will visit the site does *not* mean they will buy insurance. Many will simply use the site to obtain a premium estimate, be shocked by the rates, and never again visit the site.) [49059]

Totally ignoring what millions of Americans find objectionable about ObamaCare, Obama says, "Consider that just a couple of weeks ago, Apple rolled out a new mobile operating system, and within days, they found a glitch, so they fixed it. I don't remember anybody suggesting Apple should stop selling iPhones or iPads or threatening to shut down the company if they didn't. That's not how we do things in America. We don't actively root for failure. We get to work, we make things happen, we make them better, we keep going." (The difference, of course, is that the government is not *forcing* anyone to buy an Apple product; and, of course, Apple will go out of business if it does not satisfy its customers—while the federal government is here to stay, regardless of its incompetence.) [49062, 49393]

Obama is joined by Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius, who says, "We're thrilled that this day has finally come. [Obama] signed the health care bill in March of 2010, and we have now—implementing the final piece of the puzzle, which is to provide affordable coverage for about the fifteen percent of Americans who either don't have health care at all or are in and out of the so-called individual market and basically at the mercy of insurance companies. They'll now be able to choose between private insurance plans who have to compete for their business based on service and based on price. Healthcare.gov has plans side-by-side, families can figure out what works within their own budget and figure out what kind of financial help they may qualify for

and make a great choice about health security for the first time ever. So, we have had a few slowdowns, a few glitches, but it's sort of a great problem to have. It's based on the fact that the volume has been so high and the interest is so high. We're working quickly to fix that." (Laughably, Sebelius says the web site problems are "a great problem to have." Whether that response will still work in a few weeks remains to be seen. Software "glitches" can perhaps easily be addressed—but millions of Americans exclaiming, "ObamaCare insurance is going to cost me *how much?*" cannot. Sebelius also essentially repeats Obama's unfounded claim of 50 million uninsured Americans with her 15 percent reference. On September 30, Sebelius told NBC, "I think [ObamaCare] success looks like at least 7 million people having signed up by the end of March 2014—a mere 14 percent of the 50 million Americans she and Obama claim are uninsured.) [49069, 49090]

Standing behind Obama and Sebelius are several cherry-picked Americans with health care horror stories that Obama refers to in his remarks. One is 55-year-old Nancy Jean Beigel, who earns \$8,000 per year running a cleaning service. (She later tries to use the ObamaCare web site but gives up, telling *The Washington Post*, "It's a little confusing. It's not so great." Beigel is likely eligible for Medicaid and does not even know it, which makes Obama's use of her as a prop foolish—because she does not need ObamaCare.) [49250, 49252, 49288]

Sebelius tells MSNBC's Andrea Mitchell, "The congressional budget office, Andrea, projected 7 million newly insured by the end of the first open enrollment period. We're kind of shooting for that target. That includes not only the federal marketplace with the plans that are offered, but also various state marketplaces. I think the notion that we had [sic] just on the federal marketplace, over a million people before 7:00 a.m. this morning, it's an indication of how eager people are for real information, to get the facts, to do some shopping themselves. So healthcare.gov is the website. There's also a call center. 1-800-318-2596. 1-800-318-2596. People can call on the phone. And we have translators available in up to 150 languages to answer questions, help people understand some of the terminology. This is a brand-new day for millions of Americans, some of whom were in the Rose Garden with [Obama] just a few minutes ago. People who have pre-existing health conditions or lost their insurance when they lost their job or have had a difficult time just paying for coverage because they don't have employer-based coverage. They talked in a very human and compelling way to [Obama] about what a change this will make in their lives, how much security they will have, how they won't have to worry again about literally declaring bankruptcy or losing a house because they get sick. That's what this bill is all about." (According to White House press secretary Jay Carney, the Healthcare.gov web site was only expected to handle about 50,000 enrollments per day. Yet the administration claims there are 50 million uninsured Americans. At 50,000 per day, it would take 1,000 days, or almost three years, to enroll everyone in ObamaCare—which is hardly adequate when the penalties for not having insurance are not being extended to 1,000 days.) [49061]

On MSNBC, reporter Maria Schiavocampo unsuccessfully tries to use the Healthcare.gov web site to show viewers how easy it is to use. (She gets the message, "The website cannot display the page.") RealClearPolitics.com notes, "The MSNBCer also tried to call

the helpline twice but was put on hold for over 30 minutes. ‘If I were signing up for myself, this is where my patience would be exhausted,’ she said.” [49060, 49095]

By mid-day the Dow Jones Industrial Average is up 62 points. (The stock market also increased during the “shutdown” in 1996, contradicting Obama’s claim that the economy was severely damaged. In fact, the economy boomed.) The duration of the shutdown cannot be predicted, but nothing will be done by Republicans or Democrats in Congress until they conduct polls and see how the voters react to the events. Nolte points out, “The media are not pressuring Obama to negotiate, not even on the medical device tax or the illegal congressional ObamaCare exemption. The media are not suggesting congress pass limited continuing resolutions that would fund vital services like flu shots. Instead, the media prefer to demagogue those issues just like the Democrats.” (It is worth noting that during the 1996 budget showdown, Bill Clinton was *actively* involved in the negotiations and met repeatedly with Republican House Speaker Newt Gingrich. The shutdown was a *last resort* scenario resulting from the failure of serious negotiations to establish a compromise acceptable to all parties. Obama, on the other hand, has refused to sit down and negotiate with House Speaker John Boehner and has essentially ordered Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid *not* to negotiate an agreement. Whether the voting public can recognize the difference between Obama and Clinton remains to be seen. Obama is hoping they cannot.) [49038]

Among the “valuable” federal employees not working because of the partial shutdown are elevator operators in the Capitol Building. (Most Americans are probably unaware that the government still has elevator operators on the payroll, despite the fact that technology and automation rendered them obsolete decades ago. Apparently some Senators and Congressmen lack sufficient strength in their fingers to press buttons.) In addition to elevator operators, Congressmen will lose their shoe shine workers and access to the gym. Further, the office of the “Architect of the Capitol” will lose access to his Twitter account. [49043, 49138]

The ObamaCare web site, Healthcare.gov, experiences significant problems on its first official day of operations. (*The Obama Timeline* attempts to “sign up,” clicking an “apply for coverage” button. But that page directs the user to click the “Marketplace” button, which does nothing more than return to the Healthcare.gov home page. Later attempts to use the site result in a message, “The system is down at the moment. We’re working to resolve this issue as soon as possible. Please try again later.” Twelve hours later, the same message was displayed.) [49040, 49048, 49094, 49104]

Minnesota’s ObamaCare exchange, MNsure, experiences glitches and is not operational. Oregon’s site, “Cover Oregon,” will reportedly be down for “weeks,” as will Connecticut’s. [49085]

The California exchange site has a disclaimer, “This [bronze-level ObamaCare] plan has a substantially higher cost share when you use healthcare”—which sounds suspiciously like, “The plan won’t cost you much... as long as you don’t use it.”

Facebook is quickly flooded with comments from visitors to Healthcare.gov who (once they were able to get into the system) are astounded by the premium prices—especially for people with pre-existing conditions. A diabetic named Will Sheehan, with an income of between \$45,000 and \$55,000, reports an online ObamaCare exchange premium quote of \$597 per month, plus an annual deductible of \$13,988. He claims, “I received an email... informing me that my fine would be \$4,037 and could be attached to my yearly income tax return. Then you make it to the ‘REPERCUSSIONS PORTION’ for ‘non-payment’ of yearly fine. First, your drivers license will be suspended until paid, and if you go 24 consecutive months with ‘Non-Payment’ and you happen to be a home owner, you will have a federal tax lien placed on your home. You can agree to give your bank information so that they can easy ‘Automatically withdraw’ your ‘penalties’ weekly, bi-weekly or monthly! This by no means is ‘Free’ or even ‘Affordable.’” [49109, 49159, 49235]

RedFlagNews.com notes, “The federal government has consistently denied that any fines pertaining to Obamacare non-compliance could be seized from bank accounts. ‘There’s no criminal sanctions for not paying this, and there’s no ability to levy a bank account or do seizures,’ then-IRS commissioner Douglas Shulman said in April 2010. In addition, Americans who refuse to pay for mandatory health insurance ‘shall not be subject to any criminal prosecution,’ according to the law itself. Section 1501(g)(2) of the Affordable Care Act also states that the IRS cannot ‘file notice of lien with respect to any property of a taxpayer by reason of any failure to pay the penalty imposed by this section.’ Either Sheehan’s claim that he received this notice is a lie, or the feds have been dishonest with the American people all along, and the revolt against Obamacare is about to take ‘don’t tread on me’ to a whole new level.” (*The Obama Timeline* believes that although the severe penalties claimed by Sheehan are not in the law, they very likely will be put there if Democrats gain control of the House of Representatives in the 2014 mid-term elections. ObamaCare cannot survive without getting as many Americans as possible into the system—and force or threat of force will be the only way to do that.) [49109, 49159, 49235]

WashingtonPost.com writes, “Millions of Americans flooded government Web sites Tuesday to get a long-awaited look at insurance options available under the health law, but the high traffic contributed to widespread computer problems on what ...Obama hailed as a historic day. HealthCare.gov, the federal Web marketplace serving more than 30 states, was jammed for most of the day, with people encountering error messages that froze their applications. In the states operating their own marketplaces, the experience was spotty. Maryland’s site, Maryland Health Connection, was down for the morning and sluggish into the evening. Lesser problems were reported in Colorado, Washington, Hawaii and elsewhere. Obama and federal health officials described enormous interest, with 2.8 million people visiting the federal marketplace since early Tuesday, an additional 81,000 dialing in to the help center, and some people actually enrolling in coverage, though they declined to say how many.” [49092]

The “Don’t Fund Obama Care” web site petition reaches two millions signatures. [49055]

At Forbes.com, John Tamny writes, “The Republican Party didn’t blink, and as a result non-essential aspects of the federal government are soon to be shut down. Republican politicians and members of the Party should cheer, as the ‘stupid’ Party [with the Democrats being the “evil party’] actually revealed a political and economic savvy that will serve it well in 2014 and beyond. The Republican Party now has a brand that says it’s willing to stand athwart the obnoxious growth of Leviathan. Its decision to allow a shutdown of the federal government, and to ideally allow it to remain shut through the 2014 elections absent substantial concessions from the Democrats, is both good politics and economics. ...Happily for the GOP, the politics get even better. Figure the size of the federal government has ballooned in recent years, and one argument made by the truly delusional to defend Washington, D.C. bloat has been that the overall economy needs excessive federal spending to stay afloat. Ok, if readers are willing to forget the myriad, economy-suffocating contradictions inherent in the absurd belief that government spending is an economic stimulant, the simple truth is that voters are increasingly wise to the lie being told them.” [49042]

“...[I]t quite simply must be asked what the point of the Republican Party is if it’s not regularly shutting down the federal government? As the ‘responsible stewards of the people’s money,’ shutdown should be a part of the GOP’s readily unsheathed arsenal of weapons meant to always be shrinking the size and scope of our economy-asphyxiating federal government. If so, those who presume to negotiate with the GOP will know well that shutdown is always an option. Since it will be, negotiations over what the federal government should and should not do will always tilt in favor of the Party of Small given its willingness to pull the plug altogether. ...Republicans need to get over their counterproductive obsession with budget deficits and the crisis that never seems to come, and instead talk about the raging fire of government spending that is burning right now. They should point out to voters the booming economy that will much sooner be ours if the federal government spends less. They should be explicit to voters that the GOP’s forced shutdown of the federal government means higher wages for private sector workers, along with more and better job opportunities overall. ...They should remind voters that a government shutdown is not remotely a sacrifice for taxpayers who will tautologically benefit if the government they pay for is smaller, rather it’s a necessary sacrifice for a political class that has grown rich on the backs of hardworking Americans. In short, the Republicans should aggressively own the shutdown for what it would say about them as a Party that gets both politics and economics. If not, as in if the Republicans cave, what’s the point of electing Republicans?” [49042]

The park service uses barricades to close down the World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C. because of the government “shutdown.” But because it is an outdoor memorial, there is nothing to “close.” World War II veterans from Iowa arrive at the site and—with the help of Congressmen Steven Palazzo (R-MS), Steve King (R-IA), and Michele Bachmann (R-MN)—move the “Barricades” to allow veterans to view the monument. Park service police initially attempt to stop them from doing so, but eventually give in. Park police spokesperson Carol Johnson says, “We’re looking about how to deal with this in the future.” According to DailyCaller.com, the Obama administration rejected a request by Palazzo to allow the veterans’ visit. Palazzo states,

“We got the heads up that they will be barricaded and specifically asked for an exception for these heroes. We were denied and told, ‘It’s a government shutdown, what do you expect?’ when we contacted the liaison for the White House.” (It is assumed that the Obama administration believed closing the memorial would prompt visitors to become angry with House Republicans. Instead, the absurd use of barricades to do nothing more than prevent people from walking around in an open space will probably end up prompting them to view the administration as both mean-spirited and stupid. Apparently “barricade installers” are considered “essential services.”) Breitbart.com’s John Nolte Tweets, “Sure wish Obama had been as concerned about keeping terrorists out of our Libya consulate as he is to keep WW2 vets out of the memorial.” [49044, 49045, 49066, 49077, 49078, 49093, 49114, 49115, 49123, 49155, 49176]

RedState.com points out that “the WWII Memorial does not have a permanent security presence, which means that there is actually no valid, **ethical** reason why the Obama administration could presume to shut it down for the public. Not that the administration actually needs one. So they proactively locked down a previously-open national monument, and then presumed to tell the men whose sacrifice it honored that those men were not welcome at that place. Never forget this moment. This is how Barack Obama acts, when challenged or resisted. He acts ugly, and mean-spirited, and shabby.” (For the record, the World War II Memorial was built with \$182 million in *private* donations.) [49116, 49377]

Michelle Obama sends a Twitter message: “Due to Congress’s failure to pass legislation to fund the government, updates to this account will be limited.” [49046]

GodfatherPolitics.com writes, “Former president Bill Clinton is running interference for ...Obama and laying the groundwork for Hillary’s 2016 presidential bid. Here’s what he said about the future of the response of Americans to ObamaCare: ‘I just think that when all these dire predictions don’t come out, if they don’t—I believe that pretty soon, within the next several years, this will be like Medicare and Medicaid. And it’ll be a normal part of our life. And people will be glad it’s there.’ I’m sure every political tyrant said something similar. I can hear Fidel Castro, Hugo Chavez, and Vladimir Lenin telling their people, ‘In time you’ll learn to love Communism.’” [49047]

On *The Five*, former White House press secretary Dana Perino says that watching the implementation of ObamaCare is like having a good friend who is about to marry a total jerk—even though you warned her many times and know it will end in divorce.

Conn Carroll reports at Townhall.com, “House Republicans will vote Tuesday on a set of smaller funding bills designed to take some of the bite out of the larger government shutdown, a leadership aide [says]. ‘Closed parks and delayed veterans benefits can be easily remedied and allow us to remain focused on forcing them to finally come to the table and talk,’ the aide said. Passing the smaller funding bills (including funds for the Veterans Department, the National Park Service and the District of Columbia), would take away some of the B-roll footage cable news networks and evening news shows can use to dramatize the shutdown, Republicans believe. The House would rather make the

story about Obamacare and the White House's refusal to negotiate. '...Obama and Senator Reid would rather shut down the government than engage in talks to end special treatment for the privileged under Obamacare,' the aide continued." [49064]

In *USA Today*, House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH) writes, "[Obama] isn't telling the whole story when it comes to the government shutdown. The fact is that Washington Democrats have slammed the door on reopening the government by refusing to engage in bipartisan talks. And, as stories across the country highlight the devastating impact of Obamacare on families and small businesses, they continue to reject our calls for fairness for all Americans. This is part of a larger pattern: [Obama's] scorched-Earth policy of refusing to negotiate in bipartisan way on his health care law, current government funding, or the debt limit. As of this morning, Senate Democrats, acting in concert with ...have rejected four different proposals from the House of Representatives to keep the government running and fund basic services. On Friday, September 20, 2013, the House of Representatives passed legislation to keep the government running—funding Medicare, Social Security, veterans benefits, and more—while removing funding for the ...health care law, which is driving up costs and hurting our economy. The Democratic-controlled Senate rejected this measure. On Saturday, September 28, 2013, the House passed another measure to keep the government running, delay the president's health care law for one year, and permanently repeal Obamacare's tax on pacemakers and children's hearing aids. Senate Democrats rejected the measure on a party-line vote. On Monday, September 30, 2013, the House passed yet another measure to keep the government running and ensure fairness for all Americans under [Obama's] health care law. ...Obama delayed the law's mandates on big businesses and insurance companies; this bill would delay the law for everyone. The Senate rejected this measure too. The House then passed another bill late on Monday requesting a formal conference committee with the Senate to come to an agreement on legislation that provides funding for the federal government and delays [Obama's] health care law for all Americans. That is the system the Founding Fathers gave us to resolve differences between the House and Senate. The Senate then opposed that measure as well, so Senate Democrats and ...Obama got their government shutdown." [49067]

"In the meantime, in just a few weeks, Congress must act to raise the debt limit to pay the tab for ...Obama[s] and Washington's out-of-control spending. There is no way Congress can or should pass such a bill without spending cuts and reforms to deal with the debt and deficit and help get our economy moving again. But ...Obama refuses to even talk about negotiating such a bipartisan agreement. For years, [Obama] has said that in a divided government, no one gets 100% of what they want. But when will his words match his actions? As for House Republicans, we will continue our efforts to keep the government running and deal honestly with the problems we face. We hope that Senate Democrats—and ...Obama—change course and start working with us on behalf of the American people." [49067]

At the United Nations, Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu delivers an address in which he says his nation is, if necessary, willing to go it alone against Iran. Netanyahu says that Iran's new "moderate" president, Hassan Rouhani, "like the presidents who

came before him, is a loyal servant of the regime. He was one of only six candidates the regime permitted to run for office. See, nearly 700 other candidates were rejected. ...Rouhani was also Iran's chief nuclear negotiator between 2003 and 2005. He masterminded the—the strategy which enabled Iran to advance its nuclear weapons program behind a smoke screen of diplomatic engagement and very soothing rhetoric. Now I know: Rouhani doesn't sound like [his predecessor Mahmoud] Ahmadinejad. But when it comes to Iran's nuclear weapons program, the only difference between them is this: Ahmadinejad was a wolf in wolf's clothing. Rouhani is a wolf in sheep's clothing, a wolf who thinks he can pull the eyes—the wool over the eyes of the international community [and especially Obama]. ...Ladies and gentlemen, underground nuclear facilities, heavy water reactors, advanced centrifuges, ICBMs. See, it's not that it's hard to find evidence that Iran has a nuclear program, a nuclear weapons program; it's hard to find evidence that Iran doesn't have a nuclear weapons program. Last year when I spoke here at the U.N. I drew a red line. Now, Iran has been very careful not to cross that line but Iran is positioning itself to race across that line in the future at a time of its choosing. Iran wants to be in a position to rush forward to build nuclear bombs before the international community can detect it and much less prevent it. ... You see, Rouhani thinks he can have his yellowcake and eat it too. And he has another reason to believe that he can get away with this. And that reason is called North Korea. Like Iran, North Korea also said its nuclear program was for peaceful purposes. Like Iran, North Korea also offered meaningless concessions and empty promises in return for sanctions relief.” [49071, 49072, 49074, 49097, 49120]

“Now, I know that some in the international community [like Obama] think I'm exaggerating this threat. Sure, they know that Iran's regime leads these chants, 'death to America, death to Israel,' that it pledges to wipe Israel off the map. But they think that this wild rhetoric is just bluster for domestic consumption. Have these people learned nothing from history? The last century has taught us that when a radical regime with global ambitions gets awesome power, sooner or later its appetite for aggression knows no bounds. That's the central lesson of the 20th century. And we cannot forget it. The world may have forgotten this lesson. The Jewish people have not. ...Iran's fanaticism is not bluster. It's real. The fanatic regime must never be allowed to arm itself with nuclear weapons. I know that the world is weary of war. We in Israel, we know all too well the cost of war. But history has taught us that to prevent war tomorrow, we must be firm today. And this raises the question, can [Obama's] diplomacy stop this threat? Well, the only diplomatic solution that would work is one that fully dismantles Iran's nuclear weapons program and prevents it from having one in the future. ...So here is what the international community must do: First, keep up the sanctions. If Iran advances its nuclear weapons program during negotiations, strengthen the sanctions. Second, don't agree to a partial deal. A partial deal would lift international sanctions that have taken years to put in place in exchange for cosmetic concessions that will take only weeks for Iran to reverse. Third, lift the sanctions only when Iran fully dismantles its nuclear weapons program. My friends, the international community has Iran on the ropes. If you want to knock out Iran's nuclear weapons program peacefully, don't let up the pressure. Keep it up. We all want to give diplomacy with Iran a chance to succeed, but when it comes to Iran, the greater the pressure, the greater the chance. Three decades ago,

President Ronald Reagan famously advised, ‘trust but verify.’ When it comes to Iran’s nuclear weapons program, here’s my advice: Distrust, dismantle and verify. Ladies and gentlemen, Israel will never acquiesce to nuclear arms in the hands of a rogue regime that repeatedly promises to wipe us off the map. Against such a threat, Israel will have no choice but to defend itself. I want there to be no confusion on this point. Israel will not allow Iran to get nuclear weapons. If Israel is forced to stand alone [that is, without Obama and the United States], Israel will stand alone. Yet, in standing alone, Israel will know that we will be defending many, many others.” (Netanyahu’s speech is a clear statement that Netanyahu does not trust Obama. Much of his address is a scathing, but cleverly veiled, attack on Obama.) [49071, 49072, 49074, 49097, 49120]

Bloomberg.com reports, “Merck & Co., the second-biggest U.S. drugmaker [sic; drug maker] by sales, will fire 8,500 workers and revamp its research and development after seeing new medicines delayed by U.S. regulators. The positions eliminated add to 7,500 cuts already announced, the Whitehouse Station, New Jersey-based company said in a statement today. The total amounts to 20 percent of Merck’s 81,000 workers. The company declined to break down where the dismissals will occur, saying only they will come from all areas of Merck, including R&D, sales and management.” [49082]

WhiteHouseDossier.com asks, “Are the White House chefs essential? The Obamas are known to eat quite well, at least in public, where they can be seen frequenting trendy spots around Washington and landing in over-priced restaurants aimed at vacationers when they’re in Hawaii and Martha’s Vineyard. At home in the White House, a team of chefs plans menus for the Obamas and prepares an endless series of tasty meals. But the government shutdown presents the terrifying prospect that the Obamas may have to defrost a package of Lean Cuisine or open a can of meat ravioli.” [49084]

CNSNews.com points out, “After the federal government shutdown for 21 days from mid-December 1995 to early January 1996, the percentage of Americans who said they approved of the job Congress was doing increased, according to the Gallup poll. ...Before the 1995-96 government shutdown, in polling done Nov. 6-8, 1995, the Republican-controlled Congress had a job approval of 30 percent. After the government shutdown, in polling done April 9-10, 1996, the Republican-controlled Congress had a job approval rating of 35 percent.” [49089]

NYPPost.com reports, “Rampant fraud on a New York City contract last year didn’t stop a major nonprofit from landing a slew of federal contracts to sign people up for ObamaCare. Seedco, a New York-based community-development organization, was sued by the federal government for faking at least 1,400 of 6,500 job placements under a \$22.2 million federally funded contract with the city. Eighteen months later, the feds and Seedco are teaming up again, this time to help medical-insurance seekers maneuver through the maze that is the Affordable Health Care Act. When ObamaCare’s open-enrollment period starts Tuesday, among the frontline agencies will be Seedco, which is partnering with dozens of agencies, such as the Gay Men’s Health Crisis, Food Bank for New York City and the Chinese American Planning Council, in each of the five boroughs.” [49096]

Breitbart.com reports, “A new Gallup poll has found that 25 percent of today’s uninsured plan to stay that way. The poll, released on September 30, noted that two in three of those surveyed said they ‘planned’ to get insurance rather than pay the small fine at the end of the year. The poll further found that under half intend to take advantage of the state or federal insurance exchanges when they are finally up and running. It should be noted that that this result was based on what people say they intend to do, not what they have actually done or are even in the process of doing. Statistics worsened in the important 18 to 29 age bracket. Sixty-nine percent of the youth demographic were unaware they were required to get health insurance by January 1, 2014. This is the age group that Obama is hoping will foot the bill for the rest of America. In other bad news for Obamacare, 62 percent said they were ‘not too familiar’ or ‘not at all familiar’ with the Obamacare exchanges being set up by the federal and state governments.” (The number of young people who say they will buy health insurance will most certainly change, of course, after they visit the exchange web sites and find out how much the coverage will cost them.) [49098, 49101]

TheHill.com reports, “The Obama administration offered few details Tuesday about the technical problems that locked consumers out of new health insurance marketplaces. Officials from the Health and Human Services Department would not say how many people enrolled in coverage through healthcare.gov, the website for federally run insurance exchanges in 36 states. The website was unavailable for most of the day, and technical issues also forced some state-based exchanges offline shortly after they launched Tuesday morning.” [49099]

Kaldaya.net reports, “Citing the rising costs of healthcare, IBM says it will now move 110,000 retirees off of its company healthcare plan to an insurance exchange. The company says without large premium increases, the company cannot afford the rising costs of providing healthcare for retirees. Now, when retirees become eligible for Medicare, they will be required to move to that system. IBM will still provide an annual payment to facilitate their move. Those payments will be less than the cost of providing coverage under the preexisting plan. This will also make employees responsible for their own care, under the Medicare or Obamacare systems. Money from IBM will help them to cover gaps in Medicare coverage by purchasing additional coverage on their own.” [49102]

Radio talk show host Rush Limbaugh discusses with callers the problem drivers in some states will face if they do not have health insurance. In Michigan, for example, the cost of automobile insurance is considerably higher for drivers who do not also have health insurance. Thus, drivers who lose their health insurance because of ObamaCare will not only be without health insurance, their car insurance premiums will skyrocket. [49105]

Another ObamaCare problem noted by a caller to Limbaugh’s program is that if a physician in Michigan does not participate in the Medicaid program, as of October 1, 2013 any prescriptions he writes for medications, x-rays, or laboratory tests will not be reimbursed by Medicaid. As a result, if a doctor avoids Medicaid because of the paperwork and low reimbursement rates and generously takes care of poor patients for

free or for a very low cash fee, they cannot get their medications, x-rays, or lab tests paid by Medicaid. Those patients will, as a result, have to find another doctor. But the caller, a Michigan doctor, states that two-thirds of the doctors in Michigan are refusing to take new Medicaid patients. [49106]

At a closed-door meeting of Republican Congressmen, House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH) reportedly says, “We’re in this fight. This is the moment. We all talk about doing something for our kids and our grandkids. If you want to do something for them, now is the time. We have to work together and win this fight.” [49112]

At PJMedia.com Michael Ledeen writes, “It well may be true that shutting down the government hurts the Republicans in the short run. That is immaterial; there is no way to get from here to there except by making a stand against Obamacare. There is no downside, for the Republican Party as presently configured already is a guaranteed loser. A reinvigorated conservative leadership has a chance of leading the party to victory. The optimal Republican strategy now is to force a crisis over the debt ceiling. ...If Obama refuses to postpone the implementation of his health care plan in return for an extension of the debt ceiling, Republicans should stand their ground, and force [Obama] to tear up the Constitution and assume dictatorial powers. Americans don’t like that, and they will dislike it doubly if Obama does so to protect a hated piece of legislation. It would clarify the choices before the electorate and give conservative Republicans something to run against. That isn’t enough: they have to present a credible program to restore economic growth and opportunity. But that will be then: this is now.” [49151]

Meanwhile, David Krone, an aide to Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV), intentionally leaks e-mails about the negotiation stalemate in an effort to make Boehner look bad. Jonathan Strong writes at NationalReview.com, “The leak also deeply angered the class of senior GOP aides who interact with their Democratic counterparts in high-stakes negotiations over issues such as the debt ceiling. ‘I’ve never seen anything like it before. I don’t know how David thinks anyone on either side of the aisle will ever be able to work with him again. I guess this is part of Harry Reid’s plan: He refuses to talk with Republicans so I guess his chief of staff figures he doesn’t need to be able to do so either,’ says one longtime senior GOP aide. ‘He’s a low-rent, self-dealing bagman,’ a second senior GOP aide says.” (The leaked e-mails show that Boehner was apparently conspiring with Reid earlier in the year to ensure that members of Congress and their staffs continue to get subsidized health care from the taxpayers—and may lead to Boehner losing support the next time the House votes to elect its Speaker.) [49112, 49113, 49153]

House Democrats block a Republican proposal to restore funding for national parks, and monuments and for various veterans benefits. [49107]

DailyCaller.com reports that Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL) “movingly described his sick child’s preexisting condition as a reason to support Obamacare last week, but the Illinois Democrat neglected to mention that his late daughter was easily covered by existing insurance, and that he used taxpayer money to reward the hospital that treated her.

Despite her preexisting condition, Christine Durbin, who suffered from a lifelong heart condition and died at age 40 in 2008, was eligible for coverage under existing laws in multiple states, including the senator's state and the state she ultimately settled in. Durbin also neglected to mention that he sent his daughter to one of the best children's hospitals in the country [Children's Memorial Hospital], to which he earmarked millions of dollars from 2002-2010." Durbin said, "I've had a situation in my family—a child—who had serious physical problems, who could not have qualified but for group health insurance available to me as a member of Congress. If I had gone on the open market to buy a policy I'm not sure I could have bought one for my family to cover my child." DailyCaller notes that "...Durbin wasn't sure about buying a policy on the open market because he never had to, having been a state employee from 1969 to 1982 and a federal employee from 1982 to now. His daughter, Christine, who was born in 1968, never went without the cushy government benefits offered to government workers and their families." Additionally, Durbin is from Illinois, a state which in 1987 passed legislation creating a program for residents who could not obtain insurance because of a pre-existing condition. [49140]

At Rare.us, Nancy French reports on the political left's reaction to the news that Mitt Romney's son Ben and his wife Andelyne had adopted a child (who happens to be black). "The response from the liberal Twitterverse was swift, predictable and damning. Here is a selection of the responses: 'They only adopted a black baby so Mitt Romney wouldn't seem racist but we already know...' 'Mitt Romney out here kidnapping black children. I see what's going on.' 'Please give that baby back MITT ROM.' 'Mitt Romney just bought a black grandchild, straight cash dawg.' 'pls, MittRomney & co could be indoctrinating that new blk grandson w/ ALL sorts of white conservative rich v. poor 'bootstrap values' bs' 'I hope Mitt Romney doesn't pass on his views about the coloreds onto his new grandson.' 'AnnDRomney MittRomney yall about to teach that child self hate... That should be illegal' 'Why do you adopt black babies?????' 'Mitt Romney adopted a grandchild? So he bought a black baby and went to his daughters house like Here. It needs to be walked and fed daily' 'So Mitt Romney adopted (purchased) a black grandchild' 'Stay strong kid, child services is on it's way.' 'Please give that baby back MittRomney.'" French writes, "Isn't it ironic? Aren't conservatives allegedly the haters in our great cultural conflicts? Sadly, identity politics have become so thoroughly ingrained in many leftists that they truly no longer see a child as a separate human being but representative of a larger group—a group whose interests *they* serve, not us. So, they shame and mock conservatives—consequences be damned. Sure, children will suffer but that's not their concern. They have larger political issues to consider." [49581]

At AmericanThinker.com Matthew May declares, "I will not comply [with ObamaCare] because I am a free citizen of the United States, not a subject of its government. I consider non-compliance with this monstrosity and the tens of thousands of pages of regulations that are to be enforced by an unelected bureaucracy, and that have left a gigantic carbon footprint on our environment and the United States Constitution, a duty. Non-compliance is my executive order, and that order reads in part that I do not recognize any government's claim on my action or inaction in the marketplace, nor upon any personal information I am unwilling to divulge. I will not submit to a cabal who read

George Orwell's *1984* not as a terrifying warning, but as an instruction manual. ...If (when) the IRS or HHS or any other such entity attempts to extort a tax or fee of any kind for not participating in mandated commerce, they will be met with resistance. I will not pay any such tax or fee. Refusing to comply with the dictates of an illegitimate law that is selectively enforced, and from which the privileged few are exempted, is not, in the annals of American history, brave or difficult. Those who refuse to comply are not barefoot in the snows of Valley Forge, crying out in agony at Gettysburg, or rushing the cockpit of Flight 93. While there will be consequences to civil disobedience in defiance of oppression, any difficulties can be and will be overcome. We are, however, drawing a line that the forces of repression, socialism, and tyranny must not cross. Some might even color the line red. Yet unlike a certain other, this red line is immovable. I yield nothing on the plane of freedom. I will not take any small step that is, in actuality, one giant leap backward to the darkness we thought we had vanquished. Who is with me?" (*The Obama Timeline* is with May. This author does not have health insurance and has no intention of "signing up for ObamaCare," and will refuse to pay any tax or penalty for non-compliance. The Obama regime cannot jail 30 million people—but if it does, most prisoners will be among friends. Of course, many Americans who refuse to comply with ObamaCare's individual mandate will do so not out of a spirit of defiance or love for liberty—but simply because they cannot afford to pay the outlandishly high premiums the legislation has prompted with its outrageous regulations. In any event, the refusal or inability of millions of people to participate in Obama's scheme will necessarily result in its downfall.) [49171]

At 7 p.m. Obama for America volunteer and \$11,500 per year daycare teacher Chad Henderson—looking for his 15 minutes of fame—eagerly tweets to news organizations: "Enrolled in ObamaCare just now! Looking forward to having affordable health care for the first time!" (On October 4, Townhall.com's Conn Carroll reports, "There's just one problem. His story isn't true." Henderson had not, in fact, enrolled in ObamaCare. In fact, he eventually admits that he was not even able to create an account until 3 a.m. on October 2. Additionally, all he did was submit information; Henderson did not select a coverage plan or sign up for it. Henderson tells *The Washington Post*, "I never said I purchased a plan or enrolled in marketplace. I'm not backing down on my comments. I have not misled anyone." Carroll concludes, "Considering how much of ...Obama's autobiography turned out to be complete fiction, it is quite fitting that the story of the first person enrolled in his health care plan is fiction too." Henderson later accepts an invitation from Congressman Steve Stockman (R-TX) to join him at the next State of the Union Address. Stockman says, "We want him to get a picture with ...Obama. We just think that'd be hilarious. ...We thought a humorous way to highlight just how bogus this health care is and how much trouble it's having was to, you know, have a little bit of fun and invite him to the State of the Union.") [49256, 49261, 49264, 49283, 49291, 49304, 49426, 49622]

On the *Tonight Show*, Jay Leno jokes, "Welcome non-essential employees! How many are here because all the museums and state parks are closed? That's the only reason you're here. Yeah! Well, we got the government shut down, but the beginning of ObamaCare. So ObamaCare has started. You know what that means? You can now

complain to your doctor about the government making you sick. You see that? How many are worried about the government shutdown? [laughter and no applause]. How many are more worried about it starting back up? [cheers and applause] Yeah, that's the problem. Let me tell you something. Let me tell you something. I am glad the government has shut down. Think about it. For the first time in years, it's safe to talk on the phone and send e-mails without anybody listening in. This is fantastic! You can talk to whoever you want! Fantastic!" [49161]

On October 2 the White House announces the cancellation of two stops on Obama's planned visit to Asia. He will travel to Indonesia and Brunei, but not Malaysia and the Philippines. (It is worth noting that Indonesia and Brunei are Muslim nations; Malaysia is somewhat less so; Philippine citizens are primarily Roman Catholics.)

The New York Times reports that ObamaCare "will leave out two-thirds of the poor blacks and single mothers and more than half of the low-wage workers who do not have insurance, the very kinds of people that the program was intended to help, according to an analysis of census data... Those excluded will be stranded without insurance, stuck between people with slightly higher incomes who will qualify for federal subsidies on the new health exchanges that went live this week, and those who are poor enough to qualify for Medicaid in its current form, which has income ceilings as low as \$11 a day in some states." [49332]

The White House announces that Obama has invited Congressional leaders to meet with him so that he can ask the House of Representatives "to pass the clean CR to reopen the government, and call on Congress to act to raise the debt ceiling to pay the bills we have already incurred and avoid devastating consequences on our economy." (In other words, there is no point to the meeting because it is not a meeting to negotiate anything. It is merely a chance for Obama to again essentially state, "It's my way or the highway.") A spokesman for House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH) says, "It's unclear why we'd be having this meeting if it's not meant to be a start to serious talks between the two parties." [49129]

A photograph of Obama at a gay party surfaces. Obama appears to be in his late teens or early twenties in the photograph, which shows him behind a life-sized, inflatable male "doll."

Approximately 10 gunmen attack the Russian embassy in Tripoli, Libya. RT.com reports, "The situation was soon brought under control and there are currently no intruders on Russia's embassy territory." (Russia apparently is better able to protect its diplomats in Libya than was the Obama administration on September 11, 2012.) [49167, 49175]

As the House considers a vote on legislation to continue funding for the National Institute of Health (NIH), Democrat Senators hold a press conference to declare they will not approve piecemeal legislation funding separate departments (even though that is normally how appropriations bills are passed). CNN's Dana Bash asks, "But if you can help one child who has cancer, why wouldn't you do it?" Senator Charles Schumer (D-NY)

replies, “Why pit one against the other?” Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) says, “Why, why would we want to do that? I have 1,100 people at Nellis Air Force base that are sitting home. They have a few problems of their own. This is—to have someone of your intelligence to suggest such a thing maybe means you’re irresponsible and reckless.” (The Democrats are holding so firm that they will deny NIH spending, while the Republicans are holding firm in their refusal to give Obama everything he wants with no strings attached. The stalemate will likely get more contentious before it gets resolved. In the meantime, Reid’s “Why would we want to do that?” remark—which would end his political career if he were a Republican—will certainly spread across the Internet as quickly—and with as much criticism—as did Hillary Clinton’s “What difference does it make?” comment. Bash’s question unintentionally holds Democrats Schumer and Reid to the same absurd leftist standard the mainstream media applies to the GOP: If there is even one shred of good that comes out of government spending, especially if it “helps the children,” it *must* be approved—*regardless* of anything else, including the money to pay for it or any adverse consequences of the legislation.) [49117, 49129, 49182]

Reid avoids angry e-mails by using the partial shutdown as an excuse. His web site states, “We are unable to receive messages at this time due to the government shutdown.” [49131]

At Telegraph.co.uk, Niles Gardiner writes, “The harsh invective flowing from Washington’s liberal establishment has been nasty, juvenile and petty. This should be a moment for humility for the White House over its hugely unpopular Obamacare reforms, which are opposed by a significant majority of the American people. Ironically ...Obama turns the other cheek on the world stage when it comes to challenges to US global power, and has made the appeasement of America’s enemies and strategic competitors into a form of art. But he acts in a truly imperial fashion at home, refusing to listen to the slightest hint of criticism domestically. This is a [person] who happily apologises for his country’s past when he travels abroad, in thoroughly humiliating fashion for the United States, but cannot bring himself to acknowledge that his own policies might be wrong. ...The American public can do without Obama kowtowing to Iran, endlessly wringing his hands over Guantanamo, or deriding President Bush’s handling of the War on Terror and his decision to liberate Iraq. They would benefit however from a [leader] who is willing to acknowledge that the Constitution provides for a balance of power between the Executive and Legislative Branch, and concedes that he has made some fundamental errors of judgment with his Obamacare agenda, which is fast becoming an albatross around the necks of the American people and a major job killer. Cursing political opponents will do Obama no good and smacks of arrogance and desperation from a White House that has lost its grip on reality. The legacy of ...Obama will be the relentless rise of big government and a large expansion of government dependency, the strangling of economic freedom, a huge increase in the national debt, and the implementation of hated health care reforms that carry with them a \$1.85 trillion price tag. The Obama [administration] will also be remembered for its bitter partisanship, and its relentless vilification of political opponents, emanating from an administration that would rather engage with a terrorist sponsoring regime in the Middle East than talk to elected US lawmakers three miles down the road.” [49118]

LegalInsurrection.com posts a live update of the scene at the World War II memorial in the nation's capitol: "Two park rangers now guarding WWII Memorial gate." "Wash Examiner headline hits nail on the head: 'More guards at WWII memorial than Benghazi.'" "When vets exit WWII Memorial they walk out through [a] tunnel of applause." "Vets still flowing into the memorial, supporters still clapping and saying thanks." "The vets have landed. Quite a crowd." "At the WWII Memorial, Carol Johnson w/the Park Service says they were told to close the site by White House's Office of Management & Budget [that is, Obama ordered the barricades]." "Mounted Police now protecting the World War 2 Memorial from World War 2 veterans." "Reporters now swarming lone WWII vet on an electric scooter." "Park workers back at WWII memorial using zip ties to put up more 'closed' signs." "After conferring with each other for a moment, park workers fled after cameras started filming. No wire ties on the gates." "Live from the WWII memorial where park officials are setting up more gates and tape to block visitors." "4 National Park Service employees maintaining WWII memorial barricade." [49119, 49154]

World War II veterans visit their memorial and, once again, members of Congress move the barricades so they can access the site. (One protestor holds a sign that asks Obama to "Tear down this wall!") At PJMedia.com Patrick Poole reports, "After about an hour, about 20 protesters arrived on the scene chanting 'Boehner, get us back to work' and claiming they were federal employees furloughed because of the shutdown." Poole asks the protestors to show him their federal employee identification, including Luis Chiliquinga—who is wearing a McDonald's employee shirt. Chiliquinga admits he is being paid \$15 per hour to protest and pretend he is a government employee. "About a minute later a protest organizer ran up to me telling me that the man in question is a contractor working at the McDonald's in a Smithsonian Museum—a claim she made no effort to prove. The same story was told to Jake Tapper at CNN who was on the scene and made the same inquiry. And yet that doesn't explain why he was paid \$15 to attend a protest targeting our nation's honored military veterans." [49132, 49134, 49135, 49136, 49156, 49174, 49179, 49206]

According to HuffingtonPost.com, the protest was organized by "Good Jobs Nation." Good Jobs Nation is a leftist organization that calls for "living wages and benefits" and criticizes corporations like Wal-Mart and McDonald's for "creating a low-wage economy that is hurting all American families." The organization appears to be related to Demos, a far-left, Marxist think tank that has partnered with ACORN and Project Vote, and which calls itself "a public policy organization working for an America where we all have an equal say in our democracy and an equal chance in our economy." Demos' board of trustees includes communist Van Jones, Obama's former "green jobs czar." Demos receives funding from Obama's billionaire buddy George Soros, and Obama was, according to Demos, part of a "talented working group" that helped create the organization. Obama was also an early trustee of Demos. Obama was the Illinois head of Project Vote in 1991, and worked with and for ACORN on numerous occasions over several years. Obama's long-time connections with ACORN have been documented extensively in this *Timeline*. [45, 55, 227, 240, 283, 322, 324, 3542, 3543, 4315, 4360,

4361, 4362, 13199, 13223, 17480, 29500, 29758, 35316, 35319, 35337, 35651, 49132, 49134, 49135, 49136]

At Breitbart.com John Sexton writes, “During the debate over the sequester cuts a park ranger came forward to claim that his supervisors seemed to be trying to insure the public would feel the pain: ‘A U.S. park ranger, who did not wish to be identified, told FoxNews.com that supervisors within the National Park Service overruled plans to deal with the budget cuts in a way that would have had minimal impact on the public. Instead, the source said, park staff were told to cancel special events and cut ‘interpretation services’—the talks, tours and other education services provided by local park rangers. ‘Apparently, they want the public to feel the pain,’ the ranger said.’ This seems relevant now that park rangers are once again being used to shut down open air memorials in Washington D.C. These memorials, including the Lincoln Memorial, WWII Memorial and MLK Memorial, are normally open to the public 24/7 with no ranger supervision after hours. A park service spokesman claimed he had ‘never heard of guidance given like that.’” Congressman Louie Gohmert (R-TX) remarks, “This is Chicago thuggery. [Obama] is trying to inflict the most amount of pain and suffering. This is not some bureaucratic mistake. This is Chicago thuggery. You try to make people hurt so they don’t resist what you tell them to do in the future.” [49124, 49322]

It is worth noting that during the “Occupy Wall Street” demonstrations in 2011, the Obama administration allowed protestors to live in tents at McPherson Square (which is controlled by the National Park Service) for months—despite the fact that they left garbage and damages that cost thousands of taxpayer dollars to clean up. [49125]

On Facebook, former Alaska Governor Sarah Palin writes, “It’s beyond shameful to see Barack Obama disrespect and mistreat our World War II veterans so blatantly. Obama’s political stunt to ‘shut down’ their memorial by barricade is to elicit an angry response to generate bad publicity for people [Obama] uses in his continual blame game.” Palin notes a single, pointless barricade at the World War I memorial: “The difference is obvious. There aren’t any World War I veterans alive today to mistreat in a shameful political stunt. [Obama has] deployed more guards to bar our World War II heroes from their memorial than he sent to Benghazi when our consulate was under attack. The President is treating our veterans the same way he treated school kids when he cancelled their White House tours. When times called for obvious government belt-tightening, he took it out on kids rather than look for anything that would affect him personally. And while our vets are barricaded from the memorial they built with their heroism, the government ‘slim down’ won’t affect Obama’s golf game or his family’s White House chefs.” [49126, 49127, 49160]

“Meanwhile, Republicans in Congress are attempting to fund the Veterans Administration and other essential functions, but Democrats are blocking them because they want to make any slim down look as awful as possible in order to deflect from what this whole slim down thing is about, which is their Obamacare train wreck. Good Congressmen are fighting for average middle class Americans to get the same breaks that Obama gave Congress, his pals, union bosses, and crony corporations who financed his

campaign and snookered the media into putting him in office. It is a sad day when We the People have to go cap in hand to [Obama] begging him to give us the same relief he gave his friends by fiat. Thank God we have bold leaders willing to fight for those who can't afford to pay powerful lobbyists to make Obama and Harry Reid listen. Want to know why this whole thing happened? Look at what Obamacare is already doing to our country with health care costs skyrocketing, workers laid off or kicked to part-time, employers shutting down projects, and debt still soaring. See the article linked below. This is what America is up against. And Obama employees who know in your hearts and souls that punishing our veterans is wrong, know that we have your backs when you say 'enough is enough' and then allow our vets to gaze upon our memorials that honor America's finest. This simple act of civil disobedience [disregarding the "Barrycades" and visiting the memorials despite them] will galvanize our nation against atrocious political games, and I promise you'll sleep well tonight." [49126, 49127]

According to WashingtonExaminer.com, "Federal officials have closed a number of popular tourist attractions in Washington, citing the government shutdown, but they've left lesser-known locations un-barricaded, as evidenced by an interactive map compiled by House Republicans. 'It appears as though only the highly visible monuments and areas are being closed to the public—further proof that the Obama Administration is only playing politics and purposely choosing to make this shut down as painful as possible,' House Natural Resources Committee chairman Doc Hastings (R-WA) said. Hastings' committee staff compiled photos of high-profile, open-air sites closed by the National Park Service, including: the Georgetown Waterfront; the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial; the Sculpture Garden; parts of the National Mall; and the Lincoln Memorial. ...On the other hand, Hastings' team noted that the Constitution Gardens, the Upper Senate Park, and the Japanese-Americans Memorial, among others, remain open. National Review's Jim Geraghty tweeted a photo of 'the District of Columbia War Memorial: apparently not important enough to shut down.' 'The Obama Administration is not only taking the unnecessary and egregious step of closing off open spaces and monuments—places without doors and gates that are open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week—but is selectively choosing where to apply this policy,' Hastings said." [49130, 49133]

The federal government also shuts down access to military cemeteries in Europe—including the Normandy American Cemetery and Memorial at Omaha Beach in France. [49180, 49181, 49196, 49301]

A White House statement threatens Obama vetoes of "piecemeal" spending bills: "The Administration strongly opposes House passage ...[of] fiscal year 2014 appropriations for very limited activities. ...Consideration of appropriations bills in a piecemeal fashion is not a serious or responsible way to run the United States Government. ...Instead of opening up a few Government functions, the House of Representatives should re-open all of the Government." (The House does not plan on funding only "a few" functions; it plans on funding all except ObamaCare. Whether Senate Democrats and Obama will carry through with their threat remains to be seen. They may believe that the public will

remain on their side as the conflict continues—but they may be grossly mistaken.)
[49128, 49202]

In a CNBC interview, Obama shamelessly and falsely claims that since entering the Oval Office in 2009, “I have bent over backwards to work with the Republican Party and have purposely kept my rhetoric down.” (Obama has said he would “not negotiate” with “house burners.” He apparently believes insulting Republicans in that manner is “keeping his rhetoric down.”) Obama then proceeds to use rhetorical scare tactics: “I think this time is different. I think they [the financial markets] should be concerned [because of the debt ceiling issue].” (Obama is here trying to frighten investors, *hoping* the stock market will react negatively, thereby pushing Republicans to cave in and increase the debt ceiling with no strings attached. He is like a gangster threatening a store owner who is reluctant to pay “protection money”: “Nice stock market you got there. It’d be a shame if somethin’ were to happen to it.”) “I had a chance to speak to some of the financial industry [sic] who came down for their typical trip [to the White House] and I told them it is not unusual for Democrats and Republicans to disagree... but when you have a situation in which a faction is willing potentially to default on U.S. government obligations, then we are in trouble, and if they’re willing to do it now, they’ll [also] be willing to do it later.” (Again, he is trying to frighten the markets.) “...I think I’m pretty well know for being a calm guy—sometime too calm.” (Not raising one’s voice is not, of course, the same thing as making calming statements and providing steady, reassuring leadership. An insult or a threat in a quiet voice is no less an insult or a threat. Interestingly, the Obama administration, key Democrats, and the mainstream media do their best to avoid using the term “jihadist” in reference to the Fort Hood terrorist and other radical Islamists around the world—but have no problem saying that House Republicans are “on a jihad against American citizens getting access to health care.” A competent leader would urge both political sides to tone down their rhetoric. But Obama encourages his fellow Democrats to viciously attack on his behalf. They have called Republicans “unhinged” arsonists, people who have “lost their minds,” “people with a bomb strapped to their chest [sic],” “blatant extortionists,” and “legislative arsonists.”) [49141, 49143, 49173, 49201, 49209, 49279]

HotAir.com observes, “In order to strengthen his hand in negotiations, [Obama’s] decided to try to kick start a *hopefully* not-too-damaging [stock] market sell-off over the debt ceiling. The more the Dow [Jones Industrial Market] drops tomorrow, the more [House Speaker John] Boehner and other moderate Republicans will think twice about letting this process play out all the way up to the deadline on October 17th. And if the market doesn’t dive sharply enough—maybe ‘only’ 200 or 300—he can always nudge it again next week with more dire rhetoric. It might take losing a thousand points or even two, but damn it, if that’s what it takes to teach these tea partiers not to *scare the hell out of markets by behaving irresponsibly*, then oh well. The irony is, some of the GOP’s critics have said, not without reason, that some damage from hitting the debt ceiling might be incurred before we actually hit it *if* investors lose faith that this is just brinksmanship and that the two sides will make a deal before the debt limit is reached. Well, here’s O telling them: Yep, your faith that the United States will certainly meet its credit obligations might be misplaced. And his party will forgive him for it, of course.

Just two days ago, the Times published the latest in an undying series of liberal commentary calling on Obama to ignore the law and raise the debt ceiling himself, either via the Fourteenth Amendment or by, ahem, minting a trillion-dollar platinum coin. What's a little market panic, which of course will be blamed on Republicans, compared to 'solutions' as drastic as that?" [49021]

The Republican National Committee (RNC) offers to pay for the cost of keeping the World War II memorial open for 30 days. RNC chairman Reince Priebus says, "Make no mistake, it was the Obama administration's choice to barricade this memorial and it was their choice to lock out veterans across this country. The administration decided they wanted to make this government shutdown as painful as possible for everyone, including depriving our veterans the chance to visit this landmark. That's not right, we all know that's just not fair. ... There are those in the White House that will say it isn't legal to accept our offer. But they had no problem acting unilaterally to delay Obamacare for big businesses and their political supporters. If they are willing to take such actions for political reasons, then they should be able to take such action to support our veterans so that they can see this memorial. ... We're willing to pay the bill, now it's up to [Obama] to let them in." DailyCaller.com notes, "Priebus said the RNC will be discussing its offer with the Park Service and Office of Management and Budget and added that they estimate the cost to be about \$150,000 to keep the memorial open for the full 30 days." (It is assumed the \$150,000 includes the cost of mowing lawns and operating the fountains.)

At NationalReview.com Andrew Johnson reports, "Louisiana's top health-insurance provider said that not a single person enrolled in a new health-care plan offered through the Affordable Care Act on its first day. An executive with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Louisiana told the *Times-Picayune* that the agency was unable to sell the plan because customers were unable to access the HealthCare.gov website due to its website's sluggishness." According to the *Times-Picayune*, "The company spent three years and \$60 million preparing for Tuesday's opening, so the lack of momentum seemed a bit of a letdown. Sales agents were getting plenty of calls from people seeking information, ... but the agency is not able to sell a policy to anyone without a functioning HealthCare.gov website." [49144, 49145, 49146]

The Obama administration claims 4.7 million Americans accessed the Healthcare.gov web site on its first official day of operations, but refuses to state how many users signed up for coverage. Marilyn Tavenner, head of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, says, "We have just decided not to release that yet." [49147, 49192, 49355]

WashingtonPost.com reports, "The federal site, Healthcare.gov, was sluggish and flashed error messages much of the day. The Obama administration said the delays were simply the result of an initial rush of people flocking to the site... while some in the health-care industry suggested that the problem was more serious. Officials at the White House and the Department of Health and Human Services insisted that some people were able to get far enough into the site to peruse their insurance options, find out whether they qualify for financial help and ultimately enroll in a health plan. But administration officials, for a

second day, declined to disclose how many people actually had enrolled and where in the country they live. Meanwhile, interviews with health insurers, industry consultants, nonprofit groups and people trying to sign up for coverage suggested that the number was very low. Some companies that are offering plans on the federal site said Wednesday that no one had signed up with them. ‘Very, very few people that we’re aware of have enrolled in the federal exchange,’ said one insurance industry official, who like many in the industry, spoke on the condition of anonymity out of concern for possibly offending the Obama administration. ‘We are talking single digits.’” [49192]

At TheFederalist.com Ben Domenech writes, “So there are three big questions now: First, will Republicans feel any real pressure over the government shutdown, or will the Chicken Little talk turn out to matter very little, in the same way it did with sequestration? Second, will conservatives define their terms for victory, settling on what a policy win looks like short of defunding Obamacare—accepting that they won the tactical argument, will they settle on something that represents an acceptable policy shift short of their bigger asks, coming away from all this with something they can point to as a policy win? And third—and this is the most troublesome one: will Obama call the debt ceiling bluff—would he actually be willing to default and throw the markets into chaos, knowing the media will blame Republicans anyway, in defense of his signature on his namesake law? Increasingly, I suspect the answers are: no, no, and yes.” (It can be assumed that House Republicans will probably offer a “grand bargain” of some sort in exchange for continuing funding and an increase in the debt ceiling. It can also be assumed that the Democrats will do their best to whittle down the GOP demands. A compromise is possible, but if Obama demands tax increases any deal would be scuttled, because the Republicans will not agree to tax hikes. Whether Obama is actively seeking to make the issue worse and create a crisis can probably be determined by whether he calls for higher taxes.) [49193]

The ADP National Employment Report estimates that private sector employment increased by a pathetic 166,000 jobs in September. (That barely keeps up with population growth. HotAir.com notes, “In order to create enough jobs to put back to work 80% of the 5 million who have left the workforce at this rate, we’d need 21 years.”) Additionally, 308,000 Americans filed for first-time unemployment benefits during the week ending September 28. [49148, 49198]

Congressman Louie Gohmert (R-TX) ridicules the administration’s barricades at the World War II memorial: “It is a granite sidewalk—it’s a sidewalk! They spent extra money to go find barriers to put up in front of these World War II vets. And I’m wondering what are they going to do next—hang a drapery over Mt. Rushmore? I mean, this is ridiculous!” [49152]

The Ulsterman Report writes, “Undeniable proof that Senator Harry Reid, fearing he would lose his Senate Majority Leader position after the 2014 Midterm Elections, has orchestrated and pushed for the current government shutdown. The proof is in his refusal to follow standard Congressional procedures. While I am no expert when it comes to legislative process, this is what a Republican Party operative had to say this morning

regarding Reid's direct complicity in manufacturing the shut down scenario: 'Normally there are conference reps appointed by the House and Senate leaders to forge compromise bills when two or more related legislative docs are entered for consideration by both Houses of Congress. This is standard operating procedure, especially when we are working up against a hard deadline. To be a conference rep during one of those moments is a sign of influence and trust within your own party as well as the other party. Basically, it's an assignment a Senator or Congressperson wants to have.' Senator Harry Reid never assigned any conference reps. He refused. And this was days before the shutdown deadline. Senator Reid wanted this shutdown. He had his entire premise set up and planned for months ago. He knows that the Senate is up for grabs in 2014, and he is dealing with an [unpopular Obama] in a second term with an Obamacare bill that could be a huge and negative factor for Democrats. Reid wants to remain Senate Majority Leader very badly. So, he thinks this manufactured crisis and blame of Republicans for the shutdown will help him remain in power. He might be able to influence election outcomes in Nevada, but he can't control Senate elections throughout the country, and so this shutdown is an attempt to do just that." [49162]

"Now here is where I and some others stand on the issue. We know what Reid has done. We also think he has just placed his own political head in a guillotine of his own making. There will be a short term bump for Democrats for a few weeks, maybe even months, but soon after, the reality of the Obamacare nightmare will come home to roost. And thanks to people like Senator Ted Cruz, the Republican Party will benefit greatly from that inevitable future. I say that knowing that not all Republicans deserve that benefit, because they fought and demeaned Senator Cruz and other Tea Party conservatives here on the Hill, but that is for voters in their own states to make them be held accountable for. So don't get too upset with the short term media driven positive bump for Democrats in the next few days and weeks. That will turn, and turn big for Republicans soon enough. And I will also point out that [Obama's] role in this is secondary. Democrats are ignoring him more and more and [are] far more focused on saving their own upcoming election. He is not well liked up here by most. Some good jokes [are] going around about him, though most of them are not in very good taste." [49162]

According to Congressman Jim Hines (R-CT), on the first day of the Connecticut ObamaCare exchange 28,000 people visited the site and 167 applied for health insurance—83 for private insurance and 84 for Medicaid. Democrat Governor Daniel Malloy states, "You get a lot of proud moments when you are governor, and this is one of the proudest." (Why putting 84 more people on Medicaid and getting 83 uninsured people out of about 344,000 to buy insurance should make him "proud" is not known.) [49163, 49164, 49166]

ChicagoBusiness.com reports, "The federal department overseeing ...Obama's health care overhaul has published a database of insurance plan rates for counties in 34 states, including the 102 in Illinois. The [Governor Pat] Quinn administration has declined to release such detailed information, which includes premiums for individuals and families for the health plans offered by various carriers on Get Covered Illinois, the state's online health insurance marketplace. GetCoveredIllinois.com went online yesterday, directing

visitors to the federal insurance exchange at Healthcare.gov, which experienced extensive glitches amid the surge in interest. However, the federal website does not allow users to simultaneously browse the wide range of plans the database allows. The site also requires users to register and provide basic personal information in order compare specific plans that would apply.” (That is, residents of Illinois have to enter personal data before they can even find out what the plans cover and cost. The scheme is most likely designed to provide the government with massive amounts of information about people who do not have health insurance—possibly to use against them at a future date, especially if they do not sign up for ObamaCare.) [49165]

At Breitbart.com, John Nolte provides running commentary on clear pro-Obama media bias related to the partial government shutdown. (As an example: “12:55 -- CNN Demagogues Clinical Trial Shutdowns Without Informing Viewers GOP Agreed to Fund Them. CNN’s rampage to win the shutdown debate for Barack Obama is resulting in hysterical demagoguery mixed with extraordinary lies of omission. Suzanne Malveaux just hosted a segment about 200 children sick with cancer who were turned away from the National Institute of Health (NIH) due to the government shutdown. What CNN refused to inform its viewers, though, is that the GOP has offered to fund the NIH without pre-conditions and that Democrats and Obama have refused to pass it. Fact: Were it not for Obama and Democrats, these children could be receiving treatment today. Laughably, Malveaux did mention that there was a bill out there to fund the NIH (the Republican bill), but she refused to tell her viewers that this is a GOP sponsored bill the Democrats have already threatened to veto. Shocking propaganda at work here.”) [49168]

In a letter to House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH), Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) offers to engage in a budget conference “as the government reopens. This conference would be an appropriate place to have those discussions, where participants could raise whatever proposals—such as tax reform, healthcare, agriculture, and certainly discretionary spending like veterans, National Parks and NIH—they felt appropriate.” Boehner spokesman Brendan Steel responds, “The entire government is shut down right now because Washington Democrats refuse to even talk about fairness for all Americans under Obamacare. Offering to negotiate only after Democrats get everything they want is not much of an offer.” [49194]

WND.com reports, “Another lawsuit has been filed against [Obama’s] health-care takeover strategy, this time by a Florida company complaining that Obama had no authority to simply change the law once it had been approved by Congress and signed. It was last July when Obama announced he was delaying the requirement for employers to provide adequate and affordable health insurance starting Jan. 1, 2014, or pay huge fines. ... The lawsuit, however, filed by Judicial Watch, is attempting to draw the reins on changes to existing federal law that it describes as ‘arbitrary’ and ‘capricious.’ The suit was filed in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida on behalf of Boca Raton-based employer Kawa Orthodontics LLP. It argues that the delay of the employer mandate ‘exceeded [the Obama administration’s] statutory authority, is arbitrary, capricious, and contrary to law, and is otherwise unlawful.’ The employer mandate, which subjects certain large employers to tax penalties if they do not offer ‘affordable,’

‘minimum essential’ health insurance coverage to their employees, is ‘one of the pillars’ of Obamacare, according to Judicial Watch. But Obama’s decision to suddenly announce a change in the law caused Kawa Orthodontics ‘to lose the value of its substantial efforts to prepare for the controversial provision taking effect beginning next year.’” [49170]

Shelley DuBois, a reporter for *The Tennessean*, shares her experience with the ObamaCare exchange: “The federal health exchange is busted. At least it was for this 28-year-old, nonsmoking female Tennessean looking to sign up for coverage on day one of the exchange. ...By 9:33 a.m. Tuesday morning, I was ready to enroll. The healthcare.gov site looks good. It’s welcoming, full of images of smiling people. But when I enter my state as Tennessee and try to log in, I’m stalled. ...By 9:38 a.m., I’ve made it to the login page, and by 9:42 a.m., it’s time to pick three security questions. Here’s glitch No. 2: When I scrub the spaces where I’m supposed to choose from various security questions, it’s blank. To get things moving, I answer all of the phantom questions with ‘cookies’ and click ‘Next.’ ...The next alert said, ‘Important. Your account could not be created at this time. The system is unavailable.’ ...By this point, it’s 10:06 a.m. I tried healthcare.gov again. Got kicked off. Figured that after about half an hour of messing around, it was time to call the government. ...11:39 a.m.: No more robots, I was going to find a human being. I drove to the address from the lady on the government help line. Now, I understand that some help centers are up and running throughout the city, but this particular location was a vacant building next to a Holiday Inn Express.” [49178]

On the Fox Business channel John McAfee, developer of the widely used McAfee antivirus software, comments on the ObamaCare exchange web site: “Oh, it’s seriously bad. Somebody made a grave error, not in designing the program but in simply implementing the web aspect of it. ...For example, anybody can put up a web page and claim to be a broker for this system. There is no central place where I can go and say, okay, here are all the legitimate brokers, the examiners for all of the states, and pick and choose one. Instead, any hacker can put a website up, make it look extremely competitive [and legitimate], and because of the nature of the system—and this is health care, after all—they can ask you the most intimate questions, and you’re freely going to answer them. What’s my Social Security number? My birth date? What are my health issues? ...Here’s the problem. It’s not something software can solve. I mean, what idiot put this system out there and did not create a central depository? There should be one website, run by the government, you go to that website and then you can click on all of the agencies. This is insane. So, I will predict that the loss of income for the millions of Americans who are going to lose their identities—I mean, you can imagine some retired lady in Utah, who’s [got] \$75,000 dollars in the bank, [after] saving her whole life—having it wiped out one day because she signed up for ObamaCare. And believe me, this is going to happen millions of times. This is a hacker’s wet dream. I cannot believe that they did this. ...ObamaCare itself is the loosest of all. You can imagine the type of information: medical records, personal issues, psychological issues. I mean, the government’s going to know everything in the world about everyone very soon.” [49183]

Russian President Vladimir Putin is nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize for working to peacefully resolve the Syrian chemical weapons issue before Obama could start lobbing missiles. According to WashingtonTimes.com, “The Russian advocacy group International Academy of Spiritual Unity and Cooperation of Peoples of the World nominated Mr. Putin, characterizing his forged agreement with Syrian President Bashar Assad—to turn over admitted chemical weapons cache to international authorities—a world-class and prize-worthy piece of diplomacy, United Press International reported. The group also took a dig at the United States. While announcing the nomination during a press conference in Moscow, group officials said Mr. Putin deserved the Peace Prize much more than ...Obama, who won the recognition in 2009. ‘Barack Obama is the man who has initiated and approved the United States’ aggressive actions in Iraq and Afghanistan. Now he is preparing for an invasion into Syria. He bears this title nevertheless,’ said Iosif Kobzon, a member of the State Duma, UPI reported. ‘Our president, who tries to stop the bloodshed and who tries to help the conflict situation with political dialogue is, in my view, more worthy of this high title.’” [49185]

DailyCaller.com reports that the monuments and memorials Obama closed on October 1 were open during the shutdown during the Clinton administration. [49187]

DailyCaller.com also reports, “In Tennessee, those shopping on the new health insurance co-ops could end up with more than just some health insurance. They might even walk away with a free smartphone. The Nashville Business Journal is reporting that Community Health Alliance [CHA], Tennessee’s Obamacare health insurance co-op, is using the prospect of a free phone to encourage folks to enroll.” [49189]

WSMV television reports, “We’re hearing not a single person locally has been successful getting through to the new health insurance exchange. It seems to be a problem especially in states like Tennessee, where the state opted out and left it up to the federal government to run what is essentially an online shopping site.” Another reporter says, “Again, as you just said, no one in Tennessee that I know of, according to the counselors I’ve talked to, has been able to successfully negotiate that federal website.” [49197]

LATimes.com reports that “California’s health insurance exchange vastly overstated the number of online hits it received Tuesday during the rollout of Obamacare. State officials said the Covered California website got 645,000 hits during the first day of enrollment, far fewer than the 5 million it reported Tuesday. The state exchange had cited the 5 million figure as a sign of strong consumer interest and a major reason people had so much difficulty using its \$313-million online enrollment system.” California has an estimated 7.1 million residents under age 65 without health insurance—many of whom are illegal immigrants. [49190, 49191, 49199]

A CNSNews.com reporter asks Congressman Henry Waxman (D-CA) if he had read all 10,535 pages of the ObamaCare rules and regulations that have been issued so far. Waxman replies, “Have you read them?” Reporter: “No. Have you read them?” Waxman: “Is it important that I read it?” Reporter: “Do you think that the American people should read it? I just asked you a very honest question. Whether you’ve read them? It’s a yes or

no question.” Waxman: “I think it is a propaganda question, and I refuse to talk to you about it.” Asked the same question about the regulations, Senator Mark Warner (D-VA) says, “I think we saw yesterday a lot of interest from the American people. And are there ways that we can make this law better? Absolutely, but that ought to be debated at a different time.” Reporter: “But have you read those 10,500 pages?” Warner turns and walks away. Senator Charles Schumer (D-NY)—once he realizes reporter Penny Starr is from CNS News—says, “Yes, not now please, ma’am.” Starr: “I wanted to ask you...” Schumer: “I asked not now, please...” Senator Ben Cardin (D-MD) says, “I can tell you that we have read the regulations of interest, the ones, the areas that we are involved with, we’ve had inquiries about, we have read those regulations. We’ve commented on those regulations. ...I don’t have any idea [how many of the 10,535 pages I’ve read]. But I can tell you that not only have we analyzed it, we’ve had discussions with the administration, we’ve disagreed with the administration on some of the provisions that they’ve included in the regulations, and we’ve been very open and vocal about it. And so yes, we’ve been engaged in the process.” (In other words, Cardin has not read the regulations but a few of his aides have read some pages.) Congressman Eliot Engel (D-NY) is more honest: “Have I read all of them? No I haven’t. But I’m very familiar with ObamaCare and what it does.” [49203, 49204, 49207, 49211, 49212]

Asked if she has read the 10,535 pages of ObamaCare regulations, Congresswoman Michele Bachmann (R-MN) replies, “They keep churning them out every 10 seconds—they can’t keep up with them. ...Why [doesn’t anyone] read the regulations? ...Well, I think it’s probably analogous to a Stephen King novel, you know, it’s horrifying once they read what these regulations are. ...What I want to know is when are we going to see the photo—[Barack Obama] and Michelle Obama signing up for ObamaCare? When are we going to see the photo of [Chief Justice] John Roberts and Mrs. Roberts sign up for ObamaCare? When are going to see [Health and Human Services Secretary] Kathleen Sebelius and her husband signing up for ObamaCare? When are we going to see the head of the IRS signing up for ObamaCare? That’s what the nation wants to see, but the dirty little secret is they have no intention of signing up for ObamaCare.” (Bachmann is incorrect. it is not a secret.) [49408, 49409]

At Spectator.org Peter Ferrera writes, “The government is shut down for only one reason. Barack Obama and the Democrats wanted a shutdown. That is because Obama and the Democrats are so certain that the public will blame the Republicans. And they are certain of that because your dopey neighbors keep telling pollsters that the Republicans are at fault. Listen, if your friends, neighbors, and relatives are upset about the shutdown, and they want it to end, they have the power to stop it immediately! All they have to do is tell pollsters that the shutdown is the fault of ...Obama and the Democrats. If they will just do that, the shutdown will be over faster than you can say Your Mama. ...Meanwhile, the Republicans seem to have hit their stride passing bills to fund the most urgent pieces of the federal government one by one. This may break through to even the low information voters out there that it is the Republicans trying to fund the government, and the Democrats refusing to do a thing to do so. The Republicans should pass these as actual appropriations bills in fact, and announce that they stand ready to meet Senate Democrats

on these bills in a Conference Committee to keep the government funded whenever the Senate Democrats show up for work.” [49216]

At WSJ.com James Taranto relates the story of Brendan Mahoney, a 30-year-old “third-year law student at the University of Connecticut. He’s actually been insured for the past three years—in 2011 and 2012 through a \$2,400-a-year school-sponsored health plan, and this year through ‘a high-deductible, low-premium plan that cost about \$39 a month through a UnitedHealthcare subsidiary.’ But he wanted to see what ObamaCare had to offer.” The answer? The Healthcare.gov website informs law school student Mahoney he is eligible for Medicaid. Taranto writes, “So the great success story of ObamaCare’s first day is the transformation of a future lawyer who was already paying for insurance into a welfare case.” (ObamaCare cannot succeed unless it gets millions of young, healthy people into the system so that their over-priced insurance premiums can be used to subsidize the coverage of sick, elderly people and poor people. It will hardly succeed if it adds tens of thousands of young people to the Medicaid rolls—it will only cause Medicaid to run increased deficits.) [49230, 49388]

Michigan resident Hussein Daoud applies for ObamaCare insurance at the Dearborn non-profit organization, ACCESS. Daoud, a used car salesman who has six children, learns he qualifies for Medicaid. (Like Mahoney, Daoud and his family will get health insurance for free—paid for by the taxpayers. If they represent the typical ObamaCare applicant, the system will run enormous deficits even before the November 2014 mid-term elections—and will most certainly never fulfill Obama’s promise that it will lower the deficit. Some might assume that Hussein Daoud is a Muslim; Dearborn, Michigan has the largest Muslim population in the United States, and a large percentage of that population is poor. It also has a large population of non-Muslims who object to the five-times-per-day calls to prayer broadcast by mosques with huge loudspeakers.) [49231, 49232, 49233]

On *Special Report*, Charles Krauthammer comments, “Of course [the government shutdown] affects individuals, but it’s the general economy that is not going to be affected by the shutdown, but it will profoundly affected—the growth rate—if you have a default. [Obama] is the one who carries the burden and the blame for the overall economy which is why he enjoys the shutdown, politically. He enjoys it politically because it hurts the Republicans, and everything he’s done is to play to it and show himself as the one who rides above these crazies on the other side. But he is scared to death about the debt ceiling, so that’s the leverage that the Republicans have on this issue. It’s not on the [continuing resolution].” [49158]

Obama has an unproductive meeting with Congressional leaders (House Speaker John Boehner, House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, and Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell) during which he reaffirms that he will not compromise on the spending issue. After the meeting, Boehner tells reporters “We had a nice conversation, a polite conversation,” but Obama “reiterated one more time tonight that he will not negotiate.” Reid says, “We are locked in tight on ObamaCare.” (Boehner says little, while Reid and Pelosi are eager to talk with reporters—apparently pleased that

they got the shutdown they wanted and the opportunity to give the media still more anti-Republican quotes.) [49157, 49169, 49194, 49200]

The House of Representatives votes 254–171 to fund the National Institutes of Health (NIH) through 2014. House Republicans approve the legislation with the help of 25 Democrats who defy Obama and House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA). Congressman Brian Higgins (D-NY) follows the party line. Higgins says, “The Tea Party shutdown will deny 200 patients a week—30 of them kids—treatment at the largest research hospital in the world, the National Institutes of Health. These are often last-chance cancer treatments that offer the only hope for kids who are stuck with cancer”—and then he votes against the legislation. Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee says, “Every 36 minutes a child is diagnosed with cancer in the U.S. That’s enough children to fill a classroom each day, which adds up to almost 15,000 new cases of childhood cancer each year”—and then votes against funding the NIH. [49213, 49356]

PJMedia.com reports that the Obama administration has been shutting down access to federal lands, such as campgrounds and fishing sites, even where they do not rely on federal funds. “Warren Meyer of Phoenix, AZ, is owner and president of Recreation Resource Management, Inc. RRM employs about 400-500 camp workers and managers across about a dozen states. It is one of a handful of companies that have been managing national parks and campgrounds as tenants for years, through previous government shutdowns including the last one in 1995-1996. Those previous shutdowns never closed any of the parks managed in this way, but the current shutdown threatens closure. The campgrounds are self-sufficient and receive no federal funding. No government employees staff or manage the parks. The management companies pay the National Park Service out of the funds they generate from operating the thousands of campgrounds. So the reason for the shutdown is puzzling to Meyer.” Meyer states, “[T]oday, we have been told by senior member of the US Forest Service and Department of Agriculture that people ‘above the department,’ which I presume means the White House, plan to order the Forest Service to needlessly and illegally close all private operations. I can only assume their intention is to artificially increase the cost of the shutdown as some sort of political ploy.” (There is no reason for such closings—other than Obama’s vindictiveness.) [49266, 49267]

Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX) and Congressman Jim Bridenstine (R-OK) hold a “telephone town hall meeting” about the continuing resolution debate and attract 104,000 participants. The event is sponsored by the Tea Party Patriots organization, which tells Breitbart.com, “no special measures were taken to draw the crowd—only the standard Facebook post for two hours and a robocall earlier in the day.” [49229]

On October 3 Veterans are allowed to visit the World War II Memorial without park police interference. (At the site, Senator Claire McCaskill (R-MO) says it is “tacky” for lawmakers to be there, and “There’s [sic] people here who have nothing to do. They’re just trying to score a political point.” The grammatically challenged McCaskill is apparently there solely for the fresh air.) [49214]

At CanadaFreePress.com Judi McLeod writes, “In the end history will remember that it was the league of grandfathers and great grandfathers with time-creased faces—35,000 World War II veterans who dropped the mask on a cruel, self-centered and cold-hearted [Obama], showing the world for once and for all who[he] really is. Not only did Obama personally have barricaded the War Memorial the vets came to Washington, D.C. to honour, his government shutdown closed the Normandy American Cemetery and Memorial where tourists travelling to Omaha Beach come to pay their respects to the 9,387 military dead. ...Honouring the war dead is anathema to Marxists on the rise. ...Of all the punishment Obama has cavalierly meted out since his November 4, 2008 election, this [action of closing the World War II Memorial] is the one that will leave him most reviled. ... Patriots, fighting Obama in his arrogant Fundamental Transformation of America, ...know they stand at least a fighting chance to return their country to the status it earned long before Obama came along to topple the U.S. Obama will be strutting his stuff for photo-ops on upcoming Veterans Day. But this time, it will only serve as a reminder of his hypocrisy for the masses. ...Patriots should take heart on the latest ‘Barricade’ efforts aimed to cause pain because during it all, there is one thing World War II vets proved to the world: Real life heroes, who stormed the beaches of Normandy and Iwo Jima are so much better than politicians who bestow their own phony names on themselves before going on to make themselves ‘president.’” (Obama closes all 24 overseas cemeteries.) [49215, 49269, 49301]

Obama—who is too busy to meet with Congress over budget issues—sits for his official portrait with photographer Tony Powell. [49311, 40312]

The office of House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH) posts a list of legislation it has passed to restore funding of government operations—15 of which have yet to be approved by the Senate or signed into law by Obama. [49492]

A woman driving a black Infiniti—with a one-year-old child in the vehicle—unsuccessfully tries to ram through a barricade at the White House. Police chase her vehicle, and she is eventually shot and killed. The woman, 34-year-old Miriam Carey, reportedly is not armed. CNSNews.com reports, “Police described it as an isolated event and saw no indications of terrorism.” It is later reported that Carey, a Connecticut dental hygienist, was suffering from post-partum depression and believed she was being stalked by Obama. One eyewitness tells CNN’s Wolf Blitzer that *after* the car was stopped, law enforcement officials pulled the child out of the vehicle and then shot and killed Carey. Some who have reviewed video of the incident claim there was another adult in the vehicle with Carey, but the media reports only the presence of the driver and her infant in the back seat. (Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX) blames Republicans for the incident.) [49208, 49219, 49265, 49286, 49299, 49302, 49628, 49661, 49662]

Remarkably, Congressman Steny Hoyer (D-MD) is applauded by the House of Representatives after praising the police for—unnecessarily—shooting to death the mentally ill Miriam Carey. Hoyer says, “I join the majority leader in expressing our gratitude to the Capitol police.” (Author and columnist R. Emmett Tyrrell wonders if Carey “was read her Miranda rights before she was shot dead in a fusillade of gunfire by

a gang of well-armed police who surrounded her car...” The excuse for shooting Carey was that Obama “was threatened,” Tyrrell writes, “So the death of Miriam Carey will be given short shrift. Frankly, I find this explanation preposterous. We are a nation of laws. We extend the rule of law even to the criminal class. It should also be extended to the mentally ill Carey. It is not too late to extend it to her. Perhaps this is one instance in which [Jesse] Jackson and [Al] Sharpton can join with conservatives and demand an investigation. How many more defenseless citizens are going to be killed before the civilized among us demand action?”) [49323, 49574]

The South Carolina state house passes a bill declaring ObamaCare “null and void” in the state and criminalizes its implementation. According to Americac2c.com, “The measure permits the state Attorney General, with reasonable cause, ‘to restrain by temporary restraining order, temporary injunction, or permanent injunction’ any person who is believed to be causing harm to any person or business with the implementation of Obamacare.” [49242]

Townhall.com political editor Guy Benson writes, “We already knew that in spite of its astronomical costs, Obamacare will leave 30 million Americans uninsured, but a new nationwide Gallup survey suggests that millions of uninsured Americans have no intention of signing up for coverage through the law's exchanges.” (According to a September 17–26 Gallup poll, 36 percent of uninsured Americans say they do not plan to buy insurance through a state of federal ObamaCare exchange; 17 percent are unsure or undecided.) Benson notes, “The pollster’s headline focuses on the percentage of this group that will seek coverage [48 percent], but the real story is just the opposite. Obamacare's funding model relies on younger, healthier Americans overpaying for insurance in order to subsidize older, sicker people. One can make the argument that this form of generational redistribution is fair and moral, but that’s not how the law was sold. Everyone—including the young—were promised that their coverage would be less expensive, and that if they were satisfied with their existing healthcare arrangement, it wouldn’t change at all. Now that these promises are being laid to waste, many people in the ‘young invincibles’ cohort may decide that it isn’t worth signing up for the law’s expensive coverage—especially since they must be treated at hospitals if something goes wrong, then sold ‘insurance’ if they develop a pre-existing condition.” [49177]

At Heritage.org, Hans von Spakovsky writes, “Americans are justifiably angry over the political game being played by the Obama administration to barricade the World War II Memorial in Washington. And they should be. **Under federal law, there is no justifiable reason for closing the memorial.** ...It is one of the most blatant and shameful political stunts being carried out by the White House, which appears intent on keeping the government shut down to protect Obamacare. **How do we know this is purely political theater?** Because under applicable federal law—and the interpretation of that law by both the Justice Department and the Office of Management and Budget—all ‘law enforcement’ operations of the federal government are *exempted* from being shut down during any funding lapse. The *only* possible reason for preventing access to the World War II Memorial would be a concern about security. But because the National Park Police are operating even during the government ‘slimdown’—that is why they were

at the memorial when the veterans were threatened with arrest—this is not a valid concern. ... **There are no legal or budget reasons whatsoever for the memorial to be barricaded, shut down, and fenced off**—other than ... Obama's desire to engage in political theatrics intended to annoy as many members of the public as possible and blame conservatives who are trying to stop [Obama's] unfair, unaffordable, and unworkable health-care law." [49184]

InfoWars.com reports, "The National Park Service erected barricades to shut down parking lots surrounding Mount Vernon despite the fact that the tourist destination is privately owned, another example of how the feds are deliberately worsening the government shut down. Mount Vernon is the former plantation of George Washington and is owned by the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association, which doesn't receive any government funding. The attraction's official website reads, 'NO SHUTDOWN HERE—The Federal government may be shut down, but Washington's home remains open. Mount Vernon has remained a private non-profit for more than 150 years.' However, a dispute began when the National Park Service began putting up barricades to block off the facility's car park, blockading the entrance as well as a spot where tour buses turn around. The parking lots are co-owned by Mount Vernon and the NPS, but require no immediate maintenance at all, meaning the decision to close them down was completely unnecessary. The feds even blocked off a small area consisting of just three parking spaces." Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich tweets, "The tour bus turnaround at Mount Vernon has been closed by federal police. This is deliberate effort by Obama to hurt the public. Disgusting." [49221]

DailyCaller.com points out that the official ObamaCare telephone number for getting health care, although listed as 1-800-318-2596, is also "1-800-FUCKYO." (Whether someone in the ObamaCare bureaucracy has a good or warped sense of humor or is an idiot has not been established.) [49186, 50433]

Radio talk show host Mark Levin tells his listeners, "I want to tell you folks something—I want to say this loud and clear to the people who are on Capitol Hill who are listening, to this administration: You lay one damn hand on one of those World War II vets at that memorial, I'll bring half a million people to that damn memorial. You got that? I'm sitting here stewing thinking about this—playing these damn games. You will ignite a movement in this country like you have never seen before—the biker patriot army, veterans from all over the country, every single war and battle in this country—Republican, Democrat, Independent, whatever. I'll be damned if [Obama] with his feet up on the desk in the Oval Office, with a smirk on his face, looking at his golf cart—I'll be damned if [Obama] or anybody else is going to shut down that World War II Memorial, period. These men are in their 80s and 90s, so let me repeat: You lay one hand on one of those men and arrest them for going to their memorial, which they fought, which was not paid by you, damn it—was paid by the American people [the World War II Memorial was built with private donations, including one from this author]—we will come out of every town and city in this nation, we will come out of every county on both coasts, both borders and we will march on Washington against your tyranny. You have been warned. This isn't intended to be controversial. This isn't intended to be a joke. This

is exactly how I feel in my heart and soul. I take this very personally. My grandfather fought at Iwo Jima and he fought at Guam. And my great uncle fought at Guadalcanal. And I'll be damned if this community activist is going to shut down their memorial. They beat the Germans. They beat the Nazis. They beat the Japanese. They beat fascist Italy. And I'm not going to allow one person, this administration, these people to beat them now that they're in their 80s and 90s. No damn way." [49188]

At CanadaFreePress.com Doug Patton writes, "Imagine you are a veteran of World War II approaching your 90th birthday. This may be your last opportunity to visit the memorial that was erected to honor your service. You have come to your nation's Capital, only to find that [Obama] has ordered that memorial barricaded to keep you out. As a teenager, you jumped off a landing craft into the surf at Omaha Beach and watched as your buddies were cut to pieces in the sand. Or maybe you endured the horrors of Iwo Jima or Guadalcanal battling the Japanese in the Pacific. You did your duty, endured the horrors of war, and miraculously survived it all to come home, asking only for the opportunity to start a family, perhaps build a business, and generally enjoy the liberties you had fought so hard to defend. You paid taxes all your life to support your government. So why would the Obama administration choose to close your memorial? Because it was calculated that it might be useful to this man's propaganda campaign to convince the American people that the current government 'shutdown' is the fault of the opposing political party. It's as simple as that. And yes, he really is that petty. It is long past time for the American people to embrace the reality that Barack Obama is a Chicago street thug in a thousand dollar suit. He is ruthless, arrogant, imperious, and filled with disdain not only for those who oppose him but also for the ignorant voters who put him in office. Anyone who would deign to work for his administration has sworn allegiance to an ideology that is anathema to the Founders of this country and the Constitution they crafted. ...If you are not incensed by the fact that [Obama] tried to keep the courageous men who saved this nation from Nazi Germany and Imperial Japan seven decades ago from seeing their memorial, then you are either an enemy of this country or you are a brain-dead idiot." [49202]

CNSNews.com reports, "On the first day of the 'shutdown' of the federal government, when members of the U.S. Senate were going to the well of their house to point out that the shutdown would prevent the National Institutes of Health from starting clinical trials for cancer patients and others facing possibly terminal illnesses, the administration was giving \$445,000,000 to the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, according to the Daily Treasury Statement. That means PBS NewsHour, National Public Radio and Sesame Street got a taxpayer subsidy during the shutdown, but not would-be cancer patients at the NIH." [49205, 49273]

Campaigning for his agenda in Rockville, Maryland, Barack "calm rhetoric" Obama doubles down on his stock market scare tactics and tries to expand fears worldwide: "If we screw up [and don't immediately raise the debt limit with no strings attached], everybody gets screwed up. The whole world will have problems." (Rush Limbaugh comments, "I can't remember a previous president ever trying to talk down the economy like this. If anything, in Obama's situation, they would be talking about how the country

would never let a default happen. But he's out there warning the world that it could. I'll tell you what this is, all of it, everything. I get so blue in the face. Everything Obama and the Democrats do is political and has an agenda, is part of the agenda, and the agenda right now is destroy the Republicans, the Tea Party. And I think—I could be wrong about this—I think the Democrats are imploding. I think they're getting batty. I think they're going nuts. This is not playing out the way they thought [it would]. ...[Obama] is off the rails and attacking the Republicans here, and George Miller, the best friend the communists in Nicaragua ever had, Democrat [Congressman] from California, is out calling this a Republican jihad. I mean, they're overdoing it. Even for low-information people, they're overdoing it. Now, I'm not saying that there is a shift in public opinion on this, but it certainly doesn't hurt that these website locations for the [ObamaCare] exchanges remain a disaster." [49209, 49217, 49220, 49224, 49226, 49227, 49228, 49274, 49275]

Obama also plays his "Social Security scare card" (perhaps sooner than most would have expected), saying, "In a government shutdown, Social Security checks still go out on time. In an economic shutdown—if we don't raise the debt ceiling—they don't go out on time. In a government shutdown, disability benefits still arrive on time. In an economic shutdown, *they don't*." (Obama is lying. If the debt ceiling is not increased, that does not mean the federal government has *no money*. It merely no longer has the ability to *borrow* more money. Taxes continue to be collected and flood into the Treasury Department. That tax revenue—about \$233 billion per month—is more than enough to fund interest on the national debt—less than \$25 billion per month, *as well as* Social Security benefits and disability benefits—about \$70 billion per month, Medicaid—\$25 billion per month, Medicare—\$42 billion per month, and defense—\$48 billion per month. Although the \$233 billion in tax revenue is not sufficient to cover *all* the government's spending, it can cover \$2.8 trillion and what is considered to be most critical. The only thing that would cause Social Security benefits not to be paid would be Obama deciding that those benefits are *not* critical. He is therefore using scare tactics to frighten senior citizens into demanding that the debt ceiling be increased with no strings attached. If the debt ceiling were not raised, the government could continue to pay interest on the debt, retirement benefits, and other expenses. It could also sell off vacant government buildings and properties it owns in order to generate additional income. Lastly, it could finally take seriously the spending problem and start slashing unnecessary and wasteful programs.) [49209, 49217, 49220, 49224, 49226, 49227, 49228, 49275, 49390, 49391, 49443]

At Townhall.com, Michael Schaus later comments, "And so now, he has played his highest trump card. In predictable Democrat (read: 'ruling class') fashion, [Obama] has threatened that a failure to reach an agreement on the Debt Ceiling would result in senior citizens being without their coveted social security checks. Of course this raises a big question: Why do we need to *borrow* money if Social Security is solvent? ...Democrats have insisted, for decades, that Social Security is a solvent trust fund. According to the Democrats who refuse to acknowledge the need for substantial reforms, the trust fund allows the elderly and disadvantaged access to financial security. In response to arguments that the program is bankrupt, lawmakers like Harry Reid, Nancy Pelosi, and ...Obama, insist the trust fund is full of actual monies that are dedicated to funding the

entitlement obligations outlined in the program. So... Why would the debt limit impact a solvent, and funded, program? The truth is, the Social Security trust fund is a pile of IOUs. And, as [Obama] insinuated in his comments, it will be incapable of paying its obligations without further government borrowing from outside interests. A trust fund, after all, cannot be solvent *and* in need of credit. [Obama's] argument, that social security checks will stop being cut [sic; stop] in the event that the Federal government is incapable of borrowing more funds, should be a warning sign to all citizens that our most basic entitlement programs are in dire straits. ...The political stunt (to quite literally scare the old people) may or may not work, as [Obama] looks to pressure Republicans into a more amicable position. However, the slightest bit of investigative initiative on the part of the media should raise the question: *How is Social Security so dependent on borrowed funds? And just as importantly: What does that mean for the future of America's most depended-upon entitlement program*"[49254]

Ridiculing the GOP, Obama—using his phony “g-dropping black accent”—also tells the Maryland audience, “Everybody here just does their job, right? You don’t—if, if, if, if, if you’re workin’ here, and, in the middle of the day you just stopped and said, ‘You know what? I wanna get somethin’ but I don’t know... I don’t know exactly what I’m, I’m gonna get, but I’m just gonna stop workin’ ’til I get somethin’— and I’m gonna, I’m gonna try to shut down the whole plant, until I get somethin’. You’d get fired! Right? ’Cause, ’cause the deal is you’ve already gotten hired, you got a job, you’re getting a paycheck, and so, you also are getting the pride of doing a good job, and contributing ta [sic; to] a business, and lookin’ out for your fellow workers—that’s what you’re getting. Well, it shouldn’t be any different for a member of Congress.” (Obama’s amazing statement—which he repeats several days later—prompts several points. First, it suggests that Obama has never heard of the AFL-CIO, the Teamsters Union, the United Auto Workers union, or their strikes, which, after all, involve a work stoppage in order to “get somethin’.” Second, the labor unions that supported Obama in 2008 and 2012 may be unhappy to hear that he now opposes labor strike. Third, workers are rarely fired for going on strike—unless the labor union is giving them terrible advice and does not understand how to negotiate with the employer.) [49209, 49217, 49220, 49224, 49226, 49227, 49228, 49257, 49525]

KUSI-TV in San Diego reports that not one California resident bought insurance on the state’s exchange: “Instead of signing up for ObamaCare, only [about 7,100] applications were taken. Nobody is actually enrolled yet because the people behind the scenes are not trained yet to sell anything.” [49210]

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani tells reporters, “Before my trip [to the United Nations in New York City], the Americans had sent five messages to arrange a meeting between me and Obama, but I turned them down. Then they raised a plan for a brief meeting, but I didn’t agree... we didn’t disagree with [the idea of having] a meeting, but its grounds weren’t prepared.” [49218]

At Breitbart.com Brandon Darby reports, “Shawn Moran, Vice President of the National Border Patrol Council, spoke exclusively with Breitbart News and claimed that Border

Patrol management has begun the practice of ordering Border Patrol Agents to stand down and cease pursuing drug smugglers, human smugglers and traffickers, and illegal aliens. He also warned it could lead to illegal aliens entering the country from nations associated with terrorism. 'It doesn't matter whether it's drugs, bodies, or how large the group is, our agents are being ordered to stand down by Border Patrol management,' said Moran. 'I have received reports from our agents in every single sector from San Diego to the Rio Grande Valley in Texas that they are receiving these orders. They are not being relieved in place, they are simply being told that someone else is being dispatched, but none of us have seen that occur. We are simply being ordered to stand down and stop tracking and trying to apprehend the criminals. ...Border Patrol senior leadership says the stand downs are a means of addressing budgetary shortfalls and making sure agents aren't working longer shifts. The Border Patrol has a larger budget than ever, but the agents on the ground have not seen the benefits of an increased budget. The increased budget has not trickled down to the men and women with their boots on the ground. They are placing the budgetary concerns before the security of our border. We have situations where top-level bureaucrats in the U.S. Border Patrol and in the Customs and Border Protection Agency are receiving massive bonuses—some up to \$64,000—for finding ways to reduce the pay Border Patrol Agents receive. Groups that are outside of human trafficking, human smuggling, and drug smuggling are going to exploit these stand down orders as well, not only cartels but illegal aliens from nations that are tied to terrorism.' [49223]

WashingtonExaminer.com reports, "American media outlets were finally able to track down a mythical creature—a person who actually signed up for the Obamacare exchanges online. But that person, Chad Henderson, admitted to the Washington Post that the premium for the plan he enrolled in was \$175. Ouch! Wasn't Obamacare supposed to lower premiums? Henderson's going to pay a \$175 premium and he won't even receive vision or dental insurance. He has contacts, so not having vision insurance is kind of a bum deal. Henderson, as far as we know a healthy, 21-year-old college student at Chattanooga State Community College who lives in Flintstone, Ga., and works part-time at a day-care center, did not qualify for tax credits to purchase insurance, according to the Post. Without Obamacare, Henderson could have received health insurance for as little as \$44.72 on eHealthInsurance.com, according to Michael F. Cannon of the Cato Institute. 'I can't yet say whether Chad's \$175 premium is the lowest-cost plan available to him through the Obamacare Exchange,' Cannon said. 'But it's probably close.' Thanks to Obamacare's community-rating price controls that take effect in 2014, Henderson's cheapest plan option on eHealthInsurance jumped [from \$44.72] up to \$190.23. 'So it appears that Obamacare quadrupled Chad's premiums, and Enroll America thinks this is a success story,' Cannon said." (Both eHealthInsurance.com and HealthAxis.com have operated successfully for more than 10 years, performing policy price comparisons that the Obama team has somehow been unable to replicate.) [49225, 50211]

The White House announces the cancellation of Obama's trip to Asia. Press secretary Jay Carney tells reporters that Obama "made this decision based on the difficulty in moving forward with foreign travel in the face of a shutdown, and his determination to continue pressing his case that Republicans should immediately allow a vote to reopen the

government.” (One might argue that, inasmuch as Obama refuses to negotiate over government spending, he serves no purpose in Washington and may as well visit the Muslim nations of Indonesia and Brunei. Obama can just as easily refuse to negotiate from Jakarta as he can from the Oval Office—or the golf course at Andrews Air Force Base.) [49234, 49262, 49276]

At Breitbart.com Dr. Susan Berry reports, “The woman who is behind the controls of ObamaCare was unable to convince even one person from Kansas, the state she used to govern, to sign up for it. Though HHS [Health and Human Services] Secretary Kathleen Sebelius is the former governor of Kansas, [Congressman] Tim Huelskamp (R-KS) was informed by an insurance provider in his home state that none of the 365,000 uninsured people living there successfully signed up for insurance on the ObamaCare exchange on the first day. According to LifeNews, Huelskamp had his own difficulties signing up in the exchanges as well, waiting ‘on hold’ for over 60 hours, and still, as of Thursday, being unable to sign up.” Huelskamp states, “These results are stunning. You would think with three years to prepare, ...Obama and Kathleen Sebelius could deliver an operational website—at least in the home state of the former Kansas Governor. ObamaCare was and is not ready for prime time. 365,000 uninsured Kansans—and not one single report to my office of a Kansan successfully signing up for ObamaCare. ...This is yet another example of why we need to get rid of ObamaCare. We knew it was unpopular. We knew it was unaffordable. And now we know it is unworkable.” [49236, 49258]

At PJMedia.com software engineer Charlie Martin writes, “There really is only one explanation for the meltdown of the Obamacare exchanges since 1 October, and that’s utter incompetence.” Martin notes that the Connecticut ObamaCare exchange site had a mere 26,000 visitors on October 1 and could not handle the traffic, while his desktop computer, “using the dumbest possible one-line program was able to handle nearly 400 times the load at which Connecticut’s system was falling over. Now, admittedly, an O-care web site has other issues that make life much more complex. But you’re going to hear a lot of people in the next few days talking about how big the load was. Don’t buy it. It’s not the load that was the problem.” [49281]

Seattle’s KING-TV reports that Washington state resident Eric Levy believed his existing health insurance was too expensive, “So he jumped online to the Washington Health Benefit Exchange and the sticker shock for a comparable plan was even worse. ‘It’s another \$500 a month that you have to think about how you’re going to pay for,’ said Levy. What’s worse is paying for certain coverage he doesn’t need. ‘The real thing that jumped out at me is all of a sudden I’m required to have maternity coverage,’ he said.” (Most Americans are not aware that insurance under ObamaCare will increase in cost partly because the government is prohibiting insurance companies from selling “no frills” policies. The “one size fits all” aspect of the law ensures that practically no one will be satisfied.) [49237, 49250]

White House press secretary Jay Carney tells reporters, “We’re talking about turning the full faith and credit of the United States into something that’s an open question every year, every quarter, it could be every week, and that’s just unacceptable, so, [Obama] is

drawing a line here. He cannot do it, he will not do it.” (Some might argue that Obama and his staff may want to stop making “drawing lines” threats, after the Syria chemical weapons fiasco.) [49238]

The Obama administration reaffirms that it will not mint “\$1 trillion coins” to cover the deficit if the debt ceiling is not increased, and Obama will not attempt to order the Treasury Department to sell bonds without Congressional approval. But GlobalResearch.ca reports that “Obama has met with Goldman Sachs and Co, in order to arrange for a new ‘debt ceiling,’ or more accurately—a new line of credit. Only problem: he cannot do this during a shutdown. Such an act is in direct violation of the Antideficiency Act of 1870. It was a real law in fact, passed by Congress and also amended several times. This US law clearly prohibits ...government office holders from incurring any monetary obligation—for which the Congress has not appropriated funds.” [49239, 49240]

The House passes legislation funding the Veterans Administration. (The Senate is likely to ignore the bill.) [49253]

At Breitbart.com Wynton Hall reports, “A new analysis by University of Chicago professor of economics Casey Mulligan finds that when the Obamacare employer penalty goes into full effect in 2015, the government will confiscate 10% more in taxes from full-time median income workers than it did pre-recession. Mulligan, writing in the *Wall Street Journal*, says the shift will have dramatic negative consequences on the American work ethic and will usher in a ‘new wave of redistribution.’ Before the recession, a decision to work would benefit public treasuries by an amount equal to 40% of the compensation from the job. The worker and his family got the other 60%. In the years 2015 and beyond, full-time workers with median incomes will keep only half of the compensation created by their decisions, with the other half going to the government in the form of additional taxes and savings on the subsidy payments.” [49241]

Washington.CBC.local.com reports, “Overloaded websites and jammed phone lines frustrated consumers for a second day as they tried to sign up for health insurance under the nation’s historic health care overhaul. ...[C]ustomers in Hawaii... were still unable to buy insurance policies online Wednesday, forcing them to turn directly to insurance companies to examine their options. In Oregon, officials said a faulty online calculator would not be fixed until late October.” [49243]

WashingtonTimes.com reports, “The National] Park Service appears to be closing streets on mere whim and caprice. The rangers even closed the parking lot at Mount Vernon, where the plantation home of George Washington is a favorite tourist destination. That was after they barred the new World War II Memorial on the Mall to veterans of World War II. But the government does not own Mount Vernon; it is privately owned by the Mount Vernon Ladies Association. The ladies bought it years ago to preserve it as a national memorial. The feds closed access to the parking lots this week, even though the lots are jointly owned with the Mount Vernon ladies. The rangers are from the government, and they’re only here to help. ‘It’s a cheap way to deal with the situation,’

an angry Park Service ranger in Washington says of the harassment. ‘We’ve been told to make life as difficult for people as we can. It’s disgusting.’” [49245, 49246, 49263, 49345, 49354]

At NationalJournal.com Beth Reinhard begins an article criticizing Obama for being “a divider, not a uniter,” with a letter to him: “We thought you were different, but you turned out to be like all the others. You promised hope and change, but we trust government even less than before. You offered a new brand of post-partisan governing, but the red states and blue states are farther apart than ever. Washington was a mess when you arrived in January of 2009, but by breaking your promises and, frankly, our hearts, you made it worse. You vowed to ban lobbyists from the White House only to sneak them in through loopholes. You barred corporate donations to the first inauguration but let the special interest money rain down the second time around. You even learned to love super PACs. How could you? Signed, Hopeless and Changed (for the worse).” Reinhard writes, “This week’s government shutdown represents a new low in Washington, reinforcing how little gets done and everyone hates each other. And while polls show that Republicans in Congress still get more of the blame, Americans are increasingly pointing the finger at the Oval Office. A recent Bloomberg survey found that 40 percent blame the GOP for what’s wrong in Washington, while 38 percent blame [Obama] and congressional Democrats. Back in February, Obama had a nine-point edge over Republicans and independents were evenly divided over who was responsible. Now, 42 percent of independents fault with Obama and his allies in Congress, while 34 percent blame Republicans on Capitol Hill. The latest CNN poll found a similar trend, with the percentage who blame congressional Republicans for a government shutdown down five points and the percent who blame Obama up three points.” [49249]

“Perhaps Obama’s biggest failing has been his inability to build relationships and make deals on Capitol Hill—a shortcoming in sharp relief during the ongoing debate over a health care law that didn’t win a single Republican vote. Even Democratic members complain they get short shrift from a detached White House and that Obama’s crusade for the controversial health care law laid the groundwork for the rise of an intransigent tea party. Longtime lobbyist Charlie Black noted that it was Vice President Joe Biden who reached a last-minute agreement with Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell to avoid the so-called fiscal cliff at the start of this year. ‘[Obama] wasted 17 months, and in one weekend the old pros made a deal,’ Black said. ‘All [Obama] knows how to do is campaign and attack.’ ... ‘I was actually hopeful that somehow he would change the environment, but instead he exacerbated an already perilous situation,’ said former Senator Norm Coleman (R-MN), chairman of the board of the American Action Network. ‘He offered the greatest opportunity and the greatest promise, and if you look at the distance from the promise to where we’ve descended, that says it all.’” [49249]

Senator Charles Schumer (D-NY) is asked why, if Bill Clinton was willing to cooperate with House Republicans during the 1995 shutdown and agree to a stopgap bills to fund veterans benefits and welfare benefits, Obama and Senate Democrats are not. Schumer replies, “It was a different world.” Asked why it was different Schumer says, “Because we have a Tea Party”—and walks away. (In other words, the obstinance of Obama and

Senate Democrats is not just for the purpose of defeating House Republicans; it is meant to destroy what they fear the most: Tea Party activists.) Senator Mary Landrieu (D-LA) tells *Weekly Standard*, “It is my hope, my hope, that many brave men and women in the Republican party will stand up and close this Tea Party down.” [49270]

WorldTribune.com reports, “The United States was said to have planned to destabilize at least two Arab countries over the last two years. A former leading U.S. military commander asserted that the [Obama] administration... worked to destabilize the regimes of Bahrain and Egypt. [Ret.] Gen. Hugh Shelton, former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said the administration’s drive against Bahrain, wracked by a Shi’ite revolt, was led by the intelligence community. ‘America thought Bahrain was an easy prey that will serve as key to the collapse of the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] regime and lead to giant oil companies controlling oil in the Gulf,’ Shelton said. In an interview on the U.S. network Fox News, Shelton said the administration plot was foiled by Bahraini King Hamad in 2011. He said Hamad agreed to a Saudi-sponsored decision by the GCC to send thousands of troops to Bahrain to help quell the Shi’ite revolt, attributed to Iran. Shelton, who met Hamad during his assignment to the U.S. Navy Fifth Fleet, based in Manama, said the administration plot harmed relations with both Bahrain as well as neighboring Saudi Arabia. He said Riyadh ended any trust in Washington after it was found to have helped the Shi’ites in Bahrain. The former Joint Chiefs chairman, who served under President Bill Clinton and President George W. Bush, said Egypt stopped a drive by Obama to destabilize Egypt in 2013. Shelton said Egyptian Defense Minister Abdul Fatah Sisi, a former intelligence chief, also detected a U.S. plot to support the ruling Muslim Brotherhood amid unprecedented unrest. On July 3, Sisi led a coup that overthrew Egypt’s first Islamist president, Mohammed Morsi. ‘Had Gen. Al Sisi not deposed Morsi, Egypt would have today become another Syria and its military would have been destroyed,’ Shelton said. Shelton, who did not disclose his sources of information, said Arab allies of the United States have moved away from Washington. He cited the new alliance between Egypt, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates against the Brotherhood. ‘I expect calm to be restored in Egypt,’ Shelton said. ‘Gen. Al Sisi has put an end to the new Middle East project.’” [49310]

The Environmental Protection Agency’s inspector general, Arthur Elkins, Jr., claims he “found no evidence” that former agency head Lisa Jackson and other senior officials used fake names and email addresses to avoid Freedom of Information Act requests. Laughably, Elkins’ investigation consisted of “discussions with these senior officials.” (In other news, the fox has reported that the hen house he is guarding is missing no chickens.) [49277]

Radio talk show host Mark Levin says Obama “is going to break the debt ceiling. He is going to spend more than Congress has authorized. He’s preparing to do it... If he can’t get what he wants, he is going to circumvent the United States Constitution... And I smell this a mile away. And he’s being encouraged repeatedly by pseudo-intellectuals, by Marxists dressed up as Constitutionalists, by people in his own party, he’s being encouraged to conduct himself as a dictator, and to bypass Congress and to bypass the Constitution, why work with him? They want a full-blown Constitutional crisis. Please,

listen to me, this is what they want! So they can continue to shred it! This is why Obama won't budge, like Clinton did and Carter did and Reagan did and Ford did and Nixon did. He's the only one who won't negotiate. This is why. This is his fundamental transformation. And I'm going to keep hollering this as loudly as I can because more and more people need to see it!" [49334, 49335]

Andrew Klavan writes at PJMedia.com, "At this point, CNN must have the same ratings as the lady who tells you not to leave your bags unattended, because the only time anyone ever watches them is in the airport. But I was in some airports this week, and so I happened to catch some of CNN's coverage of the government shutdown. And it's dishonest—by which I mean, it's not news, it's Democrat propaganda. The interviews with Republicans are hostile and challenging. ...But this... does throw a light on ...Obama's strategy. He wants the debt ceiling raised without conditions—something that never happens. He feels the GOP has made a tactical error by pushing the Obamacare defunding campaign over the brink of shutdown and so now he refuses to negotiate, using the threat of U.S. default as a pressure point. And he can do this because he knows the media will lie. Obama and the Democrats will refuse to negotiate—and the media will say Republicans are intransigent. Republicans will offer to fund the default and Democrats will refuse—and the media will say Republicans are reckless. Republicans may even cave on Obamacare but still want conditions on the debt ceiling—and when Obama turns them down, oh, how wrongheaded will Republicans be then? Our news media speak slavish obedience to power, and feel right proud when power takes advantage of it to become even more powerful. Really, for shame." [49280]

Blogger and talk radio host Matt Walsh writes an open letter to Obama. It reads, in part, "You strike me as the sort of man who spends a lot of time staring at his own reflection. I wonder, what do you see when you gaze so admiringly at yourself? ...By all accounts, you've always been an arrogant, haughty narcissist—and that was before you [entered the White House] Your supporters and your enemies may argue over whether you descended from heaven on the back of a Pegasus, or were birthed from the bowels of Hell to bring about a Biblical apocalypse, but they both agree on one thing: you are a figure of great significance and immense power. You are either the anti-Christ or the Second Coming, with no room for anything in-between. Surely, this talk might cause even a humble man to slip into a state of vanity and pride, so I can only imagine what it must do to a man such as yourself, already so aloof and so conceited." [49367, 49368]

"That's why I'm writing this letter. My impression of you is quite different, and it has only been solidified by your performance during this shutdown/Obamacare debate. I find you to be a very small man... Far from larger than life, you are petty, frivolous, pathetic; sneering and pompous but also trifling and narrow. I don't mean to dismiss or underestimate the damage you have done to this nation—it has certainly been profound and lasting—but I want you to know that your legacy will not be one of grandeur and brilliance; it will be the legacy of a shameless, desperate bully. Both your opponents and your proponents hoist you up as a world leader with a grand vision, whether benevolent or malevolent. I, on the other hand, believe you have the vision of a temperamental two year old. You simply want to feel like you're in control; you want to 'win,' you want

everybody in the room to pay attention to you, and you'll stomp your feet and whine until you get your way. You govern like a coddled toddler; it's inappropriate to pejoratively refer to you as a 'dictator,' but only because it lends you a certain unwarranted credibility..." [49637]

"Your legacy... will be defined by small, shameful things, as your [administration] has been primarily a succession of small, shameful things. The platitudes you spouted during your campaign—the theatrics, the pomp, the hype—have all faded. Replaced by the scheming partisan machinations that have come to define your tenure. Every president has a moment that encapsulates their time in office; your moment... happened this week. Sure, future generations will look at you with mockery and scorn because of bigger scandals—Benghazi, the IRS targeting conservatives, Obamacare, the birth control mandate and your attacks on religious liberty, spying on journalists, arming terrorists overseas, Fast and Furious, the green energy scams, the bailouts, your support for infanticide, the billions you've given to the abortion industry, your cowardice in refusing to address the Gosnell murders, your reckless exploitation of the Zimmerman trial, the out of control deficit spending, your refusal to enforce immigration laws, the massive expansion of the Welfare State, the lies, the broken promises, etc—but I think, in an understated way, what you've done this week is a better microcosm of your entire reign." [49637]

"I'm not just referring to the fact that you are peddling the lie that 'Republicans' have 'shutdown the government,' when, in fact, they have attempted to pass several bills that would fund the government. [Y]ou tell these fables to the trained seals in the media and your voting base, but you know damn well that any American with a capacity for critical thought will roundly reject this absurd narrative. YOU have chosen to 'shut down' the government because you have made Obamacare the ultimate priority. You have said, 'Obamacare or nothing,' and then accused Republicans of being the 'hostage takers.' They are holding the government hostage by trying to fund it? What a silly idea. But then, you are a silly, ridiculous [person]. Speaking of which, this takes us right to your defining moment: barricading memorials and monuments in a ploy to win an argument." [49637]

"Comparatively insignificant when stacked up against your war crimes and constitutional infringements, but it is nonetheless an apt illustration. The Lincoln Memorial is just a giant statue. There isn't any reason why people shouldn't be able to look at a statue during a government shutdown. In past shutdowns, the memorials were open, with only the information centers closing down. The Lincoln Memorial has never been completely closed off from the public until now. You have decided to spend money to block and guard open-air monuments, when it would be cheaper, require less staff, and be less onerous to simply leave them be. Is this some sort of bizarre punitive measure against the American taxpayer?" [49637]

"Infamously, you even attempted to stop WW2 veterans from visiting the WW2 memorial. That memorial is mostly privately funded, and is open 24 hours a day. You SPENT MONEY to physically guard the monument from a group of elderly war

veterans. This is truly unprecedented. We have had horrible presidents in the past, but none quite so shallow, cheap and contemptible. You tried to close down Mt. Vernon, which is privately funded, but had to settle for closing its parking lot—even though the parking lot requires no immediate on-going maintenance or surveillance from any federal workers. Did you have to shut down the Normandy cemetery and memorial? Are we saving money that way? I doubt it.” [49637]

“It’s the same game you played during the sequester, and it comes as no surprise to those of us who pay attention (which means it came as a surprise to a large number of people). Rather than leading like a statesman, you hide in the shadows; scheming, conniving, exploiting. You emerge only to make hyper-partisan speeches, with rhetoric best left to Democratic talking heads on afternoon cable news shows. Far from being a ‘new kind of politician’ (as you were advertised), you are the most political politician this country has ever seen. You are political to your core, in your essence, at an atomic level, and so you are unable to offer any direction or clarity when the nation needs it most. Sometimes... the affairs of this nation require a man, not a politician, and it is during those times that you are especially useless. You don’t have any interest in fixing our present crisis because you’re too busy finding ways to keep a busload of 90 year old war veterans from looking at a memorial.” [49637]

“Closing down parks, monuments and memorials just to score political points is hardly your most insidious deed, but it’s certainly one of your pettiest. That’s why it stands, ironically, as a monument of its own. If we ever build a statue of you... you won’t be triumphantly holding a flaming torch like Lady Liberty, or standing authoritatively with a look of determination, like the MLK memorial. No, it will be a statue of you pulling the wings off of a fly, or spitting in someone’s orange juice. It will show you in your essence, as monuments are meant to do. It will show you as a petulant, skulking, juvenile bully. It will show you as you are. And we’ll make sure it’s always open, especially during a government shut down. Sincerely, Matt Walsh.” [49637]

Former Chicago Bears football coach Mike Ditka tells *The Dickinson Press* not running for the U.S. Senate in 2004 was the “Biggest mistake I’ve ever made” because Obama “wouldn’t be in the White House.” (Ditka reportedly considered a Senate run, but eventually decided against it. Although Obama trounced Republican candidate Alan Keyes in the election, the conservative Ditka may have been able to do that to Obama. Democrats and Republicans alike would have voted for Ditka, while Keyes even had trouble attracting Republican votes.) [49591, 49592, 49658]

Health insurance customer Tom Gialanella tells *Special Report* he has been notified by his insurance carrier that his premiums will increase “approximately 61 percent. It went from \$891 a month to \$1,437 a month.” The annual deductible for his family of five is doubling from \$4,000 to 8,000—for the least expensive option under ObamaCare. The ObamaCare plan that replaces his prior insurance also covers maternity benefits—something hardly needed by a 59-year-old man with a 58-year-old wife. [49250, 49288]

Also on *Special Report*, TheHill.com's A. B. Stoddard says, "There's a report out today saying that [Obama] believes he's going to re-order the power in Washington between the branches with this exercise." (Stoddard does not elaborate, but it can be assumed that she means Obama will hold firm on the spending and debt ceiling issues, refuse to negotiate, and get the House Republicans to cave in—thereby rendering the Legislative Branch of government less powerful and making the Executive Branch more powerful.) [49336]

On October 4, the fourth day of the opening of the ObamaCare exchanges, the Obama administration continues to refuse to state how many Americans have signed up for coverage—and will not do so until "the middle of the following month to ensure accuracy." (If the administration cannot trust the enrollment counts from its own ObamaCare exchange computer programs, some might ask how users can trust the web site to properly handle the confidential information they are required to enter.) [49250, 49251]

The House of Representatives votes to approve funding for veterans programs, national parks, the National Institutes of Health, and other government programs. Fifty-seven Democrats join the Republicans on one or more of the six bills. [49303]

In Kentucky, 5.3 percent of visitors to the ObamaCare web site reportedly enrolled in a health insurance plan. In Connecticut, it was a dismal 0.59 percent. In California, 0.58 percent. In Louisiana: zero. In North Carolina, BlueCross BlueShield enrolled one person. [49250, 49260]

The partial shutdown prevents the government from reporting monthly job statistics and unemployment figures.

In a political protest, a man sets himself on fire in an area between the National Gallery Air and the Space Museum on the National Mall in Washington D.C. He is taken to the hospital with burns over 80 percent of his body. (The man later dies.) [49320, 40321, 49340]

In Carrollton Texas, an out of business Carl's Jr. restaurant displays a "Closed by ObamaCare" sign in its window. (Whether the closing was actually prompted by ObamaCare is not certain, but it is a certainty that many businesses will close because of the healthcare legislation.) [49326]

In Wisconsin, Republican Governor Scott Walker defies the Obama administration and orders state employees to keep parks open. According to TheHill.com, "State officials say Wisconsin provides more than half of the parks' funding, so they can be kept open with state money." Wisconsin is also permitting hunting in the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest." [49316]

ABC15.com reports, “A Fountain Hills [Arizona] man says he may soon have to get another job just to pay for healthcare insurance under the new Affordable Care Act. Michael Cerpok, is a high school drop-out, one of six kids born to a school teacher, and doesn’t come from a wealthy family. He has run two businesses for more than 25 years and says he may have to do more to literally stay alive. ‘I’ve worked hard because I’ve had to, and I’ve had to, because cancer runs in my family,’ says Cerpok, who picked his current health insurance based on that family history. His monthly premium is just about half of his monthly take-home pay. Back in 2006, he found out he had an incurable form of leukemia that requires ongoing treatment until he dies. In 2012, his treatment bill was more than \$350,000. But because of his insurance, his out-of-pocket was only \$4,500. That’s about to change because Michael just got a letter from his insurance carrier saying as of January 1, he would be dropped from coverage because of new regulations under Obamacare. His doctor at the Mayo Clinic may be gone as well. ‘Now it doesn’t [necessarily] mean I can’t go see my current doctor, but my \$4,500 out-of-pocket [limit], is going to turn into a minimum of \$26,000 out-of-pocket to see the doctor that I’ve been seeing the last seven years,’ he said.” [49244, 49579, 49983]

While Barack “let the bad times roll” Obama continues to refuse to negotiate on the spending and partial shutdown issue, a “senior administration official” says, “We are winning... It doesn’t really matter to us [how long the shutdown lasts] because what matters is the end result.” (Obama does not care who suffers, as long as he gains a political victory in the process. What Obama neglects to realize is that public opinion can quickly turn on him. Congress is already so low in the polls that it can hardly go any lower, but Obama’s public opinion rating, while nothing to brag about, can go lower still. Additionally, whatever bad things may have happened during the Obama administration end up recorded in the history books as occurring “under Obama’s watch.” People remember who sat in the Oval Office during times of crisis, but they rarely recall who served as Speaker of the House or Senate Majority Leader.) [49247, 49248, 49271]

House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH) reportedly tells House Republicans he will not allow the debt ceiling to be reached and will allow a vote on raising the limit even if he is opposed by House conservatives. According to The New York Times, a lawmaker “who spoke on the condition of anonymity, said Mr. Boehner had indicated he would be willing to violate the so-called Hastert Rule if necessary to pass a debt-limit increase. The informal rule refers to a policy of not bringing to the floor any measure that does not have a majority of Republican votes.” (If the report is accurate, Boehner has already caved in to Obama and his fellow Democrats, who now know that they can simply sit and wait until Boehner schedules the vote. And if the report is accurate, Boehner may have guaranteed that his position as Speaker will be challenged by irate conservatives who did not go to Congress to give Obama everything he wants. On the other hand, the story may have been planted in order to get Boehner to cave in.) [49255, 49268]

Congressman John Fleming (R-LA) responds to the story, telling reporters, “I think the important takeaway is this stuff that’s floating around in the media about, you know, [Boehner is] not willing to challenge, is not true. We’ll demand the other side to talk to us and negotiate with us. ...[Boehner] doesn’t have any intentions on rolling over on

anything whether it's the CR—that's the word he used [roll over]—or the debt limit.” Boehner himself tells reporters, “You know, when we have a crisis like we're in the middle of this week, the American people expect their leaders to sit down and try to resolve their differences. I was at the White House the other night, and listened to [Obama] some 20 times explain to me why he wasn't going to negotiate. [I] Sat there and listened to the majority leader in the United States Senate [Harry Reid] describe to me that he's not going to talk until we surrender. And then this morning, I get the *Wall Street Journal* out, and it says [that the White House says], ‘Well we don't care how long this lasts because we're winning.’ This isn't some damn game.” [49278]

According to DailyCaller.com, “More than 661 Park Service police, a fifth of the 3,266 employees nationwide deemed essential, are currently on duty in Washington, D.C. alone, according to a copy of the shutdown contingency plan leaked to The Daily Caller. ...[T]he figure raises the question of why that number is not sufficient to maintain access to open-air exhibits and monuments, many of which previously had no guards.” [49259]

After a disastrous four days of technical problems, the healthcare.gov web site is shut down during off-hours for weekend repairs (October 5–6). The site displays the message: “The system is down at the moment. We're currently performing scheduled maintenance. Please try again later.” [49272, 49315]

The Healthcare.gov Facebook page overflows with criticism of ObamaCare. (One person posts the message, “Mr. Obama, tear down this website!”) At Breitbart.com Wynton Hall provides examples of “sticker shock” for site visitors. “‘I am so disappointed,’ wrote one woman [on Facebook]. ‘These prices are outrageous and there are huge deductibles. No one can afford this!’ The comment received 169 ‘likes.’” “‘There is NO WAY I can afford it,’ said one commenter after using the Kaiser Subsidy Calculator. ‘Heck right now I couldn't afford an extra 10\$ [sic] a month... and oh apparently I make to [sic] much at 8.55/hour to get subsidies.’” “A single mother of two said she is in school and working full-time while living ‘75% below the poverty level.’ She said she was shocked to learn she did not qualify for a healthcare subsidy. ‘Are you F'ing kidding me????’ she wrote on the government's Obamacare Facebook page. ‘Where the HELL am I supposed to get \$3,000 more a year to pay for this ‘bronze’ health insurance plan!?!??? And I DO NOT EVEN WANT INSURANCE to begin with!! This is frightening,’ she wrote.” Another frustrated person writes, “It is VERY SCARY!! For example, my [pre-ObamaCare] insurance plan right now for my spouse and I costs \$545 a month with 100% coverage after my \$2500 deductible. We are both 32 years old. When I looked at this [ObamaCare] site for 80% coverage it says it will be \$954.78 a month!!!! So compare my old Plan: 100% coverage for \$545 a month To New Plan: 80% Coverage for \$945 a month. This is only an estimate but it is VERY Scary for me to see this kind of increase in rates and reduction in benefits!” [49330, 49331]

Park police remove visitors to the outdoor Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall after they walk around a barricade. The Obama administration also blocks visitors from the U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial (the “Iwo Jima Memorial”), but veteran visitors move the barricades. [49328, 49329]

Obama's approval rating falls to 41 percent in the Gallup poll; his disapproval rating increases to 52 percent. [49282]

Just in time for Obama not to visit Indonesia, Muslims in Surabaya complete their destruction of the nation's last surviving synagogue. [9307, 49308, 49309]

Memri's Jihad and Terrorism Threat Monitor reports, "Fursan Al-Balagh, an independent online media foundation which specializes in translating jihadi materials into various languages, released an Arabic translation of a U.S. Department of Defense handbook that provides protective measures for counter-terrorism personnel." (Pamela Geller asks at AtlasShurgs.com, "Did [Secretary of Defense] Chuck Hagel FEDEX it to them? You know, as part of our Muslim Outreach program." *The Obama Timeline* wonders if Iranian-born Valerie Jarrett, Obama's closest advisor, did the translating.) [49722, 49723]

Chris Holt, of the conservative American Action Forum, tells Fox News, "We said let's look at what the [ObamaCare] lowest cost Bronze Plan is and compare that to the lowest cost plan that I can buy today. And what we found is that it will go up about 260 percent for a 30-year-old male. ... [I]f they saw [a] 30 percent increase in their insurance premiums—these are the ones that already had coverage—45 percent of them said they would drop coverage." Fox correspondent Jim Angle notes, "Part of the problem is that young people will be forced to buy more benefits than they might be willing to pay for," and "For any young person making more than \$20,000 a year, insurance premiums—not even counting deductibles of several thousand dollars—would cost more than paying the penalty for not getting insurance. That raises the prospect of young people deciding the plan makes no sense for them." [49288]

WashingtonPost.com notes, "Barely 24 hours after ... Obama signed his landmark health law, Gov. Martin O'Malley promised that Maryland would 'lead the nation' in putting it in place. In the three years since, Maryland has been at the forefront of implementing the Affordable Care Act. It established six policy work groups. It trained more than 5,000 people to help consumers enroll in new health-coverage options. ... If any state was going to be ready for Oct. 1, when millions of uninsured Americans would be able to start buying coverage under the health law, it would be Maryland." Yet when October 1 arrived and the ObamaCare exchanges opened, "... Maryland's web site stumbled badly. People couldn't log on, forcing state officials to delay the opening of the exchange for four hours. Even after it opened, many frustrated users were unable to create accounts, the first step in buying coverage. All told, fewer than 100 people have managed to enroll." [49304]

CNBC.com reports, "As few as 1 in 100 applications on the federal exchange contains enough information to enroll the applicant in a plan, several insurance industry sources told CNBC on Friday. Some of the problems involve how the exchange's software collects and verifies an applicant's data. 'It is extraordinary that these systems weren't ready,' said Sumit Nijhawan, CEO of Infogix, which handles data integrity issues for major insurers including WellPoint and Cigna, as well as multiple Blue Cross Blue Shield

affiliates. Experts said that if Healthcare.gov's success rate doesn't improve within the next month or so, federal officials could face a situation in January in which relatively large numbers of people believe they have coverage starting that month, but whose enrollment applications are have not been [sic; have been] processed. 'It could be public relations nightmare,' said Nijhawan. Insurers have told his company that just '1 in 100' enrollment applicants being sent from the federal marketplace have provided sufficient, verified information. ... 'It doesn't surprise me—I've heard similar numbers,' said Dan Mendelson, CEO of consulting firm Avalere Health, when asked about the 1-in-100 rate that Infogix cited. 'This is not a traffic issue,' Mendelson said. 'Right now, the systems aren't working.'" [49327]

At FoxNews.com Todd Starnes reports, "The U.S. military has furloughed as many as 50 Catholic chaplains due to the partial suspension of government services, banning them from celebrating weekend Mass. At least one chaplain was told that if he engaged in any ministry activity, he would be subjected to disciplinary action. 'In very practical terms it means Sunday Mass won't be offered,'" Archbishop Timothy Broglio of the Archdiocese for the Military Services told me. 'If someone has a baptism scheduled, it won't be celebrated.' The Archdiocese for the Military Services tells me the military installations impacted are served by non-active-duty priests who were hired as government contractors. As a result of a shortage of active duty Catholic chaplains, the government hires contract priests." (At AtlasShrugs.com Pamela Geller reports, "A well-placed source told me that a furloughed Air Force chaplain was threatened after he offered to forgo pay. [Obama] won't arrest imams who teach and preach jihad. He appoints treasonous Muslim Brotherhood supremacists whose stated goal is 'eliminating and destroying Western civilization from within and sabotaging its miserable house' to key positions in his administration, but Barack Hussein thinks nothing of threatening priests for celebrating mass. Obama aids and arms jihadists in Egypt, Syria, Libya, Gaza, Judea, Samaria, Bahrain, but threatens priests in America.") [49305, 49306, 49313, 49351, 49478]

While Obama refuses to negotiate an end to the partial government shutdown, the White House web site is trolling for sob stories of people who have been negatively affected by it. (Obama will no doubt forward those stories to the media, which will then use to portray House Republicans as mean-spirited.) [49289]

The White House states that Obama will veto individual spending bills that may reach his desk. [49300]

Examiner.com reports, "According to sources in Congress and the White House, Barack Obama is preparing to usurp the Constitutional power of Congress to control the purse strings of the federal government. The Obama plan entails using the 14th Amendment of the Constitution to bypass Congress on the upcoming debt ceiling debate and unilaterally raise the debt ceiling without the approval of Congress. On [October 3] Mark Levin cited several Congressional sources who have told him that Obama has no intention of negotiating with Congress on the debt, which is just under \$17 trillion, the highest in U.S. history. ...According to Levin, Congressional sources say that Obama does not want any

limits on his spending ability, in spite of the fact that the Constitution specifically gives Congress the power to control spending. Further, the use of the 14th Amendment to bypass Congress has never been done before. Thus, such an act would be an entirely new ‘interpretation’ of the 14th Amendment and would raise a plethora of Constitutional issues concerning separation of powers. ... The 14th Amendment is written in several main sections, one of which deals with debts incurred by the federal government. Nowhere does the Amendment give a president the power to raise the debt ceiling. Nowhere does the Amendment mandate that overall federal spending be increased at the whim of a president, or anyone else in government, not even Congress. The only mandate contained in the 14th Amendment regarding the national debt is that if the government runs out of money, the interest and principal on Treasury Notes, Bills, and Bonds, must be paid first before money is spent on anything else. This means, simply, that the federal government must first make payments on the national debt before it funds anything else. Nothing is stated concerning raising the debt ceiling and borrowing more money, and certainly not spending more money in the middle of a debt crisis.” (Obama is flirting with impeachment if he goes around Congress and continues spending without an increase in the debt limit.) [49338]

The Obama administration sends an email to employees of the Social Security Administration instructing them to frighten senior citizens with warnings of the loss of their benefits. The email, obtained by DailyCaller.com, reads: “If a member of the public asks whether their Social Security payment will be affected if the federal debt ceiling is not raised, you may give the following response: ‘Unlike a federal shutdown which has no impact on the payment of Social Security benefits, failure to raise the debt ceiling puts Social Security benefits at risk.’ Direct all program-related and technical questions to your supervisor.” (The email is shameful—and a lie. Social Security benefits will not be at risk. Federal tax revenue is about \$2.5 trillion per year, or about \$200 billion per month. Even if the debt ceiling is not increased, the government will *still* have that \$200 billion with which to pay many of its bills, and the amount is more than enough to cover interest on the debt and Social Security benefits. Although it is true that \$200 billion is not enough to cover *all* of the government’s bills—it spends \$3.7 trillion per year—it is enough to pay the more critical expenses. Social Security benefits would be at risk *only* if Obama places them at the bottom of the prioritization list.) [49294, 49295]

According to Asheville, North Carolina’s Citizens-Times.com, “Police blocked the entrances to the privately run Pisgah Inn on the Blue Ridge Parkway on Friday to end a showdown over the federal shutdown that started when the business opened for lunch against government orders.” The inn, whose “51-room inn was booked solid for October,” is not owned by the government and the parkway road is open. “Parkway Chief Ranger Steve Stinnett said park service managers *in Washington* [emphasis added] directed him to block access to the inn and ensure ‘people don’t utilize a business that, according to the federal government, is closed.’ He said rangers would stay in place as long they are needed.” The inn’s owner, Bruce O’Connell, “said he got a letter from National Park Service Director Jonathan Jarvis ordering him to shut down. The park service also told him he was violating his contract. He said he could not get around police blocking the entrances to his business but left the door open for future defiance.”

O’Connell “said his defiance was not about the lost revenue. ‘It’s about the visitors, its about the staff and employees who are now having to move off the mountain, they live here, with no notice. They have no jobs. That’s the concern.’” (There is no justifiable reason for forcing the facility to close. Although it is true that the inn operates under a federal contract, it is private property and has no federal employees. Shutting it down causes the government to *lose* money because it receives a portion of the inn’s revenue.) [49292, 49293, 49401, 49484]

In an interview with the Associated Press, Obama says Americans “shouldn’t give up” on ObamaCare, and that “Folks are working around the clock and have been systematically reducing the [web site] wait times.” He claims Iran is at least one year away from having a nuclear weapon, contradicting the Israelis—who believe Iran will have the bomb much sooner. On the issue of the partial shutdown, Obama says, “There are enough votes in the House of Representatives to make sure that the government reopens today, and I’m pretty willing to bet that there are enough votes in the House of Representatives right now to make sure that the United States doesn’t end up being a deadbeat.” Laughably, he claims he “didn’t go around courting the media” [like Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX)] when he served in the Senate, “and I certainly didn’t go around trying to shut down the government.” (In fact, Obama opposed raising the debt limit in 2006, and he was always in front of a camera during his brief tenure in the Senate—making sure that the voters would know who he was when he announced his run for the presidency.) Obama suggests the NFL Washington Redskins change the team name because it offends “a sizeable group of people.” (HotAir.com’s Ed Morrissey suggests a new name: the “Washington Barricades.” Rush Limbaugh suggests the “Washington Thinskins.” Former White House press secretary Dana Perino asks if there would be a fuss if the team was called the “Rednecks.” Obama is not asked about the Chicago Blackhawks hockey team, or the Cleveland Indians or Atlanta Braves baseball teams. There is no truth to the rumor that the Department of Defense has prohibited Airborne Rangers from yelling, “Geronimo!” when jumping from their airplanes.) He states that he plans on keeping some U.S. troops in Afghanistan after his promised late 2014 pull-out. Obama says he does not know how many Americans enrolled in the ObamaCare exchanges—an unbelievable claim, considering that he almost certainly has staffers keeping a close watch on the statistics so that he can brag about the numbers—if and when they are considered worth bragging about. [49319, 49396, 49455, 49462]

At PatriotUpdate.com, Tad Cronn notes that “On just the second day of her new job as [the head of] the University of California, former Secretary of Homeland Insecurity [that is, Security] Janet Napolitano held a meeting with student leaders and informed them that she had urged Gov. Moonbeam [that is, Governor Jerry Brown] to sign the ‘Trust Act,’ which would prohibit police officers from arresting illegals for deportation. The Lizard Queen, Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi, has also been leaning on Moonbeam to get the Trust Act signed. ‘Trust Act?’ It should be renamed the ‘Montezuma’s Revenge Act.’” [49363]

The Washington Post publishes excerpts from an upcoming report, *The Obama Administration and the Press*, by the newspaper’s former executive editor, Leonard

Downie. Downie writes, “Many reporters covering national security and government policy in Washington these days are taking precautions to keep their sources from becoming casualties in the Obama administration’s war on leaks. They and their remaining government sources often avoid telephone conversations and e-mail exchanges, arranging furtive one-on-one meetings instead. A few news organizations have even set up separate computer networks and safe rooms for journalists trained in encryption and other ways to thwart surveillance. ...After the New York Times published a 2012 story by David E. Sanger about covert cyber attacks by the United States and Israel against Iran’s nuclear enrichment facilities, federal prosecutors and the FBI questioned scores of officials throughout the government who were identified in computer analyses of phone, text and e-mail records as having contact with Sanger. ‘A memo went out from the chief of staff a year ago to White House employees and the intelligence agencies that told people to freeze and retain any e-mail, and presumably phone logs, of communications with me,’ Sanger said. As a result, longtime sources no longer talk to him. ‘They tell me: ‘David, I love you, but don’t e-mail me. Let’s don’t chat until this blows over.’” Sanger, who has worked for the Times in Washington for two decades, said, ‘This is most closed, control-freak administration I’ve ever covered.’” [49343, 49344]

TheTotalCollapse.com warns, “A highly troubling ‘urgent bulletin’ issued earlier today by the [Russian] Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) states that it has received information from the Main Intelligence Directorate (GRU) warning to expect a ‘*radical change*’ in the government of the United States, possibly within the next fortnight, based on information they have received from ‘*highly placed*’ sources within the Pentagon. According to this MoFA bulletin, GRU intelligence assets [sic; assets] were notified by their Pentagon counterparts this past week that ...Obama is preparing to invoke the powers given to him under 50 USC Chapter 13 to hold that various American States are now in a ‘*state of insurrection*’ thus allowing him to invoke the National Emergencies Act under 50 USC § 1621 and invoke the highly controversial “continuity of government” plan for the United States allowing him, in essence, to rule with supreme powers. Specifically, this bulletin says, Obama will invoke 50 USC § 212 that states: ‘*the President shall have declared by proclamation that the laws of the United States are opposed, and the execution thereof obstructed, by combinations too powerful to be suppressed by the ordinary course of judicial proceedings.*’ The specific laws being opposed by these ‘*combinations too powerful to be suppressed by the ordinary course of judicial proceedings,*’ that Obama will outline in his reasoning’s for declaring a state of emergency, this bulletin continues, are the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) and Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA), otherwise known as Obamacare.” (*The Obama Timeline* normally refrains from including such extreme “predictions” from unnamed sources, but the item is referenced here because of Obama’s eagerness to provoke a government shutdown and apparent willingness to foment a debt ceiling crisis. There are only two reasons Obama would want to provoke a crisis: he thinks he can win the showdown, or he believes he can use it to advantage in some other way. Obama could conceivably use a prolonged government shutdown and debt ceiling stalemate to invoke powers that would ordinarily be off-limits to him—and the *Timeline*

believes Obama would not hesitate to do so if he has the opportunity.) [49376, 49151, 49485]

At NewRepublic.com, Isaac Chotner whines that *Tonight Show* host Jay Leno has been criticizing Obama too much in his monologues. (Among other things, Chotner demonstrates a limited sense of humor, calling “bizarre” the Leno joke: “You can see the effects [of the shutdown]. ...Obama is down to one Teleprompter.” Other Leno jokes: “...Obama has officially canceled his trip to Asia. He said he didn’t want to be in Indonesia not doing anything to solve the crisis when he could be in Washington not doing anything to solve it.” “Actually, it’s the perfect time for ...Obama to go to Asia. I mean, what better time to leave Joe Biden in charge of the country than during a shutdown?” “This government shutdown thing is getting old. The national parks are closed, museums are closed, and federal agencies are closed, but our borders are wide open. Don’t worry about that.” “It is day three of the government shutdown. Right now 33 percent of the government is doing absolutely nothing, which is not bad considering that before the shutdown 80 percent weren’t doing anything.” “This shutdown is hurting everyone. Today, Michelle Obama told fat kids: ‘You’re on your own. Eat a Happy Meal. I don’t care.’” “According to a new report, experts in Pakistan say \$25 million in cash is smuggled out of Pakistan every day, and less than 1 percent of Pakistanis pay any income tax at all. Here’s the amazing part: Somehow their government hasn’t shut down, but ours has.” “How many are worried about a government shutdown? How many are more worried about it starting back up?” “This whole government shutdown thing comes down to who will blink first. Well, we know it won’t be Nancy Pelosi. We know that for sure because she hasn’t blinked since the last shutdown.” “If the government does shut down, nonessential White House employees will be sent home without pay—so more bad news for Joe Biden.” “Since 1976 there have been 17 government shutdowns. The longest was during the four years that Jimmy Carter was president.”) [49420, 49507]

On *Hannity*, author Ann Coulter notes that the Obama administration is “trying to shut down privately-run areas. All of these privately run park areas that have not only never been shut down before, but take no federal money—they pay money, they pay rent to the Treasury and they’re not losing money. They’re not furloughed government workers who are going to be paid. This is absolutely 100 percent political. It’s like when Obama said, no White House tours for the sequester and then instantly uses Air Force One to fly his dog up to Martha’s Vineyard. Normally I don’t comment on things like that. There’s [sic] enough other things to complain about ...[H]e’s doing this to punish people so that he can blame Republicans when it’s 100 percent the Democrats’ [fault]. ...The government is shut down because Congress refuses to live under ObamaCare. ... You live under the laws you pass for other people. They will not do it. This is what the entire fight has come down to right now. And, incidentally, when you first ask me whether you thought they should shut down the government over this, and usually I’m against the government shutdown. I told you three reasons why I was for it this time. Number one, it’s over this abomination of ObamaCare which is already a disaster... Number two, it’s [Senators] Ted Cruz and Mike Lee and not Newt Gingrich running it this time. And number three—and most important—we [conservatives] have part of the media now. There was no Fox News in 1995. Nobody was on the Internet. Talk radio wasn’t as big as it is now. And if

you look at the polls, even with 100 percent of the non-Fox media pushing the idea that it's Republicans, Republicans, Republicans—in 1995 the gap between the public blaming Republicans versus Democrats was 23 points. This is according to the CBS poll, it's [now] only nine points. We start talking more and more about ObamaCare and it will go down even more.” [49290]

On October 5 the House of Representatives votes 407–0 to authorize retroactive pay to the approximately 800,000 federal workers who are not working because of the partial shutdown. (That is, they will be paid to do nothing—and many of them will then receive overtime pay after they return to their jobs and work longer hours to reduce backlogs.) The Senate is expected to approve the measure and Obama is expected to sign it. The House also passes legislation authorizing military chaplains to perform their duties during the shutdown—by a 400–1 vote; continuing appropriations for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children for fiscal year 2014 (food stamps); continuing appropriations for the Federal Emergency Management Agency; continuing appropriations for veterans benefits, continuing appropriations for the National Institutes of Health; continuing appropriations for National Park Service operations, the Smithsonian Institution, the National Gallery of Art, and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum; and continuing appropriations of local funds of the District of Columbia. If and when the Senate will approve those bills is not known. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) is likely to keep them from coming up for a vote as long as he can.) [49417, 49452]

Twitter is abuzz with photographs of orange plastic traffic cones placed by the government on the road to Mount Rushmore—so that tourists cannot pull over to the shoulder to view the “closed” monument or to take photographs. (Some observers, including *The Obama Timeline*, view the action as proof that Obama is either incredibly evil and vindictive, or he is losing his mind.) [49296, 49297, 49298]

At Breitbart.com Mike Flynn reports, “Just before the weekend, the National Park Service informed charter boat captains in Florida that the Florida Bay was ‘closed’ due to the shutdown. Until government funding is restored, the fishing boats are prohibited from taking anglers into 1,100 square-miles of open ocean. Fishing is also prohibited at Biscayne National Park during the shutdown. The Park Service will also have rangers on duty to police the ban... of access to an ocean. The government will probably use more personnel and spend more resources to attempt to close the ocean, than it would in its normal course of business.” (Obama failed to keep his June 3, 2008 campaign promise to “slow the rise of the oceans,” so he chose instead to close the ocean.) Flynn continues, “This is governing by temper-tantrum. It is on par with the government’s ham-fisted attempts to close the DC WWII Memorial, an open-air public monument that is normally accessible 24 hours a day. By accessible I mean, you walk up to it. When you have finished reflecting, you then walk away from it. At least that Memorial is an actual structure, with some kind of perimeter that can be fenced off. Florida Bay is the ocean. How, pray tell, do you ‘close’ 1,100 square miles of ocean? Why would one even need to do so? Apparently, according to an anonymous Park Service ranger, ‘We’ve been told to make life as difficult for people as we can. It’s disgusting.’” [353, 1035, 49317, 49346]

With “ObamaCare” quickly becoming a dirty word, the Associated Press has given its writers an “advisory” to refrain from using the term ObamaCare and instead call it the “Affordable Care Act,” or “ACA.” (The law is actually named the “Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act,” or “PPACA.”) [49318]

Reuters reports that a Canadian contractor, CGI Group, Incorporated [Conseillers en Gestion et Informatique or, more loosely, Consultants to Government and Industry], built the Healthcare.gov web site. The company is headquartered in Montreal and, according to WashingtonExaminer.com, “is deeply embedded in Canada’s single-payer system. . . . The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services awarded CGI \$55.7 million to launch Healthcare.gov, its central Obamacare health exchange website. Over the full five years of the contract, CGI could receive as much as \$93.7 million.” (The Obama administration apparently could not find an American company to program its web site or, more likely, it could not find an American company eager to help establish a system that will lead to a full federal takeover of the nation’s health system. Although the administration claims CGI Group was one of several bidders on the contract, it refuses to name the other companies that submitted bids.) It is worth noting that Toni McCall Townes-Whitley, a senior vice president at CGI Group, was a classmate of Michelle Obama’s at Princeton University. Both Townes-Whitley and Obama are members of the Association of Black Princeton Alumni, and both graduated in 1985. Additionally, *The Washington Post* has reported, “Public records indicate that during this time, every quarter from 2010 through 2012, CGI Group itself was lobbying on ‘HUD [Housing and Urban Development] housing management contracts.’ Finally, there’s also a whistleblower lawsuit from a former CGI employee—who’d been recruited from HUD after overseeing the very Section 8 contracts CGI won—alleging that he was fired after refusing to go along with fraudulent plans to work around the bidding process. CGI denies the accusations, but has so far failed to get the case thrown out.” (Townes-Whitley and her husband were guests at the White House on December 10, 2010. Another Canadian connection was the marriage of Valerie Jarrett’s daughter Laura to Tony Balkissoon, the son of a liberal member of the country’s parliament, Bas Balkissoon—who Judi McLeod notes at CanadaFreePress.com was previously “a City of Toronto councillor involved in a computer leasing scandal.” Obama and his wife attended the June 2012 wedding. Tony Balkissoon reportedly works for the Sidley Austen law firm—where Obama, Michelle Obama, and domestic terrorist Bernardine Dohrn once worked. Laura Jarrett Balkissoon works for the Mayer Brown law firm.) [49469, 49470, 49471, 49871, 49957, 50248, 50249, 50298, 50321, 50384, 50388, 50403, 50404, 50434, 50671]

NBCNews.com reports, “U.S. commandos launched daring twin raids in Libya and Somalia on Saturday, capturing a senior al Qaeda official who allegedly planned 1998 embassy attacks in Kenya and Tanzania. The sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity, initially reported that a ‘high-level target’ also had been apprehended in the Somalia raid, but they later said it was unclear if that was the case. But they said that U.S. Special Operations forces had captured [Abu] Anas al Libi, a longtime al Qaeda member, in a pre-dawn raid near Tripoli, Libya. Al Libi, whose real name is Nazih Abdul-Hamed Nabih al-Ruqai’I, has been wanted for more than a decade by the U.S. and has a \$5

million reward on his head. Late on Saturday, the Pentagon confirmed al Libi had been captured.” An outraged Libyan government calls the capture of Abu Anas al-Libi the “kidnapping of a Libyan citizen.” Al-Libi is in custody on a U.S. Navy ship, and will eventually be transferred to New York for a criminal trial. [49333, 49339, 49341, 49342, 49378, 49379, 49392]

According to CSMonitor.com, the “commando unit from the US Navy’s Seal Team Six launched an amphibious raid on a Somali town, but failed to confirm a capture or kill of their Al Shabab target, suspected to be linked to Nairobi’s Westgate mall terror attack. The operation could have opposite its intended result of discouraging further attacks. Analysts warn that even earlier successful targeted strikes against Al Shabab, a Somalia-based Islamist militant group, failed to curb the group's capacity to carry out international terror attacks, and that failed missions could in fact bolster its support and recruitment. The predawn raid Saturday came unstuck when the US troops were faced with heavier-than-expected return fire, and pulled out to avoid civilian casualties, two security sources said. No Americans were injured. Although the target was not named and officially described only as ‘high-value,’ US officials suggested the raid was ‘prompted by Westgate.’ Saturday’s mission took place in Baraawe, an Al Shabab stronghold 110 miles south of Mogadishu, where US Special Forces carried out a daytime raid in 2009 to kill Saleh Ali Saleh Nabhan, wanted in connection with earlier terrorist strikes in East Africa.” [49366]

The Obama administration uses the partial shutdown as an excuse to prevent the American (Armed) Forces Network from broadcasting Major League Baseball playoff games and National Football League games to U.S. troops overseas. [49337, 49356]

AtlasShrugs.com—along with more than few other conservative web sites—reminds readers of then-Senator Obama’s March 2006 statement: “The fact that we are here today to debate raising America’s debt limit is a sign of leadership failure. It is a sign that the US Government cannot pay its own bills. It is a sign that we now depend on ongoing financial assistance from foreign countries to finance our Government’s reckless fiscal policies. Increasing America’s debt weakens us domestically and internationally. Leadership means that, ‘the buck stops here.’ Instead, Washington is shifting the burden of bad choices today onto the backs of our children and grandchildren. America has a debt problem and a failure of leadership. Americans deserve better.” [49347]

The *Daily Mail* reports, “A Guantanamo Bay prisoner who was captured with al Qaeda fighters in 2001 will be released after being deemed severely mentally ill. US District Judge Royce Lamberth issued a release order on Friday for Ibrahim Idris, a native of Sudan who has been held as an enemy combatant but not formally charged. He has spent much of his time at a psychiatric ward on the US naval base since he arrived more than 11 years ago.” [49348, 49349]

Nevada’s KTNV.com reports, “The government shutdown is being felt close to home for some locals. They [about 60 families] say they’re being forced out of private homes on Lake Mead because they sit on federal land. ...Park officials said property owners can

visit only to retrieve belongings; they sent Action News a statement which reads in part, ‘Unfortunately overnight stays are not permitted until a budget is passed and the park can reopen.’” (The government has never forced those homeowners off their properties during previous shutdowns. For the record, considerable amounts of oil and gas come from federal lands, and Obama has not shut down those operations.) [49352, 49353, 49386, 49387, 49399]

At Breitbart.com John Nolte posts a list of facilities “unnecessarily shut down by Obama to inflict public pain.” [49356]

At AmericanThinker.com James Lewis writes, “Obama thrives on crises, not solutions. That’s the key to this whole administration. The budget crisis today is the direct result of five years of over-the-top deficit spending, all demanded by Obama, who doesn’t really care if the economy gets better or not. Either way, he will blame the Republicans, with the unanimous support of our Soviet-style media. He believes that politically he can’t lose with a completely obedient media spinning everything his way. As long as Americans are suckered by our monopoly media, we will never solve any real problems. ... From tip to toe, Obama is a crisis-maker, not a healer. He stirs up trouble every chance he gets. ...The chaotic launch of O’Care [ObamaCare] was done without adequate planning and testing. Nobody knows if this thing could ever work, because it was passed, as Nancy Pelosi famously said, without anyone even reading the bill—using unrelenting demagoguery in the media. Nobody in the Democratic Party understood the bill, because no human being can understand 10,500 pages of technical jargon. Like the 37,000 pages of the federal tax code, this law is not meant to be understood. It is meant to give essentially unlimited powers to a bureaucracy that does not understand it, either, but which will use pieces of the giant law to implement what it wants. ...Ordinary Americans don’t even understand the United States Constitution, which can be printed on twenty pages, and O’Care is a hulking monstrosity by comparison. It is intended to drive the best health care system in the world out of business. That is perverse and malignant.” [49375]

Americac2c.com reports on an October 13 “Million Vet March on the Memorials” in Washington, D.C. “A new rally is forming... that will be held 9am October 13, 2013 at the war memorials in Washington D.C. The group is fed up with veterans being used as political pawns and are calling all patriots to attend...” The Facebook page reads: “We are all military brats, current and former military spouses and some veterans. We cannot express how utterly disappointed we were that our Greatest Generation were being used as political pawns in the ongoing government shutdown and budget crisis. This should never be the case. We do not care what political leanings you may be; be it liberal, conservative, Democrat, Republican, Libertarian, Independent or whatever. The actions of the U.S. government this week with regard to barricading and shutting down the World War II Memorial to veterans, that may or may not be on their last trip to Washington DC, is a despicable act of cowardice. Veterans this week were unwillingly pitted as pawns in this crisis. We feel that this should never be the case. This is why we will go to Congress after the budget crisis and ask for a bill to be introduced that would prevent any member of the government from closing our memorials down to any American, except for maintenance purposes. In the meantime, we will have our March in Washington DC on

October 13th! Our veterans deserve that! Many in our group have decided that enough is enough. We are Americans. We are proud of our heritage and our service. As all of us were military brats and spouses, we have served in some form or another our entire lives. This is our way of life. We will not stand by and let the U.S. government dishonor the legacy of sacrifice of the generations before us. It is time to make a stand! We hope that you will join us in our peaceful protest against anti-American policies.” [49358, 49359, 49360, 49361, 49497, 49549, 49550, 49551]

Reuters interviews five information technology experts who “say they believe flaws in system architecture, not traffic alone, contributed to the [ObamaCare exchange web site] problems. For instance, when a user tries to create an account on HealthCare.gov, which serves insurance exchanges in 36 states, it prompts the computer to load an unusually large amount of files and software, overwhelming the browser, experts said. If they are right, then just bringing more servers online, as officials say they are doing, will not fix the site. ...One possible cause of the problems is that hitting ‘apply’ on HealthCare.gov causes 92 separate files, plug-ins and other mammoth swarms of data to stream between the user's computer and the servers powering the government website, said Matthew Hancock, an independent expert in website design. He was able to track the files being requested through a feature in the Firefox browser. ...‘They set up the website in such a way that too many requests to the server arrived at the same time,’ Hancock said. He said because so much traffic was going back and forth between the users’ computers and the server hosting the government website, it was as if the system was attacking itself.” (In other words, the software was poorly designed.) [49402, 49403]

Jyoti Bansal, founder of AppDynamics (an application management company that ensures that essential software applications for customers like Netflix work properly), tells *The Washington Post*, “Based on my experience, the challenges [with the ObamaCare exchange web site] look like glitches in software code. And the software code didn’t go through enough testing. It would take some time to find the bugs. Then there are bugs in scalability, what happens when 100 people or more are trying to do the exact same thing. Those are the things that really need tuning at this point. Most of the problems like these are in the software. Hardware is the easy part. You can add more hardware and do it easily. Software takes more time. In the rush of getting this out, it seems like testing wasn’t done completely. My expectations from this is that these problems should go away in the next few weeks. The site still won’t be as fast as something like Netflix, but it should work. ...This is very new. It will take time to get to that level. It could be there in six months, but I wouldn’t expect it to get there in the first step.” The Obama administration claim that the problems are all the result of “overwhelming interest” in the site does not seem like “a very good excuse” to Bansal. “In sites like these there’s a very standard approach to capacity planning. You start with some basic math. Like, in this case, you look at all the... states and how many uninsured people they have. Out of those you think, maybe 10 percent would log in [on] the first day. But you model for the worst case, and that’s how you come up with your peak of how many people could try to do the same thing at the same time. Before you launch you run a lot of load testing with twice the load of the peak, so you can go through and

remove glitches. I'm a very, very big supporter of the health-care act, but I don't buy the argument that the load was too unexpected." [49418]

OffTheGridNews.com reports, "Many of the policies being offered through the Obamacare health insurance exchanges are super cheap because they offer a very limited number of healthcare providers. Major insurance companies deliberately created what Consumer Reports called 'junk health insurance policies' to sell through the exchanges, articles in both *The New York Times* and the *Los Angeles Times* show. These policies will not pay for healthcare at many major hospitals and will only cover services offered by a limited number of doctors. 'Our exchange products will have smaller provider networks that cost less than bigger plans with a larger selection of doctors and hospitals,' David Sandor, a vice president of Health Care Service Corporation (a Blue Cross and Blue Shield provider) admitted to *The New York Times*. Chad Terhune of the *Los Angeles Times* wrote, 'Consumers could see long wait times, a scarcity of specialists and loss of a longtime doctor.' 'Insurers passed over major medical centers' when selecting healthcare providers, a survey by PriceWaterhouseCoopers cited by *The New York Times* stated. The consulting firm's Health Research Institute made that conclusion after reviewing Obamacare exchange policies offered in several states. The reason for this action was to lower premium prices, the survey found. The same survey also found that policy holders might face higher out-of-pocket expenses because of the limited number of facilities in the plan. Only two of the policies on California's health insurance exchange would pay for treatment at Los Angeles's vaunted Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, Terhune found. Cedars-Sinai is widely regarded as one of the best hospitals in the country." [49415]

The *San Jose Mercury News* reports on Obama fans who have encountered health insurance sticker shock because of his signature legislation. "Cindy Vinson and Tom Waschura are big believers in the Affordable Care Act. They vote independent and are proud to say they helped elect and re-elect ...Obama. Yet, like many other Bay Area residents who pay for their own medical insurance, they were floored last week when they opened their bills: Their policies were being replaced with pricier plans that conform to all the requirements of the new health care law. Vinson, of San Jose, will pay \$1,800 more a year for an individual policy, while Waschura, of Portola Valley, will cough up almost \$10,000 more for insurance for his family of four. 'Welcome to the club,' said Robert Laszewski, a prominent health care consultant and president of Health Policy and Strategy Associates in Virginia. ...As state- and federal-run health insurance exchanges debuted across the country offering a range of prices for different tiers of insurance coverage, the new online marketplaces—which represent the centerpiece of Obamacare—could greatly benefit more than 40 million Americans who now lack coverage. But an additional 16 million—who buy individual health insurance policies on the open market—are finding out that their plans may not comply with the new law, which requires 10 essential benefits such as maternity care, mental health care and prescription drug coverage. ... 'There's [sic; there are] going to be a number of people surprised' by their bills, said Jonathan Wu, a co-founder of ValuePenguin, a consumer finance website." Waschura comments, "I was laughing at [House Speaker John] Boehner— until the mail [with her premium increase notice] came today. ...I really don't like the Republican tactics, but at least now I can understand why they are so pissed

about this. When you take \$10,000 out of my family's pocket each year, that's otherwise disposable income or retirement savings that will not be going into our local economy." Vinson says, "Of course, I want people to have health care. I just didn't realize I would be the one who was going to pay for it personally." (Whether Waschura and Vinson have figured out that they were lied to by Obama when he promised premiums would go down by \$2,500 is not clear.) [49419, 49428, 49579, 49822, 49983, 50259, 50381]

On October 6 *The Obama Timeline* again attempts to access the Healthcare.gov web site to obtain insurance information. The web site allows security questions to be selected and answered on the third page of information, but then rejects all entries—without explaining why they are invalid. The site then forces the re-entry of all information on pages one and two, ultimately rejecting the application again on the security page. After several more attempts at accessing the web site, a message is displayed: "We have a lot of visitors on the site right now. Please stay on this page. We're working to make the experience better, and we don't want you to lose your place in line. We'll send you to the login page as soon as we can. Thanks for your patience!" (It is almost impossible to believe the programming of the site could be so shoddy.)

Four U.S. soldiers are killed by a bomb in Afghanistan. [49369]

Members of the Muslim Brotherhood and their supporters riot in Egypt. The death toll is at least 51, and more than 250 are injured. [49431, 49432]

Although Michelle Obama's LetsMove.gov web site remains in operation during the partial shutdown, the government's "amber alert" site for missing children is not operational. The amber alert site displays the message, "Due to the lapse in federal funding, this Office of Justice Programs (OJP) website is unavailable." (Reminding fat Americans to drink fewer soft drinks and more water is apparently an "essential service," while finding missing or abducted children is not.) [49370, 49371, 49382]

According to BookerFail.com, more than 800,000 residents of New Jersey have received letters "notifying them that their existing health insurance plan is no longer available." Further, "An analysis by Avik Roy of Forbes found that a typical 40 year-old man in New Jersey will see a 46 percent premium hike thanks to Obamacare," and "Horizon BCBSNJ has informed 50,000 of its customers that its Medicare Advantage plans will be discontinued and replaced with more expensive plans because of ObamaCare. (ObamaCare gutted the Medicare Advantage program by about \$200 billion because it needed the money to fund other aspects of the legislation.) [49372]

In an interview on ABC's *This Week*, House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH) is interviewed by George Stephanopoulos—who not-so-cleverly provides not-so-subtle White House talking points in his questions. Boehner holds firm, saying, "George, the House has passed four bills to keep the government open and to provide fairness to the American people under ObamaCare. And even after the Senate has rejected—they've rejected all four of them. And even after the four rejections, we asked to sit down with the Senate and have a conversation. They said, no. Listen, ObamaCare is a law that's

going to raise the cost of health insurance premiums and make it almost impossible for employers to hire new people. It's a law the American people do not want and cannot afford. ...It's about having a conversation. I gave the Senate majority leader some advice at the White House about how to proceed. I gave him some advice over a week ago about how to avert this. And yet they refuse to do it." [49389, 49410]

"...George, I have 233 Republicans in the House. And you've never seen a more dedicated group of people who are thoroughly concerned about the future of our country. They believe that ObamaCare, all these regulations coming out of the administration, are threatening the future for our kids and our grandkids. It is time for us to stand and fight. ...But providing, providing fairness to the American people, under Obamacare, is all we're asking for. My goodness. They give big businesses a waiver. They give all these unions a waiver. And yet they're forcing the American people to buy a product, buy a product that they do not want and cannot afford. ...It's time for us to sit down and have a conversation. That's what the American people expect. That's what I've offered for the last ten days. Let's sit down and have a conversation. You know, we've had conversations before. Why can't we have one here?" [49389]

"...Listen, the debt limit is right around the corner. [Obama] is saying, 'I won't negotiate. I won't have a conversation.' Even though, President Reagan negotiated with Democrats who controlled the Congress back then. Even though President George Herbert Walker Bush had a conversation about raising the debt limit. During the Clinton administration, there were three fights over the debt limit. You and I participated in several of those. And even ...Obama himself in 2011, went through a negotiation. Now, he's saying, 'No. I'm not going to do this.' I'm going to tell you what, George. The nation's credit is at risk because of the administration's refusal to sit down and have a conversation. ...[But] We're not going to pass a clean debt limit increase. ...We're not going down that path. It is time to deal with America's problems. How can you raise the debt limit and do nothing about the underlying problem? George, we've spent more than what we've brought in for 55 of the last 60 years. This year, the federal government will have more revenue than any year in the history of our country, and yet we're still going to have a nearly \$700 billion budget deficit. We're squandering the future for our kids and our grandkids, by not dealing with this problem." [49389]

"...My goal here is not to have the United States default on their debt. My goal here is to have a serious conversation about those things that are driving the deficit and driving the debt up. And [Obama's] refusal to sit down and have a conversation about this is putting our nation at risk of default. ...George, it's going to end when [Obama] decides they'll allow [Senate Majority Leader] Harry Reid to talk to me, or allow [Senate Budget Committee chairman] Patty Murray [D-WA] to talk to [House Budget Committee chairman] Paul Ryan [R-WI]. [Obama] just can't sit there and say, 'I'm not going to negotiate. ...Every president in modern history has negotiated over a debt limit. Debt limits have been used to force big policy changes in Washington. And guess what, George? They're going to be used again. ...[Obama's] refusal to talk is resulting in a possible default on our debt. All he has to do is pick up the phone. This is the most

reasonable thing in the world. I think the American people understand, why wouldn't they talk to each other? I'm ready to talk. I've been ready to talk." [49389]

A flustered Treasury Secretary Jacob Lew refuses to admit to *Fox News Sunday* host Chris Wallace that enrollment in ObamaCare is next to nothing, and is unwilling to provide a number proving that it is not. Lew says, "You know, they have six months to sign up. This is a big decision. We never... I, I, I, don't have an exact number. ...It's the wrong question. ...We know that people take time to make important decisions like this..." (In other words, almost no one has enrolled. If the numbers were worth bragging about, the Obama administration would be bragging about them. *The Wall Street Journal* reports, "Large insurers have seen enrollment figures totaling in the hundreds each, said Sumit Nijhawan, chief executive of Infogix Inc., a data-integrity firm that works with such insurers as WellPoint Inc., Aetna Inc. and Cigna Corp." It is hardly worth noting that enrollment "in the hundreds" is not brag-worthy.) [49373, 49424, 49425]

Also on *Fox News Sunday*, Congressman Peter King (R-NY) states he will not support a discharge petition to force a vote on a "clean" bill to approve the continuation of all federal spending with no restrictions. King justifies his position, saying Obama and his fellow Democrats are "being irresponsible" and are "not bargaining in good faith." (Democrats had hoped that King would "move to the dark side" and vote with them on the issue, but *TheHill.com* reports, "House Republicans who have said they are open to supporting a 'clean' government funding bill are not interested in forcing a vote on such a measure.") [49398, 49422]

WashingtonTimes.com reports, "The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives [ATF] is blocking the main whistleblower in the [Operation] Fast and Furious case from publishing a book, claiming his retelling of the Mexico 'gun-walking' scandal will hurt morale inside the embattled law enforcement agency, according to documents obtained by *The Washington Times*. ATF's dispute with Special Agent John Dodson is setting up a First Amendment showdown that is poised to bring together liberal groups like the American Civil Liberties Union and conservatives in Congress who have championed Mr. Dodson's protection as a whistleblower. The ACLU is slated to become involved in the case Monday [October 7], informing ATF it is representing Mr. Dodson and filing a formal protest to the decision to reject his request to publish the already written book, sources told *The Times*, speaking only on the condition of anonymity." NBC, CBS, and ABC ignore the story. CNN, however, interviews Dobson. (The ATF later tells Dobson he can have his book published—provided he makes no money from it and allows the government to make changes before publication.) [49381, 49383, 49586, 49945]

Obama goes all weekend without playing golf. [49445]

The family of Brian Terry, a Border Patrol Agent who was murdered with one of the Operation Fast and Furious weapons, reacts to the book-censoring report with a statement from the Brian Terry Foundation, saying it "...stands behind ATF whistleblower John Dodson and supports his attempts to publish his manuscript pertaining to the flawed gun

trafficking investigation known as Operation Fast and Furious. Recently, ATF officials told Dodson that he was prohibited from releasing his memoir because it would have a negative impact on morale in the Phoenix office of the ATF and would have a detrimental effect on ATF's relationships with the DEA and the FBI. Do we really need to remind ATF leadership that the men that killed Brian Terry were carrying weapons supplied to them by ATF during Operation Fast and Furious, an investigation that both ...Obama and Attorney General Holder have publicly called ill-conceived? This latest incident reignites concerns that ATF leadership is again seeking to avoid responsibility for the deadly errors made in allowing the flawed gun walking tactics. This should not be an issue of what some in ATF call 'an opportunity for Dodson to get rich' rather it should be about accountability and transparency. ATF leadership has yet another opportunity to close an ugly chapter in its history by letting John Dodson publish his memoirs and tell the story of Operation Fast and Furious with the goal of never repeating the same mistakes. The Terry family and the American public deserve to hear what Dodson has to say. They also need to know that ATF has learned from its mistakes." [49441]

Raymond McDaniel, CEO of the Moody's Investors Service, throws water on the Obama administration's claim that the sky will fall if the debt ceiling is not increased by October 17, telling CNBC, "It is extremely unlikely that the Treasury is not going to continue to pay on those securities. Hopefully it is unlikely that we go past October 17 and fail to raise the debt ceiling, but even if that does happen, then we think that the U.S. Treasury is still going to pay on those Treasury securities." (That is, the Treasury Department will prioritize its obligations and obviously pay interest on the debt before anything else. There would be no "default" only if Obama orders Treasury Secretary Jacob Lew *not* to place interest payments at or near the top of the priority list.) [49397, 49416, 49539]

At PJMedia.com Victor Davis Hanson writes, "Amid all the charges and countercharges in Washington over the government shutdown, there is at least one common theme: Barack Obama's various charges always lead to a dead end. They are chaos, and chaos is hard to understand, much less refute. ...[W]hensoever [Obama] prefaces a sweeping statement with one of his many emphatics—'make no mistake about it,' 'I'm not making this up,' 'in point of fact,' 'let me be perfectly clear'—we know that the reverse is always true. For Obama, how something is said matters far more than what is said. If he stumbles, as is his wont, through an un-teleprompted remark that on rare occasions can be mostly accurate, that is a serious lapse; if, more frequently, he mellifluously asserts a teleprompted falsehood, there is little worry. The result is not so much untruth, lies, or distortions, as virtual chaos. Is what he says untrue, contradictory of what he said or did earlier, or just nonsensical? ...These paradoxes could be interpreted in various ways. True, Obama is a politician who takes up and discards arguments as he finds them useful, always branding those currently in use as somehow morally superior to the alternative. Obama is also a zealot and a community organizer who is not content with opposing the positions of his opponents, but always must impugn their motives as well. But a third explanation is more likely. Obama simply couldn't care less about what he says at any given moment, whether it is weighing in on the football name 'Redskins' or the Trayvon Martin trial. He is detached and unconcerned about the history of an issue, about which he is usually poorly informed. Raising the debt ceiling is an abstraction; all that matters is

that when he is [in the White House] it is a good thing and when he is opposing a president it is a bad one. Let aides sort out the chaos. Obamacare will lower premiums, not affect existing medical plans, and not require increased taxes; that all of the above are untrue matters nothing. Who could sort out the chaos?" [49411, 49427]

"During the present crisis, Obama simply asks his aides what are the arguments of the day to be made. When he is instructed that Republicans are doing something bad, something unprecedented, and something anarchic, then like his often referenced hero LeBron James, Obama wants the rhetoric ball to complete the demagogic play, which results in the usual chaotic invective. That the Republicans are doing something that is not unprecedented or anarchic, but similar to what Obama himself and his party have done in the past, is not even noticed. In the mind of Obama there are many narratives. If something is a little better in the Middle East, but most things are a lot worse, then the little is his, and the most belongs to others. If somebody did not listen to Obama and decided to produce more gas and oil, then what difference does it make—given that at least they produced more gas and oil at the same time that he was in office? If smaller deficits are deemed by most to be better than larger ones, then Obama agrees and who cares that he was indifferent whether they became bigger or smaller? The media, of course, accepts that what Obama says on any given day will contradict what he has said or done earlier, or will be an exaggeration or caricature of his opponents' position, or simply be detached from reality. But in their daily calculus, that resulting chaos is minor in comparison to the symbolic meaning of Obama. He is, after all, both the nation's first African-American [leader] and our first left-wing progressive since Franklin Roosevelt. In comparison with those two facts, no others really matter." [49411]

In an Internet radio interview, Dr. Jim Garrow reveals he has spent 45 years as a CIA operative and offers his opinion on the deaths of investigative journalist Andrew Breitbart and novelist Tom Clancy. NowTheEndBegins.com reports, "In addition to revealing that Andrew Breitbart had been killed under orders from Obama administration officials, he also said that spy thriller novelist Tom Clancy had also been killed in much the same way, and for the same reasons. Garrow said that Clancy had been spoon fed inside information for years from covert operatives for his novels, and he knew too much. ...Dr. Garrow said the reason no autopsy was performed for the first 5 days is that it 'takes that long for the chemicals he was poisoned with to work their way out of his body.' ...Lastly, he revealed that Obama's administration was made up of Marxist Muslims who all take their orders from Senior Adviser to [Obama], Iranian-born Valerie Jarrett. Dr. Garrow said that it is well known to intelligence agencies all over the world that Obama is a foreign plant who was placed on the path to the presidency by ultra-rich Saudi nationals. This is why, Garrow said, that all of Obama's education records have been permanently sealed. Barrow paints a bleak picture of a compromised America that is collapsing under internal attack from foreign forces." (Garrow has also claimed, "I have just been informed by a former senior military leader that Obama is using a new 'litmus test' in determining who will stay and who must go in his military leaders. ...The new litmus test of leadership in the military is if they will fire on US citizens or not. Those who will not be being removed.") [49446, 49447]

At TheOrganicPrepper.ca, Daisy Luther writes, “I will not comply with Obamacare. There. I said it. I am unequivocally not going to be complying with Obamacare. I also won’t be purchasing health insurance at 4 times the regular price, nor will I participate in the government-funded ‘exchange’ for ‘affordable’ healthcare. ...I am an American, and as such, I refuse to be forced to purchase anything else. I have already been forced to have car insurance, forced to purchase annually the ‘privilege’ of driving via a license and having a (paid-for) car on the road via a license plate, and forced to pay taxes on my income and every purchase that I make. ...**The government is fond of saying that they will not negotiate with terrorists. Well, neither will I—and the US government under the reign of Barack Obama is the biggest terrorist organization around.** ...It’s clear that our non-compliance in large numbers could stop this madness. We just have to say, ‘No. I will not comply.’” Among Luther’s reasons for non-compliance: **“People who make more money than I do should not be forced to subsidize my health care.” “This is going to delete the middle class.” “This is just another way to make the populace dependent on the benevolence of government.” “This is an assault on my medical privacy.” “I’m not having my family’s health care decisions made by other people.”** ... So, Obama regime, bring it on. I’m not just saying no, ...But HELL, no. ...I will not be forced anymore. I don’t really care what the Supreme Court says—I have also read the Constitution, and no place in it does it contain the phrase, ‘Participation in Obamacare is your duty as an American.’ Mike Adams of Natural News referred to this as ‘unlimited theft and confiscation.’ And he’s right.” [49494, 49495]

Luther states, “I’ve started a page on Facebook called We Will Not Comply with Obamacare, where I can pass on all of the information I come across regarding noncompliance with Obamacare. Please join me there if you have a social media account. Based on the figures that Michael Rivero put forth, the refusal of a small percentage of us to participate in this extortion could throw a giant cog in the wheels of this plan. If we have learned anything about resistance over the last few years, it is that the power of social media can be an enormous factor in educating the public and letting the government and large corporations know that our voices will be heard. Sometimes revolution can be as simple as stating a calm and unwavering, ‘No. I will not comply.’” [49494, 49495]

At WhatReallyHappend.com Michael Rivero writes, “Obama’s utter refusal to compromise or delay Obamacare is more than mere political grandstanding. Obama has to prove he can continue to make the payments on the government debt. Now, based on reports we are getting [from] people who did sign up for Obamacare, they are being offered policies that cost about \$500 a month, and have a deductible in the tens of thousands. That means that for the vast majority of Americans, they will be paying \$500 month for insurance that will in fact pay none of their medical costs. So, \$500 a month is \$6000 a year times 200 million complying Americans equals \$1.2 trillion a year pouring into the Health Insurance companies as pure profit, of which the US Government gets almost \$200 billion in taxes (plus the IRS fines on those who refuse to sign up). And THAT is why Obama is demanding that Obamacare move forward now, despite a totally botched computer management system and despite 71% public opposition. Absent that new cash flow, the US Government will collapse, and the one year delay proposed by the

House of Representatives is far too long to survive without some new source of loot from the public.” [49496]

The *Charlotte Observer* reports on the rising cost of health care because of ObamaCare. “George Schwab of Charlotte... pays \$228 a month for his family’s \$10,000 deductible plan from Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina. In a Sept. 23 letter, Blue Cross notified him that his current plan doesn’t meet benefit requirements outlined in the Affordable Care Act and suggested a comparable plan for \$1,208 a month—\$980 more than he now pays. ‘I’m 62 and retired,’ Schwab said. ‘This creates a tremendous financial burden for our family. [Obama] told the American people numerous times that... ‘If you like your coverage, you can keep it.’ How can we keep it if it has been eliminated? How can we keep it if the premium has been increased 430 percent in one year?’” (Although Schwab and his wife certainly do not need maternity coverage, ObamaCare forces all insurance policies to provide it—along with pediatric dental and vision care.) [49642]

“Michael Hood, 46, who lives near Winston-Salem, is another of the Blue Cross customers who is suffering sticker shock after receiving a recent renewal letter. He and his wife, who is expecting their third child, now pay \$324 per month for a plan with a \$10,000 family deductible. The comparable plan suggested by Blue Cross for next year would cost \$895.27 per month with an \$11,000 family deductible. Their annual payment would rise from \$14,000 to \$24,000. Self-employed as part owner of a medical device distributorship, Hood said he and his wife ‘try to live a healthy lifestyle and keep our medical costs down.’ They chose the high-deductible plan to keep their premium low. Hood said his income is about \$85,000 a year, which would mean he might be able to qualify for a subsidy. He said he checked the online marketplace, which has been operating only sporadically this week, and didn’t think it looked like his family would be eligible. One of the pluses of any new plan is that it will cover maternity care, which his current plan doesn’t. But ‘is that really worth paying \$1,000 a month more for? I’m angry that legislation has been passed that is forcing me to purchase something that otherwise I would not have to purchase. [Obama] told us Obamacare would make health insurance affordable and reduce costs. It is now impossible for our family to afford private health insurance.” [49642]

Retiree Michael Yount of Charlotte, North Carolina and his wife report an increase in their insurance premium from \$380 per month to \$1,124.50 per month—with an annual deductible of \$11,000. Yount says, “We are an insurance company’s dream. We pay our bills, we hardly ever get sick, no prescription drugs. And now this.” CSMonitor.com reports, “Reluctantly, [Yount] says, they plan to drop out of formal health insurance, pay the penalty, and ‘self-insure.’ ‘No question, there’s risk there,’ Yount says. ‘The question is, how much are you willing to pay someone else to mitigate that risk?’ He also understands that the law is meant to help those who have not been able to buy insurance because of preexisting conditions. But he objects to how it’s being done. ‘If the only way to get it to them is forcibly taking it from everybody else, how is that any better? I’m struggling with what is the greater evil and injustice. I don’t think it’s any more right to take it from one person forcibly. It’s coercion.’” (*The Obama Timeline* believes the problems caused by ObamaCare are *intentional*. Obama and his fellow Democrats seek to

collapse the private insurance industry in its entirety, thereby forcing Americans to give up and accept a fully nationalized health care system.) [49643]

The weekly news program *60 Minutes* covers the issue of overwhelming fraud in the Federal Disability Insurance Program, “which could become the first government benefits program to run out of money. When it began back in the 1950s it was envisioned as a small program to assist people who were unable to work because of illness or injury. Today, it serves nearly 12 million people—up 20 percent in the last six years—and has a budget of \$135 billion. That’s more than the government spent last year on the Department of Homeland Security, the Justice Department, and the Labor Department combined. It’s been called a ‘secret welfare system’ with it’s own ‘disability industrial complex,’ a system ravaged by waste and fraud. A lot of people want to know what’s going on. ...The Social Security Administration, which runs the disability program says the explosive surge is due to aging baby boomers and the lingering effects of a bad economy. But Sen. Tom Coburn of Oklahoma, the ranking Republican on the Senate Subcommittee for Investigations—who’s also a physician—says it’s more complicated than that. Last year, his staff randomly selected hundreds of disability files and found that 25 percent of them should never have been approved—another 20 percent, he said, were highly questionable. ...Coburn says you need look no further than the commercials of disability lawyers trolling for new clients. Namely, the two thirds of the people who have already applied for disability and been rejected. There’s not much to lose, really. It doesn’t cost you anything unless you win the appeal and the lawyers collect from the federal government.” (Unscrupulous attorneys pay doctors to certify that the applicant is totally and permanently disabled, when he is not. Under the law, if you can perform any job you are ineligible for disability benefits—but that doesn’t stop people from collecting them.) [49404]

According to *60 Minutes*, “Last year the Social Security Administration paid a billion dollars to claimants’ lawyers out of its cash-strapped disability trust fund. The biggest chunk—\$70 million—went to Binder & Binder, the largest disability firm in the country. Lawyer Jenna Fliszar and Jessica White worked for Binder & Binder representing clients in front of disability judges from New Hampshire to West Virginia.” Fliszar says, “I call it a legal factory because that’s all it is. I mean, they have figured out the system and they’ve made it into a huge national firm that makes millions of dollars a year on Social Security disability.” White adds, “I was hired at the end of 2008 and business was booming because the economy was so bad. We had a lot of people who—their unemployment ran out and this was the next step.” Fliszar: “Many of the cases they handled involved ailments with [difficult to prove] subjective symptoms like backache, depression and fibromyalgia, which is joint and muscle pain along with chronic fatigue. ...I would say half of my cases were not deserving of disability [yet about half of them received it anyway].” [49404]

On October 7 the U.S. Supreme Court begins its fall term. On its agenda are cases involving abortion rights (*McCullen v. Coakley* and *Cline v. Oklahoma Coalition for Reproductive Justice*), affirmative action and racial quotas (*Schuette v. Coalition to Defend Affirmative Action*)—a lawsuit challenging a law in Michigan that bans schools

from following affirmative action policies), public prayer (*Town of Greece v. Galloway*), Obama's abuse of power with "non-recess" recess appointments (*National Labor Relations Board v. Noel Canning*), and campaign contribution limits (*McCutcheon v. Federal Election Commission*—a lawsuit that was filed by an Alabama resident who was prohibited from donating \$1,776 to multiple candidates because that would have exceeded the \$48,600 limit on total campaign contributions). [49380, 49395, 49472, 49535, 49737, 49857]

PatriotAction.net notes that although the Andrews Air Force Base discount grocery store (PX) is closed for airmen and their families, its golf course remains open for Obama and other officials. [49374, 50886]

The Obama administration comes (partly) to its senses and restores the "amber alert" web site (amberalert.gov). [49384, 49399]

HotAir.com notes that although the Obama administration has done its best to prevent veterans and tourists from visiting open-air national monuments in Washington, D.C., it is allowing the "Camino Americano: March for Immigration Reform" to gather on the National Mall on October 8. [49401]

The partial government shutdown notwithstanding, the U.S. Army awards a \$47,174 contract for a mechanical bull. (The bulls are allegedly used for "recruiting" purposes.) [49406]

CNSNews.com reports, "The U.S. Treasury needed to pay off a record of approximately \$7,546,726,000,000 in maturing Treasury securities in fiscal 2013, which ended last Monday, according to Treasury's official accounting. During the same period, the Treasury turned around and issued another \$8,323,949,000,000 in new Treasury securities. The spread between the old debt held by the public that matured and was paid off during the fiscal year and the new debt that was sold to cover government spending over and above tax revenues, increased the net federal government debt held by the public by \$777.223 billion during the fiscal year. ... Treasury bills have maturities of anywhere from a few days to 52 weeks. Treasury notes have maturities of between two years and ten years. Treasury bonds have maturities of 30 years. And the Treasury also sells Treasury-Inflation Protected Securities (TIPS), which have terms of 5, 10 or 30 years." (The problem faced by the Treasury is that the government does not have enough cash to cover all the bills, bonds, and notes being redeemed. It therefore has to sell more new ones to get the money to pay off the old ones. Without an increase in the debt limit, the Treasury is not able to sell more new debt.) [49407]

Although Obama and the Democrats want a no-strings-attached \$1 trillion increase in the debt limit so that they can happily spend more money than the government collects in taxes for another year, WashingtonPost.com reports they may be willing to "accept a short-term bill, perhaps lasting only weeks, if necessary to avoid a default." HotAir.com's Ed Morrissey asks, "Did the White House just blink on the debt-ceiling fight? ... Until now, the White House has insisted that it will not negotiate at all, and that [House

Speaker] John Boehner [R-OH] should bring a clean bill to the floor for both the debt ceiling and the CR [continuing resolution]—and not short-term bills, either, but comprehensive long-term bills. Democrats spent all weekend pushing the message that Boehner won't bring such bills to the floor because they'll pass over the objections of most Republicans. In that paradigm of *diktat*, there is no place for a short-term bill. ...[But] If the White House is willing to bargain on the debt ceiling, which is the bigger problem for American credibility than a 17% government shutdown, then it's impossible to argue against some give-and-take on the budget, too. Why reverse course and agree to a short-term debt ceiling lift now? I'd suspect that the White House has discovered that its shutdown strategy is backfiring in a spectacular manner, thanks to the spiteful attempts to impose unnecessary and arbitrary pain on Americans for the last several days. It might also be that the statement from Moody's CEO this morning undercut their messaging to Wall Street, and the utter lack of panic among investors has killed the Obama administration strategy to force the GOP to knuckle under to Harry Reid and Obama." [49412, 49413]

At NationalJournal.com, Ron Fournier writes, "Obama has at least two incentives to talk. First, there is the matter of optics. Voters want to believe that their leaders are open-minded, a trait they particularly expect in a [person] who promised to change the culture of Washington. Obama simply undermines his credibility by stiff-arming the GOP. Their obstinacy is no excuse for his. During the last protracted government shutdown, President Clinton talked almost every day with GOP rivals Newt Gingrich and Bob Dole. Second, Obama has an opportunity to deftly steer an embattled and divided GOP away from Obamacare and to an issue worthy of high-stakes negotiations: The nation's long-term budget crisis. While it's true that the deficit has dropped in recent months, nothing has been done to secure Social Security and Medicare beyond the next 10 years. Punting this red-ink quandary to the next president would mar Obama's legacy. ...Boehner doesn't trust Obama and is worried about a revolt from his no-compromise caucus. Obama doesn't trust Boehner and is worried about a revolt from his no-compromise caucus. The House speaker reportedly raised the idea of a so-called grand bargain at a White House meeting last week, and got laughed at. That is the exact wrong response. If Obama is going to blink, it should not be over Obamacare. On government debt, however, a little humility and risk in the short-term might earn Obama the nation's gratitude for generations." [49414]

The White House confirms that Heather Zichal, Obama's "chief energy and climate adviser," will leave her position. (Zichal is an environmental activist who has been in charge of the climate-change effort in the White House since the departure of Carol Browner. Zichal opposes extracting oil and natural gas from federal lands via the "fracking" process. Zichal once authored an email stating that if then-chief of staff Rahm Emanuel wanted the Solyndra loan approved "we'll make it happen.") [31232, 31233, 31295, 31303, 31332, 33703, 35111, 35112]

TheHill.com reports, "Healthcare.gov, the primary website to enroll in health insurance through ObamaCare, will be taken offline again Monday night for improvements, following weekend work designed to fix major technical problems. The site will be

offline beginning at 1 a.m. in order to improve its capacity and make software changes, the Health and Human Services Department said. ...HHS has said the primary problem with healthcare.gov has been the unexpectedly heavy traffic to the site. It received roughly 8.6 million visits in the first week of its launch, overwhelming its servers.” (The excuse is nonsense; 8.6 million visits over seven days is next to nothing compared with the traffic experience by hundreds of commercial sites.) [49421]

A CNN reporter tries again to use the Healthcare.gov web site and, as was the case one week earlier, she is unable to get very far before the system fails. [49442]

Newsmax.com reports, “Senate Democrats say they’ll advance a bill giving ...Obama the authority to raise the debt ceiling unless two-thirds of Congress disapproves, according to a Senate Democratic aide. ...An initial test vote on the proposal, described by the aide on condition of anonymity, could occur as soon as Oct. 11, just six days before federal borrowing authority is set to expire.” (Such an attempt would be a waste of time inasmuch as the House of Representatives would never pass that legislation.) [49423]

At ThePostEmail.com editor Sharon Rondeau reports that William L. Bryan (aka “PJ Foggy”) bragged on an online radio program on October 1 that he had been hired as an ObamaCare “navigator.” Rondeau notes that Bryan “is a former California attorney who resigned “with charges pending” from the State Bar of California in 2001 after two suspensions and a notation of ‘manic depressive illness.’ Early in Obama’s first term, Foggy launched a website called ‘Politijab’ which eventually melded into ‘The Fogbow,’ whose purpose is to ‘debunk birthers.’” Bryan/Fogbow states, “My wife and I are going to be enrolling people in ObamaCare” and “We’re going to be extremely aggressive in marketing [ObamaCare].” (Whether many Americans would be willing to provide Bryan with their personal information in order to enroll in ObamaCare if they knew he was a discredited attorney with mental health issues is not known.) [49429, 49430, 49477]

At TheHill.com Alexander Bolton writes that Obama “has handed over the reins of leadership on government funding and the debt limit to Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV). Reid is now fully in charge of his party’s negotiating strategy, a significant change from past showdowns with Republicans. He has taken the initiative from Obama, who played the principal role in the 2011 debt-limit talks and New Year’s fiscal cliff deal. Some Democrats on Capitol Hill are relieved by the switch. The majority leader has brought a more pugnacious style to the debate, bashing House conservatives as ‘anarchists’ and mocking the ‘Banana Republican mindset.’ This is a welcome change for Democrats who thought Obama was too accommodating to Republicans during previous crises. Simply put, they believe less is more when it comes to Obama’s involvement in negotiations with the GOP. ...Obama alarmed some in the Senate Democratic caucus last week when he convened congressional leaders at the White House to discuss the government shutdown and looming debt-limit debate. They feared he might take the lead in the talks and make concessions to get past the current fiscal crisis.” (In other words, the Democrats want the crisis to continue because they believe it helps them politically.) “Democratic aides say Obama has served as a crucial backstop by refusing to negotiate over the debt limit and quickly issuing veto threats against House measures to defund,

delay or otherwise erode the Affordable Care Act. ‘There’s no question, Reid is now the quarterback,’ said a Senate Democratic aide.” (Reid is the bomb thrower, while Obama pretends to stay above the fray, acting cool, calm, and collected. If everything goes his way, he will take credit. If everything does not go his way, Democrats will blame Reid, rather than him. Reid is betting that he can destroy the Tea Party’s influence in the House and the Senate before his actions can cost him reelection in 2016.) [49433]

The state of Maryland reports that only 326 of its residents have enrolled in ObamaCare—out of 170,000 visitors to its web site and 600,000 who lack health insurance. [49463, 49464, 49468]

The Maryland ObamaCare exchange web site includes a disclaimer: “Should you decide to apply for health coverage through Maryland Health Connection, the information you supply in your application will be used to determine whether you are eligible for health and dental coverage offered through Maryland Health Connection and for insurance affordability programs. It also may be used to assist you in making a payment for the insurance plan you select, and for related automated reminders or other activities permitted by law. We will preserve the privacy of personal records and protect confidential or privileged information in full accordance with federal and State law. We will not sell your information to others. Any information that you provide to us in your application will be used only to carry out the functions of Maryland Health Connection. *The only exception to this policy is that we may share information provided in your application with the appropriate authorities for law enforcement and audit activities* [emphasis added].” WeeklyStandard.com notes, “The site does not specify if ‘appropriate authorities’ refers only to state authorities or if it could include the federal government, as well. Neither is there any detail on what type of law enforcement and/or audit activities would justify the release of the personal information, or who exactly is authorized to make such a determination. An email to the Maryland Health Connection’s media contact seeking clarification has not yet been answered.” The site also states, “If you send us an e-mail, we use the information you send us to respond to your inquiry. E-mail correspondence may become a public record. As a public record, your correspondence could be disclosed to other parties upon their request in accordance with Maryland’s Public Information Act.” WeeklyStandard.com again: “Since emails to the marketplace could conceivably involve private matters regarding finances, health history, and other sensitive issues, the fact that such information could be made part of the ‘public record’ could prevent users from being as free with their information than they might otherwise be. However, as noted, any requests for such emails would still be subject to Maryland’s Public Information Act which contains certain exceptions to the disclosure rules.” [49475, 49528]

Secretary of Health and Human Services Kathleen Sebelius appears on *The Daily Show*. Host Jon Stewart (Jonathan Stuart Leibowitz) opens a laptop computer and says, “I’m going to attempt to download every movie ever made, and you’re going to try to sign up for ObamaCare, and we’ll see which happens first.” Sebelius admits that the Healthcare.gov web site “started a little rockier than we’d like,” but “It’s better today than it was yesterday, and it will keep getting better.” Stewart asks how many Americans

have signed up for ObamaCare insurance via the web site. Sebelius responds, “I can’t tell you, because I don’t know... we will be giving monthly reports.” (It is almost a certainty that Sebelius knows the answer, but will not release the figure because it is probably incredibly low.) Stewart asks why the individual mandate should not be delayed. She arrogantly responds that individuals can avoid the mandate by paying the fine. [49444, 49451, 49453, 49454, 49460, 49486, 49702, 49839]

Stewart presses again: “If I’m an individual that doesn’t want this, it would be hard for me to look at a big business getting a waiver. I would feel like you are favoring big business because they lobbied you... but you’re not allowing individuals that same courtesy.” Sebelius dances around the question, prompting Stewart to ask, “Am I a stupid man?” Incredibly, Sebelius also says, “Economists, not anecdotal folks, but economists, say there is absolutely no evidence that part-time work is going up. In fact, it’s going down.” (The media has reported numerous stories of businesses reducing their workers from full-time to part-time status. Andrew Puzder, CEO of CKE Restaurants, tells *The Wall Street Journal*, “As the CEO of a company that has been dealing with ObamaCare for over three years, I’d like to set the record straight: The evidence that ObamaCare is having a negative impact on hiring is unequivocal, abundant and consistent with common sense. ...The health-care law’s actual consequences unequivocally appear in the jobs data... Between Jan. 1 and June 30, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the economy added 833,000 part-time jobs and lost 97,000 full-time jobs, for net creation of 736,000 jobs. In reality, the economy overall added no full-time jobs. Rather, it lost them. ...Not surprisingly, full-time job creation rebounded and part-time employment subsided following the announcement on July 2 that the employer mandate would be delayed for a year. In July and August, the economy lost 20,000 part-time jobs and added 132,000 full-time jobs. While businesses know the administration has put off, not eliminated, the mandate, the clock was reset and the surge in part-time employment subsided. So Ms. Sebelius was technically correct on ‘The Daily Show’ this week. What she didn’t mention is that part-time hiring will come roaring back when the employer mandate kicks in. The logic for businesses is simple. If you have three employees working 40 hours per week they will produce 120 labor hours. Five employees working 24 hours per week also produce 120 labor hours. Employers must offer the three full-time employees health insurance or pay a penalty. They have no such obligation to the five part-time employees, making part-time employment less costly. Make something more expensive and employers will use less of it; make something less expensive and they will use more of it.”) [49444, 49451, 49453, 49454, 49460, 49486, 49702, 49728, 49729]

Sebelius sarcastically ridicules conservatives and libertarians, and believers in free market capitalism, saying, “As you know, we’re facing the end of the Western Civilization by having a market-based strategy. We are bringing Western Civilization to its knees by selling private insurance plans on a website where people can pick and choose.” (Sebelius mockingly suggests that conservatives should be happy with ObamaCare because the exchanges are “market-based.” That is patently false. The exchanges have nothing to do with a free market. In a free market, insurers are free to sell whatever policies they want to sell and consumers are free to buy whatever policies they choose. But under ObamaCare, insurers can sell *only* those policies which the

government approves; Americans are *forced* to buy insurance whether they want or need it; and federal tax subsidies for the purchase of insurance apply *only* to those Americans who buy it via the government exchanges. Thus, the federal exchange provides unfair competition to private insurers who choose not to deal with the exchanges, and that cannot sell policies with prices that are subsidized by the taxpayers. If the system were “ObamaCar,” the government would be selling automobiles that most people did not want; consumers would be forced to buy a car even if they prefer not to drive; the government’s cars would not be available with the wide range of options available in the free market; some people—particularly young people—would be over-charged for the federal vehicles, while others would get massive discounts and rebates paid for by the taxpayers; and no discounts or rebates would be permitted for vehicles purchased outside the ObamaCar exchange. That would not be a free market; that would be socialism attempting to drive capitalism off the face of the earth.) [49444, 49451, 49453, 49454, 49460, 49486, 49702]

At the end of the program—after Sebelius has left the stage—Stewart says, “I still don’t understand why individuals have to sign up and businesses don’t, because if the businesses—if she’s saying, ‘well, they get a delay because that doesn’t matter anyway because they already give health care,’ then you think to yourself, ‘fuck it, then why do they have to sign up at all? And then I think to myself, ‘well, maybe she’s just lying to me.’” (Sebelius cannot answer Stewart’s question because the answer is: “ObamaCare is prompting employers to cancel employee insurance coverage, and if we do not force them to buy insurance on the exchanges we will end up with even more Americans without insurance than when we started—and that will be proof that ObamaCare is a failure.”) [49444, 49451, 49453, 49454, 49460, 49486, 49702]

At 10 p.m. *The Obama Timeline* attempts again to use the Healthcare.gov web site and encounters the same problems as the prior day.

On October 8 Obama telephones House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH) to tell him he will not negotiate. [49533]

Barack “how can we frighten Americans today?” Obama delivers a statement about the debt ceiling showdown, brags that he created 7.5 million jobs, and warns that the economy would plunge into another recession if the Republicans refuse to approve an increase the debt ceiling with no concessions from him. He states he will “talk with anyone at anytime” about ObamaCare and spending—*after* the Republicans approve a clean continuing spending resolution and increase the debt ceiling. (Obama’s demand is tantamount to Crazy Horse telling General Custer: “After this battle, let’s talk.”) Obama laughably claims, “I’ve shown myself willing to go more than half way,” but should “not have to pay a ransom” to get the debt ceiling increased.” He allows questions from reporters, to which he responds with his typical incredibly long and repetitive lectures full of talking points everyone has heard many times. He states he is willing to accept legislation that continues federal spending at existing levels for a limited period of time. Obama—probably wrongly—claims there are enough votes in the House to pass legislation to end the partial shutdown. (House Speaker John Boehner responds by saying

there are not even enough votes in the Senate to pass a “clean” debt limit bill, essentially daring Senate Democrats to try.) Obama claims he will not use the Fourteenth Amendment as an excuse to work around Congress and issue more debt—which arguably means to some that he, in fact, has every intention of using it for that purpose. (The Fourteenth Amendment does *not* give him any such powers, but some leftists have argued that it does—and want him to act arbitrarily in defiance of Congress. The Fourteenth Amendment states that the United States government must honor its debts, but doing so—paying interest and principal payments on existing debt—can be accomplished without increasing the debt ceiling.) [49435, 49450, 49456, 49461, 49568]

Obama—who has been stating for days, “I will not negotiate”—says, “I have flaws... but one of them is *not* that I am unwilling to compromise.” (Obama follows the Bill Clinton model of accusing one’s opponents of what you yourself are guilty of.) He ridicules House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH) for proposing a committee of Democrats and Republicans to negotiate budget issues, claiming that it will lead to Democrats giving Republicans what they want and Democrats getting nothing in return. Obama claims, “I’m prepared to talk about anything” but will not agree to “hostage-taking” or “ransom-taking.” Obama says, “Re-open the government, extend the debt ceiling...” and meetings can then be held. (Of course, Obama and the Democrats would then have absolutely no reason to compromise at those meetings.) Obama says, “If Congress refuses to raise what is called the debt ceiling, America would not be able to meet its financial obligations for the first time in 225 years.” He then makes the absurd statement, “Raising our debt ceiling does not add to debt.” (The whole point of raising the debt ceiling is, of course, to authorize the government to borrow more money! If raising the debt ceiling “does not add to the debt,” then Obama should explain why he wants to raise it by only \$1 trillion, rather than \$500 trillion. He worries that not raising the debt ceiling will impugn the “full faith and credit of the United States.” Some might argue that raising it 74 times since 1962 has already done that.) [49435, 49450, 49456, 49461, 49560, 49561]

CBS reporter Mark Knoller asks Obama if he is “tempted” to sign the smaller, individual spending bills being passed by the House of Representative. Obama responds, “Of course I’m tempted, but here’s the problem. What you’ve seen are bills that come up wherever Republicans are feeling political pressure, they put a bill forward. And if there’s no political heat, if there’s no television story on it, then nothing happens.” (Knoller does not ask an obvious question: “If there is no pressure to pass legislation, does that not suggest the legislation is not needed in the first place?” At Townhall.com Jonah Goldberg points out that Obama’s answer is an admission that he is “deliberately hurting his country to score points against his [political] enemies.”) [49641]

Among the softball questions lobbed at Obama is one from Sam Stein of the leftist HuffingtonPost.com: “With Speaker Boehner so far unwilling to hold a vote on a clean CR, what assurances can you give to those affected by a shutdown who are concerned about an even longer impasse? And how worried are you personally that your preferred solution to this—a clear CR at sequestration levels—may do harm to the nation’s economy and your second term agenda?” Obama begins his anti-GOP-lecture response

by saying, “Sam, you’re making an important point.” (The questions directed to Obama are not so much questions as lead-ins to his anticipated talking points.) [49515]

Remarkably, Obama is not asked even one question about ObamaCare, Healthcare.gov, or the administration blocking veterans from visiting the World War II Memorial—possibly because Obama does not call on Fox News reporter Ed Henry. [49530]

House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH) responds to Obama’s statements, saying, “What [Obama] said today was, if there’s unconditional surrender by Republicans, he’ll sit down and talk with us. That’s not the way our government works. ...It’s time for us to just sit down and resolve our differences. There’s [sic; there are] no boundaries here. There’s nothing on the table, there’s nothing off the table.” [49488, 49506]

Boehner meets with House Republicans in a closed-door session. At NationalReview.com Jonathan Strong reports, “‘Democrats are trying to ‘annihilate us,’ he told his members. ‘We can get through this if we stick together.’ The Ohio Republican added that a ‘grand bargain’ is off the table. What he wants is something that ‘builds on the gains we’ve made over the past three years, puts points on the board, and doesn’t raise taxes.’ ... ‘We’re united as a party,’ says Representative Justin Amash of Michigan, who has often warred with Boehner. ‘We’re sending over bills with almost unanimous Republican support and we’re pulling over 20, 30 sometimes 40 Democrats on these individual bills. We feel like we’re making quite a bit of headway,’ he adds. Republicans’ spines stiffened yesterday when a top White House official said at an event that ...Obama’s goal was to set a precedent against negotiating over the debt ceiling. ‘[Obama] sent strong signals to us which we find offensive,’ says Representative Pete Sessions of Texas, the chairman of the House Rules Committee. ‘He’s not a dictator. We have a Constitution,’ he adds. ‘It’s unreasonable and very selfish,’ adds Representative Jason Chaffetz of Utah about the Democrats’ reticence.” Congressman Tom McClintock (R-CA) comments, “I think the American people are watching an unwillingness by one side to negotiate and compromise. I think they are watching the utterly vindictive actions of the administration to intensify the pain of the shutdown and I think they are watching the collapse of the administration’s signature program, ObamaCare, as it unrolls and unravels before our very eyes. The public awakening to what is happening here is going to ultimately compel the Democrats to negotiate and compromise.” [49534]

At CanadaFreePress.com author and columnist Erik Rush asks, “So—what do you think are the odds that within a few weeks of each other, two 34-year-old black people from Brooklyn, New York, with nothing in common so far as is known, begin acting out in the same U.S. city in such a manifestly dangerous manner after claiming to have been exposed to vague, arcane technology that they wind up having to be put down like animals by the local constabulary? I thought so... At this juncture, I’m sure that any other connections that may have existed between Miriam Carey (the woman who used her car as a weapon against the Secret Service and D.C. Police on October 3) and Aaron Alexis (the former Navy technician and contractor who murdered 12 people and wounded several others at the D.C. Naval Yard on September 16) are being judiciously scrubbed by the White House. In actuality, there may not have been any commonalities between

them, save that both were 34 years old, black, from Brooklyn—and that they both decided to go berserk in the nation’s capitol within a few weeks of each other. In the aggregate, I would still say that’s a hell of a set of coincidences to swallow...” [49434]

“...The rapid, pat assessments that were made with regard to Ms. Carey’s condition, history, and possible motivation for the attack were too... well, rapid and pat. These assessments, reported as having come from ‘sources,’ also give rise to questions about the narrative with regard to the condition, history, and possible motivation of Aaron Alexis. Were these accounts of mental incapacity mere cover stories, crafted over time in advance, in order to validate the antisocial behavior that was to occur later, by design? It would not be the first time it was suggested that our government or this administration engaged in PsyOps, sophisticated psychological manipulation techniques calculated to impel an individual toward a predetermined action. Prior to his meltdown, Aaron Alexis told a Rhode Island policeman that he was being followed by people who were using some sort of technology to disorient and torment him. According to some reports, Miriam Carey believed that ...Obama was electronically monitoring her Connecticut home in order to ‘broadcast her life on television.’ Other reports stated that she said he was communicating with her ‘via radio waves.’ Well, which was it? Prior to attempting to run the barricade in front of the White House, Carey supposedly exchanged words with the Secret Service agent she nearly ran down moments later. What was the nature of the exchange? And who brings a one-year-old child to an assault on one of the most closely-guarded compounds on the planet? A crazy woman, of course. But was she?” [49434]

“...No one would have ever believed beforehand that [Obama] might conspire with his Department of Justice and other agencies to funnel weapons to Mexican drug lords in order to precipitate a panic over America’s rampant ‘gun culture’—but indeed, this occurred. Nor would Americans have thought that [Obama] would clandestinely provide arms to the same Muslim fanatics who attacked us in 2001, then order an attack on the compound facilitating such action when it became a liability. No one would have believed that Obama would allow American personnel to perish at that compound in order to preserve his power. Yet it is more or less apparent that he did all of those things and more. In fact, he is now supplying the same Muslim fanatics in Syria with weaponry overtly, having simply declared that he has the legal right to do so. If that is not definitive of a tyrant—and one who would employ any means necessary in order to attain his objectives—then what is?” (Miriam Carey’ sister, Valerie, later wonders if Miriam was quickly disposed of because her daughter is Obama’s “love child.”) [49434, 51825]

At EagleTribune.com, Newport News, Virginia resident Karen Trevett writes, “I was astounded when I went to my doctor’s office... Across the parking lot, where there is a lovely little nature path [through the Lake Maury Natural Area] for patients, etc. to stroll... there sits a park ranger in his car, lights on, blocking anyone from taking a stroll. There are no structures, water fountains, handrails—just a nice little area to walk around in for some fresh air. I cannot imagine how much it costs to have a ranger there 24/7 to keep this path closed. I rolled my window down as I pulled up beside him and asked him ‘Really? And you're not embarrassed?’ He gave me an ugly go-to-hell look and rolled his

window back up. P.S. It was a bit chilly today, so he was keeping his motor running... polluting, spending money on gasoline... all on the taxpayer dime.” [49616, 49617]

Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius writes in *USA Today*, “When the Health Insurance Marketplace opened last week, demand was so high, it exceeded even optimists’ expectations. On the first day alone, HealthCare.gov had nearly eight times more concurrent users than Medicare’s site (one of the federal government’s most highly trafficked) during open enrollment peak levels. Many of our neighbors have been waiting years for affordable health insurance. Some have waited their entire lives. ...Of course, nobody wants Americans to have to wait to sign up. Engineers are working day and night to make upgrades. We’re adding more servers to enable the system to handle larger loads. And we’re upgrading our software as well to make the system more efficient and enable it to handle higher volumes. This work is delivering results. Wait times on HealthCare.gov are now 50% shorter, and more people are enrolling in affordable coverage. ...[The web site] is simple and user-friendly, and the coverage is affordable.” [49436]

Townhall.com’s Guy Benson writes, “[A]most nothing Sebelius says comports with reality. The glitches are not primarily a result of high demand (though that excuse itself betrays disturbing ineptitude), and some of the most thorny technological issues are going to be very difficult to rectify. The administration continues to crow about the number of people visiting its websites, while refusing to reveal how many people have actually enrolled in the program—an announcement that won’t come for weeks. In some major states, experts believe that approximately zero people have successfully obtained coverage, and one of the law’s prominent ‘success’ stories [Chad Henderson] was exposed as a lie late last week. Sebelius asserts that the enrollment process is ‘simple’ (false), ‘user-friendly’ (pants-on-fire false, see video below) and ‘affordable’ (strike three).” [49438]

USA Today’s editorial board writes, “Over the first four days the new online health insurance exchanges were open last week, more than 8 million people visited them, according to the Obama administration. ...Alas, the administration managed to turn the experience for most of those visitors into a nightmare. Websites crashed, refused to load, or offered bizarre and incomprehensible choices. Even though the system was shut down for repairs over the weekend, Monday’s early reports continued to suggest an epic screw-up. ...Obama’s chief technology adviser, Todd Park, blames the unexpectedly large numbers of people who flocked to Healthcare.gov and state websites. ‘Take away the volume and it works,’ he told USA TODAY’s Tim Mullaney. That’s like saying that except for the torrential rain, it’s a really nice day. Was Park not listening to the administration’s daily weather report predicting Obamacare’s popularity? Park said the administration expected 50,000 to 60,000 simultaneous users. It got 250,000. Compare that with the similarly rocky debut seven years ago of exchanges to obtain Medicare drug coverage. The Bush administration projected 20,000 simultaneous users and built capacity for 150,000. That’s the difference between competence and incompetence.” (For the thin-skinned Obama, those last three sentences are particularly stinging.) [49437, 49438]

“The too-much-demand excuse also is less than the full story. In addition to grossly underestimating demand, the administration and its contractors seem to have made mistakes in building the websites. The system for verifying consumer identity has had persistent problems, as have pull-down menus. Nor were problems confined to the 36 state health exchanges run by the federal government. Sites run by 14 states and Washington, D.C., bogged down because they have to refer to federal databases to verify consumers’ identity. ...Considering that officials had more than three years to prepare, it’s hard even to imagine a credible excuse. And if the Medicare Part D experience is any guide, new layers of problems await as people finally get through and engage the complexities of buying insurance. If there’s good news, it’s that technology can be fixed. Consumers have until mid-December to sign up for insurance that takes effect Jan. 1. As the incompetence drones on, however, it hands ammunition to those who want to kill the law regardless of the broad interest in it. Delay—a tactic Republicans seek as a means of repealing Obamacare—is no answer. Even so, the administration had better get its act together before frustration drives people away.” [49437, 49438]

The Obama Timeline once again attempts to use Healthcare.gov to obtain ObamaCare premium information. Once again, the process ends at the third page with the message, “Important: Your account couldnt [sic] be created at this time. Call the Marketplace Call Center at 1-800-318-2596. TTY users should call 1-855-889-4325.” The site then returns to the first page, forcing the reentry of two pages of data.

DailyCaller.com posts several Twitter messages from Americans who experienced sticker shock when they accessed Healthcare.gov [grammar and spelling not corrected]: “I checked out an Obamacare exchange and it impressed me.. Until I saw the lowest premium for me was 3x what I am paying now.” “My health insurance will TRIPLE in cost. I can't afford that.” “Just notified that I will be paying more for my existing health insurance come December. Thank you Obamacare...” “Paying a penalty for not having insurance? So we’re being punished for being healthy. ObamaNOTcare.” “My family is losing our health ins. due to the ACA even though Obama told us that we wouldn't be affected by the law.” “I was all for the Affordable Care Act (aka Obamacare) up until my son’s insurance premiums almost DOUBLED and became anything BUT affordable.” “Premium Health insurance cost 350 a week for that whole family I know lotta people that don’t make that kind of money weekly. god save us.” “So the minimum plan for obamacare is 100 bucks a month I like you Obama but nigga I’m broke.” “Health insurance cost \$30 a month but starting January it’s gonna cost 190 a month. So I'm essentially paying for 5 other people ? Fuckk you.” “My health insurance went up cuz of yall. I’m pretty much paying more for these lazy fucks all over the united states.” “This Affordable Care Act I like but Obamacare? First sign of the rapture.” [49449]

Republicans on the Senate Finance Committee report ObamaCare sticker shock stories as well. Bob Kapolnek, of Champaign, Illinois, states, “My family premium of \$789/mo for a healthy family of five just went up to \$1700/mo, for a plan that we were completely happy with. ...My premium is now higher than my mortgage.” Gail Williamson Schall

writes, “I am all for affordable healthcare. I don't think going from a premium of \$289 to \$855 is affordable.” [50067]

Bloomberg.com reports, “Insurers are getting faulty and incomplete data from the new U.S.-run health exchange, which may mean some Americans won't be covered even after they sign up for an insurance plan. While it's not clear how widespread the problem is, the reports from industry consultants are the first hint that the technical troubles faced by consumers trying to enroll in health plans under the Affordable Care Act may also be hitting the insurers. The companies are receiving electronic files that can't open or have so much missing information on new enrollees they're unusable, the consultants said. Some insurers have been forced to fix entries by hand, said Bob Laszewski, an insurance-industry consultant based in Arlington, Virginia. ‘If we don't see substantial improvement by the end of this week, then I would throw up the yellow flag,’ said Dan Schuyler, a consultant advising states and insurers on the exchanges. ‘If we don't see it in the next two to three weeks, it's time for red flags. The concern is some people could get to Jan. 1, and not have coverage.’ ... ‘If you've only got a dozen bad enrollments, that's OK, but what are you going to do when you have 200,000 bad enrollments?’ Laszewski said. ‘What we're seeing in public is the web portal, which is a mess. It is just as bad behind the wizard's curtain.’” [49439, 49467]

Obama and the Democrat-controlled Senate continue to refuse to approve the various spending bills passed by the House of Representatives. [49440]

DailyCaller.com reports that, effective July 1, 2014, Cook County may dump its part-time county workers onto the ObamaCare exchanges to avoid providing them with health insurance. (Cook County covers Chicago and surrounding suburbs.) County board president Toni Preckwinkle states, “The proposal would require employees and officials who receive less than full-time County pay to pick up the full share of their health benefits. ... The County estimates that the plan will affect roughly 400 individuals, including Cook County circuit court and associate judges, part-time crossing guards and commissioners for the Chicago Board of Elections.” [49448, 49474]

The White House announces the nomination of Janet Yellen to replace Ben Bernanke as chairman of the Federal Reserve in January. (Obama could have appointed Bernanke to another term, but Bernanke likely does not want to be around when the disaster he helped cause strikes. Yellen, like Bernanke, is a dedicated money-printer. If she continues to expand the money supply to prop up the stock market, that bubble will eventually burst and the market will crash and consumers will face devastating price inflation. If Yellen stops expanding the money supply, the result will be higher interest rates, higher prices, and higher unemployment. She cannot win, regardless of what she does. It will not entirely be her fault, but she will get blamed more than Bernanke—and liberal politicians and members of the media will respond to that criticism with cries of “sexism” and a “war on women.” *The Obama Timeline* suggests buying gold and silver to protect against the inevitable Bernanke-Yellen inflation.) Yellen, age 67, is the daughter of school teacher Anna Blumenthal and physician Julius Yellen. (Some claim that Yellen is a descendant of David Rockefeller; *The Obama Timeline* has not been able to confirm any

such connection. Yellen is, however, a member of the globalist Council on Foreign Relations—which was founded by the Rockefeller banking family in 1921.) [49466, 49523, 49545, 49562, 49575, 49576, 49582, 49583, 49584]

HotAir.com reports, “With the government shutdown entering its second week and the Oct. 17 debt-limit deadline looming, House Republicans are poised to pursue a strategy that deals with each crisis separately, with an emphasis on agreeing to a short-term debt-ceiling deal as quickly as possible. According to several high-ranking Republican aides, the House GOP leadership... will inform lawmakers of its plan to continue passing individual funding bills to reopen specific areas of the federal government. On a separate track, the House majority will pursue a short-term extension of the debt limit in hopes of reaching an agreement with the Senate before next Thursday’s deadline. The proposal being floated right now, according to aides, would extend the debt limit for roughly one month and include dollar-for-dollar spending cuts. To win over skeptical conservatives, the House proposal is also likely to include language that would instruct the Treasury Department to prioritize its payments in the event a debt-ceiling agreement is not reached.” Ed Morrissey comments, “This is actually quite a clever play—and one opened up by the White House, actually. Yesterday’s suggestion that they would accept a short-term debt-ceiling increase undercut [Senate Majority Leader Harry] Reid [D-NV] and signaled to [House Speaker John] Boehner [R-OH] that the GOP could exploit a rift between the Senate and the White House. Now Boehner can make the White House either bite the bullet and take a short-term deal, or reverse itself and shoulder more of the blame for the impasse. That’s not the end of the benefit for Boehner, either. Reid wanted to pose his debt-ceiling bill as the only solution on the table, forcing Senate Republicans to either vote for ‘default’ or vote to raise the debt ceiling. If the House sends this bill to the Senate, it provides plenty of political cover for Republicans to filibuster Reid’s bill—and increases pressure on Reid to either bring the House bill to the floor. As an alternative, Republicans could agree to allow the floor vote on Reid’s bill in exchange for a commitment to finally go to conference on the two companion bills to resolve the debt-ceiling standoff, at least.” [49457, 49458]

Politico reports, “When ...Obama laid out his strategy for the current debt-limit fight in a private meeting with Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid this past summer, Reid stipulated one condition: No Joe Biden. And while Biden attended the White House dog-and-pony show meeting last week with congressional leaders, Reid has effectively barred him from the backrooms, according to sources familiar with the situation. The vice president’s disappearance has grown ever more noticeable as the government shutdown enters its eighth day with no resolution in sight and a debt limit crisis looms. Biden was once Democrats’ deal-maker-in-chief, designing budget pacts with Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell in the summer of 2011 and New Year’s Eve 2013. But Biden’s deals rubbed Democrats raw. He gave up too much, they said. And for that, they have frozen him out—at least for now.” (At HotAir.com Ed Morrissey comments, “If we see Biden suddenly reappear, we’ll know that Reid’s out of moves, and that the White House is out of patience.”) [49458, 49459, 49482]

The Better Business Bureau's David Smitherman warns of ObamaCare scammers, saying, "Scammers look at opportunities where there's confusion, where people don't really understand what perhaps the new law is bringing to them. ... There's plenty of confusion over this, and this a great opportunity for scammers to confuse you further to try and get into your pocketbook. ... We're getting reports even here in Birmingham [Alabama] of people going door-to-door, telling homeowners that they are with an insurance company or they are with Medicare and that they're going to have to have an Affordable Care Act Card. And so, in order to get their new card they've got to give their Social Security number, their bank accounts, all these things that people need to protect with everything they have and we've gotten report of them just handing these out... It's a perfect opportunity for your identity to be stolen, for your bank accounts to be... your payments to be re-routed. It's just so critical that people understand what the Affordable Care Act is, what it will do and what it won't do, and you're not going to get that information from strangers knocking on your door or calling you on the telephone." [49465]

According to a Fox News national poll, 58 percent of Americans oppose raising the debt ceiling; 37 percent favor increasing it; and "62 percent of voters want Congress to raise the limit only after agreeing on 'major cuts in government spending.' Far fewer—27 percent—believe the limit must be increased and that is it 'reckless' to even debate not doing so." [49473]

WashingtonTimes.com reports, "A guide who led a tour group through Yellowstone as the government shutdown began accused the National Park Service of 'Gestapo tactics' in trying to prevent the visitors from viewing any of the park's sites. Tour director Gordon Hodgson told the Livingston Enterprise, a Montana newspaper, that park rangers allowed the group to stay at a lodge for the 48 hours they were allotted under shutdown rules, but refused to let them do anything else in the park—including walk on the boardwalk paths outside the lodge or visit any of the park's geysers. At one point he tried to take his tour out and pulled over to let them photograph bison, but a park ranger pulled up and ordered them to get back on the bus, telling them they could be charged with trespassing. 'She told me you need to return to your hotel and stay there,' Hodgson told the Livingston Enterprise. 'This is just Gestapo tactics. We paid a lot to get in. All these people wanted to do was take some pictures.'" According to WND.com, "Officials even refused to allow the tourists to stop for bathroom breaks during the two-and-a-half hour drive out of the park, [Hodgson] said." [49476, 49499, 49532, 49540, 49616]

Several thousand illegal immigrants and other supporters of amnesty legislation gather in Washington, D.C. (The organizers had predicted "hundreds of thousands" would attend.) Breitbart.com's Matthew Boyle reports, "Illegal immigrants and union members have been chanting 'Si Se Puede!' the Spanish slogan of the United Farm Workers which ... Obama adapted for his 'Yes we can!' campaign slogan. The event on the National Mall, which is supposed to be closed because of the ongoing government shutdown but to which the Obama administration granted exception for today's rally, is heavily funded by organizations like the labor unions and amnesty special interest lobbyists sponsoring it. At least four jumbotrons and an elaborate setup of port-a-potties, special event fencing,

tents, and raised and lighted stages are set up across the National Mall.” (Approximately 200 demonstrators and eight congressmen are arrested at the gathering for “crowding, obstructing, and incommoding” as a result of their sitting in the middle of Independence Avenue and blocking rush hour traffic. The congressmen—eagerly and purposely arrested in order to show Hispanic voters they support amnesty for illegal immigrants—are Keith Ellis (D-MN), John Lewis (D-GA), Raul Grijalva (D-AZ), Joseph Crowley (D-NY), Al Green (D-TX), Luis Gutierrez (D-IL), Jan Schakowsky (D-IL) and Charles Rangel (D-NY). Although Nancy Pelosi addresses the crowd of illegals, she manages to escape arrest—possibly to avoid going without Botox injections while she is incarcerated.) [49479, 49483, 49489, 49498, 49511]

Far left columnist Andrew Sullivan takes Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius to task for her “performance” on *The Daily Show*, writing that she “was so incoherent, so incapable of even basic reasoning, so tied to exhausted talking points, so unable to concede, let alone explain, error, that she would be fired if she were a spokesperson for a minor member of Congress. And yet she is allegedly in charge of the most important domestic policy initiative of this administration and has presided over a rolling disaster in terms of its critical first week. ... Why was she incapable of explaining the huge crush of demand or the fact that 32 states refused to cooperate, making the feds’ task that much more difficult? Why could she offer no plausible reason for why corporations with over 50 employees got an extra year to comply, while individuals don’t? This was a very friendly media environment, and she was given acres of time to give even a small explanation. And she was worse than useless. Part of an official’s job is to be able to be accountable to the public for failures, to help explain them, to give an idea of how they are going to be addressed. She failed. Another part of an official’s job is to make sure that critical programs under her jurisdiction run smoothly—especially when they are as critical as Obamacare. She has failed at that as well. Why is [Obama] content with that kind of grotesque incompetence and lack of accountability? And when will she be fired?” (Obama is content with grotesque incompetence because he was not looking for competence when he assembled his cabinet and his staff. He was looking for leftist thugs who would implement his socialist agenda without question. He hired them for their political ideology, not for their brains.) [49480]

NationalReview.com lists “Thirty Obamacare Fails.” [49481]

Politico reports that Obama “held an off-the-record meeting with five conservative journalists on Tuesday afternoon. Present at the meeting were Charles Krauthammer, the Washington Post columnist and Fox News contributor; Paul Gigot, the Wall Street Journal editorial page editor; Robert Costa, the National Review’s Washington editor; syndicated columnist Kathleen Parker; and Washington Examiner columnist Byron York, according to a source with knowledge of the meeting.” (For the record, Parker is not particularly conservative. What the five have in common is criticism of Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX) for trying to defund ObamaCare—a criticism which some might argue diminishes their conservative credentials somewhat. What they discussed is not known, but *The Obama Timeline* speculates that Obama attempted to convince the five that the debt ceiling has to be raised or the world will end, and he likely told them, “I need your

help in getting the message out. It is time to place country ahead of partisan politics.” Whether that would have prompted laughter is not known.) [49487, 49613]

WashingtonPost.com reports, “Major insurers, state health-care officials and Democratic allies repeatedly warned the Obama administration in recent months that the new federal health-insurance exchange had significant problems, according to people familiar with the conversations. Despite those warnings and intense criticism from Republicans, the White House proceeded with an Oct. 1 launch.” Congressman Robert E. Andrews (D-NJ), “who played a key role in passing the health-care law and has worked on its implementation, said he told White House officials early this summer he had been hearing from insurers that the online system had flaws. ‘Nothing I told them ever surprised them,’ Andrews said in an interview. ‘The White House has acknowledged all along something this massive was going to have implementation problems.’ Two allies of the administration, both of whom spoke on the condition of anonymity because of the controversy surrounding the rollout, said they approached White House officials this year to raise concerns that the federal exchange was not ready to launch. In both cases, Obama officials assured them there was no cause for alarm. Robert Laszewski, a health-care consultant with clients in the insurance industry, said insurers were complaining loudly that the site, www.healthcare.gov, was not working smoothly during frequent teleconferences with officials at the Department of Health and Human Services before the exchange’s launch and afterward. ‘People were pulling out their hair,’ he said.

...Republicans on the House Energy and Commerce Committee sent a letter to HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius on Tuesday demanding that she disclose exactly how many consumers have purchased health plans through the new exchanges. ... John Engates, chief technology officer at service provider RackSpace, said the government should have been able to prepare for the type of traffic that the site has experienced. ‘I think that any modern Web company would be well prepared for a launch of this scale,’ said Engates. ‘We’re not talking about hundreds of millions of people and we’re not talking about complex transactions. This isn’t downloading full movies off of Netflix. The question I have is: Did they have enough time to prepare and did the people doing the work know what they were doing?’” [49521, 49522]

Asked if he supports a “clean” debt limit increase, Senator Joe Manchin (D-WV) tells *The Weekly Standard*, “I’m just looking at everything. No. I want to fix the long-term financial problems.” (Some have claimed that all 54 Senate Democrats would vote to increase the debt limit with no conditions. Based on Manchin’s response, that may not be the case—and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) may not be able to round up enough weak-kneed Republicans to get the 60 votes needed to pass the bill. If the Senate Democrats cannot pass a clean bill, House Republicans will then be even more resistant do doing so.) [49526, 49527]

Former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations John Bolton reacts to Iran’s offer to stop enriching uranium to levels greater than five percent, telling BreitbartNews.com, “This Iran deal is complete bullshit. Pure propaganda. The time it takes to go from 20% enrichment to full weaponization is two weeks. They are not supposed to do any enrichment, but Obama already conceded that.” [49566]

Catholic.org reports, “In what looks like a spiteful move, the NPS [National Park Service] even removed handles from water spigots along the Chesapeake and Ohio canal where bikers and joggers exercise as well as along the Great Allegheny Passage, just to ensure people don’t get any water from them. Instead of saving money, the NPS is expending additional resources to go out of its way to close such locations and to make people miserable.” (The action is reminiscent of the outgoing Clinton staffers removing the “W” keys from all White House keyboards just as George W. Bush was being sworn in.) [49629, 49630]

Fox59.com reports, “Fifteen Indiana school districts and the State of Indiana filed a lawsuit involving the Affordable Care Act. The suit names the Internal Revenue Service, the United States Department of the Treasury and the United States Department of Health and Human Services as defendants. Indiana is the lead plaintiff in the suit. The lawsuit revolves around the ACA’s mandate that employers provide health insurance to all employees who work more than 30 hours per week. According to the lawsuit, the Affordable Care Act will impose significant penalties on employers who fail to provide all of their full-time workers with affordable, minimum coverage. The state and schools said the penalties would result in ‘catastrophic financial consequences for Indiana public school corporations.’ To avoid those repercussions, school districts have reduced the hours for non-benefit eligible employees like bus drivers, instructional aides, cafeteria workers and substitute teachers. Schools said the long-term effects of these reduced hours will have a ‘long-term detrimental impact’ on the education of Hoosier students. The lawsuit challenges new IRS regulations involving the ACA. It also questions the authority of the federal government to impose the employer mandate on the State of Indiana and its public schools.” [49632, 49633]

On *Special Report*, Charles Krauthammer comments on the administration’s refusal to pay \$100,000 death benefits to the families of five soldiers killed in Afghanistan and blaming it on the partial shutdown: “I think there are two issues here. One is was it a political act? I tend to think that some of these interpretations, clearly, people seem to be always erring on the side of being rough and tough and irrational like the cordoning off of the World War II Memorial, which is open-air and where it takes more park rangers to cordon it off than it would to accompany the aging veterans on to the site. I think there’s an element—and we saw it in the sequestration, this isn’t the first time. The administration is using anything it doesn’t like as a way to punish the American people. But there’s a larger issue here. And that is, as the state becomes larger and larger, the bureaucracy becomes stronger and more arrogant and independent. It believes and after all, it regulates. That’s what it does. And it becomes punitive in the sense of saying, listen, you want to hold up the government? We’re going to show you who’s in charge, we’re going to shut down all the monuments. If we don’t get a blank check, we’re going to do x, y and z. And incidentally, on the question of language, the liberals always seize the dictionary here. When we talk about a clean C.R. [continuing resolution], well, that sounds nice, it’s clean, right? And the Republicans want a dirty C.R., a continuing resolution. I would say what the Republicans are asking for is to deny the administration a blank check. That’s what the Democrats and the bureaucracy are demanding. So it

would be nice if we could undo that language. Where all of the sudden it looks as if what the Democrats are asking, is inherently good, after all, clean is good. A blank check is a bad idea.” (Krauthammer is correct: the Republicans cede points to the Democrats by letting them control the language on the issues.) It is worth noting that Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel had *never* greeted the caskets of killed servicemen *until* the story of the delayed death benefits broke. He then suddenly developed compassion and met the next five to arrive—providing the media with a photo and a chance to “report” that the Obama administration “cares” but the Republicans do not. [49537, 49590, 49641]

On October 9 FoxNews.com reports that the Fisher House Foundation “has stepped forward to cover death benefits for the families of troops who’ve been killed in combat after the Pentagon confirmed the payments have been suspended as a result of the partial government shutdown. ...The Pentagon says that as long as the budget impasse lasts, it will not be able to pay death benefits to the families of troops who've been killed in combat. The bodies of soldiers killed in Afghanistan since the budget deadlock began will arrive at Dover Air Force Base on Wednesday; Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel plans to attend. ...[House] Speaker John Boehner [R-OH] blasted the Obama administration Tuesday for withholding the payments. He said Congress gave the Defense Department broad authority to continue paying bills such as the death payments in a law passed just before the partial government shut down on Oct. 1. House lawmakers are planning to vote Wednesday [October 9] on a bill to restore funding for the payments. Speaker John Boehner blasted the Obama administration Tuesday for withholding the payments. Boehner claimed a bill passed by Congress and signed by [Obama] last week to pay America’s troops should have given the Pentagon the latitude ‘to pay all kinds of bills, including this. I think it’s disgraceful that they’re withholding these benefits.” [49490, 49491]

Examiner.com writes, “Barack Obama’s press conference from the White House yesterday spoke volumes about what kind of man [he] truly is. [The] narcissistic, man-child, petulant [Obama] used terms like ‘holding hostage,’ ‘ransom,’ ‘burn down your house,’ ‘chaos,’ ‘a nuclear bomb,’ etc. Obama was unhinged and barely in control, lashing out at Republicans in Congress (that he refuses to negotiate with) because they won’t just roll over and give him everything he wants. Simply put, the press conference yesterday was a temper tantrum from a very narcissistic baby. Early this year we read about the theory that perhaps Barack Obama’s absence the night Benghazi burned could explained by the notion that [he] was getting high on cocaine with his pal Reggie Love. This theory was put forth by a blogger [at HillBuzz.org] named Kevin DuJan, who suggested [Obama’s] behavior was consistent with what he knew of the behavior of someone who is addicted to illegal drugs, perhaps cocaine. Obama himself, in his autobiography, admitted to past cocaine use. I have no doubt that yesterday’s behavior at that press conference could well be the behavior of a cocaine addict. This web site [<http://www.wikihow.com/Tell-if-a-Person-Is-Using-Cocaine>], in part says such an addict would, ‘Over time, crack/cocaine abusers may become secretive, unreliable and dishonest. They may exhibit dramatic mood swings, depression, or psychotic behavior, due to the neurological effects of the drug.’” [50331, 50332, 50333, 50335, 50336]

Information security firm TrustedSec, LLC suggests Healthcare.gov is “probably not” very secure. “We decided to look around—please note that there was nothing malicious, no hacking, and nothing intrusive involved in this test in any regard. We simply browsed the website as a normal visitor without any type of attacks at all. Just by looking at information, you can determine the quality of the code, and whether simple best practices in security are being followed. ...[Y]ou can enumerate [both] valid and invalid user accounts in the database. Even worse is there are no form or appearance of automation deterrents such as CAPTCHA or image verifications that a human is attempting this. We can easily feed this through Burp Intruder for the content length from the response to see which usernames were actually valid. Essentially you could enumerate the entire database of user accounts in the new healthcare.gov website through brute forcing the response codes and finding valid usernames. Additionally, developer comment code is plastered everywhere which gives an attacker a significant amount of understanding about the application—these are literally everywhere on almost every page that’s opened and all third party files. ... We’ve also identified some significant [security issues] that we can’t post online due to the critical nature of them and [because we are] attempting to contact the development team for the website to remediate. Our intent is not to point out flaws, show flaws, or demonstrate insecurities, only to bring the light that based on viewing like a normal user, there appears [sic] to be things that would indicate that there should be major reason for concern here. Again—nothing malicious performed here and we truly have no idea what the real exposures are without performing a full test on this, which we would have hoped would have been performed prior to any major production release.” [50206, 50238]

TrustedSec president David Kennedy tells Fox News, “This is just another validation point that if the government has [your personal] information [via Healthcare.gov], they’re going to use it or other purposes, not just for the actual medical field or for your health care benefits.” Kennedy claims the web site is full of security problems. “We can look at the code that’s behind it, look at how things work. And we can tell that there wasn’t [sic; weren’t] even minimum standards bolted onto this application, even before its release. ... If I was [sic; were] allowed to attack the website by myself and I had approval to go and do it, it would be very simple for me to break into it, steal all that information that’s in the database including all of your personal information that you used to register for the site, Social Security numbers—everything like that.” [50238]

At LewRockwell.com Michael Snyder points out, “The U.S. government must roll over 441 billion dollars of short-term debt between October 18th and November 15th. If a debt ceiling increase is not in place by that time, it will send interest rates soaring. Borrowing costs for state and local governments, corporations, and ordinary Americans will go through the roof and economic activity will be hit really hard. And as detailed above, we could potentially be looking at a financial crash that would make 2008 look like a Sunday picnic. So let us hope for a political solution soon. That will at least kick the can down the road for a little bit longer. If a debt default were to happen before the end of this year, that would bring a tremendous amount of future economic pain into the here and now, and the consequences would likely be far greater than any of us could possibly imagine.” (The government’s “solution” to the problem is to borrow even more money, “legalizing”

that process by increasing the debt limit by another \$1 trillion. But that does not solve the problem; it only delays the date of the eventual fiscal collapse. The reality is that the government has to continue to borrow *forever* in order to pay the interest on the debt it has already accumulated. If a large percentage of creditors decide to cash in their bonds, bills, and notes, rather than roll them over into new loans to the government, the game will be over. If, for example, the owners of that \$441 billion in debt were to say to Treasury Secretary Jacob Lew, “Thanks, but no thanks. I do not want to roll over my bonds. I just want the cash, please,” the government would *immediately* need to come up with \$441 billion—and it would not have it. The critical issue is not, “Will Congress raise the debt ceiling?” because it most certainly will. The critical issue is, “What happens when the creditors decide they are no longer willing to be creditors?”) [49493]

The Obama Timeline attempts *again* to obtain premium amount information from the federal exchange via Healthcare.gov. *Again* the system block progress on the third page, forcing reentry of data on pages one and two.

At PolicyMic.com Shoshana Weissman, founder of Network Red, writes, “I’m never signing up for Obamacare. As a millennial with multiple pre-existing conditions, I know Obamacare is bad for millennials and bad for anyone who will ever have a medical expense. Obamacare forces millennials to pay for other people’s health insurance, increases our health insurance and care costs, and functions like a monopoly. Millennials are not paying for our health care. We’re paying for other people’s health care. Obamacare exchanges work by forcing lots of young healthy people to sign up for the program and pay for the expenses of older people and sick people. Former President Bill Clinton admitted this, saying Obamacare ‘only works, for example, if young people show up.’ He went on to say, ‘We’ve got to have them in the pools, because otherwise all these projected low costs cannot be held if older people with preexisting conditions are disproportionately represented in any given state.’ Healthy young adults (specifically, their money) are the key to keeping Obamacare afloat. That does not sound like the foundation of a solid, sustainable plan. ... Many millennials are choosing to pay the penalty that Obamacare charges for not buying health insurance, because it is cheaper than buying health care under Obamacare. ... The government incentivizes people to drop their plans, and instead buy plans from the Obamacare exchanges. This is because only plans purchased from the Obamacare exchange are eligible for subsidies. This hurts health insurance companies which are not a part of the exchange, as consumers will flock to the plans which cost the least, or which are subsidized by the government. The government encourages people to purchase health insurance from some companies (namely, Blue Cross Blue Shield) over others, creating an environment of crony capitalism. Government should never choose which companies win and which ones lose. However, that is exactly what happens under Obamacare. The Affordable Care Act is a terrible deal for millennials. It takes our money to pay for other people’s health insurance, raises health insurance costs, and does not fix the real problems with the country’s health care system.” [49695, 49696]

On MSNBC, Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz (chairman of the Democrat National Committee) is asked how many Americans have signed up for ObamaCare

coverage. She replies, “So, clearly, uh, we’re, we’re, uh, eight days in and, uh, the, to, to be insisting on, uh, data being produced day by day for a six month enrollment program that, that, you know, is a little bit unfair.” [49500]

DailyCaller.com reports, “Top Internal Revenue Service Obamacare official Sarah Hall Ingram discussed confidential taxpayer information with senior Obama White House officials, according to 2012 emails obtained by the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee and provided to The Daily Caller. Lois Lerner, then head of the IRS Tax Exempt Organizations division, also received an email alongside White House officials that contained confidential information. Ingram attempted to counsel the White House on a lawsuit from religious organizations opposing Obamacare’s contraception mandate. Email exchanges involving Ingram and White House officials—including White House health policy advisor Ellen Montz and deputy assistant to the president for health policy Jeanne Lambrew—contained confidential taxpayer information...” (Confidential taxpayer information cannot legally be given to the White House unless there has been a request that includes Obama’s signature. If Ingram was sharing such information, either she is guilty of breaking federal law—or there is a paper trail with Obama’s signature.) [49501, 49502, 49531, 49601]

The House votes 425–0 to restore funding for death benefits for members of the Armed Forces. (The vote is arguably unnecessary, as legislation covering military benefits passed by the House days earlier was intended to include the \$100,000 death benefit payments—but attorneys for the Department of Defense, the Department of Justice, *and* the White House argued against that interpretation, thereby forcing the House to pass more specific legislation. Death benefits were never denied during previous partial shutdowns.) [49503, 49529, 49536]

On CNN, correspondent Brian Todd reports, “A week into it, still a lot of glitches [with healthcare.gov]. People not able to create accounts, just to get information to possibly enroll, much less not being able to enroll in the plan. We’re also hearing now that the administration was warned about these potential problems months in advance. We spoke to a health care consultant who has clients who are insurers. He says his insurers, who dealt with the administration in the months ahead of time, had contentious meetings with people at [Health and Human Services] and other health care officials who were in charge of this, warning them, ‘This isn’t working, it’s not going to be smooth, don’t do it.’ He says those warnings were ignored, they went full speed ahead, and said we’ll work these problems out. There’s been a bit of pushback from the White House, we’ll hope to get more later from them.’ Wolf Blitzer—no fan of conservatives—says, “If they [the Obama administration] weren’t fully ready [to implement ObamaCare], they should accept the advice that a lot of Republicans are giving them—delay it another year, get it ready, and make sure it works. There are other government health care-related websites that work great. They know how to do it, but if they didn’t get it ready on time, then maybe fix the problem[s] and make sure people don’t have to worry about it.” (Blitzer’s comment apparently gets him in trouble with higher-ups at CNN, the White House, or his leftist fan base, because he later issues a Twitter message: “Context matters. Earlier I said the govt shouldn’t launch a website before it works. I did not express a view about the individual

mandate.” The statement makes no sense, because it would be absurd to delay the healthcare.gov web site “another year,” as he suggested, while not delaying the individual mandate. That is, the government could not very well tax people for not enrolling in ObamaCare if the enrollment process is not yet operational.) [49504, 49505, 49587, 49600, 49612, 49739]

At NationalReview.com Andrew C. McCarthy writes, “Obama has a long history of reversing himself, of moving 180 degrees from A to B with no discernible shame or ebb of indignation. The notion that it could never happen here—when the repeal of Obamacare is not on the table and thus [Obama] is in no danger of seeing his legacy erased, at least for now—gave Obama way too much credit. In prior reversals, the press has generally found a way to signal to the administration that, though it has tried mightily, public opinion is moving sharply in the wrong direction, and it is time to live to fight another day. I think that’s what Wolf Blitzer is telling the White House: ‘Look, you’re losing and it is getting worse for you every day. If you cut your losses now, there’s a graceful way out: We’ll tell everyone that the system failed to anticipate how much demand there would be for the Obamacare exchanges; that the public overwhelmingly blames Republicans for the catastrophic shutdown that now threatens a default (different issue, but the rubes won’t know any better); that the Republicans failed to defund Obamacare (even though the program will be suspended); and that you, [Obama], were big enough to realize it was best to have a delay so these unfortunate technical glitches could be resolved in time for everyone to enjoy a smooth Obamacare transition next year. But it’s time to fold—and if we turn the page now, we can move right on to how the tea-party zealots are bent on destroying the full faith and credit of the United States. In a few days, no one will even remember the geyser Stasi at Yellowstone Park.” [49740]

At Townhall.com Humberto Fontova notes that October 9th marks the 46th anniversary of the death of communist revolutionary Che Guevara—who said in 1961: “Youth must refrain from ungrateful questioning of governmental mandates!” (Whether Guevara was predicting ObamaCare’s individual mandate is not known.) Fontova writes, “The most popular version of the Che T-shirt... sports the slogan ‘fight oppression’ under his famous countenance. This is the face of the second-in-command, chief executioner, and chief KGB liaison for a regime that jailed political prisoners at a higher rate than Stalin’s and murdered more people in its first five years in power than Hitler’s murdered in its first six.” [49508]

LiveLeak.com reports, “A group of [Obama-backed] terrorists (Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant) who are fighting the Syrian Arab Army beheaded a soldier and vow to behead everyone who is an enemy of God. These people are wahhabis, who would behead their own children.” AtlasShrugs.com’s Pamela Geller asks, “Is there no one who can change the course of Obama’s genocidal foreign policy? Pure anti-Americanism. He is backing Islamic supremacist annihilationists in Syria, Egypt, Libya, Gaza... unspeakable.” (Wahhabism, named after Muslim theologian Muhammed ibn al-Wahhab, is a branch of Sunni Islam. Obama’s Kenyan family members are Sunni Muslims. Wahhabism is predominant in Saudi Arabia, the leaders of which some believe strongly

influence Obama's policies—such as his backing of the jihadist rebels in Syria and his opposition to the Keystone XL pipeline. The Saudis have a well-funded program in the United States designed to convert black prison inmates into extremist followers of Islam.) [49786, 49787, 50024, 50025, 50150, 50151, 50152, 50153]

Janet Yellen, the next chairman of the Federal Reserve, says, “The Fed’s mandate is to serve all Americans. Too many Americans still can’t find jobs and worry how they’re going to pay their bills and provide for their families.” (DailyCaller.com points out, “Yellen was alluding to the Fed’s ‘dual mandate’ of managing inflation and maximizing employment. This mandate is based on an antique [and flawed] economic theory called the ‘Phillips Curve,’ which posited an inverse relationship between inflation and unemployment. The Phillips Curve, a relic of Keynesian mythology, has been abandoned by economists after repeatedly failing to bear out in reality—most notably during the stagflation of the 1970s, and arguably during the unprecedented economic stagnation of the past six years. Since 2007, Bernanke has quadrupled the monetary base, and inflation—which is widely described as being under control or even too low—has in fact robbed the dollar of 13 percent of its value, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics’ inflation calculator. Yet the economy has moved sideways, unemployment remains above 7 percent, and household net worth is about where it was prior to the recession—amounting to a massive disappearance of buying power with no discernible positive effects on the economy.” Some people believe that although an expansion of the money supply causes price inflation, those higher prices are “worth it” because the expansion creates jobs. That is incorrect, because increased prices ultimately destroy jobs, and those lost jobs more than offset the—usually temporary—jobs that may have been created by “stimulating” the economy with the deficit spending. The simple truth is that printing money only benefits those who get it first—such as Wall Street and banks—and who can spend or invest it before prices skyrocket. The average American gets only the higher prices. Yellen, like her predecessor Ben Bernanke, absurdly believes it is possible to “control” inflation and the unemployment rate by printing “just the right amount” of money. Like Bernanke, Yellen will also fail at the attempt—because prosperity cannot be created by printing money. Prosperity is created by increasing productivity.) [49593, 49594]

On the floor of the House of Representatives, Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX) says, “It is not the truth to suggest that there are not enough voters [sic; votes], members of Congress, that [sic; who] would vote right now, today, to open this government. It’s something called a continuing resolution, but it’s a bill that you put on the floor that has been passed already by Republicans and Democrats in the United States Senate. This is not an idea of anyone over another person. Republican and Democratic Senators have already voted for this clean bill that we could vote on today. We have martial law—what that means—and my colleagues knows [sic] what it means—is that you can put a bill on in just minutes.” (Although Jackson is correct that the Senate has approved a “clean” continuing resolution, that does not mean the House must do the same. One can just as easily argue that the House has approved a continuing resolution with restrictions, and the Senate should do the same. As far as Lee’s reference to “martial law,” it is known by most informed Americans to mean the imposition of military rule

and the suspension of some civil rights during an emergency. The term has also been used to refer to a process of “fast tracking” legislation in Congress. But Jackson Lee’s quote will be interpreted by most who hear it as referring to a military action. Obama will not be happy if thousands of Americans ask their friends and neighbors, “Did you hear that crazy Democrat calling on Obama to impose martial law?” [49509, 49510, 49547]

Outspoken conservative actor James Woods comments on Twitter that Obama “...is a true abomination. To have barricaded the WW2 vets, but allow illegal aliens privilege...” “I don’t expect to work [in Hollywood] again [because of my political views]. I think Barack Obama is a threat to the integrity and future of the Republic. My country first.” [49512, 49513, 49766]

Newsmax.com reports, “Despite a Supreme Court decision last year dismissing objections to Obamacare, legal challenges to the law continue to mount—the latest attempt a case charging that [Obama] acted illegally when he delayed a provision requiring many employers to provide healthcare for their workers. The lawsuit by a Florida dentist seeking to overturn the delay of the ‘employer mandate’ joins other legal actions that also seek to undo all or part of the Affordable Care Act. One case pending in federal court claims Obamacare violates the Constitution’s Origination Clause, which states that all revenue measures are required to originate in the House. Legal actions have been filed over Obamacare’s mandate that health plans cover contraception, even for employers who have conscientious objections such as some religious hospitals. And several cases—including one filed by the Oklahoma attorney general—involve the issue of whether subsidies are permitted in federally run healthcare exchanges.” (ObamaCare provides for taxpayer subsidies *if* the insurance is purchased via a state exchange. But the law does *not* call for subsidies if the insurance is purchased on the federal exchange—that is, where the state has not established an exchange. As a result, a person in one state may get the subsidy even though a person in an adjacent state with the same income does not. The Obama administration is illegally and shamelessly “pretending” that the law provides subsidies in all states—when it does not.) [49543, 49546, 49552, 50074, 50610, 52689]

“In the challenge to the delay over the ‘employer mandate,’ the plaintiff in the federal lawsuit says ...Obama ‘crossed the red line’ by taking unilateral executive action to change the law. ‘I feel that he crossed the red line when he chose to waive the employer mandate. He generally rules by executive fiat, and he feels that he’s a Congress of one,’ Larry Kawa, a Florida dentist, told ‘The Steve Malzberg Show’ on Newsmax TV. Kawa said the president doesn’t have the authority ‘to pick and choose which parts of the law he’s going to enforce for the sake of political convenience.’ The lawsuit—filed by Judicial Watch on Kawa’s behalf in the Southern District of Florida against the U.S. Treasury and the Internal Revenue Service—argues that the delay of the employer mandate ‘exceeded statutory authority, is arbitrary, capricious, and contrary to law, and is otherwise unlawful.’” (Some argue that the drafters of the Affordable Care Act intentionally excluded non-exchange states from the subsidies as an incentive to get the states to establish their own exchanges—anticipating that no state would refuse to set up an exchange.) [49543, 49546, 49552, 50074, 50610, 52689]

At DailyCaller.com author Ann Coulter writes, “A longtime Democratic operative, Karen Finney, explained the Democrats’ intransigence on MSNBC to a delighted Joan Walsh (aka the most easily fooled person on TV) by comparing House Republicans to a teenager trying to borrow his mother’s car. ‘No, I’m not negotiating!’ Mother says. ‘It’s MY CAR!’ This wasn’t a stupid slip of the tongue that other Democrats quickly rejected. Finney had used the exact same metaphor to a panel of highly agreeable MSNBC guests the day before. (MSNBC books no other kind of guest.) The left thinks the government is their car and the people’s representatives are obstreperous teenagers trying to borrow the government. Which belongs to Democrats. That’s not how the Constitution views the House of Representatives. To the contrary, the House is considered most reflective of the people’s will because its members are elected every two years. As a matter of fact, the Republicans who mistakenly assume they have something to do with running the government represent most of the people who pay taxes to run it. So it’s more like a teenager who is making the car payments, maintaining the car insurance and taking responsibility for registering the car being told: ‘It’s not your car.’ But the Democrats refuse to even negotiate. It’s their government—and if you Republicans think you’re going out dressed like that, you’ve got another thing [sic; think] coming! Needless to say, they absolutely will not consider the Republicans’ demand that Democrats merely live under Obamacare themselves.” [49514]

At NaturalNews.com Mike Adams notes some of the ObamaCare web site glitches: “Incompatible field structures across multiple remote health insurance databases,” “Incompatible data types across multiple remote databases, causing errors when, for example, alpha data tries to get slammed into numeric fields,” “Data synchronization glitches, meaning database timeouts and ‘transaction locks’ that cause data records to be locked out of write access,” “System clock conflicts that cause data handshaking to fail due to mismatched time codes across systems in different time zones,” “Data field overruns due to short-sighted data structure design in legacy databases (i.e. long strings that don’t fit into short data fields),” “Security problems such as SQL injection attacks or targeted buffer overruns that compromise data integrity (and can even have the entire database stolen by hackers),” “Permissions errors where web applications do not have the proper security permissions to access the data required to populate web form fields (this is why drop-down boxes are failing).” [49516]

Adams writes, “The White House cannot name a single person who has successfully enrolled through this system. Kathleen Sebelius is lying when she says it’s ‘functioning.’ She’s running cover for Obama while he plays a delaying tactic, hoping nobody will notice his cornerstone legislation is built on a failed IT infrastructure that simply cannot function anytime in the foreseeable future. ...I’m not yet 100% certain of just how deeply flawed this system is, and I may yet be surprised if an R&D miracle occurs, but based on what I’m seeing right now—and based on my many years of R&D experience running high-level projects—this project looks to me like it’s dead in the water. Critical design flaws. Structural data failures. Data synchronization impossibilities. These are problems that can take YEARS to resolve, even when tackled by competent, experienced programmers. You cannot simply throw money at such a project and magically make it whole. I do not see the Obama administration demonstrating any legitimate level of R&D

competence here. I see it lying, covering up the truth, and trying to tell people something is working when it clearly isn't. This is the Obama administration handing you a pile of dog crap and telling you it's a blueberry muffin with whipped cream on top. Perhaps some of the most deeply-indoctrinated worshippers of the failed Obama dream can actually eat that crap and convince themselves it's a blueberry muffin, but the rest of us know what crap smells like the minute we get a waft. And this Obamacare exchange system smells like a handful of really ripe crap being decorated in Obamaspeak language." [49516]

Obama's approval rating falls to 37 percent in an Associated Press/GFK poll. The taxpayer-subsidized National Public Radio reports, "...Obama and lawmakers must rise above their incessant bickering and do more to end the partial government shutdown, according to a poll Wednesday that places the brunt of the blame on Republicans but finds no one standing tall in Washington. ...The Associated Press-GfK survey affirms expectations by many in Washington—Republicans among them—that the GOP may end up taking the biggest hit in public opinion from the shutdown, as happened when much of the government closed 17 years ago. But the situation is fluid nine days into the shutdown and there's plenty of disdain to go around. Overall, 62 percent mainly blamed Republicans for the shutdown. About half said Obama or the Democrats in Congress bear much responsibility. ...Most Americans disapprove of the way Obama is handling his job, the poll suggests, with 53 percent unhappy with his performance and 37 percent approving of it. Congress is scraping rock bottom, with a ghastly approval rating of 5 percent." (The NPR.org headline reads, "Poll: No Heroes In Shutdown, GOP Gets Most Blame." Some might argue that the headline should be, "Obama Approval Rating Plummet to a Mere 37 Percent.") According to the poll, only 30 percent of Americans approve of raising the debt ceiling, and a mere seven percent believe the rollout of ObamaCare has gone very well. [49517, 49524, 49542, 49544, 49556, 49572, 49572, 49573, 49741]

Rush Limbaugh plays a recording of CNN's Wolf Blitzer from March 13, 2006 in which he was absolutely thrilled to hear that President George W. Bush's approval rating had fallen to 36 percent. (It can be assumed that Blitzer will not express any satisfaction with Obama's 37 percent rating.) [49556]

CBSNews.com reports on the disastrous roll-out of Healthcare.gov, and quotes "online database programmer" and ObamaCare supporter Luke Chung: "It wasn't designed well, it wasn't implemented well, and it looks like nobody tested it. It's not even close. It's not even ready for beta testing for my book. I would be ashamed and embarrassed if my organization delivered something like that." [49518, 49519]

At HotAir.com Ed Morrissey comments, "I've worked on massive database projects in the private sector, and I suspect that Chung is correct. We do know that *some* testing took place, which is why everyone involved in the project was sending up warning flares for months about its status. HHS and the White House might have rolled it out with full knowledge of its incompetence hoping that they could provide enough assistance to jolly people along, but I don't think that was the case. The failure caught them flat-footed last

Tuesday, and the failure of the weekend retooling effort seemed to do the same. It looks as though no one bothered to actually sit down and try to go from A to Z in the system themselves. By the way, in one such project in my experience, the company got rid of the program managers when the team didn't deliver... after eight months. There isn't a private-sector firm in the world that would have tolerated a web-portal project taking 42 months and delivering this kind of train wreck." (On September 12, Jeryl Bier warned at WeeklyStandard.com, "With the launch of the Obamacare Health Insurance Marketplace less than three weeks ago, one of the only functions consumers were already able to access, creating an account, has been taken 'offline' for 'upgrading.' ... There have been reports of technical glitches, delays, and security concerns with the new Marketplaces. It is unclear of this latest move by HHS is a reflection of those issues.") [49519, 49520]

Obama invites House Democrats to the White House for a meeting—almost certainly to discuss strategy for dealing with the Republican members of the House. HotAir.com's Ed Morrissey writes, "Looks like Obama is about to ditch the 'no negotiations' strategy." (An approval rating of only 37 percent has very likely given Obama something to think about, as has the AP poll showing only 30 percent approval for raising the debt ceiling. Obama would be wise to remember that Bill Clinton was more than willing to negotiate with House Republicans over spending in the mid-1990s—and Clinton's approval rating was more than 10 points higher at the time than Obama's 37 embarrassing percent.) [49524]

CNSNews.com reports, "Days before the government 'shutdown' started, the Air Force contracted for an \$84,380 upgrade on its 'Exit' signs for the Bowling Center, Recreation Center and other buildings on the Joint Base Charleston-Weapons Station in Goose Creek, S.C." [49538]

Newsmax.com reports, "You'll have to get [health insurance] coverage by Valentine's Day or thereabouts to avoid penalties for being uninsured, the Obama administration confirmed Wednesday. That's about six weeks earlier than a Mar. 31 deadline often cited previously. The explanation: health insurance coverage typically starts on the first day of a given month, and it takes up to 15 days to process applications. You still have to be covered by Mar. 31 to avoid the new penalties for remaining uninsured. But to successfully accomplish that you have to send in your application by the middle of February. Coverage would then start on Mar. 1." (The Obama administration had kept the change secret. It was made public only because tax preparation company Jackson Hewitt pointed it out.) [49541, 49672]

Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich writes, "In his press conference yesterday, ... Obama added another item to his growing list of historical misrepresentations about spending and debt ceiling negotiations. After claiming that never 'in the history of the United States' had elected officials used the debt ceiling as political leverage (false), and after insinuating that it's somehow unusual to expect presidents to negotiate over spending bills (absurd), Obama yesterday mixed a false history of the Clinton-Gingrich shutdowns into his press room lecture. '[B]ack in the '90s we had a government shutdown,' he said. 'That happened one time, and then after that, the Republican Party

and Mr. Gingrich realized this isn't a sensible way to do business. You know, we shouldn't engage in brinksmanship like this, and then they started having a serious conversation with President Clinton about a whole range of issues, and they got some things that they wanted. They had to give the Democrats some things that the Democrats wanted. But it took on, you know, a sense of normal democratic process.' As one of the principal negotiators in the 1995-1996 budget showdown between Republicans and President Clinton, it is clear to me [that Obama] has a number of very important things wrong. First, there were two shutdowns, not one, and that was important. In mid-November of 1995, the government closed for several days after Clinton vetoed our Continuing Resolution which contained more spending cuts than he was willing to accept. The public blamed Republicans for the first shutdown much more than they blamed Clinton. A CNN/Gallup poll released at the time found that Americans blamed the GOP over the President by 2-to-1, 49 percent to 26 percent. In part this was because the press was anti-Republican. But in part it was because we'd made so clear beforehand that we were willing to close the government if necessary." [49548]

Gingrich continues, "The pressure on us to cave was enormous. Instead, we refused to give-in, and worked with President Clinton to pass a very short-term extension of government funding and increase in the debt ceiling as negotiations continued. A month later, no compromise had been reached, and despite the media pressure on us, we allowed the government to close again, this time for three weeks. Which leads to ...Obama's second false claim: that it wasn't until after the shutdowns that we began a 'serious conversation' with President Clinton to advance our priorities. This could not be more mistaken. Clinton and I spoke virtually every day during the shutdowns. We were constantly negotiating. And more importantly, although the shutdowns were in some ways a temporary PR setback for Republicans (they did no lasting damage), they were critical in convincing the President and the country that we were serious about doing what said we'd do in 1994—and that we were willing to be tough to get it done. That was of enormous strategic value going forward. ...Obama is right that the shutdowns of 1995 were a pivotal moment which cleared the way for the success Republicans had afterward. But he's very wrong about the reason. It was after the shutdowns and significantly because of them that we achieved some of the greatest growth and opportunity for all Americans in a generation. In 1996, we passed welfare reform, and in the next several years two out of every three Americans on welfare either went to work or went to school. The House Republican majority was reelected for the first time since 1928. We passed four consecutive balanced budgets, the only ones in our lifetimes. We cut taxes for the first time in 17 years, including the largest capital gains tax cut in American history. These big victories very well might not have happened if not for the shutdowns in 1995-1996." [49548]

"The policy changes helped power an economic boom so big that it produced a \$5 trillion turnaround in the fiscal outlook of the United States between January 1995 and January 1999, from a \$2.7 trillion deficit over ten years to a \$2.3 trillion surplus. The nation's ten-year debt outlook went from 56 percent of GDP to just 12 percent. What ...Obama calls 'brinksmanship' and not a 'sensible way to do business' may be one of the most successful negotiations ever for Americans. Republicans today face a very similar

challenge to the one we faced in 1995, and with similar pressure to cave. Yet just as in 1995, they are proving to [Obama] that he must take the Congress seriously. Americans should hope Obama learns that lesson as well as President Clinton did, and with such strong results.” [49548]

Outside the Capitol Building, Washington, D.C. Mayor Vincent C. Gray (a Democrat) confronts Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) over the financial impact the shutdown is having on city operations. Gray says, “Sir, we are not a department of the government. We’re simply trying to be able to spend our own money.” Reid responds, “I’m on your side. Don’t screw it up, okay? Don’t screw it up.” A reporter asks Reid, “What does, ‘Don’t screw it up’ mean?” and Reid walks away. (WashingtonPost.com notes, “The tension came after the Republican-controlled House voted last week to pass a bill allowing the District to use its locally raised tax funds to maintain operations until Dec. 15. Democrats, including Reid and ...Obama, have held fast in opposition to piecemeal funding bills, saying Republicans must come to a deal to fund the entire government, not just favored segments.”) [49567]

WashingtonPost.com reports that D.C. delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton “had what some colleagues called ‘a heated exchange’ and what she described as ‘a conversation’ with ...Obama during a White House meeting Wednesday afternoon regarding the District’s budget constraints as a result of the partial government shutdown. Norton attended the meeting in the White House East Room with nearly 200 House Democrats and was one of a handful given the opportunity to ask [Obama] a question. When she was called upon, Norton pressed Obama to support a House-passed bill that would permit the District to use its locally raised tax funds to maintain operations until Dec. 15. Democrats, including Obama, have held fast in opposition to such piecemeal funding bills, saying Republicans must come to a deal to fund the entire government, not just favored segments. Making her point, Norton spoke over [Obama] and refused to yield the microphone, according to a lawmaker who attended the event. The lawmaker described Norton as ‘strident,’ ‘self-absorbed’ and ‘parochial’ in her exchange with Obama.” [49553]

Democrat Dan Lipinski (D-IL) and other pro-life Congressmen hold a press conference to warn that Americans are being misled about ObamaCare and abortion coverage. Lipinski says, “When we were debating the healthcare bill three and a half years ago here, I had stood up and helped to demand, and we got in the House originally, the Stupak Amendment. The language we have on abortion clearly is very different from what the Stupak Amendment said. And today we see that not only do we have the funding of abortion, but we really want to focus on, especially today, is the lack of transparency. One of the biggest issues I remember in the whole healthcare debate was Americans deserve to have a clear, transparent understanding of what insurance companies are providing for them in their healthcare plans. That was one of the biggest priorities all along in talking about healthcare reform, health insurance reform. But we wound up with Obamacare. ...Today we see we do not have that transparency when it comes to abortion, so on top of everything else, on top of all the issues that those of us up here have about the funding of abortion in ObamaCare, I think everyone should agree that this bill, this law, was intended to bring transparency. When it comes to abortion, it is not transparent.

No one can make the argument that we have this transparency. Do people even know that they are buying a policy that covers abortion?" Congressman Chris Smith (R-NJ) states, "Americans have a right to know upfront and with full transparency when they are purchasing a plan that subsidizes the killing of unborn children. I would respectfully submit that even the most ardent advocate of abortion should embrace full disclosure. ...A representative of the health insurance marketplace live chat said you may have to wait until you pick a plan to see if they cover abortions. And again, you may discover in weeks, months, after you've already done it." Smith calls ObamaCare "the largest expansion of publicly-funded abortion in the history of this country. ...October 1st has now come around. And every time we get a look at a plan, either there's no mention [of abortion], and that is very disconcerting, because we don't know if it's in or not. And it is a possibility that members of Congress and staff who will now be on the exchanges will be paying for abortions in the D.C. shop, as they call it." [49608]

The Ulsterman Report writes, "Yesterday ...Obama declared himself open to the idea of a short term budget agreement to allow more time for negotiation between the House, controlled by Republicans, and the Senate, controlled by Democrats. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid [D-NV] has upped the anti-Obama rhetoric throughout the impasse, but now has the rug effectively ripped out from under him as the Obama White House signals they are growing increasingly wobbly under the stress and strain of having more and more Americans turn blame on the government shutdown onto the administration. Other senior Democratic leaders in the Senate like Chuck Schumer [D-NY] and Dick Durbin [D-IL] were raging behind the scene at [Obama's] white flag press conference moment. They have invested much in slamming Republicans and trying to make the conflict a viable tool for the 2014 Midterm Elections. With the Republican's new found [sic; newfound] sense of resolve, the alternative media's up to the minute coverage bypassing the Mainstream Media filter, and House Democrats growing increasingly worried they may lose their own re-election bids, that hoped for political tool has turned into a painful, puss filled abscess that threatens to cover the entire party and further stain the already murky and scandal poisoned legacy of one Barack H. Obama... who is already largely irrelevant in the halls of the Capitol Building. That is not to say the interior of the Republican Party is all happy-happy-happy. It most certainly is NOT. The old guard Republicans continue to snap their jaws at outspoken upstart Ted Cruz [R-TX] and affiliated Tea Party conservatives in the House. It is interesting to note how Senator Rand Paul [R-KY], while remaining loyal to much of the small government principles he shares with Senator Cruz, has played something of a moderator between the two camps. Even the Republican leadership is grumbling its approval at the calming influence of the junior senator from Kentucky." [49554]

"There are now rumors circulating of a meeting between House Republicans, Senate Democrats, and the White House this weekend on both the government shutdown and the debt limit challenge. Republicans will go into this meeting with far more momentum and leverage than Democrats thought possible just a week ago. So while D.C. remains a hot mess, regular every day Americans should take some measure of pride in knowing their concerns/anger/frustrations/rage are being heard inside the capitol. Democrats and the old guard Republicans are quiet aware of the political shift in America now underway, and

fear the impact it may have on their own political futures. That is a good thing. A government should fear the people, but the people should not have to fear the government.” [49554]

Attorney Orly Taitz reports that the defendants are doing their best to delay the case *Taitz v. Donahoe*, which involves a Freedom of Information Act request for the Social Security Administration to produce a copy of Obama’s application for a Social Security number. Obama’s minions are also stalling *Taitz v. Astrue*. [49555, 49699]

CampusReform.org posts a “letter-gone-viral” from Ashley Dionne: “I’m a 26-year-old recent graduate from Michigan. The phony Obamacare signup poster boy made me want to send a message about how Obamacare is really affecting people. I graduated from the University of Michigan in 2009. In my state, this used to mean something, but even with a bachelor’s [degree] I was told I was too educated and wouldn’t stay [at the job for which I was applying]. I watched as kids with GEDs and high school diploma’s [sic; diplomas] took the low-paying jobs for which I applied. I went back to school and got a second degree and finally found work at a gym. I work nights and only get 32 hours a week for eight dollars an hour. I’m unable to find a second job at this time. I have asthma, ulcers, and mild cerebral palsy. Obamacare takes my monthly rate from \$75 a month for full coverage on my ‘Young Adult Plan,’ to \$319 a month. After \$6,000 in deductibles, of course. Liberals claimed this law would help the poor. I am the poor, the working poor, and I can’t afford to support myself, let alone older generations and people not willing to work at all. This law has raped my future. It will keep me and kids my age from having a future at all. This is the real face of Obamacare and it isn’t pretty.” [49557, 49558, 49614, 49983]

AtlasShrugs.com posts a video showing students at the University of Colorado being asked who is more to blame for the government shutdown: Democrats, Obama, or the Republicans. Surprisingly, most blame Democrats and Obama. (The “poll” is of course not scientific; it is merely a record of passersby on campus being asked their opinion. It is worth nothing, however, because the school and the Boulder community is “dependably liberal.”) [49564]

According to FreeBeacon.com, “Nearly 34,000 federal workers applied for unemployment benefits in the first week of the shutdown, according to government agencies. ...Checks will start going out on Oct. 14, at a maximum of \$378 a week. ...If Congress passes legislation to pay furloughed workers retroactively, those who receive unemployment benefits will be required to pay them back. The House unanimously passed a bill on [October 5] to ensure that federal employees will receive back pay, though the Senate has yet to vote on the measure.” [49615]

The Obama administration announces it is suspending hundreds of millions of dollars in military and other aid to Egypt. [49565]

At NationalReview.com Andrew C. McCarthy notes Obama’s plummeting poll numbers and observes, “[W]e did not anticipate how obnoxious and authoritarian Obama and

congressional Democrats would be about refusing to negotiate and inflicting gratuitous pain on ordinary Americans—including American war heroes. But that is the natural fallout of statist being forced to defend an indefensible position.” [49740]

On *Hannity*, former Obama campaign press secretary Ben LaBolt gets through an entire interview with host Sean Hannity without directly answering any of his questions. Every question is answered with a variation of, “The Republicans are holding the government hostage.” (Townhall.com’s Guy Benson quips, “As a talking points robot, LaBolt is far better programmed than ObamaCare’s exchange websites.”) [49571]

On October 10 Karen Kwiatkowski, retired Air Force Lieutenant Colonel and former Congressional candidate, writes at LewRockwell.com, “The nanny state has made a huge tactical error in its response to the fake shutdown, and has revealed to hundreds of millions of Americans a fundamental vulnerability. If we stop believing, valuing, and obeying the state, it crumbles. If we believe only what is true about it, value only what is essential in it, and obey only its constitutional mandates, it also crumbles. The stupidity and gracelessness of its ongoing threat response also reveals a far higher than (I, anyway) presumed level of intellectual decay among bureaucrats, and deep internal strife. Talking and laughing about the uselessness, wastefulness, wrongness, and fatness of government threatens Fedgov. It flutters and shimmies the house of cards that is Washington, its surrounding counties and supporting institutions everywhere. It enrages the king and his courtiers and his sponsors. When we begin to understand that we don’t really need a big fat nanny state, and begin to mentally and spiritually wake up to the mathematical fact that more government means less freedom and prosperity, less joy, less happiness—we accomplish much more than is immediately visible.” [49559]

Euro Pacific Capital’s Peter Schiff writes, “Now that Janet Yellen has been named to lead the Federal Reserve the global financial markets should factor out any possibility that the Fed will diminish their Quantitative Easing [QE] program anytime during her tenure. In fact, financial forecasts should assume that not only is a taper off the table, but that the QE program is now more likely to be perpetuated and expanded. Unlike her predecessors, Janet Yellen has never had a youthful dalliance with hawkish monetary ideas.” Yellen “has been on the liberal/dovish end of the monetary spectrum for her entire professional career,” and “As a result, we can expect her to never waver in her belief that stimulus is the answer to every economic question. ... The Federal Reserve was originally charged with the single mandate of maintaining price stability. In recent decades that mission evolved into a dual mandate of seeking price stability **and** full employment. I believe that a Yellen led Fed will return once again to a single mandate, but now it will focus only on employment. Based on her clear beliefs in the ability of dovish monetary policy to relieve human suffering she will be inclined to dig in her heels into the ongoing QE program more than anyone else ... Obama may have appointed. This is terrible news for the U.S. dollar and the U.S. economy. For now at least the crisis in Washington has squelched any immediate discussion of a taper in the remaining months of 2013. Any predictions that a Yellen-led Fed will somehow show more resolve towards responsibility in 2014 or 2015 should be looked at as delusional.” [49563, 49576, 49738]

Treasury Secretary Jacob Lew tells the Senate Finance Committee, “Every week we roll over approximately \$100 billion in U.S. bills [that is, debt]. If U.S. bondholders decided that they wanted to be repaid rather than continuing to roll over their investments, we could unexpectedly dissipate our entire cash balance. ... There is no plan other than raising the debt limit that permits us to meet all of our obligations. ... Let me start by saying what I think should be obvious: that if we don’t have enough cash to pay all our bills, we will be failing to meet our obligations, and under any scenario we will be defaulting on obligations. Let me remind everyone [that] principal on the debt is not something we pay out of our cash flow of revenues. Principal on the debt is something that is a function of the markets rolling over.” (Principal payments *should*, of course, not be dependent on the sale of additional debt, but the federal government does not have the cash to do so. Lew is therefore admitting that the Treasury Department operates like a Ponzi scheme. CNSNews.com notes “the Securities and Exchange Commission’s definition of a Ponzi Scheme. ‘A Ponzi scheme is an investment fraud that involves the payment of purported returns to existing investors from funds contributed by new investors. With little or no legitimate earnings, the schemes require a consistent flow of money from new investors to continue. Ponzi schemes tend to collapse when it becomes difficult to recruit new investors or when a large number of investors ask to cash out.’ ... Even if Congress had cut federal spending by \$777.233 billion to spare the Treasury the need to sell that much new debt [to cover the 2013 deficit], the Treasury still would have needed to find investors willing to buy \$7,546,726,000,000 in new Treasury securities in fiscal 2013 to pay off the \$7,546,726,000,000 in old securities that matured during that time. Why was the Treasury forced to pay off such a massive volume—\$7,546,726,000,000—in Treasury securities in one year? Because the Treasury keeps churning a large portion of the government’s publicly traded debt in short-term bills and notes.”) [49808]

At NaturalNews.com Mike Adams warns, “We have already established that Healthcare.gov is not a functioning database application that allows people to shop for competing health plans. It is actually a government-run Trojan Horse that suckers people into creating accounts where they hand over: Name and address, email address and password, Social Security number, private bank account details, employer details and other information. During the enrollment process, your computer also hands over your IP address which is then tied to your social security number. This IP address is then handed over to the NSA thanks to its new mega-black-hole data center in Utah, where your IP is cross-referenced with all website visits, including: ‘Anti-government’ websites, porn sites, gambling sites, file sharing sites, ‘terrorism’ support sites, encryption service sites like Hushmail, chat rooms, message boards and more. Armed with this information, the NSA can then link your seemingly-anonymous online chats, comments and posts with your social security number. Linguistic algorithms can ‘score’ your online posts to create red flags that call for additional investigations of anyone using words like ‘liberty’ or ‘patriot.’ This information can then be turned over to law enforcement, as is found in the fine print of the Maryland Obamacare exchange, which states: *...we may share information provided in your application with the appropriate authorities for law enforcement and audit activities.* Thus, by enrolling in Obamacare, you are voluntarily surveilling yourself and handing over the data to the government while also AGREEING

to terms of self-incrimination.” (While it is true that the IRS has the Social Security numbers and addresses of all taxpayers, it does not have their computer IP addresses. *Using Healthcare.gov gives that information to the government.* If it wants to, it can then match every web site an individual uses to his IP address, and that IP address to his Social Security number.) [49569]

Adams continues, “Ponder the implications of this for a moment... Obamacare is actually a self-incrimination surveillance program designed to ensnare the American people in a devil’s contract. Obamacare is the meta-level con of tricking Americans into thinking they’re signing up for free health insurance when, in reality, the website primarily exists to scrape personal financial details, passwords, emails and social security numbers from Americans who will later be targeted by the government itself. All the emails [addresses] registered with Healthcare.gov, for example, will likely be used by the Obama administration to spam people with political propaganda or contrived ‘terror alerts’ that use fear to concentrate more power in the hands of government. All the financial data will be turned over to the IRS for criminal investigations of Americans who are suspected of under-reporting their incomes (or supporting ‘patriot’ groups with financial donations). All the passwords used on Healthcare.gov will be turned over to the NSA and matched up with individual IP addresses so that NSA operatives can hack into private bank accounts, encrypted email accounts and other private data, based on the assumption that most users use identical passwords across all the websites they commonly access. (A person’s password under Obamacare probably has a 50% chance of also working for their online banking. And since the NSA has your social security number, it’s a no-brainer to match up your online surfing habits with your phone number, home address, investment holdings, tax returns, international travel history and so on.) In essence, Obamacare allows the government to gather a goldmine of private data that can be exploited to target, punish, incriminate, blackmail or steal from any desired target. As this is a federal government that believes it now has total power to do anything it wants without limit, there are no boundaries of what it might do with this data. ...And Healthcare.gov is the portal for scraping passwords, IP addresses and even financial details from anyone gullible enough to actually hand this over to government (i.e. democrats). As far as I’m concerned, the IRS can fine me all they want. I’m never voluntarily enrolling in Obamacare, even if you put a gun to my head like Obama is doing to the entire nation right now with this insane, contrived government shutdown that treats our own veterans like dirt.” (Although *The Obama Timeline* may not necessarily agree with Adams that the government *will* do all things he is worried it will do, it is certainly true that Healthcare.gov means it *makes it easier* for it to do so.) [49569]

In another article at the same web site, Adams writes, “I have personally looked at the Javascript code running part of the Healthcare.gov website. If you are curious how I got the code, I simply typed the URL of the Javascript code into the browser address field. The browser then pulls up the entire code block, because Javascript is client-side code (not server-side). What I am seeing in this code is nothing short of jaw-dropping. As people are now saying, this code is ‘CRAAAAAZY!’ You almost can’t even call it Javascript code. If you sat down 100 monkeys in front of 100 typewriters and told them to start banging away, I’m confident at least one of them would come up with something

far better than the Healthcare.gov Javascript code. In fact, I am practically ROFLMAO just looking at this code. Any competent programmer in the world, upon seeing this, would just burst their britches in knowing the U.S. government spent \$600+ million dollars on this project. Inside the code, the Javascript programmer comments are just off-the-charts hilarious. ... The code is also full of juvenile typos such as ‘Misssing Password’ and ‘This is not a valid organazation ID.’ Seriously, was this written by eighth graders? Even error messages contains their own errors, such as ‘Exception in [sic] retrieving REInsurance Plan by criteria.’ It also contains brain-dead user instructions such as: ‘You need to send the Marketplace proof that you are not enrolled in Medicaid or the Childrens Health Insurance Program (CHIP). Examples of documents you can send include Letter from Medicaid or CHIP.’ (Yeah, right. Can you imagine calling Medicaid and asking for a letter stating that you are NOT enrolled in Medicaid?)” [49880]

Adams notes, “Although this Healthcare.gov computer code fails to function it does however support the language known as ‘Gujarati.’ According to an online encyclopedia, ‘Gujarati is an Indo-Aryan language, native to Gujarat, Daman and Diu and Dadra and Nagar Haveli in India. It is part of the greater Indo-European language family. Gujarati is derived from Old Gujarati (1100–1500 AD) which is the ancestor language of the modern Gujarati and Rajasthani languages, and is the chief language in the state of Gujarat.’ I am absolutely thrilled to know that my tax dollars may someday pay for the health insurance coverage of an ancestor of the Gujarati and Rajasthani languages, from the state of Gujarat. So while our ‘greatest generation’ World War II veterans are being barricaded out of national monuments, the Obama administration is prioritizing providing subsidized health insurance coverage to descendants of the state of Gujarat. ... Even though I have only seen the public Javascript code and not the server-side processing code, the Javascript itself is truly disastrous—on an epic scale. For example, the Javascript file loaded for each user transfers all error messages, form field messages and front-end error messages from the server to the user’s browser repeatedly for each cultural language supported by the system. In other words, the entire set of error messages is hard-coded into the Javascript for English, then again for German, then again for French, Spanish, and so on, all the way through Gujarati and who knows how many other unheard-of languages. I don’t even know how to begin to tell you how disastrously idiotic such a design is. It practically guarantees a critical server crash under any kind of real user load. No programmer with an IQ above 100 would design js code in such a manner. This code was designed and written by utterly incompetent people who have built into the system exactly the kind of architecture that will make it fail if anyone tries to use it.” [49880]

Adams concludes, “I assure you this system has zero chance of smoothly functioning by January 1, 2014. And that means a massive public backlash is on the way. As the truth comes out on this, the Obama administration is going to be embarrassed like nothing else we’ve ever seen in the history of government. This failure is so monumental, so critical, and so disastrous that it discredits not just Obama but the entire socialist fantasy of government-run, centrally-planned economies. Healthcare.gov is the ultimate argument for a free market run without government interference. It epitomizes the incompetence of Washington D.C. like nothing else in history. No need to delay Obamacare; it will collapse on its own. Ultimately, this also means we don’t have to worry about trying to

delay Obamacare. Obamacare is going to destroy itself! Sooner or later, the entire country will realize the absurdity of being fined by the IRS for not buying a mandatory insurance policy that cannot be purchased because the government-run exchange site is utterly non-functional. Obamacare will go down in history as the greatest IT failure in the history of the world. I can already see this outcome reflected in the code. ...[D]on't expect the mainstream media—largely staffed by fantasyland Obama worshippers who know nothing about computer code—to grasp the seriousness of the critical failures that will bring this system down.” [49880]

Katie Pavlich reports at Townhall.com, “House Republicans announced late Thursday morning before a meeting with ...Obama at the White House that they are offering a temporary, six week debt ceiling increase in exchange for the ability to go to conference over the budget. ‘Over the course of the past 10 days we’ve been trying to have conversations with our Democratic colleagues, they don’t want to talk. [Obama] doesn’t want to talk,’ House Speaker John Boehner said. ‘I would hope [Obama] would look at this as an opportunity and good faith effort for our party to move half way.’ After nearly two weeks of the House repeatedly passing legislation funding the government and being denied by the Senate, the Republican offer goes a long way to help solve the stalemate over the budget and debt limit in Washington. ...Obama is expected to meet with House Republicans today and with Senate Democrats and Republicans Friday.” (Obama is annoyed that Boehner is limiting the group of Republicans to 18, having hoped that a meeting with all 200+ GOP Congressmen would make it easier for him to pressure the weak-willed moderates into caving in to his demands. White House press secretary Jay Carney says Obama “is disappointed that Speaker Boehner is preventing his members from coming to the White House. [He] thought it was important to talk directly with the members who forced this economic crisis on the country about how the shutdown and a failure to pay the country’s bills could devastate the economy.”) [49570, 49577, 49578, 49597, 49605]

White House press secretary Jay Carney tells reporters, “[Obama] is happy that cooler heads at least seem to be prevailing in the House, that there at least seems to be a recognition that default is not an option.” But Obama “believes that it would be far better for the Congress, and in this case the House, to raise the debt ceiling for an extended period of time.” (Remarkably, at a time when the House Republicans are agreeable to give some ground on the issue, Obama and Carney insult them—or at least the Tea Party Republicans.)

Former White House advisor Dan Plouffe sends a Twitter message: “Maybe throw in a Special Counsel to investigate [Obama’s] birthplace and the House GOP will stop committing economic treason.” (*The Obama Timeline* suggests the Republicans accept the deal: increase the debt ceiling in exchange for *definitive* proof of Obama’s past. At the end of that exercise, neither Plouffe nor Obama will be laughing.) [49595]

After the stock market—which thought there may have been a deal—closes, Obama reportedly rejects the House offer because it involves only a six-week debt ceiling increase and does not include the approval of a “clean” continuing resolution that restores

all federal spending at pre-shutdown levels. (*The New York Times* later reports that there was no outright Obama rejection, and that the parties only “failed to reach an agreement” but were still talking.) [49606, 49607, 49609]

The White House states that Obama and the House Republicans had a “good meeting,” but “After a discussion about potential paths forward, no specific determination was made. [Obama] looks forward to making continued progress with members on both sides of the aisle.” [49646]

Politico describes the events: “...Obama and House Republicans clashed in a meeting Thursday afternoon over how soon the government can be reopened, even as the GOP offered to lift the debt limit for six weeks, according to sources familiar with the session. House Republicans told Obama at the White House that they could reopen the federal government by early next week if [Obama] and Senate Democrats agree to their debt-ceiling proposal. A GOP aide said they would seek some additional concessions if they advance a government funding bill next week. Obama repeatedly pressed House Republicans to open the government, asking them ‘what’s it going to take to’ end the shutdown, those sources said. The meeting was described by both sides as cordial but inconclusive.”

After rising as a result of the announcement that House Republicans would increase the debt limit for six weeks while they negotiated with Obama and Senate Democrats, the stock market falls after word that Obama reneged on the deal. [49656]

At RedState.com, in an apparently satirical article, Glenn Ryt writes, “Sources within the Department of Transportation [DOT] have revealed that their plan to use National Guard resources to close federally funded Interstate Route 495, circling the nation’s capital, have been approved by unknown White House officials and will be implemented on Friday morning, October 11, in order to thwart the three day Trucker slowdown announced on the Capitol Beltway starting that date, using the federal government shutdown as justification. The National Guard resources to be used to thwart the truckers will include rifle toting National Guardsmen called up from units that will be coming in from Maryland, Pennsylvania and Virginia. They will use Guardsmen on foot and using trucks, jeeps and armored vehicles, which will be stationed at all entrance ramps to the Beltway to block incoming traffic starting early Friday morning. Calls to both the White House and the Department of Transportation to confirm this story were not answered at press time. Unless an announcement is made in advance, it appears the first notice of this new White House plan to punish House GOP members who have cited their Constitutional authority to approve—or not approve—all spending proposed by the White House and their Democratic allies in the Senate, will be early Friday morning. ...These sources at the Department of Transportation have advised off the record that the DOT proposal included the confident belief that the Capitol Beltway shutdown will successfully achieve the twin goals of thwarting [sic; thwarting] the trucker protest scheduled for a three day period starting on Friday, as well as deal another punishing blow to what they call ‘the crazy wing of the GOP’ which refuses to capitulate to their demands to approve a budget that includes Obamacare funding.” (*The Obama Timeline*

assumes the report is not accurate, in the belief that the Obama administration cannot be that stupid.) [49580, 49654, 49655]

The *Daily Mail* reports, “Just 51,000 people completed Obamacare applications during the first week the Healthcare.gov website was online, according to two sources inside the Department of Health and Human Services [HHS] who gave MailOnline an exclusive look at the earliest enrollment numbers. [More than 2.5 million have signed a petition to defund ObamaCare.] The career civil servants, who process data inside the agency, confirmed independently that just 6,200 Americans applied for health insurance through the problem-plagued website on October 1, the day it first opened to the public. Neither HHS nor the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services would comment on the record about the numbers. Enroll America, [Obama’s] organization of health care ‘navigators’ who are charged with helping Americans sign up, didn’t reply to a request for information about its level of success so far. The White House also did not respond to emails seeking comment. But several administration officials have claimed this month that they didn’t have access to the kinds of raw figures MailOnline obtained from the people who work for them. And the anemic totals suggest a far lower level of interest in coverage through the Affordable Care Act than the Obama administration has hoped to see.” DailyCaller.com notes, “The Congressional Budget Office is hoping for at least 7 million enrollees by the end of the 6-month open enrollment period to keep Obamacare financially afloat. At this rate, total national enrollment would be approximately 2 million, including state-run exchanges.” (Seven million enrollees would help finance the scheme only *if* they are mostly young, healthy Americans who rarely need health care. If the number of people who enroll in ObamaCare is low, and if they are mostly unhealthy Americans, the system will cost far more than predicted—and increase the annual deficit even more.) [49588, 49589, 49623, 49681, 49720]

CGI Group, Inc. the Canadian company that designed developed the Healthcare.gov web site, refuses to provide on the record comments about the failures of the system. According to DailyCaller.com, “CGI Federal was the prime contractor for the federal exchange website, and the Government Accountability Office reported in June that CGI had received about \$88 million for its services. This week, however, a Digital Tech data review found that while CGI Federal was contracted to participate in the construction of Healthcare.gov for 97.3 million, the government actually paid the firm more than \$634 million—more than the start-up costs of such private mainstays as Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. [The exact amount was \$634,320.919, about seven times the original estimate.] CGI Federal was responsible for the system’s portal, plan management and financial management portions. Other contractors worked on other aspects of the project, and those companies, according to the GAO report, were paid much less.” (It is worth noting that CGI Group, Inc. was also paid \$84 million to develop the ObamaCare exchange web site for the state of Vermont. VTDigger.com reports, “The [state] administration said CGI has failed to meet more than half of Vermont’s 21 performance deadlines, called ‘critical milestones.’ Although the state has the contractual power to penalize CGI for falling behind schedule, it has not exercised this authority. The state could charge CGI as much as \$125,000 a day in penalties, depending on the length of the delay and the importance of the milestone.”) [49596, 49599, 49604]

The Obama Timeline again attempts to use the healthcare.gov site—with the same disastrous results as the previous few days’ attempts: “Important: Your account couldnt [sic] be created at this time. Important: Your account couldn’t be created at this time. Call the Marketplace Call Center at 1-800-318-2596. TTY users should call 1-855-889-4325.” [49598]

Secretary of Health and Human Services Kathleen Sebelius appears at an event at Pittsburgh’s Heinz Field to promote ObamaCare and Healthcare.gov. According to TribLive.com, Sebelius “told the audience of about 100 people that Healthcare.gov was ‘open for business.’ ‘Believe me, we had some early glitches,’ said Sebelius, ... ‘but it’s getting better every day.’ At the back of the room, it was a different story. About 20 people armed with laptops and certified by the government to sign up people for coverage were meeting with uninsured people, answering questions and fruitlessly trying to access the website.” (Some might question the cost of renting a 65,500-seat stadium in order to accommodate a “crowd” of 100.) [49659, 49660, 49681, 49682]

Former Detroit mayor and one-time Obama pal Kwame Kilpatrick is sentenced to 28 years in jail on charges of graft, racketeering, extortion, and conspiracy. [49635, 49636, 49637, 49940]

WKMG in Orlando, Florida reports, “A day after saying that anyone signing up for the Affordable Care Act had to provide their credit score, the lead Navigator admitted that she had been providing factually incorrect information to the public. Anne Packham, one of the people assigned by the state to help people navigate the government’s website, asserted in an interview on Tuesday [October 8]—and then later during follow up questions—that the credit check was put in place so providers can make an educated decision about who to insure. ‘That’s so that health insurance providers can make an educated decision about who to insure based on if someone is defaulting on all of their bills they may not want to have them as part of their health plan,’ she said during Tuesday’s on-camera interview. A representative for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services said Wednesday credit scores have nothing to do with insurance rates under the Affordable Care Act. ‘Insurers are not allowed to factor in credit scores when setting premiums and at no point in the process are peoples’ scores accessed,’ the HHS representative wrote in an e-mail response to questions from Local 6. Local 6 confronted Packham on Wednesday and asked her, ‘How does someone in your position get that wrong?’ ‘So I misspoke yesterday,’ she said. ‘I realize I made a mistake.’ The topic of credit reports came up because some users are being asked during the enrollment process to link to a company called Experian to verify their identities, the HHS said. Experian is a major provider of credit reports, but HHS says it is only using Experian’s services to verify identities and they say credit scores are not checked. Packham wouldn’t say how she came up with such a detailed—and completely wrong—explanation for the question about credit checks. Local 6 asked Packham, ‘People just want to know. You’ve been through training. You are educating people about the process. How does this happen?’ ‘It’s human error,’ Packham said.” [49602, 49603]

At Spectator.org Ross Kaminski argues that Obama is “just not that clever,” and writes, “Obama’s staggering incompetence on the international stage, careening from one unintended foreign policy consequence to another, is unmistakable because foreign affairs are almost exclusively the province of the [Oval Office]. He has no congressional human shields overseas. Particularly for those still smarting from the Republicans’ inability to defeat a [man] whose first term was a tragi-comedy of stupid policies and their predictable results, it is tempting to ascribe a certain evil genius to the man who so often talks down the nation he dares to ‘lead’—a word used very loosely in this context. But there is no aspect of Obama’s history, whether as a ‘community organizer,’ undistinguished lecturer, state senator (frequently voting present), or [Oval Office occupant], in which he has demonstrated leadership, wisdom, or even a world view more sophisticated than that of a typical member of the College Democrats or its more radical predecessors. ... Those who oppose Obama make a mistake, both in terms of policy and politics, by ascribing his harmful impacts on the nation to Machiavellian cleverness, or by characterizing them as success by any definition—even his. Barack Obama has almost no idea what he is doing, why he is doing it, or how his actions affect ordinary citizens or the world around us. ... [One potential caveat: While Obama is not clever enough for his apparent incompetence to be anything but real, some of his advisers/puppet-masters, like David Axelrod and Valerie Jarrett, are. For those enemies of America, Obama is just their front man, their very own Billy Mays, hawking a radical leftist vision in a pleasant container. The question then is what percentage puppet is [Obama].]” [49610]

According to CNBC.com, “The number of Americans filing new claims for unemployment benefits hit a six-month high last week amid a computer glitch in California, but the underlying trend pointed to a steadily improving labor market. Initial claims for state unemployment benefits increased 66,000 to a seasonally adjusted 374,000, the highest level since the end of March, the Labor Department said on Thursday. ... Economists polled by Reuters had expected first-time applications to rise to 310,000 last week.” [49611]

ChicagoBusiness.com reports, “Safeway Inc., the owner of Dominick’s Finer Foods, announced today that it’s getting out of Chicago. The parent of Oak Brook-based Dominick’s said in a statement that it ‘intends to exit the Chicago market ... by early 2014. ... Dominick’s operates 72 stores, all of which are in Illinois within a 60-mile radius of Chicago. The chain, founded in Chicago in 1918, was purchased by Pleasanton, Calif.-based Safeway for \$1.8 billion in 1998.” (The number of employees who will lose their jobs is not reported.) [49667]

New Haven, Connecticut’s WTNH.com reports, “In the midst of major changes in health care, UnitedHealthCare has sent thousands of pink slips to Connecticut doctors. Termination letters went to physicians caring for Medicare patients. Those letters were sent out to doctors caring for ‘Medicare Advantage’ patients. It’s a plan, marketed to Seniors to provide additional services through UnitedHealthCare. A mix of primary care and specialty doctors are affected by it. And it comes at a questionable time. Open enrollment for Medicare starts next Tuesday, and it’s still not clear at this time as to which doctors are still in the United network.” (ObamaCare cuts funding for and

ultimately phases out the popular Medicare Advantage program. As noted previously in this *Timeline*, Obama obtained the support of the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) for his health care legislation. He did that by slashing Medicare Advantage subsidies in the bill, which will force as many as 10 million senior citizens to obtain gap insurance elsewhere. Many will turn to AARP's insurance programs as a result, which is a "cash cow" for AARP. Obama therefore bribed AARP with additional millions of dollars in insurance business by intentionally harming its competition.) [4488, 60008, 6066, 6128, 49671]

Deputy Secretary of Defense (DSD) Ashton Carter resigns. Bridget Johnson writes at PJMedia.com, "Carter, 59, has been a highly knowledgeable and powerful force inside the Defense Department, serving as Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics from April 2009 until October 2011, when he assumed the DSD role. Carter had been among the top picks to replace former Defense Secretary Leon Panetta upon his retirement. After ...Obama opted for Hagel instead, Obama personally asked Carter to stay on as Hagel's No. 2. ...Carter has four times been awarded the Department of Defense Distinguished Service Medal and was once awarded the Defense Intelligence Medal. He was Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Policy in the Clinton administration and most recently taught at Harvard." [49665]

Stripes.com reports, "The Department of Defense unit charged with recovering servicemembers' [sic; service members'] remains abroad has been holding phony 'arrival ceremonies' for seven years, with an honor guard carrying [empty] flag-draped coffins off of a cargo plane as though they held the remains returning that day from old battlefields. The Pentagon acknowledged Wednesday that no honored dead were in fact arriving, and that the planes used in the ceremonies often couldn't even fly, and were towed into position. The story was first reported on nbcnews.com. ...In a statement sent to NBC News, the Pentagon wrote: 'Part of the ceremony involves symbolically transferring the recovered remains from an aircraft to a vehicle for follow-on transportation to the lab. Many times, static aircraft are used for the ceremonies, as operational requirements dictate flight schedules and aircraft availability. This transfer symbolizes the arrival of our fallen servicemembers [sic; service members]. It is important to note that recovered remains ceremoniously transferred from the aircraft to the [bus] have been in the lab undergoing forensic analysis to determine identity. When remains first arrive in Hawaii, JPAC cannot confirm if the remains are those of an American servicemember [sic; service member].' NBC writes that the ceremonies have been known among some of the military and civilian staff at the base as The Big Lie." [49675, 49791]

DailyCaller.com reports, "The White House has taken down online White House visitor logs and blamed Congress. The logs, which were posted beginning in December 2009 'as part of ...Obama's commitment to government transparency,' are the latest victims of a partial government shutdown that has temporarily idled 17 percent of the federal workforce. 'Due to Congress's failure to pass legislation to fund the government, the information on this web site may not be up to date. Some submissions may not be processed, and we may not be able to respond to your inquiries,' reads the index page for

the visitor logs. ...This is also one of many cases in which the shutdown has been cited as a reason to disappear information that is potentially embarrassing to the administration. The Bureau of Labor Statistics quickly deep-sixed its September unemployment statistics as other employment proxies indicated the work situation has worsened once again. The Department of Agriculture has buried its September food stamps statistics which are also expected to show increased poverty, dependency and economic regression under Obama.” [49618]

Also from DailyCaller.com: “The U.S. Postal Service tabled its first lady Michelle Obama-inspired physical activity [postage] stamp series due to safety concerns, a Postal Service spokesman confirmed to The Daily Caller Thursday. ...According to a report from Linn’s Stamp News ...two White House entities—the President’s Council on Fitness Sports and Nutrition and the Let’s Move campaign—raised concerns about three of the 15 the stamps in the series, due to the potentially unsafe depictions on them. A Postal Service source told Linn’s that USPS was confronted with the objections when it sought out first lady Michelle Obama’s participation in the roll-out ceremony for the series, which was supposed to take place in May. Officials raised objections to a stamp depicting a man doing a cannonball into a pool, a stamp showing a child doing a handstand without a helmet and a stamp with skateboarder not wearing kneepads. While Linn’s source said that the series has been slated for destruction, the USPS spokesman told TheDC that USPS will likely make a final decision on the stamps sometime early next year.” [49619, 49620, 49621]

The *Daily Mail* reports, “The carefully-chosen mementos that cover graves in Section 60 of Arlington National Cemetery offer a deeply personal glimpse into the lives of grieving military families. These reminders have now been scrubbed away following a new policy which has banned family and friends from placing tributes on the graves. Headstones have been stripped of photos, drawings and poignant notes, in particular those in Section 60, home to the graves of more than 800 service members killed while doing their duty in Iraq and Afghanistan. An Arlington spokesman said they were responding to complaints that the cemetery was looking too disorderly, and said the section needed to follow the same rules as the rest of the site. ...Loved ones often left flowers, small stones and shells from favorite places and prized cigars. These have all now been swept away - some items saved to be returned to families, and some not.” [49773]

Heritage.org reports, “A recent survey covering more than 1,000 physician practices confirms what many experts had feared—many doctors will not participate in Obamacare’s exchanges. The survey was conducted by the Medical Group Management Association (MGMA), a trade group representing multi-physician medical practices. The results are in, and they’re unambiguous: A majority (55.5 percent) of practices believe the exchanges will have an unfavorable, or very unfavorable, impact on their practice. Fewer than three in 10 practices (29.2 percent) definitely plan to ‘participate with any new health insurance product(s) sold’ on an exchange, with a majority (56.4 percent) still uncertain. Of those not participating in the exchanges, the top concern, listed by 64 percent of practices, was ‘concerns about the administrative and regulatory burdens related to these products.’ More than two in three practices said that reimbursement rates

for exchange plans are somewhat lower (36.2 percent) or much lower (33.2 percent) than ‘average payment rates from all commercial payers in your area’—and these lower reimbursement rates likely explain the lack of robust commitment by physician practices in participating in exchange plans. The study’s results are even more surprising given the source of the study. MGMA represents many integrated physician practices, including famous practices like the Mayo Clinic. The Obama Administration has held out these types of integrated practices as the prototype for the accountable care organization (ACO) model created in Obamacare. Yet these practices, which the Administration views as part of the future of health care, along with many other doctors and hospitals, may decide not to participate in Obamacare exchange plans. Giving millions of Americans an insurance card that does not provide access to care represents an empty promise, not health ‘reform.’ It’s one more reason why Congress needs to stop this unworkable law and focus on better reforms that can actually help patients.” [49644]

According to DailyCaller.com, “Embattled IRS official Sarah Hall Ingram made 155 visits to the White House to meet with a top Obama White House official with whom she exchanged confidential taxpayer information over email. Of Ingram’s 165 White House meetings with White House staff, a staggering 155 of them were hosted by deputy assistant to the president for health policy Jeanne Lambrew, according to a June Watchdog.Org analysis of White House visitor records. Ingram exchanged confidential taxpayer information with Lambrew and White House health policy advisor Ellen Montz, according to 2012 emails obtained by the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee. The White House recently took down visitor logs recording details of these meetings, citing the government shutdown. Ingram headed the scandal-plagued IRS office that oversaw tax-exempt organizations between 2009 and 2012, when she left to take over the IRS office in charge of Obamacare implementation.” [49645, 49653]

WashingtonPost.com reports, “Organizers of the ‘Truckers Ride for the Constitution’ rally say they are indeed coming to Washington on Friday—but whether they will shut down the Beltway or just make a lot of noise remains to be seen. ...State police officials in the region said they will be prepared either way. ‘Virginia State Police is aware of the proposed convoy of commercial vehicles and is preparing accordingly with the region’s law enforcement agencies and the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), just as we have done in the past for similar demonstrations held within the National Capital Region,’ said spokeswoman Corinne N. Geller in an e-mail statement.” [49625]

An “Obamacare and You!” event in Greenville, South Carolina hosted by Obama’s Organizing for Action is attended by *two* people. The advertisement for the event reads, “Let’s discuss what this Affordable Care Act means for you and your community. This session will help you understand the benefits and will equip you to spread the word about the benefits of Obamacare in your community. Come out and get the facts!!” [49668, 49669]

Americans who have no desire to enroll in ObamaCare will nevertheless be reminded about it if they watch television. Marketplace.org reports that “Hollywood Health & Society, a program with the USC Annenberg Norman Lear Center got a \$500,000 grant

this week from The California Endowment to help TV writers tell better stories about the new health insurance law. ‘Why try to get your public health message into fictional story lines? People learn from TV,’ says Marty Kaplan, the director of the Norman Lear Center. ‘Even if they know it is fiction, even if they know if writers can make stuff up, especially in the realm of medicine and public health, if a doctor says something to a patient, people tend to think that someone has checked that, that it’s true,’ Kaplan says. Kaplan’s group works to make sure that at least some of what comes out of doctors’ mouths is real, or at least real-ish. Hollywood Health & Society has worked with nearly 100 TV shows—everything from ‘Mad Men’ to ‘Desperate Housewives’ to ‘Dr. Vegas’ and ‘The Bold and the Beautiful.’ The Center has access to the megaphone that is Hollywood. ...Hollywood Health & Society will reach out to TV writers and editors says Daniel Zingale, Senior V.P. of Healthy California at The California Endowment. ‘They’ll be giving them content, storylines, information, so that people watching those programs will learn about Obamacare and useful information about how to get enrolled.’” (In other words, television programs will use ObamaCare propaganda in their story lines.) [49797]

On *Special Report*, Charles Krauthammer says, “I suspect a bait and switch here on the part of the Obama administration. Obama was quite clear on Tuesday when he said he had been demanding, up until now, ‘You give me a one year extension on the debt or I’m not gonna talk.’ [House Speaker John] Boehner said, ‘All I want to do is talk.’ So [Obama] offered him an off ramp in which he said, ‘Well, I will accept any length of extension.’ Meaning, I’ll extend just a technical one, a short one, a couple of weeks.’ And that offer to compromise, [was] so he could start negotiations. He gets a debt ceiling increase so he can say, ‘Well, now I can talk.’ Boehner is able to engage in negotiations with what would be a trivial extension—whether the debt ceiling is next week, or three weeks is irrelevant. And that seemed to be the basis. And today, [White House press secretary Jay] Carney reiterated that obvious offer. He was asked, ‘Will [Obama] sign a short-term raising of the debt limit even if he doesn't get a clean C.R. [continuing resolution],’ i.e., an opening up of the government. And the answer was yes. So, Boehner has his offer, he goes in to see [Obama]. You would expect that you would then have [a] six week extension and discuss all of these issues. What seems to have happened is that now there are demands from [Obama] on the reopening of the government, which was not what they had said earlier in the week, which is why I think they are stuck now. And I think the Republicans ought to stand fast on this. We’re offering you six weeks, we’re offering an opportunity for real negotiations on debt reduction and all kinds of other stuff. [That is] Eminently reasonable and I hope they don’t budge on this because otherwise it is, I think, [Obama] contradicting himself.” [49639]

On October 11 Senator Ted “no Teleprompter needed” Cruz (R-TX) addresses the Family Research Council’s Values Voters Summit. His mere mention of the name Joe Biden generates laughter, prompting Cruz to say, “You know the nice thing? You don’t need a punch line. You just say his name, people laugh.” Cruz states, “We’ve seen a hapless, feckless foreign policy, ‘leading from behind’—said by [Obama], who doesn’t appreciate the concept of an oxymoron.” During the event Cruz is heckled by several goons from Obama’s Organizing for Action (OFA). He asks, “Is anybody left at the Organizing for America [sic; Action] headquarters? I’m actually glad that [Obama’s]

whole political staff is here instead of doing mischief in the country!” Cruz says, “The greatest trick the left has ever played is to convince conservatives we cannot win. The media will tell us that believing in free market values, believing in the Constitution, believing in freedom, that those are extreme views. It is a lie. If it were not a lie, why do so many Democrats, when they’re running, pretend to be conservatives? For that matter, why do so many *Republicans* do the same?” After more hecklers interrupt his speech with questions, Cruz says, “In the course of this brief speech, we’ve heard more questions [from the hecklers] than [Obama] has allowed in the past year! In fact, since we have the men and women of the media here, let me make an offer to [Obama]. ...If he wants to get a hundred of his most rabid political operatives in a room, I’ll answer their questions as long as he [Obama] likes. ...And in exchange, all I would ask ...is that you [Obama] take, not a hundred, but 10 of the men and women in this room and spend 30 minutes answering their questions for the American people.” Addressing more hecklers, Cruz says, “How scared is [Obama]? What a statement of fear. What a statement of fear. Oh, they don’t want the truth to be heard; they definitely don’t want the truth to be heard. ...You know, the nice thing is the left will always, always, always tell you who they fear. And they fear you. They fear the American people. ...It is because of you that the House of Representatives has been standing strong.” [49624, 49631, 49638, 49648, 49715]

Retired pediatric neurosurgeon Dr. Benjamin Carson also speaks at the Values Voters Summit. He calls ObamaCare “the worst thing that has happened in this nation since slavery. It is slavery because it aims to make all of us subservient to the government. It was never about health care. It was about control. That’s why, when this administration took office, it didn’t matter that the country was going off the cliff economically; all forces were directed toward getting this legislation passed. Why did they want to pass it so badly? Vladimir Lenin, one of the fathers of socialism, said that socialized medicine is the keystone to the establishment of a socialist state. Some people say, ‘Oh, come on, you’re being paranoid. Why would you bring up something like that? I would say, ‘If you know anything about history, how could you not bring that up?’” (In a presidential straw poll of summit attendees, Cruz wins 43 percent; Carson and former Senator Rick Santorum each get 13 percent. Senator Rand Paul (R-KY) wins 6 percent. Five percent vote for Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL).) [49687, 49688, 49689]

Townhall.com posts several quotes from the summit. Senator Mike Lee (R-UT): “Too often in this town we stop thinking about the things that matter most. We don’t stop thinking big—we stop thinking at all.” “Throughout our party’s history, the bigger our ideas, the more we’ve succeeded. The ideas propel our party to success.” “Freedom doesn’t mean you’re on your own, it means we’re all in this together.” Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX): “This is an administration that seems bound and determined to violate every single one of our Bill of Rights.” “And then there is the 10th Amendment, an amendment I’m pretty sure they’ve gone and cut out of every copy of the Constitution in the Library of Congress.” “We have a couple of years to turn this country around, or we go off the cliff to oblivion. Throughout the history of the world, we have seen great nations rise and fall. And everyone here today is here today because we are not content to allow the United States of America to do anything but continue to rise and remain the greatest country on the face of this Earth.” Senator Rand Paul (R-KY): “Today I want to talk

about a war that the mainstream media is ignoring. From Boston to Zanzibar, there's a worldwide war on Christianity. Christians are being attacked around the world, but you won't hear much about it on the evening news because the answer's not convenient. It doesn't fit the narrative we have been told about radical Islam." "As long as I'm in the Senate, I will fight against any money to the Muslim Brotherhood." "In Egypt, the mob attacked our embassy, climbed on top of our embassy and burned our flag. I don't know about you, but I've had enough. I say not one penny more to any country that would burn the American flag." [49690]

SFGate.com reports that the Obama administration will issue a postage stamp to "honor" Harvey Milk, "California's first openly gay elected leader." Milk, a member of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, and Mayor George Moscone, were shot and killed by former supervisor Dan White. (Milk was not only gay, he was a pederast, child molester, and drug addict. For some reason he is celebrated by the nation's leftists.) [50319, 50350, 50378]

WashingtonExaminer.com reports, "Canadian provincial health officials last year fired the parent company of CGI Federal, the prime contractor for the problem-plagued Obamacare health exchange websites, the Washington Examiner has learned. CGI Federal's parent company, Montreal-based CGI Group, was officially terminated in September 2012 by an Ontario government health agency after the firm missed three years of deadlines and failed to deliver the province's flagship online medical registry." Officials at the U.S. government's Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services "refused to say if federal officials knew of its parent company's IT failure in Canada when awarding [ObamaCare web site] contracts. ...CGI Federal built Obamacare's Healthcare.gov, which went live Oct. 1 but has since experienced multiple technical problems, including crashes, refusal to load and sign-on, or to provide accurate information. ...CGI Federal also is the prime contractor for state health exchange websites in Colorado, Vermont, Hawaii and Massachusetts. Three of those states also reported significant website glitches." [49626]

WTSP in Tampa Bay, Florida reports, "A memo obtained by the 10 News investigators from the union that represents pilots for US Airways says that 'there have been several cases recently throughout the (airline) industry of what appear to be probes, or dry-runs, to test our procedures and reaction to an in flight threat.'" Wolf Koch, a Delta Airlines pilot who is also the Aviation Security Committee Chairman for the Air Line Pilots Association International, says, "What most security experts will tell you that if a dry-run is occurring, the attack will shortly follow." According to WTSP, "The pilots say the most recent dry-run occurred on Flight 1880 on September 2. The flight left Reagan National Airport in Washington D.C. and headed to Orlando International. Crew members say that shortly after takeoff, a group of four 'Middle Eastern' men caused a commotion. The witnesses claim one of the men ran from his seat in coach, toward the flight deck door. He made a hard left and entered the forward bathroom 'for a considerable length of time.' While he was in there, the other three men proceeded to move about the cabin, changing seats, opening overhead bins, and 'generally making a scene.' They appeared to be trying to occupy and distract the flight attendants." Although

the Transportation Security Administration says the incident requires “no further investigation,” a Federal Air Marshall says, “They’re liars. They’re flat out liars. ... We’re waiting for the next 9/11 to happen, because it’s not a question of if. It’s a question of when.” [49627, 49634]

The Times reports, “Iran has executed up to 150 people since President [Hassan] Rowhani [also spelled Rouhani] took office in August in a surge of public hangings that belies his pledge to end the repression of the previous regime. Mr Rowhani’s benign overtures to the West in recent weeks have raised hopes of a breakthrough in the stand-off over Iran’s disputed nuclear programme. However, at home, the early days of his presidency have been marked by the rise in executions.” (The Obama administration and the mainstream media continue to claim that Rouhani is a “moderate.” Rouhani is not, and, like predecessor Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, he takes orders from the ayatollahs.) [49721]

The Galen Institute’s Grace-Marie Turner tells WND.com, “I am not surprised” by the problems with the roll-out of ObamaCare. “Of course, we know the federal government is running the exchanges for about 35 of the states and the other states were setting up their own exchanges. All of them basically have to do the same thing. It is just a gargantuan undertaking to not only figure out how to set up a new website that gathers a tremendous amount of information from individuals: their name, their birth date, where they work, their Social Security number, the names and birth dates of their children, how much they earn, their health habits. All of this has to be gathered just for people to be able to apply to see if they are eligible for coverage and then to pick a plan. Then all that has to be assimilated with federal databases, with the IRS, with Treasury, with Health and Human Services, with state databases to see if you’re eligible or on Medicaid, with Homeland Security to see if they’re actually a citizen, [even] with the Peace Corps for some reason. ... They were still letting contracts for this [in] July. This law was passed three-and-a-half years ago. They were just getting around to letting the contracts. Even some of the physical equipment like switches to let all these computers talk to each other, were not ordered until this summer. It’s an example of when the federal government tries to run something. They try to re-engineer one-sixth of our economy. They just can’t do it.” [49640]

“I think a lot of people think they’re going to get free insurance. This is not just some online shopping. You’re required by the federal government to buy this insurance, and it’s going to be very expensive, even with the subsidies. People are not expecting to have to spend \$100, \$200, \$300, \$400 a month for health insurance for the rest of our lives, even for some of these policies that seem to be what the government considers to be the more affordable ones. Then on top of that, they’re very likely to have deductibles of several thousand dollars as well as co-payments on top of the premiums. Once people start to see the cost of this, there are going to be a lot of second thoughts. I think there’s going to be a lot of sticker shock. ... What really is going to matter in the sustainability of these exchanges is who is enrolling. The people who are most likely to enroll and pay these high prices are those with a lot of health problems. If that happens, then I think you’re going to start to see a death spiral for these exchanges. ... Young people are already being required to pay a much higher premium than their health status would

suggest they should and than they would in an open, competitive market. Those are the very people you most want to get in, and they're the ones who are going to have to pay the highest relative premium to their health status. They're penalizing the very people that they need to get into these. I think that over the long term, that the way this is set up is designed not to work." [49640]

Although some people are able to access the Healthcare.gov web site, some users who encounter problems on October 11 are told, "Healthcare.gov is working, the enrollment tool is not." (In other words, even if one can log into the site, he or she cannot enroll in ObamaCare or buy insurance.) [49647]

Senator Pat Roberts (R-KS) issues a statement: "In the absence of a full repeal of Obamacare, which is my preference, we need new leadership from top to bottom. I am calling on the Secretary [of Health and Human Services, Kathleen Sebelius] to resign. Today we know the problems with the exchanges are systematic, profound and indisputable, and yet the Secretary won't shoot straight with the American people. This week, Sebelius continued wasting taxpayer dollars on advertising and promotional tours. This included failed rallies at NFL stadiums and appearances on comedy shows to promote enrollment, while at the same time, Americans were unable to sign up for healthcare plans as promised. Even [*The Daily Show's*] Jon Stewart didn't think it was a laughing matter. Americans are tired of the Sebelius spin. ...Everything we warned about has come to pass. ...They can see Obamacare has failed them. We need a Secretary who can admit when enough is enough." (At USA Today.com Catalina Camia writes, "It's not unusual for a GOP senator to call on a member of a Democratic Cabinet to resign, or vice versa. But when the senator and the Cabinet secretary hail from the same state, their families have long been friends, and the senator supported the secretary's confirmation, that's noteworthy. ...Roberts said at Sebelius' confirmation hearing in 2009 that they enjoyed a 'special relationship.' He was a congressional aide to Keith Sebelius, the secretary's father-in-law, and considers him his 'godfather' in politics.") [49649, 49686, 49860]

At RealClearPolitics.com Tom Bevan also asks why Sebelius still has a job. He writes, "Unlike the real world, where managers and employees are judged on results and held accountable for their performance, in Washington, D.C., loyalty and partisanship almost always come first. Accountability comes later, if it comes at all. ...Loyalty is generally a good thing, in politics, as in life. But Kathleen Sebelius and her agency's rollout of Obamacare is different. Sebelius' department had 3½ years to prepare to implement the Affordable Care Act. No one ever suggested that commandeering one-sixth of the American economy would be an easy task. (Many Republicans suggested the opposite and were dismissed as killjoys for their efforts.) But after the debacle of the last two weeks, liberals and Democrats—not conservatives or Republicans—should be calling for Sebelius's head. ... Republicans are fond of saying that government would work much better if it were run like a business. Any corporation that allowed a COO [chief operations/operating officer] to mismanage a new product line as important to its image as the Affordable Care Act is to Obama's would be contemplating their severance package. The fact that Republicans haven't called for Sebelius' scalp should tell

Democrats all they need to know about how much conservatives think she is hurting Obamacare's cause. If [Obama] cares about rescuing his signature policy initiative, he should consider putting it under new management right away." [49673]

At FreedomOutpost.com Dean Garrison writes, "Like many Americans I have been glued to the Pete Santilli show today in an attempt to keep up to date with any updates on the truckers. That show is streaming live at www.ridefortheconstitution.org as I write this. There are bombshells being dropped on that show that go far beyond a trucker's strike. The story the listeners are getting is that Larry Klayman [founder of Judicial Watch] was prepared to go on Neil Cavuto's show tonight [on the Fox Business Channel] and show pictures of National Guard troops that have been assembled to squash the uprising, should it get out of hand. But it is also being reported that Fox News pulled the interview. Why? Was the Fox interview pulled because Klayman wanted to talk about some other issues as well, including a gentleman named Larry Nichols, who was a longtime associate of Bill and Hillary Clinton? The accusation is that Fox News does not want to share this story and only wants reports of the alleged National Guard troops in D.C." (On September 24 Larry Nichols admitted that he was a "hit man" for Bill and Hillary Clinton. On *The Pete Santilli* [radio] *Show* Nichols reportedly stated, "They sent me overseas to kill people for them and told me it was for the good of the Country. So when they asked me to do it for them in the States it felt no different. The real truth is, I did it for the money and I didn't give a shit about the women I beat and the men I murdered. The Clintons are bad people and I did bad things for them. I had to live with that all of these years and now I just don't care anymore who knows it." Nichols, along with many others, claims that Chelsea Clinton's father is not Bill Clinton, but Webster Hubbell—a Rose Law Firm associate of Hillary Clinton. There have also been suggestions that Chelsea Clinton has had plastic surgery in an effort to make her look less like Hubbell.) Garrison suggests that Fox News pulled the Klayman interview because it feared he would discuss Larry Nichols, rather than the trucker protest. [49650, 49651, 49652, 49707, 49708, 49712, 51864]

In Politico, WhiteHouseDossier.com's Keith Koffler writes, "Obama is like a novice flier thrust into the cockpit of a 747. He's pushing buttons, flipping switches and radioing air traffic control, but nothing's happening. The plane is just slowly descending on its own, and while it may or may not crash, it at least doesn't appear to be headed to any particularly useful destination. Obama's ineffectiveness... has reached a new cruising altitude this year. Not even a year into his second term, he looks like a lame duck and quacks like a lame duck. You guessed it—he's a lame duck. ...Obama has something worse on his hands than being hated. ...Obama is being ignored. And that's because he has no credibility. ...Obama has used every credibility-busting method available to eviscerate any sense that he can be counted on. He's dissimulated, proven his unreliability, ruled arbitrarily and turned the White House into a Chicago-style political boiler room. His credibility has been sapped with his political opponents, a public that thinks him incompetent, our allies, who don't trust him, and, even worse, our enemies, who don't fear him. There's not going to be any grand bargain on the budget this year. Republicans are not only miles from [Obama] ideologically—they're not going to trust him with holding up his end of the bargain. If they had [someone in the White House]

they thought they could do business with, their spines might be weakening more quickly in the current budget impasse and they would be looking for an exit. ...The only thing Obama can truly be counted on is to make his tee time on Saturdays, though the government shutdown has temporarily cramped his golf game. During his first year in office, Ronald Reagan crushed an illegal strike by air traffic controllers by firing them all, defying charges that he was a union-busting thug and that planes would soon be dropping out of the sky. It was a moment that convinced observers at home and abroad that Reagan was not to be taken lightly, that he was a serious man of his word, and that he was to be respected and even feared. And so he got things done. Obama has never shown similar fortitude to the world for the simple reason that he lacks it. Obama is not to be feared, or even trusted. And that's a fatal flaw..." [49657]

Truck drivers—in respectable but not yet overwhelming numbers—arrive in Washington, D.C. to protest the ineptness of Obama and Congress. (More are likely to arrive on October 12. Coordinator Earl Lee tells Fox News that 10,000 truckers were en route to the nation's capitol.) [49663, 49664, 49670, 49674, 49676, 49680]

Attorney and Judicial Watch founder Larry Klayman tells the Media Research Center, "Apparently, some of the truckers were threatened out there on the beltway [I-495], and they were threatened with being arrested if they came down to Washington, D.C. ...so we're trying to find out what went on... with the truckers, and the threats, who made them... They [the truckers] are here, they are scattered throughout Washington, apparently they've been harassed by the government, and threatened with arrest..." [49700, 49701]

On CNBC, energy entrepreneur T. Boone Pickens says, "Canadians say they have 250 billion barrels [of oil]. That's exactly what the Saudis claim they have. You're sitting there with the same amount of oil available to the United States from Canada ...as [from] Saudi Arabia. ...You could make them [OPEC] obsolete two or three different ways, and that [Keystone XL pipeline] is one of them." (*The Obama Timeline* believes that is precisely why Obama refuses to approve the pipeline; he does not want to anger the Saudis.) [49666]

Families gather at the courthouse in Doylestown, Pennsylvania to complain about the increase in health care premiums caused by ObamaCare. WFMZ reports, "All said they are the people who the Affordable Care Act is not helping. 'I feel it's important for people to understand that the premiums aren't affordable,' said Jennifer Most, of Morrisville. Most told the crowd she went to the government website with all intentions of signing up. She and her husband are disabled, on a fixed income, and their 5-year-old child has a few medical problems, as well. In order to stay covered, 'my premium for health insurance was \$947.63,' added Most. That is... more than \$765 above what she currently pays. 'It would take food out of our mouths to be able to afford these coverages,' said Most. Others also took issue with the government's plan. 'It also implicitly punishes people who make responsible, healthy choices like me, such as not smoking or overeating,' one speaker told the crowd. Small business owners talked about increased paperwork, and one teen told the crowd about how he can no longer save for

college because he can't work more than 29-1/2 hours due to the health care mandate for small business owners. 'It's annoying to me to have to be set to that limit when I've got time,' said Nathan Faucette, from Sellersville." [49685, 49691, 49692]

FoxNews.com reports, "Nine insurance companies are pulling out of Nebraska's major medical insurance market, and some of them cite Obamacare as the reason for their departure. Seven of the nine companies have notified the state of their plans to leave since August. Most of them have a minor piece of the major medical market in Nebraska, and likely don't think it's worth it to make the changes necessary to comply with the federal health care law. ...Aetna, American Family Mutual Insurance, Humana, Independence American Insurance Company, Reserve National Insurance Company, Standard Security Life Insurance Company of New York, Companion Life Insurance and United Security Life and Health Insurance have all informed the state insurance department of their intent to stop selling health insurance to individuals—and in some cases—groups." [49718]

At USNews.com Peter Roff writes, "The letter bringing the news [Obama] told me would never come arrived in Thursday's mail. It said, in part, 'Among other things, these (Affordable Care Act) requirements will cause your benefits to change to include federally-mandated Essential Health Benefits. Since your current benefit plan does not conform to these new mandates, your current health plan will cease upon your anniversary date.' There it was, in black and white, notification that I would not be able to keep my current health care plan—whether I liked it or not. Remember the... talking point? If you like your current health plan, Barack Obama and his allies repeated over and over again, you would get to keep it. There would be no change. Things would go on as before even if Obamacare became the law of the land. The letter that came Thursday put the truth to [Obama's] lie. I would not be allowed to keep my current plan because it did not conform to the dictates of the new law and it was going away. And there was nothing I could do about it save enroll in a new plan because, as the letter also said, 'you will be required to select a new ACA-compliant plan in order to continue your coverage.' There are no two ways about it: Barack Obama stood up in front of the Congress of the United States and lied the nation into a new health care insurance system. Given that, it is now clear what the origins of the current contretemps between the executive and the legislative branches clearly are." [49863]

Politico reports, "Obama spoke with House Speaker John Boehner on Friday but did not accept the House Republican plan to open the government, raise the debt ceiling and open budget talks, sources said. '[Obama] and the speaker spoke by telephone a few minutes ago. They agreed that we should all keep talking,' said Michael Steel, a spokesman for Boehner."

Politico then reports, "The White House has concerns with a House Republican proposal to temporarily open the government and raise the nation's debt limit, with press secretary Jay Carney saying '[Obama's] position' that he won't 'pay a ransom in exchange for Congress doing its job remains as true today' as it always has. But he offered a rhetorical olive branch to the GOP, saying 'there have been constructive talks.' 'It is a marked

difference from where we had been,' Carney said. '[Obama] appreciates the approach the speaker and others have taken. Carney's remarks came a short time after ...Obama and House Speaker John Boehner spoke by telephone and, according to both sides, agreed to keep talking about a solution to the fiscal crisis.'

Rush Limbaugh, commenting on an NBC/Wall Street Journal poll that shows overwhelming disapproval of Republicans for the partial shutdown, notes, "People have looked at the internals of the... poll, and it's 800 people. The spread of Democrat to Republican is 43/32. So 43% in the poll are Democrats, 32% are Republicans. That's an 11 point difference there. That's not representative at all of the makeup [of the population]. But in addition to that, there's a question in this poll that's worded in a weird way, but it revealed that the sample in this poll, out of 800 people of government employees, is double it's normal size. So in addition to the poll showing a Democrat/Republican advantage 43/32, the percentage of government workers in the poll is double what the sample normally includes. They basically polled Washington is what they did here." (Although roughly 8 percent of all workers are employed by federal, state, or local governments, a whopping 20 percent of those surveyed by NBC/WSJ were government employees.) While there is no doubt that more Americans blame Republicans than Obama and the Democrats for the partial shutdown, "cooking the books" in a poll by oversampling people who are naturally predisposed to blame Republicans is hardly responsible, let alone ethical. Limbaugh properly concludes, however, "That isn't gonna matter because it's out there, and everybody believes it." (It is simply a fact of life that polls often use oversampling to generate desired results.) [49677, 49678, 49679]

At NationalReview.com Mark Steyn writes, "If a government shuts down in the forest and nobody hears it, that's the sound of liberty dying. ...The NPS [National Park Service] has spent the last two weeks behaving as the paramilitary wing of the DNC [Democrat National Committee], expending more resources in trying to close down open-air, unfenced areas than it would normally do in keeping them open. It began with the war memorials on the National Mall—that's to say, stone monuments on pieces of grass under blue sky. It's the equivalent of my New Hampshire town government shutting down and deciding therefore to ring the Civil War statue on the village common with yellow police tape and barricades. ...But perhaps the most extraordinary story to emerge from the NPS is that of the tour group of foreign seniors whose bus was trapped in Yellowstone Park on the day the shutdown began. They were pulled over photographing a herd of bison when an armed ranger informed them, with the insouciant ad-hoc unilateral lawmaking to which the armed bureaucrat is distressingly prone, that taking photographs counts as illegal 'recreation.' 'Sir, you are recreating,' the ranger informed the tour guide. And we can't have that, can we? They were ordered back to the Old Faithful Inn, next to the geyser of the same name, but forbidden to leave said inn to look at said geyser. Armed rangers were posted at the doors, and, just in case one of the wily Japanese or Aussies managed to outwit his captors by escaping through one of the inn's air ducts and down to the geyser, a fleet of NPS SUVs showed up every hour and a half throughout the day, ten minutes before Old Faithful was due to blow, to surround the geyser and additionally ensure that any of America's foreign visitors trying to photograph

the impressive natural phenomenon from a second-floor hotel window would still wind up with a picture full of government officials. The following morning the bus made the two-and-a-half-hour journey to the park boundary but was prevented from using any of the bathrooms en route, including at a private dude ranch whose owner was threatened with the loss of his license if he allowed any tourist to use the facilities.” [49716]

“At the same time as the National Park Service was holding legal foreign visitors under house arrest, it was also allowing illegal immigrants to hold a rally on the supposedly closed National Mall. At this bipartisan amnesty bash, the Democrat House minority leader Nancy Pelosi said she wanted to ‘thank [Obama] for enabling us to gather here’ and Republican congressman Mario Diaz-Balart also expressed his gratitude to the administration for ‘allowing us to be here.’ Is this for real? It’s not King Barack’s land; it’s supposed to be the people’s land, and his most groveling and unworthy subjects shouldn’t require a dispensation by His Benign Majesty to set foot on it. It is disturbing how easily large numbers of Americans lapse into a neo-monarchical prostration that few subjects of actual monarchies would be comfortable with these days. ...The NPS have not yet fried anyone for taking King Barack’s deer, but it is somewhat sobering to reflect that an English peasant enjoyed more freedom on the sovereign’s land in the 13th century than a freeborn American does on ‘the people’s land’ in the 21st century.” [49716]

After Obama holds a White House meeting with several Republican lawmakers, Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX) tells reporters, “I told [Obama] exactly the same thing I have told you here today: That we need to work together and fund the government and at the same time provide substantial relief to the millions of people who are hurting because of ObamaCare, who are losing their jobs, being forced into part-time work and losing their health insurance. If the outcome doesn’t impact people who are struggling, who are hurting because of ObamaCare, then I don’t think it would be a good outcome. ...I’m glad that we are finally having discussions. That is an improvement. There was an awful lot of talk but then, at the end of the day, [Obama] still said he wouldn’t negotiate. We began talking, that was good today. But he continued to maintain that he will not negotiate or compromise on anything. And if that is the position, that’s not going to lead to a resolution.” [49735, 49736]

FoxNews.com reports, “Some 30,000 grocery store workers in the state of Washington could be walking picket lines as soon as next week, in what some say is a direct result of ObamaCare. Big supermarket chains including Safeway, QFC, Albertsons and Fred Meyer are represented by Allied Employers in contract negotiations with the United Food and Commercial Workers and Teamsters. One of the employers’ new proposals is to provide healthcare only to employees who work 30 or more hours per week, a minimum requirement under ObamaCare. ...Under the most recent contract, workers got health care insurance if they put in a minimum of 16 hours per week. Union officials say ...Obama’s signature Affordable Care Act is being used as a convenient excuse to cut benefits.” The vote to strike is approved by 98 percent of the union members. [49683, 49684, 49711]

At the Health Care Policy and Marketplace Review blog, Robert Laszewski disputes reports that 51,000 people have enrolled in ObamaCare. He writes, “Based upon my survey of a large number of health plans accounting for substantial market share in the 36 states the federal insurance exchange is operating in, not more than about 5,000 individuals and families signed-up for health insurance in the 36 states run by the Obama administration through Monday. It is not uncommon for a major health insurer with a large market share to report less than 100 enrollments in the first week. Reports today say the enrollments continue to trickle in at about the same rate. Worse, the backroom connection between the insurance companies and the federal government is a disaster. Things are worse behind the curtain than in front of it. Here is one example from a carrier—and I have received numerous reports from many other carriers with exactly the same problem. One carrier exec told me that yesterday they got 7 transactions for 1 person—4 enrollments and 3 cancelations. For some reason the system is enrolling, unenrolling, enrolling again, and so forth the same person. This has been going on for a few days for many of the enrollments being sent to the health plans. It has got on to the point that the health plans worry some of these very few enrollments really don’t exist. The reconciliation system, that reconciles enrollment between the feds and the health plans, is not working and hasn’t even been tested yet.” [49727]

On October 12 Democrat leaders of the Senate reject a bi-partisan proposal by Senators Susan Collins (R-ME), Joe Manchin (D-WV), and others to extend federal spending at current levels for six months, increase the debt limit enough to last through January 2014, delay the ObamaCare medical device tax for two years, and require that ObamaCare subsidies not be provided without income verification. (Democrats want increased spending, although they generally agree that the medical device tax will kill jobs and send them overseas. It can be assumed that Obama does not want the debt ceiling issue delayed until January because he wants to use it to blame Republicans for “ruining the holidays.”) [49697, 49698, 49717, 49732]

The Senate also votes 53–45 to block a Democrat bill to raise the debt ceiling enough to cover all of 2014 with no spending cuts or changes to ObamaCare. (The vote is a failure for Obama and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV), who wanted to use it to pressure House Republicans to pass a similar “clean” bill.) [49697, 49698]

The Obama Timeline tries again to use Healthcare.gov, in a state with a federal exchange, and once again is presented with the message, “Important: Your account couldnt [sic] be created at this time. **Important:** Your account couldn’t be created at this time. Call the Marketplace Call Center at 1-800-318-2596. TTY users should call 1-855-889-4325.”

At Townhall.com Katie Pavlich writes, “Before Obamacare was passed in 2010, young people expressed little interest in making healthcare insurance a priority in their budgets. At the time, health plans for young and healthy people were available for as a little as \$48 [per month]. It didn’t matter and young people didn’t want it. Nothing has changed in the attitude of the young demographic the Obama administration hoped to attract, but [what] has changed is the price tag.” According to the American Action Forum, “[R]ates for low-premium plans have increased exponentially between 2013 and 2014. In fact, on

average, a healthy 30 year old male nonsmoker will see his lowest cost insurance option increase 260 percent.” [49693, 49694]

Hundreds, and perhaps thousands, of truck drivers arrive in Washington, D.C. to protest the Obama regime. (The mainstream media largely ignores the story, which makes it difficult to obtain estimates of the number of protesters.) [49703, 49706]

Breitbart.com notes a *Washington Post* report “that the ObamaCare site problems are even worse than originally believed. It is not just the buyer-end of the ObamaCare website that is unworkable; so is the back end that is supposed to tell insurance providers who their new customers are. This might also explain why the White House is refusing to release to the media the number of ObamaCare enrollees: they just don’t know. The only possible silver lining in this for the administration might be that the sporadic reports of the shockingly low number of enrollees are incorrect. More people might be signing up than what those reports suggest. Unfortunately for them, their insurance providers just don’t know it. ...In the early days of the ObamaCare launch debacle, the Administration did its best to spin America by explaining that the sites were crashing due to the ‘luxury problem’ of demand. Millions were hungering for ObamaCare and the sites couldn’t handle the traffic! Now that nearly two weeks have passed and the problems persist, not even a sympathetic media is buying it.” [49704, 49705]

At the Lincoln Memorial, tourists move the “Barricades” in order to see the statue of Abraham Lincoln. [49709, 49760]

In his weekly Internet/radio speech, Obama calls for an end to the partial government shutdown “...because there is so much else we should be focusing our energies on right now. ... We’ve got to create more jobs, and kids to educate, and an immigration system to fix.” Obama says, “It wouldn’t be wise to just kick the debt-ceiling can down the road for a couple months, and flirt with a first-ever intentional default right in the middle of the holiday shopping season. Because damage to America’s sterling credit rating wouldn’t just cause global markets to go haywire; it would become more expensive for everyone in America to borrow money. Students paying for college. Newlyweds buying a home. It would amount to a new tax—a Republican default tax—on every family and business in America.” (As predicted by *The Obama Timeline*, Obama would eventually get around to using the holiday season as an excuse to criticize Republicans. “The GOP will destroy Christmas!”) Of course, there could be no “intentional default” by anyone *other than Obama*, because only he has the authority to tell the Treasury Department *not* to pay interest on the national debt if the debt limit is not increased. There is sufficient incoming tax revenue to cover interest payments and Social Security benefits. (House Republicans would be wise to pass legislation laying out the payment priorities in the event the debt limit is reached, placing debt interest and Social Security benefits at the top of the list. Senate Democrats would not dare vote against such a bill, and Obama would not dare veto it.) [49713, 49807]

A “computer glitch” temporarily prevents people in 17 states from using their “food stamp” EBT debit cards. (Some immediately jump to the conclusion that the failure was

initiated by the Obama administration. Many food stamp users would automatically assume the “government shutdown” caused the problem and blame Republicans for “starving their children.” The theory is not without merit, considering some (unedited) messages on Twitter: “Shit just got real, EBT cards turned off until Govt. Shutdown ends.” “Mom saw a bunch of women crying bc their EBT cards don’t work & now they cant feed their kids. Breaks my heart,” “Lol damn ebt shutdown. It’s about to get fucking real!!!” “Just came back from Walmart and people EBT cards not working. They looking sick.” “EBI is down in the state of Georgia, seen lots of pissed off people today at work.” “Wow... Government shutdown has started affecting people.. EBT (bridge cards are off) my prayers go out to the families dependent on them.” “my friend posted on FB that we now can’t use our EBT Card. Are they going to starve us now? Please help us.” “Really!!!!EBT system shutdown. So now needy families starve b/c Congress can’t play together in the sandbox. None of u should. B reelected.” “Riot time! Reports of EBT outages coming in from around the country.” “ebt is down. there’s about to be a muhfckn riot.” “People gonna riot at acme.” “They tryna be funny cuttin EBT food stamps in Cleveland, OH. Well, A hungry enough man will KILL. Government shutdown 13’.” “Almost a riot in Aldi bc EBT is down. Not leaving this house again.” “Cuz lock your doors load your guns they cut off ebt cards nationwide.” [49710, 49761, 49792, 49793, 49832, 49843, 49859, 49862, 49866, 49869, 49928]

Although the EBT malfunction caused most cards to show they had no money to spend, in some areas of the country the cards showed unlimited credit. KSLA.com reports, “Shelves in Walmart stores in Springhill and Mansfield, LA were reportedly cleared Saturday night, when the stores allowed purchases on EBT cards even though they were not showing limits. The chaos that followed ultimately required intervention from local police, and left behind numerous carts filled to overflowing, apparently abandoned when the glitch-spurred shopping frenzy ended. Springhill Police Chief Will Lynd confirms they were called in to help the employees at Walmart because there were so many people clearing off the shelves. He says Walmart was so packed, ‘It was worse than any black Friday’ that he’s ever seen. Lynd explained the cards weren’t showing limits and they called corporate Walmart, whose spokesman said to let the people use the cards anyway. From 7 to 9 p.m., people were loading up their carts, but when the cards began showing limits again around 9, one woman was detained because she rang up a bill of \$700.00 and only had .49 on her card. She was held by police until corporate Walmart said they wouldn’t press charges if she left the food. Lynd says at 9 p.m., when the cards came back online and it was announced over the loud speaker, people just left their carts full of food in the aisles and left. ‘Just about everything is gone, I’ve never seen it in that condition,’ said Mansfield Walmart customer Anthony Fuller.” One welfare recipient in Los Angeles tells reporters, “They had better resolve something because if it stays like this there is gonna [sic] be a [sic] uproar in the city of L.A. ...A Rodney King, baby” (That is, food stamp recipients would start riots, like those prompted by the police beating of Rodney King in 1992. Between 1776 and 2013 the United States has apparently devolved from, “Give me liberty, or give me death!” to “Gimme my free stuff, cracka, or we gonna riot!”) [49815, 49816, 49832, 49843, 49859, 49862, 49866, 49869, 49928]

EagleRising.com posts a video of Mitt Romney from the 2012 campaign in which he states, “You know that if [Obama] is re-elected, he will still be unable to work with the people in Congress. I mean, he’s ignored them, he’s attacked them, he’s blamed them. The debt ceiling will come up again, and shutdown and default will be threatened, chilling the economy.” [49714]

At FoxNews.com Jim Angle provides more examples of ObamaCare sticker shock. [49719]

Memri.org reports, “Egypt recently announced the renewal of its plan to establish a nuclear power plant. This intention was expressed in statements made by the Egyptian minister of electricity and energy in mid-September 2013 during meetings he held with International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) officials, and in a speech given by Egyptian President Adly Mansour on the 40th anniversary of the 1973 war last week. ... *It seems that the renewal of the nuclear project is motivated by the current regime’s desire to win internal legitimacy and portray itself as being able to restore Egypt’s status as a regional power. ...It should also be mentioned that, alongside Egypt’s declaration of the renewal of its nuclear program, and, on the other hand, the beginning of the disarmament of Syria’s nuclear weapons arsenal, official Egyptian media published several articles calling on Arab countries to preserve their weapons of mass destruction as a deterrent.*” [49724]

The Wall Street Journal reports, “Jihadi-led rebel fighters in Syria killed at least 190 civilians and abducted more than 200 during an offensive against pro-regime villages, committing a war crime, an international human-rights group said Friday. The Aug. 4 attacks on unarmed civilians in more than a dozen villages in the coastal province of Latakia were systematic and could even amount to a crime against humanity, Human Rights Watch said in a 105-page report. The findings are based on a visit a month later to the area, with permission from the Syrian regime. The report quoted witnesses as saying rebels went house to house, killing entire families or killing the men and taking women and children hostage. The villagers belong to the minority Alawite sect, an offshoot of Shiite Islam which forms the backbone of President Bashar al-Assad’s regime—and which Sunni Muslim extremists consider heretics.” (AtlasShrugs.com’s Pamela Geller observes, “Obama is backing these savages [as is Senator John McCain (R-AZ)]. What does that tell us about Obama? Al-Qaeda leader Ayman Al-Zawahiri and Obama are on the same page.”) [49725, 49726]

NYTimes.com reports, “In March, Henry Chao, the chief digital architect for the Obama administration’s new online insurance marketplace, told industry executives that he was deeply worried about the Web site’s debut. ‘Let’s just make sure it’s not a third-world experience,’ he told them. Two weeks after the rollout, few would say his hopes were realized. For the past 12 days, a system costing more than \$400 million and billed as a one-stop click-and-go hub for citizens seeking health insurance has thwarted the efforts of millions to simply log in. The growing national outcry has deeply embarrassed the White House, which has refused to say how many people have enrolled through the federal exchange. ... ‘These are not glitches,’ said an insurance executive who has

participated in many conference calls on the federal exchange. Like many people interviewed for this article, the executive spoke on the condition of anonymity, saying he did not wish to alienate the federal officials with whom he works. ‘The extent of the problems is pretty enormous. At the end of our calls, people say, ‘It’s awful, just awful.’” Interviews with two dozen contractors, current and former government officials, insurance executives and consumer advocates, as well as an examination of confidential administration documents, point to a series of missteps—financial, technical and managerial—that led to the troubles. ...Dr. Donald M. Berwick, the administrator of the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services in 2010 and 2011, said the time and budgetary pressures were a constant worry. ‘The staff was heroic and dedicated, but we did not have enough money, and we all knew that,’ he said in an interview on Friday.” (\$634 million is apparently insufficient to create a web site that works.) “...By early this year, people inside and outside the federal bureaucracy were raising red flags. ‘We foresee a train wreck,’ an insurance executive working on information technology said in a February interview. ‘We don’t have the I.T. specifications. The level of angst in health plans is growing by leaps and bounds. The political people in the administration do not understand how far behind they are.’” [49767, 49795]

Heritage.org posts examples of health insurance rate increases sent in by readers. One young woman reports a jump from \$256 per month to \$555 per month under ObamaCare. Other Twitter responses: “13.5% rate hike. deductible doubles! Max out of pocket- TRIPLES! Co-pay, ER & Rx all up!” “From \$1002 to \$1980 = 98%” “Wife & 2 Kids: Current Plan \$263 month, New Plan for 2014 \$270 month, 2014 ACA Plan \$810 month.” [49796]

On October 13 HuffingtonPost.com reports, “Senate Republicans are holding the line against Democratic demands for a framework to alleviate the across-the-board spending cuts established by sequestration as part of any deal to end the government shutdown and raise the debt ceiling. In talks between Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) and Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY), the main sticking point is now where to establish funding levels for the federal government and for how long. The Republican offer made on Friday—to set spending at sequestration levels of \$988 billion for the next six months—was rejected by Reid and others on Saturday on the grounds that it was too favorable to the GOP position and discouraged future negotiations. By Sunday morning, little notable progress toward a resolution had been made. McConnell, according to sources, was adamant that the spending cuts of sequestration be maintained in any final arrangement.” (In other words, Obama and the Democrats not only do not want to agree to spending cuts in exchange for an increase in the debt limit, they want to reverse the minimal cuts to which they previously agreed—and increase the \$988 cap by \$71 billion, to \$1.059 trillion.) McConnell spokesman Don Stewart says, “Senator McConnell will defend the commitment Congress made on spending reductions; he’ll defend the [sequestration] law that Senator Reid voted for and [Obama] signed—and subsequently bragged about in his [2012] campaign. As I recall, Senator Reid voted for, and ...Obama signed the Budget Control Act [which implemented sequestration spending cuts]. They may not like that the super-committee didn’t act and we’re left with sequester, but under their own rhetoric, it’s ‘the law of the land.’” Senator Bob Corker (R-TN) says, “It

appeared the White House may have gotten a little involved with Senate leaders, Democratic leadership, to pull back away from the Budget Control Act.” (That is, when it appeared a deal was possible Obama threw a monkey wrench into it with spending increase demands.) [49730, 49731, 49771]

Obama reportedly telephones House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) to repeat his demand for legislation to increase the debt limit for one year and resume full federal spending, with no strings attached. [49731]

On *This Week*, Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC) says, “If you break the [sequestration] spending caps, you’re not going to get any Republicans in the Senate [to vote to increase the debt limit].” [49730]

On *Meet the Press*, Senator Rob Portman (R-OH) says, “[Obama] and leaders of Congress need to take the responsibility of dealing with the underlying problem and keep the budget caps in place. My gosh, we just put them in place two years ago.” [49730]

On *State of the Union*, Senator Rand Paul (R-KY) says, “Now they [Obama and the Democrats] want a spending bill that increases spending and dramatically will increase the debt. It’s a non-starter.” [49771]

On *Face the Nation*, Senator Charles Schumer (D-NY) says, “The dispute has been how to undo the sequester.” [49771]

Thousands of protesters—albeit far short of the “Million Vet March” name would have suggested— arrive at the closed World War II Memorial. Some demonstrators peacefully remove some of the barricades meant to keep them out, carry them to the White House—which some protesters call the “Spite House”—and place them neatly in a pile. Some members of the Park Police arrive in riot gear—but none appear eager to arrest a veteran with artificial legs, riding a Segway, and carrying one end of a barricade he is helping to move. Some veterans chant, “Obama must go!” At the memorial, veterans are greeted by former Alaska Governor Sarah Palin and Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX). Palin says, “We are here to honor our vets. You look around, though, and you see these ‘Barricades,’ and you have to ask yourself, ‘Is this any way that a commander in chief would show his respect, his gratitude, to our military?’ This is a matter of shutdown priorities. ... This is the people’s memorial. Our veterans should be above politics.” Cruz tells the crowd, “Two weeks ago [Obama] signed a written veto threat, He said, ‘If you open the memorial, I will veto it.’ ... Right now that bill sits on Harry Reid’s desk and Harry Reid will not even allow the Senate to vote. There are 14 bills sitting on Harry Reid’s desk to fund vital government functions, to fund the VA [Veterans Administration]. The Senate won’t even vote to fund the VA.” [49733, 49734, 49742, 49743, 49744, 49745, 49746, 49747, 49748, 49749, 49750, 49751, 49752, 49753, 49754, 49755, 49756, 49757, 49758, 49762, 49763, 49772, 49774, 49775, 49776, 49777, 49779, 49781, 49801]

Although the Obama administration chose to shut down national monuments and parks, it found enough money to pay for the cost of having National Park Service rangers hover over the demonstrations in a helicopter. (Townhall.com's Katie Pavlich notes, "It costs around \$15,000 per hour to keep a helicopter [of that type] in the air. As a reminder, the government is still shutdown [sic; shut down] and 'non-essential' services are still unavailable. Apparently monitoring veterans with a helicopter is an 'essential' function.") [49799, 49800]

Snipers on the roof of the White House prompt one person to comment on Twitter, "Woods/Doherty died n Benghazi roof painting targets praying [Obama would] help. Today [Obama] orders vets painted by WH snipers." [49775]

Although the mainstream media does its best to ignore the rally at the World War II Memorial, exploding heads at CNN prompt an online report in response to a statement by event speaker Larry Klayman, founder of Judicial Watch: "I call upon all of you to wage a second American nonviolent revolution, to use civil disobedience, and to demand that [Obama] leave town, to get up, to put the Qu'ran down, to get up off his knees, and to figuratively come out with his hands up." [49768, 49769, 49770, 49780]

Obama's approval/disapproval rating falls to 41/53 in the Gallup poll. At Breitbart.com Mike Flynn comments, "Obama's lowest approval ratings in the Gallup survey were in October, 2011. Just 38% of Americans approved of his job performance, while 54% disapproved. The results reported Monday are well within the poll's margin of error of that low. At the end of September, on the eve of the government shutdown and launch of ObamaCare, 44% of Americans approved of Obama's job performance, while 48% disapproved. Gallup's latest poll finds an 8-point swing against Obama since the start of the partial government shutdown. The conventional wisdom in DC and across the media is that the current fiscal stand-off hurts Republicans exclusively. Unfortunately, many Republican lawmakers seem to believe this as well. This belief prompted them last week to offer major concessions to end the fiscal stalemate. Obama rejected those offers, preferring to leave the threat of possible default on the table to extract more concessions. The Gallup poll, however, shows that this strategy is risky for Obama. If the stand-off exclusively hurt Republicans, one would have expected Obama's numbers to rise in the wake of the partial government shutdown." [49759, 49824]

Apparently because he is too dangerous to be anywhere near spending, shutdown, and debt ceiling negotiations, Vice President Joe Biden spends the weekend at Camp David, with his wife, children and grandchildren. On *Face the Nation*, Senator John McCain (R-AZ) quips, "I'm glad that negotiations are going on. I'm disappointed that twice... we were close to a deal and the Democrats moved the goal posts, in light of the polling data. ...Maybe we need to get Joe Biden out of the witness protection program." (McCain fails to understand that he is part of the problem. The Democrats moved the goal posts because they sensed weakness and dissension in the Republicans ranks—weakness and dissension that were increased by McCain, Congressman Peter King (R-NY), and other establishment Republicans who publicly criticized conservative legislators who dare to do what their constituents expect them to do.) [49764, 49765, 49809, 49810]

Examiner.com reports, “An American veteran jailed in Egypt for violating the government's curfew in August was discovered dead on Sunday in his cell, according to the Middle East newspaper Al Arabiya. According to counterterrorism analyst and former police official, Brian Jenkins, this was the second incident in which a foreigner was found dead while in Egyptian custody in recent weeks. The man is being identified as 66-year-old James Lunn, a retired U.S. Army officer who arrived in Cairo from the Gulf kingdom of Bahrain on Aug. 25, 2013. He was reportedly detained by Egyptian military troops—who were deployed in the hostile region of northern Sinai—three days later while Lunn was on his way to the border crossing into the Palestinian controlled Gaza Strip, according to Middle East news media. ...The Egyptian government is telling Arab news organizations that Lunn committed suicide in his jail cell.” [49778]

The *Chicago Tribune* reports, “Adam Weldzius, a nurse practitioner, considers himself better informed than most when it comes to the inner workings of health insurance. But even he wasn't prepared for the pocketbook hit he'll face next year under ...Obama's health care overhaul. If the 33-year-old single father wants the same level of coverage next year as what he has now with the same insurer and the same network of doctors and hospitals, his monthly premium of \$233 will more than double. If he wants to keep his monthly payments in check, the Carpentersville resident is looking at an annual deductible for himself and his 7-year-old daughter of \$12,700, a more than threefold increase from \$3,500 today. ‘I believe everybody should be able to have health insurance, but at the same time, I'm being penalized. And for what?’ said Weldzius, who is not offered insurance through his employer. ‘For someone who's always had insurance, who's always taken care of myself, now I have to change my plan?’ ...Obama administration and Illinois officials touted the lower-than-expected monthly premiums that would make insurance more affordable for millions of Americans. But a Tribune analysis shows that 21 of the 22 lowest-priced plans offered on the Illinois health insurance exchange for Cook County have annual deductibles of more than \$4,000 for an individual and \$8,000 for family coverage. Those deductibles, which represent the out-of-pocket money consumers must spend on health care before most insurance benefits kick in, are higher than what many consumers expected or may be able to stomach, benefit experts said. By comparison, people who buy health insurance through their employer have an average individual deductible of just more than \$1,100, according to the Kaiser Family Foundation.” [49788, 49789, 49954]

HotAir.com's Ed Morrissey comments, “Bear in mind that Democrats claimed that the ObamaCare exchanges would make insurers treat individuals better in relation to group insurance plans. Instead, they've made the markets for individuals even worse than before, thanks to the deluge of costly mandates imposed on insurers, who must pass the cost of risk pools to the consumers. The higher deductibles are the result of attempting to tamp down the premium hikes, but this raises a big question about the structure of the reform itself. If consumers end up with \$4,000 deductibles, how are these costs different than the alternate reform model of hospitalization insurance, health-savings accounts (HSAs), and emphasis on the cash/retail system for routine medical care? What we've ended up with is the same deductible costs—no one will use \$4,000 in *routine* medical

care a year—without the cash-market reforms that would drive costs downward through price-signal clarity and competition, while incentivizing providers to get back into routine medical care by wiping out third-party payer red tape and costs. ...If you have to pay the first \$4000 out of your own pocket on insurance premiums that have doubled, why bother at all?" [49789]

At Breitbart.com Diana West describes Obama's "evasive letter" to Charles Woods, the father of Tyrone Woods—who was one of the four Americans killed in Benghazi, Libya on September 11, 2012. Woods had written Obama to ask why Obama did not give "cross-border authority" to allow a rescue mission; who made the decision to "stand down;" whether General Carter Ham was relieved from duty for refusing to follow that order to "stand down;" and whether the rescue attempt would have been more aggressive had Obama's children been under attack. Obama's response to Woods: "On that tragic day, I directed my national security team to do everything possible to respond to the attacks against our people and facilities in Benghazi. The United States Government considered a range of options and deployed additional military capabilities, but as our military leaders have said, the military forces needed to carry out the type of operation you describe were not close enough to have made a difference. Please know that my actions would have been the same if the attack had been against my own family. The sad truth is that attacks happened so rapidly that U.S. forces could not arrive in time to prevent the loss of our brave Americans." Of Obama's last sentence, West comments, "However often we hear this line, it makes no sense. When the Benghazi compound came under attack on September 11, 2012 at around 5 PM Washington time, there was, of course, no projected end-time, nor could there have been. No one knew or could have known that the fighting would span roughly eight hours. Not a single Pentagon asset, and not a single NATO asset, however, was deployed by the Obama administration to rescue Americans as the attack unfolded. Why not? We still don't know. ...Obama's letter to Charles Woods provides more answers—but not the truth." (*The Obama Timeline* believes that Obama advisor Valerie Jarrett gave the "order" for the military to "stand down," even though she had no legal authority to do so. It is believed that Jarrett makes many decisions for Obama when he is unable or unwilling to do so, and members of the administration—and even the military—are hesitant to stand up to her because she can use her power to destroy their careers.) [49804, 50020]

At PJMedia.com Roger L. Simon writes, "No organization, legislation or plan in memory makes a stronger argument for the inferiority of government to the private sector than the black comically named Affordable Care Act. ...Government sources report as few as 51,000 completed applications for ObamaCare in the first week. At least seven million must sign up for the program to stay afloat financially. ...And the ObamaCare website is the least of it. The actual implementation will be worse as premiums and coverage ricochet all over the lot and look to continue doing so. Only government could be this bad. Well not *only* government, but almost always government. In truth, especially in a big country like ours, the more the government controls healthcare, the worse that care is—and, ironically, the less democratic, the more discriminatory, it becomes. Where there are bureaucrats, there is favoritism. And the greater the bureaucracy the greater this favoritism and the more difficult to unmask, the more entrenched it is." [49814]

IsraelNationalNews.com reports, “Israel has temporarily stopped allowing shipments of construction supplies to reach Gaza through Israeli territory, following the discovery late last week of a 2.5-kilometer (1.55-mile) tunnel built by Gaza terrorists into Israeli territory. ‘Due to security reasons, (the army) decided to stop for now the transfer of building materials into Gaza,’ Defense Ministry spokesman Guy Inbar told AFP. He did not say how long the ban would remain in force. ...Israeli officials said on Sunday that a sophisticated tunnel running 450 meters into Israel and intended as a springboard for terrorist attacks had been uncovered by troops. ‘This tunnel, which looks like the New York subway, is apparently intended to kidnap soldiers or for some other kind of terrorist attack,’ Haim Yelin told army radio. ‘It is impressively executed, with concrete supports,’ he added.” [49833]

At WashingtonExaminer.com Byron York writes, “What if, instead of throwing its political energy into a failing effort to defund Obamacare, the Republican Party had spent the month of August, and then September, and now October, pounding the Obama administration on the arrival of [Obama’s] national health care scheme? What if the days before October 1 had been filled with Republican predictions of calamity, and the days after filled with Republican exploitation of that calamity? If the GOP had taken that path, the party might be in a very different place than it is today. ...[T]here was an enormous amount of bad news about Obamacare. And it was coming October 1. Of course, Republicans did not know the specific problems that would plague the website once the administration attempted to bring Obamacare online, but the GOP knew that, in general, what was coming would be bad. So what if Republicans had put together a major campaign of ads, events, townhalls, speeches, hearings, web documentaries, publications, tweets, handouts, and more, involving Republican officials from the local level to influential governors to top leaders in Congress, to showcase the problems of Obamacare as October 1 approached? ...The GOP chose instead to embark on its ill-fated drive to defund Obamacare. When that failed, Republicans made progressively weaker demands that the White House delay or somehow limit Obamacare, and those failed, too. In the meantime, the Republican effort has led to a partial shutdown of the government, now nearly two weeks old. And the shutdown battle has morphed into a fight over the debt limit and the possibility the nation will default on its debts next Thursday. ...Instead of pounding Obama on the mandates, defects, false promises, and expense of Obamacare, Republicans ended up pounding themselves. Of course the GOP will have more chances to fight Obamacare in the future. Long after a continuing resolution has been passed and the debt limit raised, Obamacare will still be a major, and for many unwelcome, factor in American life. But what an opportunity missed, at such a crucial time.” [49855]

The Jerusalem Post reports, “Al-Qaida and the international organization of the Muslim Brotherhood met secretly last week in Jordan according to a source quoted by the Egyptian daily *Al-Youm al-Sabaa* on Saturday [October 12]. The meeting focused on the conflict in Egypt and Syria and an altercation broke out between a Brotherhood member and jihadist leader Mohammad al-Miqdad, and the latter asked the Brotherhood not to publicly denounce the actions of the jihadists. The jihadists discussed their plans to start moving Syrian and Iraqi jihadists into Egypt in order to carry out terror operations there

after the Eid al-Adha festival, which falls on Tuesday. It was explained in the meeting that the attempted assassination against the Egyptian interior minister and the attack on a satellite dish, which is part of the state's TV communication system, were meant to demonstrate that they could access vital institutions in Cairo." (Some might consider it likely that jihadists in Syria will use Obama-provided weapons and cash to mount attacks against the Egyptian government—which was left in turmoil partly as a result of Obama deserting U.S. ally Hosni Mubarak. Additionally, Obama's suspension of military aid to Egypt makes it more vulnerable to attack. Obama's actions suggest he *wants* the jihadists to take over Syria and Egypt.) [49894, 49895, 49896]

Patti Davis, daughter of President Ronald Reagan and author of *The Blue Hour*, posts an open letter to Obama. She writes, "Since you have quoted my father on a number of occasions, always strategically, always with a political goal in mind, I thought you might like to know something about him as a man. Let me quickly add that this new Republican Party, which hardly resembles the party he belonged to, has quoted him shamelessly; I don't think it's an understatement to say that they have taken his name in vain. But the reason I'm not writing to them is, they don't hold the highest office in the land. You do. ...And if you are going to quote my father, you might want to learn from him. We all remember your campaign tag of 'no drama Obama.' Interesting that there has been one drama after another in your [time in the White House], this last one really tipping the scales. My father would never have thought to announce he wasn't about drama. He just wasn't. It was how he lived, how he conducted himself. If you live it, you don't need to talk about it. He believed with all his heart that he was given a destiny to fulfill, that whatever he did as president was for the good of all Americans. That's why he talked to the American people in the heartfelt way that garnered him the title of the Great Communicator. Mr. [Obama], when you talk to us—on the few occasions that you do—you seem annoyed, as if this job you campaigned for is keeping you from something else you'd rather be doing. It seems like you don't like us very much, and whether people agreed with my father or disagreed with him, they always came away believing that he liked them." [50390]

"I'm with the majority of people who blame the Republicans more than you for the government shutdown. But here's the thing: If 80% is the fault of the Republicans, you could have dealt with your 20% a little better. Announcing that you won't negotiate is not showing leadership, it's showing a pouting face to the country and the world. My father understood leadership. He understood that it's a mix of strength, gentleness, and humor. He would never have frozen out the opposing party; he'd have charmed them, poured them a drink, told them stories, and by the end of an evening, a deal would have been struck. When I was bullied by a boy on my school bus, so badly I faked being sick so I wouldn't have to go to school, my father told me to stand in front of him, smile confidently and pretend I didn't hear his taunts. 'He won't know what to do if you don't play his game,' he told me. He was right. It worked." [50390]

"You have talked often about reaching across the aisle. But do you extend your hand with kindness, with an understanding that the person you're reaching toward believes as fervently as you do that he is right? Or are you just following a political map? Here's a

story about my father: When he was a college football player, he used to pray before each game that God would let his team win. One day he realized the other team might be praying the same thing. He changed his prayer, and simply asked that God help him accept whatever ended up happening. He still played hard and true, he still fought to win, but he had compassion for the opposing team. He knew they were just as important in God's eyes as his team was. That's why, decades later as president, he could negotiate successfully with those from the other side of the aisle. He saw their humanity even if he thought they were wrong. He would never have insulted them, or frozen them out. He understood that Americans elect a president because they want that person to behave in ways that they might not be capable of. They want someone who can handle things better than they do, not someone who complains and grumbles in the same ways they do.” [50390]

“Mr. [Obama], you should know that my father didn't see the presidency as a job. He saw it as a calling, as a vital part of his destiny. He was not a perfect president; he was not a perfect father. But he believed we were all put here by God for a purpose, and he tried hard to fulfill his purpose on this earth. He had humility, and in that humility was great strength. He had a kindness toward other human beings that transcended political boundaries. That's what brought this country to a standstill when he died. Maybe people are born with those attributes, maybe they can learn them. I don't know. I'm trying hard every day to learn from the man whose DNA runs through my veins. Maybe you could try a little harder to learn from him too.” [50390]

On October 14 MSNBC's *Morning Joe* broadcasts a “puff piece” interview with domestic terrorist and Obama pal William Ayers. (PJMedia.com's Ron Radosh notes, “To make matters even worse, Joe Scarborough, on set for all the other segments, mysteriously disappeared after the break. Ayers was left to be questioned by the non-threatening (not to say Scarborough would have been hostile to Ayers, but as a self-described conservative, he would by nature have offended Ayers' sensibilities) Mika Brzezinski and journalist Mark Halperin. The entire segment was structured as a propaganda coup for Ayers. ...The real love affair occurred between Ayers and co-host Mika Brzezinski, whom Ayers flattered by saying how wonderful she would be in a real conversation about the war and the '60s, and with whom he stressed he agreed on educational questions. ...Ayers got away with presenting himself not as a revolutionary Marxist but as someone who seeks to advance his goals through educational reform meant to create a future generation of leftists through using education to attain revolution—he of course uses the less offensive term ‘social justice’—as he still tries to hide his own actual views and activities.” [49858, 49984]

Some critics of Obama suggest that the food stamp glitch was a “dry run” meant to demonstrate the mass hysteria that would result from a wider outage—an outage the Obama administration allegedly threatened to use if the Republicans do not cave in on the spending and debt ceiling negotiations. [49905, 49906, 49907, 49908]

Politico reports, “Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid has privately offered Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell a deal that would reopen the government until mid-to-

late December while extending the U.S. debt ceiling until next year, according to several sources familiar with the talks. The proposal would set up a framework for larger budget negotiations with the House over the automatic sequestration spending cuts and other major deficit issues, the sources said. Moreover, Senate Democrats are open to delaying Obamacare's medical device tax and a requirement that those receiving Obamacare subsidies be subject to income verification—but they would have to get something from Republicans in return, sources said. McConnell is still reviewing the offer and is privately huddling with groups of GOP senators Monday who could be key to providing enough votes in the Senate. On Monday morning, McConnell met with Sens. John McCain of Arizona, Susan Collins of Maine, Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, Mike Johanns of Nebraska and Mark Kirk of Illinois.” (McConnell's meeting was with the more liberal Republicans in the Senate; he ignored the conservatives who will reject any deal that involves increasing spending. The Reid offer, even if passed by the Senate, will likely go nowhere in the House because conservatives there will not accept a reversal of the sequestration cuts. Reid and Obama are hoping that a Senate deal will put pressure on the House to cave in and agree, but the vast majority of Americans want spending *cuts* in exchange for an increase in the debt ceiling—not spending increases. Laughably, the Democrats who have spent two weeks demanding “clean” legislation with no conditions, now demand increased spending as their condition.) [49785, 49806]

The White House announces a 3 p.m. meeting with Obama, Vice President Joe Biden, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV), House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH), Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY), and House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), in an effort to broker a deal on spending and the debt ceiling. (Biden's presence is possibly to give Obama someone to share the blame with if the political left believes the Democrats gave too much away. The Democrat plan is likely to get a Senate agreement that is acceptable to them, with a vote scheduled at the very last moment—giving the House no time to negotiate changes without going past the debt ceiling deadline.) [49798, 49805]

Former Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta criticizes Obama at a breakfast sponsored by *The Wall Street Journal*, saying, “We govern either by leadership or crisis. ...If leadership is not there, then we govern by crisis. Clearly, this town has been governing by crisis after crisis after crisis. ...You have to engage in the process. This is a town where it's not enough to feel you have the right answers. You've got to roll up your sleeves and you've got to really engage in the process... that's what governing is all about. ...Just because you've engaged in some set of negotiations and they haven't gone anywhere—for one reason or another there's been a breakdown—is no reason to walk away from the table. In this town, you've got to stay with it. You've got to stay at it. ...If [Obama], for whatever reason, feels he can't do it because the Republicans don't want to confront him, then he ought to be willing to delegate that responsibility to someone who can do it.” [49840, 49854]

Rush Limbaugh comments on the last-minute Democrat demand to reverse the sequestration spending cuts: “It's like [the late Palestinian Liberation Organization leader] Yasser Arafat. They gave him everything he wanted. At the last minute, he turned

it down because he didn't want the issue to go away—and Obama doesn't want the issue to go away, which is, 'The Republicans are the problem.' That's the issue. That's the ideal. He wants to keep it alive. So he rejected a clean bill because now he wants to force an amendment that kills the sequester, and that's something that doesn't need [Senators] Ted Cruz or Mike Lee. That ostensibly is going to keep the Republicans unified no matter what." (It is in the best interests of Obama and the Democrats to *not* resolve any major issues because they can then make outrageous demands and count on the mainstream media to blame Republicans for the impasse all the way to election day in November 2014.) [49817]

Former Congressman Ron Paul writes at LewRockwell.com, "The news that Janet Yellen was nominated to become the next Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System was greeted with joy by financial markets and the financial press. Wall Street saw Yellen's nomination as a harbinger of continued easy money. Contrast this with the hand-wringing that took place when Larry Summers' name was still in the running. Pundits worried that Summers would be too cautious, too hawkish on inflation, or too close to big banks. The reality is that there wouldn't have been a dime's worth of difference between Yellen's and Summers' monetary policy. No matter who is at the top, the conduct of monetary policy will be largely unchanged: large-scale money printing to bail out big banks. There may be some fiddling around the edges, but any monetary policy changes will be in style only, not in substance. Yellen, like Bernanke, Summers, and everyone else within the Fed's orbit [including Obama], believes in Keynesian economics. To economists of Yellen's persuasion, the solution to recession is to stimulate spending by creating more money. Wall Street need not worry about tapering of the Fed's massive program of quantitative easing under Yellen's reign. If anything, the Fed's trillion dollars of yearly money creation may even increase. What is obvious to most people not captured by the system is that the Fed's loose monetary policy was the root cause of the current financial crisis. Just like the Great Depression, the stagflation of the 1970s, and every other recession of the past century, the current crisis resulted from the creation of money and credit by the Federal Reserve, which led to unsustainable economic booms. ...The future of the US economy with Chairman Yellen at the helm is grim indeed, which provides all the more reason to end our system of central economic planning by getting rid of the Federal Reserve entirely. Ripping off the bandage may hurt some in the short run, but in the long term everyone will be better off. Anyway, most of this pain will be borne by the politicians, big banks, and other special interests who profit from the current system. Ending this current system of crony capitalism and moving to sound money and free markets is the only way to return to economic prosperity and a vibrant middle class." [49790]

At Forbes.com Avik Roy writes, "A growing consensus of IT experts, outside and inside the government, have figured out a principal reason why the website for Obamacare's federally-sponsored insurance exchange is crashing. Healthcare.gov forces you to create an account and enter detailed personal information before you can start shopping. This, in turn, creates a massive traffic bottleneck, as the government verifies your information and decides whether or not you're eligible for subsidies. HHS [Health and Human Services] bureaucrats knew this would make the website run more slowly. But they were more

afraid that letting people see the underlying cost of Obamacare's insurance plans would scare people away. 'Healthcare.gov was initially going to include an option to browse before registering,' report Christopher Weaver and Louise Radnofsky in the *Wall Street Journal*. 'But that tool was delayed, people familiar with the situation said.' Why was it delayed? 'An HHS spokeswoman said the agency wanted to ensure that users were aware of their eligibility for subsidies that could help pay for coverage, *before they started seeing the prices of policies.*' (Emphasis added.)" Roy notes, "A Manhattan Institute analysis I helped conduct found that, on average, the cheapest plan offered in a given state, under Obamacare, will be 99 percent more expensive for men, and 62 percent more expensive for women, than the cheapest plan offered under the old system. And those disparities are even wider for healthy people. That raises an obvious question. If 50 million people are uninsured today, mainly because insurance is too expensive, why is it better to make coverage even costlier? The answer is that Obamacare wasn't designed to help healthy people with average incomes get health insurance. It was designed to force those people to pay more for coverage, in order to subsidize insurance for people with incomes near the poverty line, and those with chronic or costly medical conditions. ... This political objective—masking the true underlying cost of Obamacare's insurance plans—far outweighed the operational objective of making the federal website work properly. Think about it the other way around. If the "Affordable Care Act" truly did make health insurance more affordable, there would be no need to hide these prices from the public." [49794, 49795, 49844]

The White House postpones its 3 p.m. meeting with Congressional leaders.

DailyCaller.com reports, "A woman with an outstanding warrant for her arrest is currently serving as an Obamacare 'navigator' in Lawrence, Kansas. Rosilyn Wells—the Director of Outreach and Enrollment for the Heartland Community Health-care Center (HCHC)—is 'the only full-time Affordable Care Act navigator in Lawrence,' according to the Lawrence Journal-World. Wells was certified as an Obamacare navigator despite her financial history, which includes a bankruptcy in 2003, a 2007 civil charge from a local check cashing business called Midwest Checkrite for writing a bad check, being more than \$1,700 behind on her state tax bill, and having an outstanding arrest warrant in nearby Shawnee County. Wells lives and works in Douglass County." [49802, 49803, 50030]

CNSNews.com reports, "National Park Service (NPS) rangers removed the handles from some 40 public water pumps and closed restrooms in the 184.5 mile C&O Canal National Historical Park, but they haven't been able to keep hikers and bikers off the popular trail known as a 'cyclist's dream.' 'It's full every day,' said Gail Hall, who runs Mountain Side Bikes at the trailhead in Cumberland, Md. 'They're bringing in their own water and utilizing the tree-lined areas [of the park] for restrooms. Some towns like Harper's Ferry even brought in potties to accommodate them. As long as they can pedal, they don't care.'" [49811]

Leftists vandalize the New Hampshire Republican Party headquarters, spray painting "WWJD [What Would Jesus DO?]" and "Healthcare [sic; health care] For Everyone" on

one wall of the building. Keith McCrea, spokesman for Democratic State Senator Martha Fuller Clark, calls the vandalism “hilarious” and asks, “Why does the GOP hate Christ.” (Some might argue that one thing Jesus would not do is vandalize private property, but *The Obama Timeline* is neither a religious scholar nor theologian and will therefore not venture an opinion as to whether Jesus would endorse holding a federal gun to the heads of all Americans in order to force them to buy overpriced health insurance they may neither want nor need.) [49812, 49813]

The Dow Jones Industrial Average closes up 64.15, at 15301.26—no doubt annoying the White House because it does not coincide with its message that the financial world will explode if the debt ceiling is not increased. (Early in the day ABC’s Robin Roberts remarks, “Wall Street is bracing for the worst this morning with no deal in sight. How will the markets react? It could be an ugly day for your 401(k).” ABC’s Rebecca Jarvis: “This morning the International Monetary Fund is warning of an international global catastrophe. Massive worldwide disruptions with consequences for all if the US were to default on its debt, as we wade into this unprecedented territory.” [49818]

NYPost.com reports that “Squirrels are living high on the hog” and “feasting on tomatoes” from Michelle Obama’s White House garden because federal gardeners have been idled by the partial government shutdown. (Why Michelle Obama cannot tend to her own garden is not explained.) [49819]

WashingtonPost.com reports, “The National Security Agency is harvesting hundreds of millions of contact lists from personal e-mail and instant messaging accounts around the world, many of them belonging to Americans, according to senior intelligence officials and top secret documents provided by former NSA contractor Edward Snowden. The collection program, which has not been disclosed before, intercepts e-mail address books and ‘buddy lists’ from instant messaging services as they move across global data links. Online services often transmit those contacts when a user logs on, composes a message, or synchronizes a computer or mobile device with information stored on remote servers. Rather than targeting individual users, the NSA is gathering contact lists in large numbers that amount to a sizable fraction of the world’s e-mail and instant messaging accounts. Analysis of that data enables the agency to search for hidden connections and map relationships within a much smaller universe of foreign intelligence targets.” HotAir.com’s Ed Morrissey comments, “This isn’t like looking at the outside of envelopes placed in the mail system, an action which courts have ruled carries no expectations of privacy. This is more akin to breaking into homes and rifling through the private address books left in the top right corner of the end table under the phone. It’s not a fleeting look at data on outbound or inbound communications, but grabbing information from within private accounts that isn’t sent out at all—without permission, and without any probable cause.” [49820, 49853]

According to Bloomberg.com, increasing numbers of clinics are demanding up-front payment for services, rather than wait for insurance payments to be denied because annual deductibles have not yet been met. “The practice of upfront payment for non-emergency care has been spreading in the U.S. as deductibles rise. Now, the advent of the

Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act is likely to accelerate that trend. Many of the plans offered through the law's insurance exchanges have low initial premiums to attract customers, while carrying significant deductibles and other out-of-pocket cost sharing. The second-lowest tier of Obamacare plans in California, for example, carries a \$2,000 annual deductible. Hospitals say they need to charge patients prior to treatment because Americans are increasingly on the hook for more of their own medical costs. And once care is provided, it's often difficult for hospitals to collect." David Williams, president of Boston-based consulting firm Health Business Group, states, "It used to be taboo to look like you were looking for money at a time when you were supposed to be focused on patient care. It's not taboo anymore." (In 2011, hospitals provided an estimated \$41 billion in care that was never reimbursed.) [49821]

At Facebook and at Breitbart.com, Sarah Palin writes, "Apparently [Obama] thinks he can furlough reality when talking about the debt limit. To suggest that raising the debt limit doesn't incur more debt is laughably absurd. The very reason why you raise the debt limit is so that you can incur more debt. Otherwise what's the point? It's also shameful to see him scaremongering the markets with his talk of default. There is no way we can default if we follow the Constitution. The Fourteenth Amendment, Section 4, requires that we service our debt first. We currently collect more than enough tax revenue to service our debt if we do that first. However, we don't have enough money to continue to finance our ever-growing federal government (with our \$17 trillion dollar national debt that has increased over 50% since Obama took office). That's why ...Obama wants to increase the debt limit. He doesn't want to make the tough decisions to rein in government spending. So, he's scaremongering the markets about default, just as he tries to scaremonger our senior citizens about their Social Security, which, by the way, is funded by the Social Security Trust Fund and is solvent through 2038. It's time for [Obama] to be honest with the American people for a change. Defaulting on our national debt is an impeachable offense, and any attempt by ...Obama to unilaterally raise the debt limit without Congress is also an impeachable offense. A default would also be a shameful lack of leadership, just as mindlessly increasing our debt without trying to rein in spending is a betrayal of our children and grandchildren who will be stuck with the bill." [49823]

At FoxNews.com John Roberts reports on the ObamaCare dilemma faced by North Georgia Staffing. The company has 18 full-time employees, who are provided with health insurance, and 400 temporary workers who are not. Under ObamaCare, the company must provide all employees with health insurance—at a cost of about \$2 million per year—or pay a \$2,000-per-employee fine. Owners Larry and Debbie Underkoffler say, "We would have to provide the same program for all the employees—including the temps—to everyone employed by us. And we just couldn't do that [without bankrupting the company] It looks like we will have to just pay the penalties"—and leave 18 full-time employees to fend for themselves at Healthcare.gov. "I don't think the legislators and [Obama] really looked into it before they considered this law." [49825]

Former White House press secretary Robert Gibbs says the first weeks of Helathcare.gov were "bungled badly," and were "excruciatingly embarrassing for the White House and

for the Department of Health and Human Services. ...I hope they are working day and night to get this done. And when they get it fixed, I hope they fire some people that were in charge of making sure this thing was supposed to work. We knew there were going to be some glitches. But these were glitches that go, quite frankly, way beyond the pale of what should be expected.” [49826]

At Spectator.org Ross Kaminsky reports that the Obama administration may have violated the Hatch Act with “a political message sent on Saturday evening, using Department of Defense [DoD] communications systems, on behalf of ...Obama and Secretary of Defense [Chuck] Hagel. It is addressed to ‘all US government employees’ and further specified by the DoD sender to go to ‘all subordinate commands,’ in compliance with Hagel’s call for ‘the widest possible distribution.’ The message contains standard... lauding of public service, but goes on to attack the current government shutdown by specifically castigating the House of Representatives, saying that the House—which is unsubtle code for Republicans—should ‘follow the Senate’s lead... without trying to attach... partisan measures in the process.’ I am not an attorney and do not play one on TV, but my assessment is that the sending of this message via government-owned communications systems is a violation of at least one federal law and at least one military regulation. ...One of the specific prohibitions of the Hatch Act is ‘participating in political activity while on-duty or in any room or building occupied in the discharge of official duties by an individual employed by DoD.’ Clearly this message was sent by someone who was ‘on-duty’ and almost certainly while in a building in which Chuck Hagel and the direct sender, the DoD Executive Secretary, perform their official duties. In short, I believe this message constitutes a violation of the Hatch Act.” [49827, 49939]

Joseph Ashby, the father of “Trick Shot Titus,” a toddler made famous by YouTube.com for his basketball prowess, tells TheBlaze.com that “he recently received a letter from his family’s health insurance provider informing him that their policy no longer complies with federal law under Obamacare. The replacement plan allegedly comes with a roughly 635 percent deductible increase—before the plan helps out with medical bills. The replacement plan also reduces the number of plan-covered doctor visits from five to as few as two, and doubles the co-pay for each visit, he said. ‘The old plan had a \$1,000 deductible before the plan kicked in. After that, the old plan paid 80 percent and we paid 20 percent until we got to another \$1,000. The new plan has a \$6,350 deductible before they kick in anything,’ he explained. Further, Ashby claims the plan’s vision coverage is dropped and the monthly premium is still higher than the old policy. The family may end up paying as much as \$10,000 more over the next year in medical costs under the new Obamacare-compliant plan, he said. Ashby told TheBlaze the \$10,000 estimation is based on a combination of higher premiums and likely medical payment his family would have to make with the increased deductible.” [49828]

Alarabiya.com reports, “Islamic police in northern Nigeria are threatening to arrest drivers of motorized rickshaws for wearing pants cut off below the knee and sleeveless T-shirts. They say that’s indecent. Spokesman Yusuf Yola of the Hisbah board in Kano state says they will also arrest drivers of the three-wheeled vehicles who carry men and

women together. He told The Associated Press on Monday that they are deploying 10,000 officers to ensure the cabbies comply with the state's Shariah laws that ban indecent dress and mixing the sexes on public transport. He said Christians living in Kano state also are obliged to comply." (Obama has no comment.) [49829]

RawStory.com reports, "A relief carving of a naked man at the UN's Geneva headquarters was covered up on Monday, apparently to spare the blushes of Iranian diplomats ahead of fresh talks on the country's nuclear drive. UN officials would not comment on why the wall relief, inspired by Michelangelo's 'Creation of Adam,' had been masked by a large white screen, referring questions to the Swiss authorities. But Swiss newspaper Tribune de Geneve claimed that the aim was to avoid offending the Islamic republic's delegation for the talks taking place on Tuesday and Wednesday. Iranian men are expected to cover their arms and legs in public, with women further obliged to cover their hair and wear loose clothing in line with the hardline interpretation of Islam endorsed by powerful clerics in the country." AtlasShrugs.com's Pamela Geller writes, "More likely they were protecting the work of art from the savages. Art, offensive to misanthropes. And I don't think it was the nudity that the Islamic supremacists found offensive, but the religious significance of Michelangelo's work to the Christian world." (Obama has no comment.) [49830, 49831]

After two weeks of trying, CNN medical correspondent Elizabeth Cohen remains unable to register at Healthcare.gov and obtain rate information. [49837]

Fox28.com reports the closing of Bonnie Doon Ice Cream Corporation. The Fox affiliate "talked with owners of the Bonnie Doon plant and downtown Mishawaka [Indiana] location. They tell us there are many reasons for the shutdown such as the declining economy and the rise in production costs. But the number one factor? The anticipated cost of the Affordable Care Act." [49883]

DailyCaller.com reports, "The American Indian leader spearheading the campaign to change the name of the Washington Redskins [football team] is not a legitimate member of the tribe he leads, according to a New York State Assemblywoman, but rather an Obama crony who is raking in casino money and paying back only small stipends to his tribe members. Oneida Nation Representative Ray Halbritter, who is also the CEO of Oneida Nation Enterprises, is not recognized in his position by the Grand Council of Chiefs governing the Six Nations Iroquois Confederacy. Halbritter is not a legitimate member of the Oneida tribe, Assemblywoman Claudia Tenney told The Daily Caller. 'He is not even technically an Oneida. There is not a drop of Oneida in him,' Tenney said. ... 'He has no ancestry in the Six Nations but he has a lot of powerful friends in D.C.' ... Halbritter attended a January 27, 2012 fundraiser with ... Obama in Washington, D.C. with 70 Indian leaders. The \$15,000 to \$35,800 fundraiser raised up to \$2.5 million for Obama's re-election campaign." (Meanwhile, a group of Democrat Congressman push legislation to outlaw the use of the word "redskins" in any trademark via the "Non-Disparagement of Native American Persons or Peoples in Trademark Registration Act of 2013." According to DailyCaller.com, "The bill was introduced in March by Eni Faleomavaega, a delegate to the House of Representatives from America Samoa." As

noted previously in *The Obama Timeline*, Faleomavaega visited Indonesia's President, Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, in July of 2007 and is suspected of having secured government records damaging to Obama's candidacy. In exchange for document turnover and document suppression, money was allegedly to be given to the school attended by Obama, more cash for the government would come later, and the Congressman would attempt to foster a hands-off policy with regard to the Indonesian government's continuing suppression of the rights of Christians in Papua. If these allegations are true, and Faleomavaega acted at Obama's request, both are guilty of felonies and violations of the Logan Act. Laughably, a successful effort to remove trademark protection would result in the name Washington Redskins appearing on even more merchandise. DailyCaller.com later reports that Halbritter "had already entered into an undisclosed television agreement with NBC Sports [to cover a prize fight from a casino] when [NBC's] Bob Costas delivered his on-air editorial condemning the Redskins name.") [303, 321, 323, 337, 1017, 2298, 49838, 49841, 49842, 50190]

The Associated Press reports that Obama and others are wrong when they claim the U.S. government has never defaulted on its debt obligations: "America has briefly stiffed some of its creditors on at least two occasions. Once, the young nation had a dramatic excuse: The Treasury was empty, the White House and Capitol were charred ruins, even the troops fighting the War of 1812 weren't getting paid. A second time, in 1979, was a back-office glitch that ended up costing taxpayers billions of dollars. The Treasury Department blamed the mishap on a crush of paperwork partly caused by lawmakers who—this will sound familiar—bickered too long before raising the nation's debt limit." Historian Don Hickey says Obama "doesn't know his history. It's that simple." [49845]

CSMonitor.com reports, "Cybersecurity professionals are voicing questions about potential red flags in the new federal health care website system that could open the door to theft of personal information. In the two weeks since the Affordable Healthcare Act site, www.healthcare.gov, went live, most complaints have centered on long wait times with sites initially overloaded by interested visitors. In response, government officials are scrambling to get more capacity for the main site and its satellites. But potentially far more serious questions are emerging about cybersecurity. Experts have said that hackers could 'spoof' the website with a look-alike website to collect personal information, or criminals could use an automated program to try repeatedly to enter the site even if it didn't get a login correct. Experts have stopped short of calling these concerns 'vulnerabilities'—a term that means a proven weak spot to hackers. But they say these red flags need attention. 'I'll ask you your Social Security, your date of birth, [so] an hour later I can empty your bank account,' John McAfee, who founded the cybersecurity company of the same name but is no longer associated with it, complained on Fox News. The Obamacare websites, he said, have 'no safeguards,' and the main site's architecture is 'outrageous.'" [49849]

Mark Bertolini, CEO of Aetna, tells CNBC his company was wary of the government's ability to successfully implement ObamaCare on October 1. "We were pretty nervous as we got further along. As they started missing deadlines, we were pretty convinced it was going to be a difficult launch. ... There's so much wrong, you just don't know what's

broken until you get a lot more of it fixed. ...It's all been on the fly. We didn't get code drops until the last month before the system went live." (That is, Aetna was not given Healthcare.gov programming code to review until it was too late to find many problems, let alone act on them.) "I think the bigger issue is, will enough people sign up to make it work? I think the attention span of the younger generation in using technology is that if it doesn't work the first time, it's going to be pretty hard to get them back the second time. If the program blows up because people don't sign up, then the program's not going to move ahead ...all that well." Bertolini states he would have delayed implementation had it been his decision to make, but "the politics got in the way of a good business decision." [49856]

At WeeklyStandard.com Jeryl Bier notes, "Buried in the source code of Healthcare.gov is this sentence that could prove embarrassing: 'You have no reasonable expectation of privacy regarding any communication or data transiting or stored on this information system.' Though not visible to users and obviously not intended as part of the terms and conditions, the language is nevertheless a part of the underlying code for the 'Terms & Conditions' page on the site. After creating an account on Healthcare.gov, users are asked to click an 'I accept' button under some routine Terms & Conditions prohibiting unauthorized attempts to upload information or change the website. Once users click the button, they may proceed to shop for insurance and enter detailed personal information. However, when the Terms & Conditions page is visible, the hidden sentence mentioned above along with several others can be seen by using a web browser's 'View Source' feature. ...The full portion of the code which does not appear on the visible page displayed for users reads as follows: 'You have no reasonable expectation of privacy regarding any communication or data transiting or stored on this information system. At any time, and for any lawful Government purpose, the government may monitor, intercept, and search and seize any communication or data transiting or stored on this information system. Any communication or data transiting or stored on this information system may be disclosed or used for any lawful Government purpose.' ...The phrase 'no reasonable expectation of privacy' is actually a stock phrase used in the terms and conditions of many government websites and information systems, but those who are entering personal, medical and financial information at Healthcare.gov may not find that fact reassuring. An email sent on Thursday, October 10, requesting comment from Department of Health and Human Services, the agency responsible for the website, has not yet been returned." [49891, 50272]

David Letterman asks his audience, "How many of you are only here [sic; here only] because you had some trouble signing up for ObamaCare, and instead you got tickets to this show?" [49861]

On October 15 Obama issues a statement celebrating Eid al-Adha: "Michelle and I extend our best wishes for a joyous Eid al-Adha to Muslims around the world and congratulate those performing the Hajj this year. As our Muslim neighbors and friends gather for Eid celebrations, Muslim Americans are among the more than three million pilgrims joining one of the world's largest and most diverse gatherings, which serves as a reminder of the shared roots of the world's Abrahamic faiths. To commemorate Eid al-

Adha, Muslims around the world are joining other faith communities in offering their assistance to those suffering from hunger, disease, and conflict. Their service is a powerful example of the positive role that faith can play in motivating communities to work together to address shared challenges. On behalf of the American people, we extend our warmest greetings during this Hajj season. Eid Mubarak and Hajj Mabrouh.” [49897]

Politico reports, “House Republicans will move their own debt ceiling and government funding bill, GOP leaders announced in a closed meeting Tuesday. The bill will delay Obamacare’s medical device tax for two years, install income verification for Obamacare subsidies and have language to cancel health insurance subsidies for members of Congress and the presidential Cabinet. Government funding will run until January 15 and the debt ceiling will be lifted until February 7.” (*The Obama Timeline* believes it is a serious mistake for the Republicans to extend government funding only through January 15. When that date approaches the Democrats will push for *increased* levels of spending, to reverse the sequestration cuts. The Republicans should extend current levels of funding until after the next Congress is sworn in in January 2015 in order to prevent Democrats from increasing spending. If the GOP wins the Senate in November 2014, a Republican-controlled Congress can work to reduce spending. Additionally, Obama and the Democrats would not dare to reject a 14-month extension of spending—after whining for weeks about the horrors of the partial shutdown.) [49852]

Heritage.org reports, “The U.S. Senate responded decisively today to Secretary of State John Kerry’s recent signature on the U.N. Arms Trade Treaty (ATT). In a bipartisan letter led by Senators Jerry Moran (R-KS) and Joe Manchin (D-WV), half of the Senate has officially pledged to oppose the ratification of the ATT. The signatories include every Republican Senator except Mark Kirk (R-IL) and five Democratic Senators. The letter, with its 50 signatories, ends any prospect in the foreseeable future of Senate ratification of the ATT.” (A two-thirds vote in the Senate is required to ratify a treaty.) [49870, 50036, 50364]

At the daily White House press briefing, press secretary Jay Carney is asked by (alleged) Mediaite.com reporter Tommy Christopher: “Yeah. First of all, I don’t know if you’re aware of this but when I had a heart attack three years ago, I was uninsured and haven’t been able to get insurance ever since then. Listening to all the pressure on [Obama] negotiate a lot from inside this room made me think, is there a chance [Obama] would be willing to delay ObamaCare for a year if Republicans were to agree to delay heart attacks for a year? My second question, I was talking to my mom this morning actually and she asked me to ask you to please open government back up again. And I know you can’t just do that, but she’s really worried about her Social Security check. And I told her, you know, don’t worry, Mom, we’ll get it taken care of; I don’t want you to worry. But, you know, Steve Rattner last night said that October 23rd is one of these drop-dead dates, you know, when stuff starts to pile up. And so I guess my question is, you know, should she be worried?” (Carney actually responds to the questions.) [49882]

FoxNews.com reports, “A group formed from the ruins of ACORN is hard at work signing people up for ObamaCare, and may be collecting taxpayer cash for their work

despite Congress' efforts to cut the organization and its affiliates off from government funding, a watchdog group charged. The United Labor Unions Council Local 100, a New Orleans-based nonprofit, announced last month it would take part in a multi-state 'navigator' drive to help people enroll in ...Obama's health care plan. The labor council was established by ACORN founder Wade Rathke after his larger group was broken up amid scandal in 2009 and banned from receiving taxpayer funds. 'At a time when our government has ceased functioning due to an appropriations gap, it is ironic that America's tax dollars are being doled out to an entity whose poor stewardship of our funds was well-established by Congress,' said Dan Epstein, executive director of Cause of Action, a nonpartisan watchdog group based in Washington." (Rathke was an associate of domestic terrorist William Ayers in the radical Students for a Democratic Society. ACORN was an offshoot of what had been the National Welfare Rights League (NWRL), a militant 1960s group that staged protests in welfare offices and, often successfully, demanded increased government benefits with threats of violence. ACORN was the largest and most powerful leftist organization in the United States—not counting the Democrat Party and the mainstream media. Among other tasks, ACORN trained people on how to collect welfare benefits and other government aid. Strategies included encouraging welfare applicants to be aggressive, loud, and obnoxious—not enough to get arrested but enough to overwhelm and annoy the welfare worker into approving benefits just to get the individual, qualified or not, out of the office. The revolutionary handbook for all these activities was Alinsky's book, *Rules for Radicals*, which Obama used to train other radicals when he was affiliated with ACORN. Rathke's brother Dale embezzled \$948,507.50 from ACORN in 1999, but the crime was kept secret until 2008—and he was never indicted. Wade Rathke also ran a subsidiary of the Tides Foundation called the Tides Center, a "social action" network and community activist group. The Tides Foundation—a favorite charity of wealthy heiress Theresa Heinz Kerry, wife and benefactor of Secretary of State John Kerry—contributes to leftist organizations like ACORN, the ACLU, CAIR, Earth Justice, PETA, National Lawyers Guild, Center for American Progress, and the Institute for Policy Studies. Drummond Pike, founder of the Tides Foundation, allegedly personally reimbursed ACORN for the funds embezzled by Dale Rathke.) [45, 324, 227, 322, 390, 391, 1280, 1971, 2666, 2667, 49835]

According to Politico, Obama "told House Democratic leaders Tuesday that he would veto debt-ceiling legislation if it includes a provision pushed by Senator David Vitter (R-LA) and House GOP leaders that would cut health subsidies for congressional and senior executive branch officials, according to sources familiar with the discussion at a private White House meeting. The version of the provision included in a bill the House is slated to consider Tuesday night would eliminate employer contributions for lawmakers' and Hill staffers' health insurance purchases, and require [Obama], [the] vice president and political appointees to enter into Obamacare exchanges without a tax subsidy. Obama brought up the issue of the so-called Vitter language unprompted, according to one of the sources. [Obama] and congressional Democrats also discussed how to set caps for discretionary spending for next year given the possibility that a short-term spending bill could fund the government for only a few months, and their shared perception of a need to come up with a larger budgeting plan to avoid governing, as Obama often says, 'from crisis to crisis,' the sources said." (In other words, Obama is insisting that he and

government leaders not be forced to enroll in the health care scheme that is being forced on the American people.)

DailyCaller.com reports, “The United States will outstrip Saudi Arabia in total liquid fuel production by the end of 2013, an extraordinary surge to the top driven by the tremendous success of America’s natural gas industry. On Tuesday, PIRA Energy Group released a study estimating America’s total liquid fuel production—including liquid natural gas and biofuels—at 12.1 million barrels per day. That’s 300,000 more barrels.” (The increased production is in spite of Obama’s policies, not because of them, but most assuredly he will take credit.) [49872]

On Facebook, former Secret Service agent Daniel Bongino addresses Obama: “In one of your famous Obamacare speeches you stated, ‘If you like your plan, you can keep your plan.’ Well, as evidenced by the below letter [from my insurance company], which my wife and I just received, you lied. We did ‘like our plan’ and were informed in this letter that our plan will no longer exist and we will be forced to purchase a new plan, from a website which doesn’t work, for a higher monthly premium, for services we don’t want. Now, I know I am not one of your connected cronies and insiders, who were all given waivers from this disastrous piece of legislation. I was just one of the Secret Service agents who put my ass on the line for you every day, but I was still praying that given our middle-class existence, operating a small-business, that your ‘fundamental transformation’ of America would have stayed out of our home. Apparently that is not the case as my public battle against your disastrous [administration] has just become personal.” [49867, 50899]

According to WashingtonPost.com, “The number of visitors to the federal government’s HealthCare.gov Web site plummeted 88 percent between Oct. 1 and Oct. 13, according to a new analysis of America’s online use, while less than half of 1 percent of the site’s visitors successfully enrolled for health insurance the first week.” TheHill.com reports, “The consulting firm Kantar US Insights estimated that only about 36,000 people completed the enrollment process by Oct. 5, out of about 9.5 million unique visitors to the glitchy ObamaCare portal. The analysis also found that traffic to healthcare.gov plummeted 88 percent between Oct. 1 and Oct. 13 as users encountered problems with the system.” [49874, 49875, 49878, 49904]

A Chicago Tribune editorial excoriates the implementation of ObamaCare’s Healthcare.gov: “[W]hat we’re seeing now is no glitch or bump. There is a growing mountain of evidence that Obamacare has fundamental problems in design and implementation. Illinois officials boasted that insurance premiums here would be lower than expected. But the Tribune reported Sunday that 21 of the 22 lowest-priced plans offered for Cook County residents have whopping annual deductibles of more than \$4,000 for an individual and \$8,000 for family coverage. That’s much more than many families can afford to pay. The Obama administration delayed issuing major rules to set up the exchanges until after the 2012 presidential election and refused to push back the Oct. 1 launch date, lest Republicans take political advantage, The New York Times reported on Sunday. Sloppy design of the architecture of the computer system, not simply

an overload of users, created the problems that are blocking people from applying online for coverage, The Wall Street Journal reported last week. ‘These are not glitches,’ an insurance executive who has participated in many conference calls on the federal exchange told the Times. ‘The extent of the problems is pretty enormous. At the end of our calls, people say, ‘It’s awful, just awful.’’ The Department of Health and Human Services under chief Obamacare cheerleader Kathleen Sebelius has had three years to develop this system. It has busted deadline after deadline, all the while promising that the system would be ready on Oct. 1. It has overpromised and underdelivered. The excuse? Demand was unexpectedly high, crashing servers. Unexpected? Americans have been bombarded with marketing campaigns and news stories and outreach efforts on behalf of Obamacare. And now Sebelius and Co. are shocked that people are logging in to ...buy insurance? Come on, Ms. Sebelius. ...A delay in the individual mandate would not be a special favor to American consumers. It’s a matter of fairness. A one-year hiatus would give everyone a chance to take a hard look at the pricing of these plans, to see if consumers could get more affordable options without sacrificing coverage. ...Federal officials argue that they’ll work out the kinks in the system in plenty of time for people to sign up by Dec. 15 for coverage that begins Jan. 1. Yes, the techies might be able to work out the computer network problems by then. But that’s not a given. The deeper problems of cost and coverage in Obamacare are going to require an admission by the administration that this government management of the health care market is extraordinarily complicated and will be very costly for many people. The law has to change.” [49876, 49877]

At the generally Obama-supporting MotherJones.com, Kevin Drum writes, “The [Healthcare.gov bugs seem deep and profound. So why has this turned out to be so much worse than I thought it would be? ...And if things really are this bad, I really, really hope there a Plan B. Beefed up phone banks. Paper and pencil. *Something.*” (Drum is giving the Obama administration credit it does not deserve. There is no “Plan B.” In April, Secretary of Health and Human Services Kathleen Sebelius was specifically asked by the House Ways and Means Committee if there was a backup plan for ObamaCare delays. She responded, “No. We are determined to meet the October 1 deadline.” On October 2 Drum wrote, “For what it’s worth, I’ll say this: If there are still lots of serious problems with these websites on November 1, I’ll eat crow. But I doubt that I’ll have to.” He will most certainly have to.) [49915, 49916, 49917]

In an interview with the Spanish language Univision network, Obama says that once there is a deal on spending and the debt ceiling, “you know, the day after, I’m going to be pushing to say, call a vote on immigration reform.” Congressman Raul Labrador (R-ID) later comments, “If [Obama] is going to show the same kind of good faith effort that he’s shown over the last couple of weeks, then I think it would be crazy for the House Republican leadership to enter into negotiations with them on immigration. ...There are things that we are on the same page about and if he is unwilling to negotiate on those things I don’t see how he could in good faith negotiate with us on immigration.” [49902, 49903, 50270]

On October 16 Dr. Keith Ablow appears on *Fox & Friends* and is asked about Obama's use of terms like "hostage taking" and "being held for ransom." Ablow responds, "[T]here's a real victim mentality here, and it really explains [Obama's] whole mentality and many of his policies. I think [Obama], going back to when his dad abandoned him, when his mother left him with his grandparents, when he describes his grandmother as intimating that she didn't trust people of color—that all of those things led him to feel victimized, hurt, and injured. And he has extended it to this country." With his comments, Obama offers "the mantel of victimization to as many people that will share it with him as possible. ... You don't negotiate with people who are trying to kill you and have kidnapped you. It explains really everything about [Obama]. The Republican Party is all about autonomy, what can you make of yourself. That's not [Obama] or his party." (Ablow is correct that Obama's tactics are a reflection of the victimhood he feels for himself—mostly because he was taught to feel it by Frank Marshall Davis and others, and not because he actually experienced it. Those tactics are also part of the playbook of community organizers, Saul Alinsky's *Rules for Radicals*. The community organizer *intentionally* makes the members of the crowd feel worthless, even if that might not be their natural inclination; then sets up a person or a business or an agency as the *cause* of that worthlessness; and finally gets them fired up to take action against the enemy who has just been placed before them. Community organizers are trained in the technique, and that is perhaps one of the few skills Obama has. He knows how to rile up a crowd and identify an enemy toward whom they can direct their anger. Beyond that, his skills are limited. He cannot lead or govern. He can only demonize and antagonize.) [49886, 49887]

Consumer Reports encourages its readers to "Stay away from Healthcare.gov for at least another month if you can. Hopefully that will be long enough for its software vendors to clean up the mess they've made. The coverage available through the marketplaces won't begin until Jan. 1, 2014, at the earliest, and you have until Dec. 15 to enroll if you need insurance that starts promptly." [50060]

Townhall.com's Katie Pavlich warns that "former ACORN workers are back as Obamacare 'navigators.' ... Since the implementation of Obamacare and the new development of healthcare 'navigators,' both Democrats and Republicans have been sounding the alarm about potential fraud and identity theft that could come as a result. Obamacare 'navigators' have been hired throughout the country to help people get enrolled in exchanges and landing a job as a navigator is easy considering passing a background check isn't necessary or required (as a reminder, navigators have access to detailed personal information and health information)." [49834]

In New Jersey, voters go to the polls in a special election to replace the late Senator Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ). In an October 14 campaign ad Obama showed support for Democrat candidate Cory Booker. Booker, the mayor of Newark, had been criticized for reportedly not only not living in Newark but living in New York; for Twitter messages to stripper Lysie Lee; and for various lies about his past—all engineered to make him appear more virtuous than he is. (In other words, Booker is precisely the kind of politician Obama would like.) Booker, who is black, is favored to defeat Republican Steve Lonegan.

Booker claims a victory would send a signal that Americans support Obama's policies. Of course, a Booker victory would only show that a state with a preponderance of Democrats usually elects Democrats. [49836, 49850, 49926]

The director of the National Park Service tells a Congressional committee he discussed closing national parks with the White House and the Secretary of the Interior. [49879]

The Obama Timeline again attempts to access Healthcare.gov to obtain an ObamaCare rate quote and is finally able to get into the system—to learn that the monthly insurance premium would jump from a pre-ObamaCare premium of about \$400 per month to about \$1,100 per month under the “silver plan”—for far less coverage and higher deductibles and co-payments. (*The Obama Timeline* will join the ranks of uninsured Americans, thanks to Obama.)

Jonathan Jarvis, head of the National Park Service, is excoriated by Congressman Trey Gowdy (R-SC) at a House hearing about the closing of the World War II Memorial. According to TheBlaze.com, “Gowdy relentlessly challenged National Park Service Director Jonathan Jarvis to cite the federal regulation that prompted his department to put up barricades to keep veterans out of war memorials on the first day of the shutdown. He also pointed out that the Park Service failed to issue a single citation when Occupiers camped out at D.C.’s McPherson Square for 100 days—100 days in ‘non-compliance’ with federal regulations.” [49922, 49923]

On the Fox Business Channel’s *The Willis Report*, a caller from Oklahoma claims that after he declined ObamaCare coverage via Healthcare.gov, he was sent a bill for \$95—the tax penalty for not enrolling in the program. (The penalty is \$95 per person or, if greater, one percent of income. The penalties increase each year until 2016.)

MyNorthwest.com reports, “Enrollments in health care plans through Washington state’s new health care exchange continue to increase, but it turns out a majority of the enrollees so far won’t be paying for their plans. ‘The Medicaid newly eligible population accounts for a little more than half of the 25,000 that we’ve seen,’ Michael Marchand, with the new Washington Health Care Exchange, tells KIRO Radio’s Dave Ross. A Medicaid expansion under Obamacare raised the income threshold for those eligible.” (Those 25,000 people added to the Medicaid rolls will be another burden on the backs of the taxpayers—which will hardly help Obama keep his promise that ObamaCare will result in reduced federal spending.) [49901]

WWLTV.com reports that “local insurance companies [are] skeptical of Affordable Care Act navigators.” Gabriel P. Janusa, President of Demand Insurance & Benefits, LLC in Metairie, Louisiana, states, “These navigators, number one, are not licensed insurance agents. Number two, they don’t carry errors and omissions insurance. Number three, the navigators or organizations that receive the grants, are not performing background checks on the individuals that are going to have access to your personal, identifiable information.” Patrick Taylor, President of Benefit Planning Group in Metairie, says, “They (the government officials) decided not to force them (navigators) to be licensed in

the State of Louisiana through the Department of Insurance, because some of those people are felons. I can't be a felon and give you advice on their health care." [49964]

Examiner.com reports, "With 74 percent of White House staff furloughed, decisions had to be made about where to save money. Apparently, the only part of whitehouse.gov that needed to be cut was the 'We the People' petition page, which allowed Americans to create petitions and voice their opinions to the White House. The feature's landing page reads 'due to Congress's failure to pass legislation to fund the government, 'We the People' has been temporarily disabled.' This means that Americans have not been able to create or sign petitions for 'We the People' throughout the entire government shutdown debate. ...[C]uriously, every other part of whitehouse.gov works and has been updated as recently as Tuesday: Blog posts are still being written, photos are still uploaded, press secretary Jay Carney's press briefings are still live-streamed, statements are still posted and all the information pages are still up and running. Everything is accessible except for the one part of the website that allowed average citizens to connect with [Obama]." [49881]

Republicans caved in to the spending and debt ceiling pressure as Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) and Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) agree to a deal to resume federal spending and increase the debt limit. Additionally, Speaker of the House John Boehner (R-OH) states he will allow a vote on the measure, knowing it will pass with Democrat support and some Republican crossover votes. Boehner, who states he will even encourage Republicans to vote for the bill, says, "We fought the good fight. We just didn't win." According to DailyCaller.com, "A Senate source confirmed to The Daily Caller that the deal would extend the debt limit until Feb. 7 and re-open the government until Jan. 15 at sequester levels. It would include new income verification measures for those receiving Obamacare subsidies, though none of the other changes to Obamacare pushed by conservatives. The Associated Press described the deal this way: 'In political terms, the final agreement was almost entirely along lines Obama had set when the impasse began last month.'" (Not only did Obama essentially get what he wanted, he and his fellow Democrats gained ground because the current-level federal spending would extend only through January 15, rather than through December 2014. That gives the Democrats the opportunity to demand higher spending levels from January 16 forward. As usual, the Republicans caved in and failed to slow the growth of government. Others argue that the short-term deal allows the GOP to move media focus from spending and borrowing to the ObamaCare disaster.) [49846, 49847, 49852]

Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX) comments, "The Washington establishment has cut a deal. The focus is and should be on the substance of providing real relief for the American people. This deal doesn't do that, and that's why I intend to vote no. ...It does nothing for all of the young people who can't find jobs because of ObamaCare. It does nothing for all the single parents who are being forced into part-time work because of ObamaCare. It does nothing for all the seniors and people with disabilities who are losing their health-care right now because of ObamaCare. No one should be surprised that this is the response of the Washington establishment. ...The American people rose up, and spoke with an overwhelming voice. And at least at this stage, Washington isn't listening to them. The

House listened, but the Senate has not. That is unfortunate, but this battle will continue to provide real relief for the millions of Americans who are hurting who right now still don't have a voice in the United States Senate.” [49846]

At WashingtonTimes.com Cheryl K. Chumley writes, “A new theory from author Ed Klein—who previously penned ‘The Amateur,’ about ...Obama’s White House leadership—suggests that senior adviser Valerie B. Jarrett orchestrated the chief executive’s strategies in the government shutdown. The New York Post reported that Ms. Jarrett held several late-night sessions with Mr. Obama at his residence and from there came the strategy of ‘no negotiation,’ Mr. Klein believes. She was the ‘architect’ of that approach, Mr. Klein said. ‘It was during one of those nightly sessions that Jarrett devised the no-negotiating strategy that Obama has employed in his fight with the GOP over the government shutdown. She convinced [Obama] that a government shutdown and default offered a great opportunity to demonize the Republicans and help the Democrats win back a majority in the House of Representatives in 2014.’ Other contributions from Ms. Jarrett, Mr. Klein said, in the New York Post: ‘Valerie also came with the idea of using the words ‘hostage’ and ‘ransom’ and ‘terrorists’ against the Republicans.’ The Daily Mail said Ms. Jarrett’s nickname is ‘Night Stalker,’ for the very reason that she’s allowed late-night access to [Obama’s] private quarters. In his 2012 book, Mr. Klein wrote that a similar behind-scenes strategy caught up the Republicans. He wrote: ‘The Republicans walked into a trap set up by Valerie Jarrett and ...Obama. The Republicans are in an untenable position.’” [49848, 49868]

The cave-in by the GOP will certainly prompt conservatives in Kentucky to dial up their campaign to defeat him in the state’s 2014 primary election. In the House, Speaker Boehner may survive to “cave another day.” Former Republican Study Committee chairman Jim Jordan says, “Absolutely no talk of anything along those lines. No talk [of ousting Boehner as leader].” Congressman Tim Huelskamp (R-KS) comments, “Actually I think the speaker stood up and said ‘This is what we’re going to do.’ I remember at conference on Thursday he said, ‘There’s only one way out of this, and that’s to win.’ Well, that’s not the way it ended up. But it’s pretty hard when he has a circle of 20 people that step up every day and say, ‘Can we surrender today, Mr. Speaker? Can we just go away? Can we make it easy?’ I mean, whining and whining. I would say ‘surrender caucus,’ but it’s a ‘whiner caucus.’ And all they do is whine about the battle, as if they thought being elected to Washington was going to be an easy job.” (Some may argue that Boehner deserves credit for waiting for the very last minute to throw in the towel.) [49851]

According to Politico, the Senate deal “includes a [Senate Minority Leader Mitch] McConnell-written proposal that would allow Congress to disapprove of the debt-ceiling increase. Lawmakers will formally vote on rejecting the bump of the borrowing limit—if it passed, it could be vetoed by Obama.” (The proposal would essentially make debt ceiling increases automatic. Legislators would vote to prohibit the increase, Obama would veto that prohibition, the debt limit would be increased—and politicians could tell their constituents, “Don’t blame me, I voted to stop the increase.” NationalJournal’s Matt Berman writes, “Such a plan would be obviously good for Democrats, as they can get the

immediate gratification of not having to risk default in order to fully implement the Affordable Care Act. But it'd be good for Republicans too, who could not only avoid the stigma of blame for a default, but also presumably reap the ruling-party rewards in future Congresses and presidencies. It would also put an immediate political target on ...Obama, and Democrats by association, for being the sole entity responsible for raising the debt limit by over a trillion dollars. That opportunity has got to sound pretty good to Republicans ahead of 2014.” Of course, the losers would be the American people—who would be saddled by even more debt.) [49892, 49893, 49924]

The U.S. Senate votes 81–18 to fund government operations until January 15 and increase the debt ceiling enough to cover borrowing through February 7. (All 18 “no” votes are Republicans.) [49873, 49898, 50989]

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) says, “I thank the Republican leader [Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY)] for his diligent efforts to reach this important agreement. The Republican leader’s cooperation was essential to reach an accord that could pass both chambers of Congress and also be signed by ...Obama. This is not a time for pointing fingers of blame. This is a time of reconciliation. I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of this great Capitol to pass this remarkable agreement.” (Reid will not point fingers and assign blame until after Obama signs the “remarkable” agreement—an agreement to keep the government on the path to continuing annual deficits of \$1 trillion or more.) Rush Limbaugh comments, “Absolutely. Yeah. What that is, just to reiterate, he [Reid] just tried to hammer the last nail into Mitch McConnell’s reelection coffin in [the Republican primary in] 2014 in Kentucky. He just credited Mitch McConnell for this. He said it wouldn’t have happened without Mitch McConnell, ‘My Republican leader colleague.’ Harry Reid knows how much you [conservatives] hate this. He knows how much we hate this. That’s why he’s happy. Obama’s happy. ...They’re throwing parties at the White House.” [49885]

The White House announces an 8:25 p.m. address to the nation. (Perhaps not so strangely, the speech is scheduled for broadcast *before* the House votes on the spending/debt ceiling bill that was approved by the Senate. Obama will no doubt use the opportunity to stick the knife in the backs of House Republicans even further—twisting it as much as he can. In his address, Obama—who apparently is ignorant of the fact that *he* is a significant part of the governing process—says, “Hopefully next time it won’t be in the 11th hour. We’ve got to get out of the habit of governing by crisis.” Obama eagerly announces ways to spend money: “[T]here are things that we know will help strengthen our economy that we could get done before this year is out. We still need to pass a law to fix our broken immigration system. We still need to pass a farm bill. And with the shutdown behind us and budget committees forming, we now have an opportunity to focus on a sensible budget that is responsible, that is fair, and that helps hard working people all across this country. And we could get all these things done even this year, if everybody comes together in a spirit of how-are-we-going-to-move-this-country forward and put the last three weeks behind us.” (PJMedia comments,” Anyone familiar with Obamaspeak knows that the above paragraph is the political version of a kid in a candy store. Because we are so far through the looking glass that the majority of the political

class is celebrating (useful idiot Peter King [R-NY] actually called this a victory for the American people) a chance to exacerbate our soon-to-be-catastrophic debt problems, Obama knows he can hit the spending accelerator again.”) [49927]

By a margin of 55–44, Democrat Cory Booker wins the special election in New Jersey to replace the late Senator Frank Lautenberg. Booker claims he is going to Washington “to take back that sense of pride. Not to play shallow politics that’s used to attack and divide but to engage in the kind of hard, humble service that reaches out to others.” (Many might assume that by the time debt ceiling and spending negotiations are again in high gear, Booker will have learned how to “play shallow politics.”) Booker’s 10.3 percent margin is arguably unimpressive considering he had a 35-point lead in polls just a few weeks earlier; he is a Democrat in a state full of Democrats; and that Obama beat Mitt Romney by 18 points. [49889, 49925, 49926, 49931]

The House of Representatives votes 285–144 to pass the Senate’s legislation to continue government spending until January 15 and raise the debt ceiling until February 7. All House Democrats vote for the bill, along with 87 Republicans; all 144 no votes are from Republicans. Obama signs the legislation (and then probably retires to the White House living quarters to entertain thoughts on how he can hoodwink the Republicans on amnesty legislation). [49888, 50989]

At FoxNews.com Todd Starnes writes, “American taxpayers have once again been trampled by establishment Republicans—a thundering herd of chicken-hearted Republicans in Name Only (RINOs) galloping to the Left. The debt ceiling deal struck between Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid and Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell is a victory for ...Obama and Democrats. ObamaCare is still the law of the land. The government is still spending money it does not have. And thousands of government workers just got a two-week vacation courtesy of the taxpayers. I’m sure we will hear establishment apologists calling the events of recent days a compromise. But seeing how [Obama] refused to compromise, it’s more likely the Grand Old Party was the only one bending. Establishment Republicans always talk about doing the right thing for the nation, no matter the price. But when push comes to shove, they always throw in the towel. And Wednesday, McConnell and his band of merry moderates heaved their towels in an epic demonstration of lily-livered cowardice.” [49890]

The “deal” is not much of a deal for the American people. The government will continue to spend money at the current unsustainable rate; the taxpayers will continue to subsidize health insurance for Obama, White House staffers, and wealthy members of Congress; ObamaCare has not been reigned in—and the entire process will begin anew as the January 15 and February 7 deadlines approach. Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) laughably brags that the Republicans were able to keep in place the spending levels put in place by the sequestration legislation: “That’s been a top priority for me and my Republican colleagues throughout this debate. And it’s been worth the effort.” (McConnell neglects to note that the deal last only through January 15—at which point the Democrats will demand higher levels of spending.) [49909]

The budget deal also includes a \$174,000 death benefit to the widow of Senator Frank Lautenberg—whose net worth was \$56.8 million. [49910]

NationalReview.com reports that, through October 14, a mere 631 people in Vermont have enrolled in ObamaCare. In Delaware, at least one person is known to have enrolled: 59-year-old Janice Baker. [49918, 49919]

According to Watchdog.org, three Wisconsin residents have signed up for ObamaCare plans provided by insurance company Gundersen Health Plan—“one of 13 insurers participating in the federal health-care exchange in Wisconsin.” [49920]

In Nebraska, ObamaCare “navigators” have not enrolled anyone in ObamaCare. [49963]

A mere 406 people have enrolled in ObamaCare at Minnesota’s exchange site. [49967]

In Maryland, only 326 residents had enrolled in the first week. [49968]

After two weeks of problems, Hawaii announces that its ObamaCare exchange site is operational—but some potential customers received the message, “This website is temporarily unavailable, please try again later.” [49921]

Reuters reports, “Republicans in Congress chastised ...Obama’s top health adviser on Thursday for declining to testify before an oversight panel about problems in rolling out ...Obamacare. Less than a day after Congress ended a 16-day partial government shutdown precipitated by Republican demands to delay or defund Obamacare, they sent a letter to Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius demanding she make officials available for the October 24 hearing.” Congressman Fred Upton (R-MI) states, “It’s well past time for the administration to be straight and transparent with the American people. This is wholly unacceptable. Secretary Sebelius had time for [Comedy Central’s] Jon Stewart, and we expect her to have time for Congress.” Congressman Leonard Lance (R-NJ) tells Fox News Channel’s Greta Van Susteren, “We could subpoena her, but usually, the way the system works is that the cabinet secretaries come before the committees of jurisdiction. Obviously, we have the ability to subpoena a cabinet officer. But I would hope that the secretary would come before the committee. Chairman Upton is a very fair person, a very fine chairman. And after all, the secretary has time for Jon Stewart. I think she should have time for those of us who serve in Congress on these critical questions of this dismal failure so far in the rollout.” [49969, 49970, 49976, 49993, 49996, 49999, 50026]

According to BuzzFeed.com Teal Media, a design firm involved in Healthcare.gov quietly removed any references to that site on its own web pages—apparently after deciding it was better not to have potential customers know it had worked on the project. (After the BuzzFeed.com report, the company restores the references.) [49971, 49972]

At GoldSeek.com, Elizabeth Lee Vliet, M.D., lists “Ten things to expect from ObamaCare in 2014.” “1. The expansion of Medicaid, with increased cost burden for taxpayers... 2. ‘Sticker shock’ as the reality of higher health insurance premiums hits home... 3. Large and small employers are cutting health insurance benefits... 4. The employer-based health insurance policies that remain will have higher out-of-pocket costs for employees... 5. Fewer types of health insurance policies can be offered under Obamacare... 6. Many people cannot keep their doctors... 7. Further destruction of Medicare... 8. Loss of ownership of your medical records... 9. More waivers and exemptions for the political elites and Democrat cronies... 10. On January 1, 2014, the Individual Mandate to purchase Obamacare-compliant health insurance goes into effect.” [49914]

CNSNews.com reports, “Lt. Col. Todd Bresseale, a spokesman in the Office of Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel, is refusing to say whether the Department of Defense would attempt to stop a civilian Catholic priest, who had been a contract chaplain for the military, from administering the last rites to a serviceman on a U.S. military base.” [49932]

At NationalReview.com Eliana Johnson on some of the “pork” included in the shutdown deal. The legislation “includes nearly \$2.8 billion for dam project previously backed by Senate minority leader Mitch McConnell and a \$174,000 payment to Bonnie Englehardt Lautenberg, the widow of late New Jersey senator Frank Lautenberg. ...[T]he Senate Conservatives Fund is already deriding the dam-building provision as the ‘Kentucky Kickback.’ Though McConnell is surely pleased that the money is flowing to the Olmsted dam, which is situated on the Ohio River, he did not request it—[Obama] did—and the provision was inserted into the legislation by Lamar Alexander of Tennessee and Dianne Feinstein of California. Alexander said in a statement that the provision was necessary to ensure that the Army Corps of Engineers does not cancel \$160 million in existing contracts.” According to TheHill.com, the legislation “includes extra funds to fix flooded roads in Colorado” and “a \$3 million appropriation for a civil liberties oversight board.” (Asked why pork was included in the legislation, House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) replies, “What difference does it make? Why are we talking about this? We’re talking about a bill that, as I said last night, I’m not asking anybody to vote for this bill on the merits. ...My members have some of the same questions, not certainly in terms of the death penalty to the Lautenberg family, but when you have a CR [continuing resolution], it is an appropriation, and this, yes would be the normal place for them to do that. ...So if you want to have an objection to the bill, there are bigger things to object to, but the fact is that we had to open government. ...You’ll have to talk to them [in the Senate] about what’s in the bill and what its purpose was, but what I said on the floor, I’m not pinning a rose on the bill, but I am voting for it, because we have to open government.”) 49952, 49956, 49975]

On Fox News, syndicated columnist Charles Krauthammer comments, “This is [Peanuts comic strip character] Lucy and the football, squared. Every time Obama has had a chance to do the thing that you would expect him to do if he has the vision of the world that most of us do, which is that the deficit is insupportable, we’re going over a cliff, we

can see the future, it's happening in Europe, the entitlement state is unsustainable, you've got to do something—all of us sort of know that instinctively. He is not interested. The reason—everybody has a tactical explanation for why on this occasion he said no and on that occasion, the election's coming up, it has to do with the count... *The man is not interested in that.* He's a man of the left. He believes that Europe—that that is the kind of social democratic system in Europe, entitlement state, the safety net—that that is the just society that a community organizer would be thinking of. And that's why time after time he turns it down, and that's why I predict he will again turn it down—even though he can have a great political victory on tax reform. He won't accept it, unless you raise taxes.” [49911]

On October 17 Kelly Kennedy writes at USA Today.com, “The federal health care exchange was built using 10-year-old technology that may require constant fixes and updates for the next six months and the eventual overhaul of the entire system, technology experts told USA TODAY. The site could be perfect, but if the systems from which it draws data are not up to speed, it doesn't matter, said John Engates, chief technology officer at Rackspace, a cloud computer service provider. ‘It is a core problem in the sense of it's fundamental to this thing actually working, but it's not necessarily a problem that the people who wrote HealthCare.gov can get to,’ Engates said. ‘Even if they had a perfect system, it still won't work.’ Recent changes have made the exchanges easier to use, but they still require clearing the computer's cache several times, stopping a pop-up blocker, talking to people via Web chat who suggest waiting until the server is not busy, opening links in new windows and clicking on every available possibility on a page in the hopes of not receiving an error message. With those changes, it took one hour to navigate the HealthCare.gov enrollment process Wednesday. ‘I have never seen a website—in the last five years—require you to delete the cache in an effort to resolve errors,’ said Dan Schuyler, a director at Leavitt Partners, a health care group by former Health and Human Services secretary Mike Leavitt. ‘This is a very early Web 1.0 type of fix.’ ‘The application could be fundamentally flawed,’ said Jeff Kim, president of CDNetworks, a content-delivery network. ‘They may be using 1990s technology in 2.0 world.’” [49899, 49900]

Health Care Policy and Marketplace Review's Bob Laszewski writes, “At the end of week two of the Obamacare launch, health plans were generally seeing no more enrollments per day than they saw in the first week. As troubling, the backroom issues plaguing the connection between health insurers and the federal government had not been resolved and there is no indication from the feds when they will have these things cleared up. My sense is that the feds, based upon the number of enrollments they have sent to the insurance companies, enrolled about 10,000 people in the first week (about 5,000 single and family contracts) and another 10,000 people in the second week in the 36 states using the federal exchange. The *Washington Post* earlier this week cited estimates that the number was about 36,000 the first week using a web analysis firm's review of traffic. My estimates are based upon hard numbers from high market share plans then projected over the entire 36-state federal market. ... New York says they have ‘enrolled’ 100,000 people. But when pressed on that in a CNBC interview Tuesday, that state's director clarified that to mean 100,000 people have set up accounts and applied to know what

their subsidies are. She refused to say how many people have gone the rest of the way to actually buy a plan. Reports from consumers trying to use the exchange in New York continue to indicate difficulty being able to navigate the site. Yesterday, the *New York Times* reported that only the Kentucky, Colorado, Nevada, and Washington state exchanges enable consumers to search for the providers covered in the various plans. This is a critical piece of information for consumers because so many of the particularly lower cost plans were able to develop lower rates by excluding wide swaths of doctors and hospitals. A consumer would be foolish to buy a health plan without knowing which doctors and hospitals it covers!” [50187, 50188]

“The U.S. individual health insurance market currently totals about 19 million people. Because the Obama administration's regulations on grandfathering existing plans were so stringent about 85% of those, 16 million, are not grandfathered and must comply with Obamacare at their next renewal. The rules are very complex. For example, if you had an individual plan in March of 2010 when the law was passed and you only increased the deductible from \$1,000 to \$1,500 in the years since, your plan has lost its grandfather status and it will no longer be available to you when it would have renewed in 2014. These 16 million people are now receiving letters from their carriers saying they are losing their current coverage and must re-enroll in order to avoid a break in coverage and comply with the new health law's benefit mandates—the vast majority by January 1. Most of these will be seeing some pretty big rate increases. But unless they live in Washington state, Nevada, Colorado, and Kentucky, they can't now get on an exchange site to see their plan options, new prices, and provider directories so they can make an informed decision before they lose their coverage. This is a fine mess.”[50187, 50188]

More than 130 prominent conservatives send a letter to House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH) reminding him of his promise not to bring the Senate's illegal immigrant amnesty legislation (S. 744) up for a vote. [49986]

Obama delivers an address about the temporarily resolved spending and debt ceiling crisis, saying, “So let's work together to make government work better, instead of treating it like an enemy or purposely making it work worse. That's not what the founders of this nation envisioned when they gave us the gift of self-government. [If] You don't like a particular policy or a particular president? Then argue for your position. Go out there and win an election. Push to change it. But don't break it. Don't break what our predecessors spent over two centuries building. That's not being faithful ta [sic; to] what this country's about.” [49930]

Obama says, “These last few weeks have inflicted completely unnecessary damage on our economy. We don't know yet the full scope of the damage, but every analyst out there believes it's slowed our growth. ... We know that consumers have cut back on spending and that half of all CEOs say that the shutdown and the threat of shutdown set back their plans to hire over the next six months.” (Obama does not provide proof of his absurd claim. *The Obama Timeline* has not been unable to find evidence that “half of all CEOs” have cut back hiring plans because of the shutdown shenanigans. Obama is here getting out in front of the problems that will be caused by ObamaCare, blaming them on

the Republicans.) “We know that just the threat of default—of America not paying all the bills that we owe, on time—increased our borrowing costs, which adds to our deficit.” (Interest costs have not increased because of the shutdown negotiations; they have been increasing for more than a year.) Obama claims it is “no surprise” that Americans “are completely fed up with Washington”—as if he has absolutely nothing to do with Washington. [49933]

He continues, “At a moment when our economic recovery demands more jobs, more momentum, we’ve got yet another self-inflicted crisis that set our economy back. And for what? There was no economic rationale for all of this.” (The economic rationale was to stop ObamaCare—which has been and will be a jobs killer.) Obama brags that he cut the deficit in half (neglecting to mention that he first tripled it, and fought the spending cuts imposed by the sequestration that helped reduce the deficit.) “We hear some members who pushed for the shutdown say they were doing it to save the American economy. But nothing has done more to undermine our economy these past three years than the kind of tactics that create these manufactured crises. ... [P]robably nothing has done more damage to America’s credibility in the world—our standing with other countries—than the spectacle that we’ve seen these past several weeks.” (Obama has apparently forgotten about the terrorist attack in Benghazi, his shabby treatment of Israel, his abandonment of Egyptian ally Hosni Mubarak, his humiliating “red line” comment that allowed Russian President Vladimir Putin to play him like a fool, and various other embarrassments.) [49933]

In a stunning demonstration of shamelessness and audacity, Obama lectures, “Those of us who have the privilege to serve this country have an obligation to do our job as best we can. We come from different parties, but we are Americans first. And that’s why disagreement cannot mean dysfunction. It can’t degenerate into hatred. We can debate those differences vigorously, passionately, in good faith. There’s no good reason why we can’t govern responsibly, despite our differences. When we disagree, we don’t have to suggest that the other side doesn’t love this country or believe in free enterprise, or all the other rhetoric that seems to get worse every single year.” (The “let’s be civil” Obama makes this statement after he and his Democrat comrades spent weeks calling Republicans terrorists, hostage-takers, extortionists, arsonists, extremists, and evil partisans who would deny health care to the sick and food to starving children.) [49960]

Obama calls on Congress to pass immigration reform (amnesty) legislation: “We should finish the job of fixing our broken immigration system. In fact, the Senate has already passed a bill with strong bipartisan support that would make the biggest commitment to border security in our history, would modernize our legal immigration system, make sure everyone plays by the same rules, make sure that folks who came here illegally have to pay a fine, pay back taxes, meet their responsibilities. That bill has already passed the Senate. It’s sitting there waiting for the House to pass it. Now, if the House has ideas on how to improve the Senate bill, let’s hear them. Let’s start the negotiations. But let’s not leave this problem to keep festering for another year, or two years, or three years. This can and should get done by the end of this year.” (CNSNews.com notes, “The bill that the Senate passed not only created a path to citizenship for illegal aliens, but included

language specifically stipulating that illegal aliens could not be denied conversion to legal resident status and put on the citizenship path even if they had committed certain crimes on multiple occasions. ‘An alien convicted of 3 or more offenses for driving under the influence [DUI] or driving while intoxicated on separate dates is inadmissible,’ says the Senate bill. This means that an alien who has been convicted of 2 DUIs is admissible. It also means an alien who gets 2 DUIs on one day—and then gets a third on another day—is still admissible because he did not get 3 or more DUIs ‘on separate dates.’ Language on page 777 of the bill appears—on its face—to legitimize counterfeiting and selling up to 2 U.S. passports.” The legislation includes penalties for forging three or more passports; the Senate Democrats apparently believe forging two is permissible.) [49934]

White House press secretary Jay Carney tells reporters that Obama will push for tax increases in the next round of budget negotiations, ahead of the January 15 deadline. Carney says, “[Obama] has insisted that in the budget negotiations that he’s been calling for all year, everything has to be on the table. And that will be his position going forward. ...[H]e firmly believes that balance, when it comes to further reducing our deficits and building on the work that has been done over these past four years in which we have reduced our deficits... by half, we need to continue to take a balanced approach so that no sector of society unfairly has to bear the brunt of that project. That’s always been his position and it will be his position moving forward.” (Carney conveniently says, “four years,” rather than five—to hide the fact that under Obama the deficit first tripled, and did not start coming down until the sequestration cuts Obama resisted were implemented. By “balanced approach,” Carney means “raise taxes.”) 49935]

On Hugh Hewitt’s radio program, author Mark Steyn (*After America: Get Ready for Armageddon*) comments on Obama’s statement: “I resent this [lecture] coming from a guy like ...Obama. The only day job he’s ever had was as a professional activist, as a so-called community organizer. You know, the thing he said just after that, where he said you know, you have to stop using shutdowns and all the rest of us, and have to learn from now on that the way to do it is to win the election. I found that very interesting, because the Republican Party in the election for the House of Representatives won the election. They won that election. They’re the majority party in that house. And either that means something under the United States Constitution, or it doesn’t. He was talking, it was fascinating to me, in that moment, he revealed that he saw this country as a presidential republic somewhat closer, to be polite, to France’s, or at worst, to Latin America. In other words, there’s the president, and nobody else matters. He won the only election that matters, and the rest of you are just lobby fodder, and should demonstrate no independent initiatives of your own. And again, he’s saying, he’s saying that essentially what has happened is that the United States Constitution now has become so deformed, that it is no longer operating as it’s meant to.” [49959]

Bloomberg.com reports that Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX) “blocked Tom Wheeler’s nomination to be chairman of the U.S. Federal Communications Commission after asking whether the Democrat would use the agency to regulate political speech. Wheeler’s appointment was on a Senate calendar for action yesterday and didn’t emerge as other nominees cleared the body. ‘Yes, the senator is holding the nominee,’ Sean Rushton, a

spokesman for Cruz, said in an e-mail today. Senators can by tradition singlehandedly stall consideration of a presidential appointee. ...Wheeler, a venture capitalist and former leader of trade groups for the cable and wireless industries, would step into a post open since May, when the last chairman departed. ...Cruz, of Texas, in a June hearing asked Wheeler to say whether the agency could regulate political speech or implement rules proposed under last year's failed Disclose Act. The bill opposed by Republicans would have required nonprofit groups to reveal who pays for their political advertisements. Cruz wants to know Wheeler's views on implementing the Disclose Act by administrative action, Rushton said. Cruz wants to speak soon with Wheeler, he said. At the hearing Cruz told Wheeler the disclosure issue has 'the potential to derail your nomination.' 'A substantial number of members of this body believe it is unconstitutional and bad policy,' Cruz said. Wheeler responded by saying, 'That's an issue that I look forward to learning more about.'" [50023]

At CBSNews.com Sharyl Attkisson reports, "CBS News has learned of a shocking link between a deadly drug cartel shootout with Mexican police last week and a controversial case in the U.S. The link is one of the grenades used in the violent fight, which killed three policemen and four cartel members and was captured on video by residents in the area. According to a Justice Department 'Significant Incident Report' filed Tuesday and obtained by CBS News, evidence connects one of the grenades to Jean Baptiste Kingery, an alleged firearms trafficker U.S. officials allowed to operate for years without arresting despite significant evidence that he was moving massive amounts of grenade parts and ammunition to Mexico's ruthless drug cartels. The gun battle took place last week in Guadalajara. Authorities say five members of the Jalisco New Generation Cartel used at least nine firearms and ten hand grenades against Mexican police. If one of the grenades was supplied with the help of Kingery, as believed, it adds to the toll of lives taken with weapons trafficked by suspects U.S. officials watched but did not stop. The Kingery case was overseen by the same Arizona U.S. Attorney and ATF office that let suspects traffic thousands of weapons to Mexican drug cartels in the operation dubbed [Operation] Fast and Furious. The strategy was to try to get to the cartel kingpins, but it was halted after CBS News reported that Fast and Furious weapons were used by cartel thugs in the murder of Border Patrol agent Brian Terry on December 15, 2010. Weapons trafficked by other ATF suspects under surveillance were used two months later in the cartel murder of Immigration and Customs Agent Jaime Zapata in Mexico on February 15, 2011." [49981, 49982, 50065]

According to DailyCaller.com, one of the ObamaCare "navigators" hired by the Obama administration is a member of the leftist activist group Sunflower Community Action, Veronica Miranda, who was one of four people who "stormed the property of the Republican secretary of state [in Kansas] earlier this year." Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach remarks, "It is shocking that the Obama administration has hired as a navigator a person who has been caught trespassing and attempting to intimidate a public official. This kind of thug activity is bad enough, but giving this person federal tax dollars is sickening." [49912, 49974, 49990]

At Townhall.com Kevin Glass reports, “A comprehensive 50-state study has found that insurance premiums will increase under the first year of Obamacare in 45 of 50 states. This finding flies in the face of ...Obama’s promise that his health care overhaul would cause premiums ‘for the typical family’ to fall by \$2500. ...The Heritage [Foundation study] authors find that there are only five states in which premiums will decrease: Colorado, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, and Rhode Island—a result of those states already having ‘already over-regulated insurance markets that led to sharply higher premiums,’ [Drew] Gonshorwoski writes. The model also breaks the premium changes down by demographic. Americans who are shopping for their whole family on the exchanges will see more modest increases, and young Americans will see the most extreme increases. In 11 states, the Heritage study finds, people who are age 27 shopping for an individual policy can expect to see double the premiums they would have seen last year.” [49948, 49953]

At WeeklyStandard.com Jeryl Bier reports that ObamaCare’s Healthcare.gov web site violates licensing agreements for copyrighted software. Specifically, Healthcare.gov uses copyrighted web script from a British company called SpryMedia without properly crediting or referencing the authors. [49951]

With more than a few Republicans calling for the head of Kathleen Sebelius, the Secretary of Health and Humans Services, over the disastrous ObamaCare rollout, White House press secretary Jay Carney tells reporters she has Obama’s “full confidence.” (To the surprise of few, Congresswoman Maxine Waters (D-CA) says no one should be fired: “This is not about firing somebody. If you work in a big complex, a big office in government, you will find that there are times when the system will go down, when there are glitches in the system. It happens. And so they’re just using this oftentimes as a way by which to say, ‘Aha! I told you so. This is not going to work.’ But we don’t buy that. We’re going to continue on the road that we are on. We’re going to get those exchanges up.”) [49942, 49943]

CTNewsJunkie.com reports, “Officials for Connecticut’s health insurance marketplace said Thursday that after the first two weeks of enrollment they’ve seen a lot of ‘pent up demand’ from older individuals who are purchasing plans at a higher rates than people under the age of 55. Nearly 400 individuals ages 55-64 who enrolled in the exchange between Oct. 1 and Oct. 15 qualified for Medicaid because their income was at or below 138 percent of the federal poverty level, and nearly 600 in that same age group have signed up for plans with one of the three private insurance carriers. ...Of the 3,847 individuals who signed up for coverage, 1,857 qualified for Medicaid, 1,897 signed up for plans with one of the three private insurance carriers, and 93 qualified for the Children’s Health Insurance Plan. Of the individuals who signed up with private carriers, 772 won’t receive a subsidy and 1,125 will receive a federal subsidy to lower their monthly premium.” Morning Jolt’s Jim Geraghty observes, “So [only] 20 percent of the people who are buying insurance are paying their own way. So far, Obamacare is adding a lot of people to Medicaid and providing a lot of people with subsidies.” (If the trends are similar in other states and continue, ObamaCare will be a massive new entitlement program that dramatically increases the federal deficit. It will also be a burden to the

states—particularly those that agreed to the massive Medicaid expansions in ObamaCare.) [49962, 50493]

Investors.com notes that Healthcare.gov “asks applicants if they want to register to vote as they try to sign up for ObamaCare. By sheer coincidence, a plurality of the uninsured are likely Democratic voters. Call it Motor Voter on steroids—the piggybacking of voter registration to an otherwise unrelated government function. Those trying to navigate Healthcare.gov, a website that looks and functions as if designed by the department of motor vehicles, are being asked if they want to register to vote just in time for crucial 2014 midterm elections that are likely to be a referendum on ObamaCare.” (An August 2012 poll showed that uninsured Americans preferred Obama to Mitt Romney 62 percent to 27 percent.) [49965]

At NationalReview.com Yuval Levin reports on his conversations with “several officials of the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (the HHS agency that is running the [ObamaCare] exchanges), and with a number of reasonably well placed insurance company officials in Washington. ... The reaction of these individuals to what has happened in the last two weeks is the reaction of people who are coming to realize that their expectations and understanding of web development were mistaken. They believed... that whatever technical problems the exchange sites encountered at first could be cleared up quickly and simply once things got going—that the contractors developing the websites could just respond to problems on the fly, as they became apparent. It is now increasingly obvious to them that this is simply not how things work, that building a website like this is a matter of exceedingly complex programming and not ‘design,’ and that the problems that plague the federal exchanges (and some state exchanges) are much more severe and fundamental than anything they imagined possible. That doesn’t mean they can’t be fixed, of course, and perhaps even fixed relatively quickly, but it means that at the very least the opening weeks (and quite possibly months) of the Obamacare exchanges will be very different from what either the administration or its critics expected.” [49978]

“Some blame the contractors involved for not being upfront about the potential for such fundamental difficulties, but some say the contractors did offer warnings, and especially that the contractors believed the time they were given for development was totally inadequate. It seems clear, though, that the administration was not warned to expect quite what has happened here, and was not prepared for it. ... One key problem, which to date has been the most prominent in public, has to do with a late-in-the-game decision to require users to go through a complex account-creation process before even reaching any coverage options. ... Some journalists and analysts have speculated that this decision was made in order to prevent people from seeing premium costs before they could also see any subsidies they might be eligible for, so that the shock of higher prices could be contained and so that simply curious observers and journalists couldn’t get a picture of premium costs in the various states. ... The people I spoke with did all confirm the importance of one other detail in [a *New York Times*] story: that CMS did not hire a general contractor to manage the exchange project but handled that overall technical management task itself. None of the people I spoke with wanted to get into how this

decision was made or at what level, but all of them agreed that it was a very bad idea and was at the core of the disaster they have so far experienced.” [49978]

Levin points out that the “low volume [of enrollments so far] is mostly a very bad thing for Obamacare, of course, since the viability of the exchanges depends on a certain size and demographic mix which cannot be attained unless these problems are resolved very quickly. I couldn’t get enrollment numbers from any of the people I spoke with, but I was told that the uptake model that HHS built (using CBO projections) to predict how the exchanges would work made a low-end estimate that just under half a million people would enroll nationwide by October 31st, and that enrollment would then accelerate dramatically between November 15 and December 30th. The October 31 target, which was thought to be modest, now looks essentially impossible to reach, but their bigger worry is that period in November and December. If the problems now plaguing the system are not resolved by mid-November and the flow of enrollments at that point looks like it does now, the prospects for the first year of the exchanges will be in very grave jeopardy. ...The tone of the CMS officials who spoke with me was a kind of restrained panic. Among the insurance company officials... there was much less restraint. The insurers are very, very worried about the viability of the exchange system—especially but not exclusively at the federal level. ...An extension of the enrollment period for coverage, now set to end on March 31, seems to be almost taken for granted. A delay of the individual mandate penalty—which effectively begins in the middle of February—is not thought to be a crazy idea (though the people I spoke with said they have not seen internal preparations for such a move at this point).” [49978, 50199]

“The nightmare scenarios, the ‘unthinkable options,’ involve larger moves than that—like putting enrollment on hold or re-starting the exchange system from scratch at some point. No one seems to know how this could work or what it would mean, but everyone involved is contending with a far worse set of circumstances than they were prepared for. This is a major disaster from their point of view, not a set of glitches, and they simply do not know how long it will take to fix. They dearly want to see progress day by day, but they are generally not seeing it. ...[I]t may not be clear to anyone exactly how deep and lasting these problems will prove to be, which could mean they’re worse than they seem but could mean they’re not as bad as they seem. The technical architecture of the federal exchanges and to a lesser extent the state ones has been very badly screwed up. The problem may be so bad as to render Obamacare’s rollout impossible in practice at this point. But it may not be. And right now no one knows if it will or will not. ...The administration believes it will be possible to roll through a difficult period, get as many people as they can into the system, and just hold out until things stabilize. The insurers are not sure this will be possible. Everyone involved is guessing. For me, and for other critics of Obamacare, the problem with the law was never about these technical matters. I didn’t think the system wouldn’t work because the government couldn’t build a website, but because the basic health economics involved is deeply misguided and would take the (badly inadequate) American health-financing system in the wrong direction. So these problems only seem like a prelude to other, larger problems. But Obamacare was also always going to be a test of the sheer capacity of the administrative state to actually do what it claims the authority and ability to do. At this point, it looks as though we may be

witnessing a failure of the administrative state on a level unimagined even by its staunchest critics. We may be. But we'll have to see." [49978]

Caroline Kennedy Schlossberg is confirmed by the Senate to become the next U.S. ambassador to Japan. [49995]

DailyCaller.com reports, "Government insiders in Azerbaijan, a key U.S. national security ally bordering Iran, were left surprised and bewildered after the Obama administration disparaged the nation's recent election. Incumbent Azerbaijan president Ilham Aliyev was re-elected Oct. 9 with a majority of the vote over rivals Jamil Hasanli and Iqbal Agazade. Deputy U.S. State Department spokesperson Marie Harf released a statement Oct. 10, the day after the election, criticizing the legitimacy of the Azerbaijani election. 'The United States continuously urged the Government of Azerbaijan to ensure a free and fair electoral process and to respect the freedoms of assembly, association, and speech. It is with regret that we conclude this election fell short of international standards,' according to the State Department statement, which cited Organization for Security and Co-Operation in Europe (OSCE) findings on the election. ...The Obama administration released far more positive statements following recent elections in Iran and Russia, in which similar fairness concerns were raised. 'We admire the courage of the Iranian people who went to the polls and made their voices heard in a rigidly controlled environment that sought to limit freedom of expression and assembly. We remain concerned about the lack of transparency in the electoral process, and the attempts to censor members of the media, the internet, and text messages. Despite these challenges, however, the Iranian people have clearly expressed their desire for a new and better future,' Secretary of State John Kerry said June 15 after Iranian elections." (The Obama administration was quick to criticize the election process of an ally, yet went out of its way to slobber all over Iran—which almost certainly had a less open and fair election process.) [49958]

At InfoWars.com Paul Joseph Watson reports, "Chase Bank has moved to limit cash withdrawals while banning business customers from sending international wire transfers from November 17 onwards, prompting speculation that the bank is preparing for a looming financial crisis in the United States by imposing capital controls. ...Numerous business customers with Chase BusinessSelect Checking and Chase BusinessClassic accounts have received letters over the past week informing them that cash activity (both deposits and withdrawals) will be limited to a \$50,000 total per statement cycle from November 17 onwards. ...Meanwhile, financial expert Gerald Celente said the news was a sign that Americans should prepare for a bank holiday. Chase is obviously very keen to make it hard for their customers to have any kind of control over their savings and is trying to prevent them from sending dollars abroad, prompting concerns that Cyprus-style account gouging could occur in America. The move to limit deposits and withdrawals while banning international wire transfers altogether is a bizarre policy and will cripple many small and medium-sized businesses with Chase accounts. Buying stock from abroad in any kind of quantity will now become impossible for many companies, while paying employees will also be a headache. Grocery stores or restaurants that turnover more than \$50k a month will be unable to use their account. Why has Chase announced

such a ludicrous and restrictive policy change? Speculation is rife that the bank is preparing for some kind of economic crisis by ‘locking down’ its customers’ money. Others fear the move to restrict international wire transfers is part of a plan to protect against a near-future collapse of the US dollar. Whatever the truth behind the policy change, Chase really needs to publicly explain its reasoning in order to quell the speculation.” [49929, 49955, 49987]

InfoWars.com’s Alex Jones adds, “It is clear that these regulations are being enacted for three different but equally plausible reasons, all of which contribute to the ultimate goal of sacrificing the global economy on the altar of derivative monster zombie banks. 1) Capital controls to prevent money leaving the country as the US dollar continues to devalue. Note that Chase will allow international wire transfers coming in, but not going out of the accounts. Note that they are only concerned about ‘risks’ when the money is being moved out of the account. 2) Forcing businesses to abandon cash and switching everything over to digital currency that can be more easily tracked, traced and controlled. 3) Part of the preparatory phase for Cyprus-style bail-ins where the government announces a new ‘tax’ to gouge out a percentage of people’s savings. Customers need to rally and speak out against this and immediately move their money to smaller and local banks that will promise to give them good service and not rake them over the coals. We need diversity and competition within the banking system, not giant zombie banks endangering the world economy with derivatives and cheating their customers. It should also be noted that JPMorgan Chase runs most of the welfare system and EBT cards and really constitutes the top of the pyramid in the corporate-banking-governmental structure.” [49929]

According to a report from the Media Research Center, 41 out of 57 evening news stories from the mainstream media (ABC, CBS, NBC) blamed the Republicans for the partial government shutdown; 17 blamed Republicans and the Democrats; none blamed Obama or the Democrats alone. According to the report, “The broadcast networks invariably blamed Republicans for the impasse; spotlighted dozens of examples of how Americans were being victimized; and ran scores of soundbites from furloughed federal workers and others harmed by the shutdown—even as they ignored examples of how the Obama administration and Senate Democrats were working to make the shutdown as painful as possible.” [49937]

Although Democrats are gloating over the GOP’s spending/debt ceiling cave-in and salivating at the thought of recapturing the House of Representatives, Townhall.com’s Daniel Doherty reports, “The National Republican Congressional Committee has compiled a list of what they believe are the seven most vulnerable House members, whom they refer to as the NRCC Red Zone Democrats. And in three of those seven races this past quarter, GOP challengers out-raised their opponents by decisive (and impressive) margins...” (In Utah’s 4th Congressional District, for example Mia Love has raised \$592,355 to incumbent Democrat Jim Matheson’s \$278,540.) “If anything,” writes Doherty, “GOP candidates are beginning to raise tons of money, thus putting seats into play that otherwise might not have been. So if Democrats think they’re just going to waltz into election season next year and recapture the House, they’ve got another thing

[sic; think] coming. Republicans won't back down without a fight. Nor should they." [49944]

The Obama administration announces that Healthcare.gov will be down for repairs between 1 a.m. and 5 a.m. over the October 19–20 weekend. [49996]

At Forbes.com Tim Worstall writes, "This is a stunning number from Farhad Manjoo over at the Wall Street Journal. The development cost of the health care exchanges necessary under the ACA (aka Obamacare) is larger than the development cost of the original iPhone at Apple. Indeed, by some estimates it might be four times the cost." Apple spent a reported \$150 million developing the iPhone, which is a complicated mini-computer, an entire operating system, and a marvel of engineering, while Healthcare.gov cost the taxpayers as much as \$600 million and does nothing more than collect data and provide insurance prices—something the web site ehealthinsurance.com has been doing for years. [50006]

On *Hannity*, Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX) calls the budget/spending/debt limit legislation "a lousy deal for the American people. This is sadly a classic instance of the Washington establishment selling the American people down the river. This deal does nothing for the millions of people who are hurting because of ObamaCare. ... The real focus, the reason we were fighting this fight—is there are people all over this country that are hurting, there are people right now who are picking up a letter from their insurance company, and discovering that the insurance that they're relying on to provide their family vital health care is being taken away." Senator Mike Lee (R-UT) says, "It's a missed opportunity. I think that if we had stayed united as a party, if we had stood behind the House Republican Conference, which fought quite nobly in order to keep vital aspects of the government funded, in order to keep veterans programs funded and to keep our national parks open, I think we could have made more progress. So it was an important missed opportunity. ... [But] It's really just the end of the beginning. It's a fight that's going to continue. ... And we're going to see more and more of these [ObamaCare horror stories] come out in the coming months, as we get closer and closer to this January first full implementation date. And this is a tragedy we tried to avoid, and a tragedy that I still hope we can find a way to avoid." [49936]

On October 18 DailyCaller.com reports, "The federal agency overseeing the implementation of the Obamacare federal exchange did not test the site until a week before its Oct. 1 launch... According to individuals with knowledge of the development of the site, the root cause of the problems that beset the launch of the federal health care exchange is a decision by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to act as the central coordinator for the project—a 'systems integrator.' CMS continued to make changes to the project all the way up to a week before the site's launch, delaying testing that normally takes four to six months to work out. That testing, one source said, is normally done by a company with technical capabilities like IBM—not a federal agency—to act as a systems integrator. 'The challenge with this project was that the decisions were made very, very late in the project, and no one organization ... seemed to

know how this complex ecosystem of applications, interfaces, user processes and hardware should all work together,' the source told the Washington Examiner.” [49913]

The American Center for Law and Justice (ACLJ) files its Second Amended Complaint against the United States, the IRS, and IRS officials related to its targeting of conservative groups for discrimination and mistreatment. ACLJ chief counsel Jay Sekulow writes at FoxNews.com, “[I]t is an ugly story indeed. What was sold to the American public as a low-level scandal perpetrated by a few rogue employees—a scandal stopped after senior officials became aware and asserted control—is now (to borrow a Watergate phrase) ‘no longer operative.’ Instead, we detail a long-running assault on the Tea Party, beginning shortly after its emergence in 2009, that is empowered, encouraged, and orchestrated not only by senior IRS officials in Washington, but also through outright targeting by the White House, Congressional Democrats, and the mainstream media. In fact, the IRS was doing little more than focusing its attention exactly where [Obama] told it to focus—on the groups [Obama] himself identified as a ‘threat to democracy.’ ... One grows weary of stating the obvious, but if President Bush had declared a specific category of citizen groups a ‘threat to democracy’ potentially run by ‘political operatives’ or ‘foreign-controlled,’ and the IRS launched an unprecedented campaign of targeting and intrusive questioning, the mainstream media would have been relentless not only in its independent investigations but in its calls for accountability—at the highest levels. Was [Obama] involved in the IRS scandal? He was the one who identified the targets—in the most public manner possible. [Obama] singling out citizens groups for targeting and intrusive questioning merely because he dislikes their message and fears their political influence? Now that is a ‘threat to democracy.’” [50056]

In connection with the forgery of Obama’s birth certificates, document, scanner, and typesetter expert Douglas Vogt, owner of Archive Index Systems, files a “Notice of Commission of (i) a Felony Cognizable by a Court of the United States as required by 18 U.S.C. 4 - Misprision of Felony and (ii) Treason against the United States as required by 18 U.S.C. 2382 - Misprision of Treason and Motion to Seal Document.” The Vogt affidavit “demonstrates that forensic evidence establishes beyond a reasonable doubt that the two Certificates of Live Birth (hereinafter COLBs) which Barack Hussein Obama, II has publicly released to establish his Constitutional-eligibility to be President of these United States are indisputable forgeries. Moreover, upon the accompanying Sealed Affidavit of Douglas Vogt, the identity of the person who actually forged the COLBs and of the identities of those who assisted in the perpetuation of the most significant fraud upon the People of the United States, is clearly detailed and warrants the immediate referral of this matter to a specially-impaneled federal grand jury assisted by an independent in-every-sense-of-the-word prosecutor to investigate the allegations as only a Federal Grand Jury can.” [50357, 50387, 50437, 50454, 50758, 51163]

The affidavit continues, “...Upon the Public and Sealed Affidavits, it appears the following persons are involved in perpetrating the forgeries of Obama’s COLBs: Barack Hussein Obama, former WH Counsel Robert Bauer, WH Director of Communications Daniel Pfeiffer, Private Counsel Judith Corley, former Hawaii DOH Director Dr. Chiyome Fukino, Hawaii Gov. Neil Abercrombie, Hawaii DOH Director Loretta Fuddy,

John Doe #1 in the Hawaii DOH's Registrar Office, NBC News' Savannah Guthrie, John Doe #2 #3 #4 are top executives at General Electric, National Broadcasting Company, and the Executive Producer of the Today Show who arranged for Savannah Guthrie to 'see' the Obama COLB and have her certify that a nonexistent Health Department Seal was on it. John Does #5 and NBC Executive who arranged Savannah Guthrie's promotion to the Today Show nine days after the April 27, 2011 White House News Conference. ...Attached hereto in a sealed envelope marked with the case caption and the phrase 'FILED UNDER SEAL' is my signed affidavit which identifies the forger of the long form birth certificate of Barack Hussein Obama II (and that person's connection to Mr. Obama). If this person's identity is made public prior to an investigation by a grand jury and/or executing of search warrants to secure easily destroyed computer evidence, proof beyond a reasonable doubt of the forger's complicity in perpetrating the worst fraud on the electorate of these United States may well be lost. The other reason is that the main principles in this forgery case may have this person murdered as well as the spouse. The reason I conclude this is because the main principles throughout this crime have used plausible deniability to shield themselves from culpability. Discovering who the forger actually is eliminates plausible deniability. WHEREFORE, Douglas Vogt respectfully request an Order sealing the attached envelope. Alternatively, pursuant LCR 5(g)(6), if this motion to seal is denied, Douglas Vogt request that the court withdraw the sealed document from the record rather than unseal it." (Vogt is requesting a grand jury review of the Obama forgery evidence. The likelihood of that happening is minimal, but it increases as Obama's approval rating falls. *The Obama Timeline* suspects that the birth certificate forger is Valerie Jarrett or Bernardine Dohrn.) [50357, 50387, 50437, 50454, 50758, 51163]

Vogt, in an interview with ThePostEmail.com editor Sharon Rondeau, says, "What I think has made the Obots and the others nervous is they see the public affidavit [about the forgery], which is over 15,000 words with 21 exhibits, but they don't know what's in the sealed one. The sealed one is almost as big; it's over 12,000 words and has at least 14 exhibits to it. This is major. When I saw I have nailed them to the wall, I really did." Asked by Rondeau if he is "100 percent sure of who the forger was, the alleged financier and propagandists you mentioned in the affidavit," Vogt replies, "Yes, of the main characters. It's not my job to investigate all of the Obots; a special prosecutor would do that, including pulling the phone records. The internet connections and everything like that is already there; the NSA has it. A federal grand jury can subpoena all of those records, and people cannot withhold it. They cannot withhold evidence subpoenaed by a federal grand jury. If [Hawaii Department of Health Registrar Dr. Alvin] Onaka refuses, the judge issues an arrest warrant. It's obstruction of justice, a felony, and they can't refuse it." (Vogt and co-author Paul Irey are in the process of completing a book, *From Forgery to Treason—Two Typographers Present their Proof of Forgery of Obama's Long Form Birth Certificate.*) [50454, 50758, 50850, 51163]

Vogt continues, "I want to say one thing that is really important: whatever judge does this [agrees to empanel a grand jury] knows that he will go down in history. This is the worst crime in American history. There's nothing worse than this. It's on the same order but vastly larger than the Benedict Arnold trial. We can't find this crime happening in any

other country any place in history: a foreign enemy agent—this guy is a Muslim and a member of the Muslim Brotherhood—wound up [in the White House] by a conspiracy between communists and Islamists to install him in office so he can destroy the country from within. That’s what the crime is. These people [had] better understand that if it gets to a grand jury and they find that the evidence I have is correct—and they’ll find more of the conspiracy—the penalty for treason is death. I can’t imagine these people escaping that particular penalty because of the nature of the crime and what Obama has done to the country in getting us to over \$8 or \$9 trillion more debt than Bush had when he left office. *These people are going to hang.* It’s the worst crime in American history; nothing comes close.” Vogt adds, “I have two audios from one of the foremost experts on narcissism; it was an interview on *Israel National News* quite a few years ago. I’m going to put it up [at vectorpub.com] so that people can listen to it. I want people to understand the kind of animal we’re dealing with in the White House. *This guy [Obama] is a real sick puppy.* He’s what they label a malignant narcissist. He is really a sick guy because his personally is so badly fractured.” [50454, 51163]

The national debt surpasses \$17 trillion, after the Obama administration uses the debt ceiling increase to quickly spend more than \$328 billion in one day. (PersonalLiberty.com notes that the national debt was \$10.6 trillion when Obama entered the White House. Unless something dramatic happens to change the course of history, Obama may leave office with a record of having doubled the national debt. AtlasShrugs.com’s Pamela Geller remarks, “Obama and his party of destroyers are steamrolling this country into oblivion. All made possible by the most powerful political organization in America, the media.”) [49938, 49941, 49985, 50011, 50012]

In *The Washington Times* Senator Rand Paul (R-KY) writes, “During the shutdown, 85 percent of government stayed open despite the hoopla reported in the media. Government is now 100 percent open. Debt-ceiling deadlines have been averted, but the real problem remains: a \$17 trillion debt and [Obama,] who continues to pile on new debt at a rate of \$1 million a minute. The government shutdown occurred because Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid [D-NV] allow[ed] the Senate to lurch from deadline to deadline without passing a single appropriations bill. Had he done his job and passed each of the 12 appropriations bills, the government could have stayed open. Opening government has not resolved the big picture—a debt problem so large that it dwarfs all deadlines and threatens the very fabric of the nation. What remains is an unsustainable debt, precisely the problem that motivated me to run for office. There was never any reason to shut down government. If both sides were willing to compromise, we could have found amicable solutions to these severe problems. But let the record state clearly, no significant spending restraint was accomplished because ...Obama steadfastly refused to negotiate. ...Americans want leaders who are willing to rein in a government that is completely out of control. There are solutions. Perhaps we should not raise the debt ceiling without also enacting a balanced-budget amendment. Many states are forced to balance their budgets, and there is no reason the federal government cannot begin to do the same. There is also the Penny Plan, which could balance the budget by cutting total federal spending by 1 percent each year for six consecutive years. Over a decade, overall spending would be reduced by \$7.5 trillion. ...There were no winners coming out of what went down in

Washington this week. Any future deals should result in something better than the American people, yet again, getting the short end of the stick.” [50022]

Obama—bypassing the opportunity to name popular New York City Police Commissioner Ray Kelly—names lawyer Jeh (pronounced “Jay”) Johnson to succeed Janet Napolitano as Secretary of Homeland Security. Johnson’s primary qualification is that he is a black Obama supporter who has made huge donations to Democrat election campaigns, including \$33,000 to Obama’s campaign in 2008. Townhall.com’s Katie Pavlich writes, “Like most of Obama’s nominees, Johnson comes with controversy. In a statement Friday morning, Texas Senator John Cornyn slammed Johnson as someone who has little experience when it comes to border security and framed the nomination as a payback for fundraising to get Obama elected. ‘Rather than selecting someone who knows the unique dynamics of our Southern border, [Obama] has tapped one of his former New York fundraisers. Senator Cornyn slammed [Obama], saying that Texans ‘need someone at DHS who knows how to secure our border, not dial for dollars,’ a statement on Cornyn’s website said. ‘With this Administration’s failure to secure the border, Texans expect a nominee with serious management and law enforcement experience—not a liberal Money Man being rewarded for helping Barack Obama win the White House.’” Senator Jeff Sessions (R-AL) states, “It would appear that [Obama] plans to nominate a loyalist and fundraiser to this post. This is deeply concerning. This huge department must have a proven manager with strong relevant law enforcement experience, recognized independence and integrity, who can restore this department to its full capability.” (Some might argue that Johnson does not need law enforcement experience because Obama neither wants nor expects him to enforce immigration laws.) [49946, 49947, 49980, 49989, 50083]

Former police lieutenant Dennis Casserone tells Examiner.com, “If I had to describe what we can expect from a Secretary Johnson, I’d say just look at the guy in charge at the Justice Department, Eric Holder, who places more interest in helping Obama cover up than in uncovering terrorist threats.” Examiner.com notes, “Johnson, who was onboard with Obama’s national security and counterterrorism policies, such as the drone spy program, was influential in getting the U.S. military to repeal its ban on gays serving openly in the all its branches, according to Casserone, who also served as a Marine intelligence official in the 1980s. According to several sources, Johnson is in sync with the beliefs of both Obama and his other lawyer friend, Attorney General Eric Holder. In fact, Johnson is quoted as saying that the U.S. is heading for a tipping point beyond which it should no longer pursue al-Qaeda terrorists by military means. . . .If anyone wonders why a relative unknown lawyer such as Johnson is expected to be the next DHS secretary, the reason is clear: he has earned Obama’s personal and political loyalty. According to political strategist Michael Baker, Johnson was one of Obama’s earliest political allies when he decided to run for presidency after only two years in the U.S. Senate. Baker claims that Johnson held fundraisers for Obama especially in Iowa and Philadelphia knocking on doors for the candidate. He was one of Obama’s top bundlers and like Eric Holder showed extraordinary loyalty to Obama while overlooking his far-left ideology and Obama’s other allies such as former Weather Underground terrorist Bill Ayers, said Baker.” [49977]

Desperate for excuses for the monumental problems with Healthcare.gov, some Obama supporters have started blaming Republicans. The left-leaning Politico writes, “Facing such intense opposition from congressional Republicans, the administration was in a bunker mentality as it built the enrollment system, one former administration official said. Officials feared that if they called on outsiders to help with the technical details of how to run a commerce website, those companies could be subpoenaed by Hill Republicans, the former aide said. So the task fell to trusted campaign tech experts.” At Breitbart.com Warner Todd Huston observes, “This is not a very satisfactory explanation, though. There are many questions regarding the Obamacare website that have yet to be answered. Firstly, this quote tends to prove that [Obama] wanted to make sure there was no transparency for his healthcare website; this from the [candidate who] promised the most open administration in history. But it also raises another series of questions. Why, for instance, did the administration give this project to their buddies instead of opening it to competitive bidding? Isn’t this the sort of thing Obama and his cohorts always accused George W. Bush and Dick Cheney of with Haliburton contracts? Secondly, who are these ‘trusted campaign tech experts?’ Is this official talking about Obama’s campaign Internet team? And if so, are these individuals part of Organizing for Action (OFA), which is supposed to be legally separate from the White House? So, is the White House still working hand-in-hand with OFA?” [49949, 49950, 49957, 49973]

MarketWatch.org reports, “Insurers say the federal health-care marketplace is generating flawed data that is straining their ability to handle even the trickle of enrollees who have gotten through so far, in a sign that technological problems extend further than the website traffic and software issues already identified. Emerging errors include duplicate enrollments, spouses reported as children, missing data fields and suspect eligibility determinations, say executives at more than a dozen health plans. Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Nebraska said it had to hire temporary workers to contact new customers directly to resolve inaccuracies in submissions. Medical Mutual of Ohio said one customer had successfully signed up for three of its plans. The flaws could do lasting damage to the law if customers are deterred from signing up or mistakenly believe they have obtained coverage. ‘The longer this takes to resolve... the harder it will be to get people to [come back and] sign up,’ said Aetna Inc. Chief Executive Mark Bertolini. ‘It’s not off to a great start,’ he said, though he believes the marketplaces are ‘here to stay.’” [49961, 49966]

According to DailyCaller.com, Congressman Steve Stockman (R-TX) “arranged to have a book calling for ...Obama’s impeachment hand delivered to all 435 members of the U.S. House of Representatives. Stockman, whose Twitter motto is ‘Speaking truth to power,’ ensured Friday that all House members have a copy of ‘Impeachable Offenses: The case for removing Barack Obama from office’ by Aaron Klein and Brenda J. Elliott. The House of Representatives, currently controlled by Republicans, is the body vested with the power to impeach the president, having last done so in 1998 after allegations of perjury and obstruction of justice against President Clinton.” [49991, 49992]

SayAnythingBlog.com reports that only “about 10” residents of North Dakota have enrolled in ObamaCare since the October 1 launch of the online exchanges. [49994]

Joel B. Pollak writes at Breitbart.com, “The White House and its press corps have come to a consensus that the recent shutdown/debt limit debate was a ‘manufactured crisis’—the implication being that it was manufactured by Republicans. That is untrue—first because ...Obama and the Democrats could easily have averted a crisis if they had been willing to compromise, and second because forcing such confrontations has been their strategy since 2011. The debt limit was not a priority for the Tea Party until the Democrats made it one. In the 2010 elections, the subject almost never came up. There was certainly no plan to shut down the government if the Republicans did not get their way. Rather, interest in these confrontations came from the Democrats and the Obama administration, who saw the 1995-6 crises as models for how to defeat congressional Republicans. That is why, as the 112th Congress took office, Secretary of the Treasury Tim Geithner sent new Speaker John Boehner a letter warning of the consequences of failing to raise the debt limit. The new Congress had no plans to block an increase. But like George Stephanopoulos’s infamous question about contraception early in the 2012 Republican presidential debates, Geithner’s letter intended to make the debt limit an issue. At the same time that Geithner was highlighting the debt ceiling, Sen. Chuck Schumer (D-NY) was doing all he could to goad Republicans into shutting down the government. The new Congress had barely taken their seats when he accused them of trying to force a confrontation over the continuing resolution to fund the government—a measure necessary only because the last Congress had not resolved the federal budget.” [50001]

“...Throughout 2013, there had been plenty of time to deal with fiscal issues. But while the House and Senate passed parallel budgets (the Senate for the first time in years), ...Obama sent new Secretary of the Treasury Jack Lew on a nationwide tour blasting Republicans (back in Washington) that they dare not fail to raise the debt limit. Lew gave the same speech in August (Silicon Valley) that he gave in May (Cleveland). Along the way, Lew repeatedly used the term ‘manufactured crisis’ to describe the budget sequester—‘harsh, indiscriminate spending cuts... reckless, across-the board reductions’ that the White House itself had proposed as part of the Budget Control Act of 2011. Inadvertently, then, Lew correctly claimed credit for the Obama administration in manufacturing a crisis—in the course of manufacturing a new one. Republicans took the bait, partly because the new budget and debt limit deadlines coincided with the rollout of Obamacare. Democrats described Obamacare as an ‘unrelated’ issue, but the effect of Obamacare on the government’s long-term debt was a key reason that the Bowles-Simpson recommendations for budget reform foundered in 2010. ‘Defunding’ was near-impossible, but Democrats rejected even a useful delay. On Thursday morning, the leaders of the budget process in the House and Senate put on an impressive show of civility, pledging to work together. But they had not conferenced since 2009 because Democrats did not want to compromise. They wanted a fight, to produce exactly the triumphalist lecture ...Obama delivered. This was indeed a ‘manufactured crisis.’ It is the only thing [Obama] knows how to produce.” [50001]

NBCNews.com reports, “Health plans are sending hundreds of thousands of cancellation letters to people who buy their own coverage, frustrating some consumers who want to keep what they have and forcing others to buy more costly policies. The main reason insurers offer is that the policies fall short of what the Affordable Care Act requires starting Jan. 1. Most are ending policies sold after the law passed in March 2010. At least a few are canceling plans sold to people with pre-existing medical conditions. ...The law requires policies sold in the individual market to cover 10 ‘essential’ benefits, such as prescription drugs, mental health treatment and maternity care. In addition, insurers cannot reject people with medical problems or charge them higher prices. The policies must also cap consumers’ annual expenses at levels lower than many plans sold before the new rules. ...Blue Shield of California sent roughly 119,000 cancellation notices out in mid-September, about 60 percent of its individual business. About two-thirds of those policyholders will see rate increases in their new policies, said spokesman Steve Shivinsky.” (Most of the customers will learn that the new policies will cost them more, because the mandated coverage has to be paid for—even if it is coverage the consumer may neither need nor want, such as maternity coverage for an elderly couple. Because the insurers are prohibited by ObamaCare from charging more for applicants with pre-existing conditions, the cost of covering those individuals will be passed on to other customers. Americans who believed ObamaCare would save them money will soon discover that it will cost them more.) [50005]

TheHill.com reports, “Law enforcement officials are investigating a threat against Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX), who was vaulted into national prominence with his push to defund ObamaCare. A person identifying himself as Troy Gilmore Jr., posted on Twitter Friday morning: ‘Take down Ted Cruz, at his home’ and listed Cruz’s home address in Houston. ‘What goes around comes around CRUZ!!’ the person wrote. The author of the threat uses the Twitter handle @ArmyVet54 and identifies himself as having served in the U.S. Army and Navy. ...The person posted Cruz’s home address several other times this month and repeatedly used threatening language.” According to DailyCaller.com Gilmore, who is black, “was inspired to encourage violence by Democratic Party messaging efforts.” [50007, 50040]

Reuters reports, “The FBI is investigating possible threats to the water supply systems in Wichita, Kansas, and several other Midwestern cities that are as yet unsubstantiated, a spokeswoman said on Friday. The U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation learned of the threats in the past two days and has contacted the water supply facilities and law enforcement offices for the municipalities, said Bridget Patton, a spokeswoman for the FBI office in Kansas City, Missouri. Patton declined to discuss the nature of the threats or the number of cities affected. She said investigators had been sent out in response to the reports, but offered no details.” (JihadWatch.org comments, “The thoroughly compromised, clueless and politically correct FBI refuses to ‘discuss the nature of the threats or the number of cities affected.’ That reticence in itself points to Islamic jihadists, the one threat that the FBI is forbidden to call by name or confront directly. But even if these threats come from those mythical ‘Christian extremists’ or some other source that our political and media elites love to scapegoat, the jihadi threat to the water supply is real. And as far back as 2002, the feds arrested two jihadis who were carrying plans about

how to poison water supplies. In 2003, al-Qaeda threatened to poison water supplies in Western countries. In 2011, a jihadi in Spain likewise planned to poison water supplies.”) [50008, 50009, 50010]

According to a Gallup poll, 34 percent of Americans would rather pay the penalty tax for not having insurance than purchase it because of ObamaCare. (The percentage was nine points lower in Gallup’s September poll.) [50034, 50035]

At a fundraiser for long-time pal Terry McAuliffe, who is running for governor of Virginia, Hillary Clinton rips into Obama—while carefully avoiding the use of his name. She says, “I thought hard about what I wanted to say to Virginians today. I’ve been out of politics for a few years now. I’ve had a chance to think a lot about what makes our country so great, what kind of leadership is required to keep it great. ...I’ve spent four years traveling across the globe, a great honor and privilege to represent all of you. I’ve learned even more about what it takes to make the decisions, what it takes to bring people together to build the kind of future that we all want for our children and grandchildren. I’ve seen leaders who are divisive. And I’ve seen leaders who are unifiers. I’ve seen leaders who are exclusive. And I’ve seen leaders who are inclusive. ...Now recently in Washington, unfortunately, we’ve seen examples of the wrong kind of leadership. When politicians choose scorched earth over common ground, when they operate in what I call the ‘evidence-free zone’ with ideology trumping everything else. ...If it’s only about yourself, if it’s only about you wanting to get a job and get the perks that go with it and, you know, have people stand up when you come into a room, that’s not enough anymore because it’s hard. Politics is hard, as the lieutenant governor and attorney general candidates know, because people are weary. They’re wondering ‘Could I give this person my vote and will he then remember me? If I vote for him or her, will they do what I heard them say they will do? Will they get diverted by big money or ideology or power will they remember who put them into office?’ I can tell you, you don’t have to worry about that with Terry McAuliffe.” (Actually, Virginia voters *do* have to worry about that with McAuliffe, but he receives a strong Clinton endorsement because he has known them long enough to know “where the bodies are buried.”) [49997]

On October 19 the Sunlight Foundation reports that it “reviewed contract award information from USASpending.gov and FedBizOpps.gov, and found 47 organizations that won contracts from Health and Human Services or the Treasury Department to manage, support or service the implementation of the Affordable Care Act. Among them were top contractors like Northrop Grumman, Deloitte LLP, SAIC Inc. General Dynamics and Booz Allen Hamilton. All five of those companies provided information technology services to either the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services or the Internal Revenue Service, the two agencies tasked with building back components of the health insurance exchanges. All but one of the 47 contractors who won contracts to carry out work on the Affordable Care Act worked for the government prior to its passage. Many—like the Rand Corporation and the MITRE Corporation—have done so for decades. And some, like Northrop Grumman and General Dynamics, are among the biggest wielders of influence in Washington. Some 17 ACA contract winners reported spending more than \$128 million on lobbying in 2011 and 2012, while 29 had employees

or political action committees or both that contributed \$32 million to federal candidates and parties in the same period. Of that amount, ...Obama collected \$3.9 million.” [49979]

At Townhall.com Lawrence Kudlow writes, “Judging from the speech Obama gave following the deal to end the government shutdown, Republicans better get wise to [his] next fiscal gambit when the three-month stop-gap budget and debt measures come due. As was the case with his hard-line defense of Obamacare, [Obama] likely will be inflexible on ending sequestration budget caps, pushing for massive tax hikes, and permitting only the most inconsequential entitlement reforms. Obama is interested in busting the GOP in 2014. He’s not interested in true budget restraint or other economic-growth measures. Example: This week, instead of a conciliatory work-together message for the negotiations ahead, ...Obama gave us another Republican scold speech: ‘All of us need to stop focusing on lobbyists and bloggers and talking heads on radio, and professional activists who profit from conflict.’ But of course, it was Obama who wouldn’t negotiate. And it was Obama and his followers who demonized the GOP with words like ‘hostage,’ ‘ransom,’ and ‘terrorists.’ Another example: Out of nowhere in his post-shutdown speech, [Obama] pledged to ‘close these corporate-tax loopholes that don’t help create jobs, and freeze up resources for the things that do help us grow, like education and infrastructure and research.’ Huh? Where did this come from? There’s no discussion of corporate tax reform in the whole speech, except for this one derogatory mention. So don’t count on progress for the single biggest growth and jobs creator, namely full-fledged business tax reform.” [49988, 50000]

“Closing tax loopholes,” notes Kudlow, “is a good idea so long as it is accompanied by lower marginal tax rates on the other side. (Repatriating over \$1 trillion in overseas corporate profits at a minimal sanction of 5 percent would also help grow the economy.) So companies, wealthy entrepreneurs, and small-business owners shouldn’t be fooled when they hear [Obama] talk about closing tax loopholes. *Why* is he saying this? That’s easy: He wants to spend *more* money on his pet projects. More for the teachers’ unions, the local construction unions, the quick-fix, shovel-ready infrastructure projects, the clean-energy Solyndras, and all the other oddball social programs put in place by this administration. ...Republicans had no coherent message going into the shutdown fiasco. But they can change that. They can now adopt a clear policy that maintains the sequester budget caps, pushes hard for pro-growth tax reform, and makes no apologies for rolling back the taxing, spending, mandating, budget-busting behemoth that is Obamacare. The budget and debt battle of the next three months is actually going to be war. Obama knows this. Does the GOP?” [49988]

The Obama Timeline again tries—and is again unsuccessful—at advancing far enough in Healthcare.gov to obtain premium information.

Twitter users offer two-word descriptions of Obama’s White House tenure: creating crisis; grace and pragmatism (which is three words, submitted by Obama sycophant Donna Brazile); credit downgrade; mom jeans; constant glitches; went golfing; empty chair; tee time; Sandra Fluke; Brian Terry; incompetent narcissist; more lies; more debt;

Ayers apparent; enough already, Cloward Piven; constitutional ignorance; morally bankrupt; planned destruction; keep printing; seventeen trillion; blame Bush—and others too numerous to mention. [49998]

The Guardian reports, “Libya marks the second anniversary of the death of Muammar Gaddafi with the country on the brink of a new civil war and fighting raging in the eastern city of Benghazi, birthplace of its Arab spring revolution. Violence between radical militias and regular forces broke out on Friday night and continued yesterday, while the capital Tripoli is braced for fallout from the kidnapping earlier this month of prime minister Ali Zaidan. Federalists in Cyrenaica, home to most of Libya’s oil, open their own independent parliament in Benghazi this week, in a step that may herald the breakup of the country. For months, radical militias and regular forces in Benghazi have fought a tit-for-tat war. Last week two soldiers had their throats slit as they slept in an army base. But Friday’s killing of Libya’s military police commander, Ahmed al-Barghathi, shot as he left a mosque, has become the trigger for wider violence. Hours after an assassination branded a ‘heinous act’ by US ambassador Deborah Jones, armed units stormed the Benghazi home of a prominent militia commander, Wissam Ben Hamid, with guns and rockets.” (In his eagerness to help oust Gaddafi in 2011, Obama has helped turn Libya into a war zone with jihadists attempting to take control of the nation—and its oil wealth. As bad as Gaddafi was, his nation is worse off with him gone.) [50002]

TheHill.com reports, “Nearly half a million health insurance applications have been filed on ObamaCare’s enrollment site, the Associated Press reported late Saturday. However, Health and Human Services (HHS) officials still refuse to disclose how many people have successfully signed up for coverage on the insurance markets. Without enrollment figures, it is difficult to pinpoint whether the administration is on track to meet its goal of seven million enrollees during the six-month sign-up period. HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius is under intense scrutiny as the enrollment system continues to face severe problems. Earlier in the week, Obama said he was ‘not happy’ with the site’s rocky rollout and was seeking ‘accountability’ from federal employees working to fix the glitches.” (By “accountability” Obama only means he expects the problems to be resolved. No one anticipates the firing of Sebelius or any other key administration figures who have been involved in the project.) [50003]

Politico comments, “The ‘almost half million’ figure the officials reported is the most complete national picture of ...Obama’s signature domestic legislation yet—but it still leaves a lot unknown or unsaid. The figure is a snapshot of applications—the first step toward getting coverage. The administration isn’t planning to release until next month the number of people who have actually completed the process of choosing and enrolling in a health plan.” (The number is arguably meaningless because the user has to complete an application just to find out what his or her monthly premium will be. An estimated 17 million people have visited the site since October 1, according to the White House. Of those 17 million, only about 476,000 completed the application process, or about one in 35 site visitors. The administration has not reported how many of the 476,000 have committed to buying insurance via Healthcare.gov. *The Obama Timeline* assumes the

vast majority of Americans who buy the insurance will be the most expensive to cover: the elderly, people with pre-existing conditions, and families with income low enough to qualify for taxpayer-paid premiums subsidies.) [50004]

In *The New York Times* Maureen Dowd writes, “Obama won big. So why did the moment feel so small? At his victory scold in the State Dining Room on Thursday, the [person] who yearned to be transformational stood beneath an oil portrait of Abraham Lincoln and demanded... a farm bill. He also couldn’t resist taking a holier-than-thou tone toward his tail-between-their-legs Tea Party foes. He assumed his favorite role of the shining knight hectoring the benighted: Sir Lecturealot. ...Sir Lecturealot, who hates selling and explaining and negotiating and cajoling and knocking noggins, always manages to convey tedium at the idea that he actually has to persuade people to come along with him, given the fact that he feels he’s doing what’s right. Obama says he will now work for an immigration bill and a budget deal with deficit cuts. But as Peter Nicholas and Carol E. Lee pointed out in *The Wall Street Journal*, [Obama] did not mention his more ambitious goals: hiking the minimum wage, widening access to preschool education, and shoring up bridges and roads. ...Washington is surpassingly nutty right now, but the founding fathers did build a system designed for factional warfare. When sweet reasonableness doesn’t work, Obama’s default position is didactic disdain. He underuses the fear and charm cards. When he first saw the White House movie theater, he was surprised there were so many seats beyond what the first family would need. Bill Clinton, on the other hand, probably would have built a balcony and auctioned off seats, if he could have. ...When [Obama] says ‘we’ve all got a lot of work to do,’ he means Harry Reid and Nancy Pelosi. Obamacare should really be called Pelosicare, as the historian Niall Ferguson noted. And an unyielding Reid made sure Obama didn’t cave as in the past, which had emboldened Republicans to challenge [Obama] this time. Obama is the anti-Lyndon Johnson. He thinks he can come down from above, *de haut en bas*, and play the great reconciler, but you can’t reconcile in absentia. You have to be there. You’ve got to be all over these people. The paradox of Obama is that he believes in his own magical powers, but then he doesn’t turn up to use them.” [50013]

On October 20 Newsmax.com reports, “Many Americans who argue in favor of Canadian-style universal healthcare likely entertain the ‘mythical notion’ that our neighbors to the north enjoy access to ‘free’ quality care, according to a Canadian economist. Healthcare in Canada is delivered through a publicly funded system, which is mostly free at the point of use. Most services are provided by private entities. But Bacchus Barua, a senior economist with Canada’s Fraser Institute, declares: ‘Healthcare in Canada is anything but free.’ He disclosed that the average Canadian family of four pays about \$11,320 a year in taxes for hospital and physician care. Many Canadians also pay for private insurance to cover such things as dental care and outpatient prescription drugs. ‘Surely such expenditure is justified if Canadians receive a stellar healthcare system in return for their tax dollars,’ Barua writes in an article for *The American*. ‘Unfortunately, that simply isn’t the case.’ He offers some specifics: Canada has fewer physicians, hospital beds, and diagnostic imaging scanners, and performs fewer medical interventions than its American and European counterparts. Canada has one of the lowest physician-to-population ratios in the developed world. A recent survey found that

Canadians must wait an average of about 4-1/2 months for medically necessary elective procedures after referral from a general practitioner. The wait for diagnostic imaging technologies like MRIs is over two months on average. Patients in Canada are likely to wait two months or more to see a specialist, six days or more to see a doctor when sick or needing care, and four hours or more in the emergency room. Due to the lengthy waits, about 40,000 Canadians leave the country for treatment elsewhere each year. Public drug plans covered only about a quarter of the new drugs approved for sale in Canada between 2004 and 2010. Barua concludes: ‘These realities serve to dismiss the mythical notion that a Canadian-style healthcare system’ is highly desirable.” [50014]

At NYPost.com author Edward Klein reports, “As the White House was gearing up to sell ObamaCare to the American people last summer, Valerie Jarrett, [Obama’s] point woman on a host of issues, phoned Oprah Winfrey. She invited the Queen of All Media to join celebrities, including Amy Poehler, Jennifer Hudson and Alicia Keys, to meet with ...Obama and discuss how they could generate publicity for his health-care law. Oprah refused. ‘All of Oprah’s top people thought she would go, because when [you are invited] to the White House, most people automatically say yes,’ said one of Oprah’s closest advisers. ‘But Oprah said she didn’t have the time or inclination to go. It wasn’t like she had to think it over. It was an immediate, flat-out, unequivocal no.’ Instead, Oprah sent a low-level rep from one of her talent agencies, which was regarded as an insult. Obama had been counting on Oprah’s immense persuasive powers to help enroll millions in ObamaCare. But as the rollout turned into a disaster, Oprah didn’t lift a finger to help. The story of why Oprah has changed her tune and gone AWOL on ObamaCare goes well beyond mere gossip. It speaks volumes about the convergence of celebrity and politics under Obama and about [how Obama] thinks nothing of using and then discarding his most loyal supporters. Everyone remembers that Oprah went all out for Obama during the 2008 presidential election. What was not reported was that, in return, Oprah was promised unique access to the White House if Obama won. She’d get regular briefings on initiatives and a heads-up on programs to give her material for her fledgling cable network, OWN. ...But none of that ever happened. Oprah sent notes and a rep to talk to Valerie Jarrett, but nothing came of it. It slowly dawned on Oprah that the Obamas had absolutely no intention of keeping their word and bringing her into their confidence. ... ‘For her part, Oprah doesn’t like being with Michelle, because [she] is constantly one-upping [her husband] and anybody else around her,’ said an Oprah adviser.” (*The Obama Timeline* believes Michelle Obama’s attitude is more evidence that the marriage is one of pure political convenience, rather than love and heterosexual attraction.) [50015, 50016, 50136]

Politico reports, “The Obama administration Sunday said it’s called on ‘the best and brightest’ tech experts from both government and the private sector to help fix the troubled website at the root of the Obamacare enrollment problems. The unusual Sunday 600-word blog post from HHS [the Department of Health and Human Services] was the first update in more than a week on the many failings of an expensive website that HHS itself described as ‘frustrating for many Americans.’ But it didn’t specify who the administration had called in, or when the American people would see clear-cut results on Healthcare.gov. ...The Health and Human Services statement didn’t explain everything

that's wrong, or give technical details about the repairs underway. It outlined some steps being taken to fix the site, including updates with 'new code that includes bug fixes.' The department also says it's installing monitors to catch parts of the website that are proving the most troublesome for consumers. And it also said it had seen some improvements in wait times and consumer access to the website, the online portal to health insurance exchanges or marketplaces the federal government is running in 36 states. ...The HealthCare.gov glitches are not just a high-profile embarrassment; delays could make it harder for the administration to reach its enrollment goals for Obamacare... And they provide even more fodder for the intense GOP opposition to the health law which led to the government shutdown. ...Obama will 'directly address the technical problems with HealthCare.gov' and announce steps he's ordered to address them at a Monday event, a White House official said Sunday. He also plans to underscore the benefits his health law will provide Americans, and will be joined at the Rose Garden event by people whom the White House described as already benefiting from the law, or helping with the outreach for people to understand and sign up for the new health coverage options." [50017, 50018, 50021, 50043]

Politico also reports, "Media Matters founder and Hillary Clinton ally David Brock has co-authored a 90-page e-book called 'The Benghazi Hoax,' a tome intended as a counterweight of sorts to criticisms of the former Secretary of State and ...Obama over the 2012 attacks in Libya. ...Brock insisted the book is not intended as a de facto defense of former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton as she comes under scrutiny ahead of a likely 2016 presidential bid. Supporting the Clintons is a fraction of Media Matters' mission, he said, and her role in the Benghazi attacks is not the sole focus of the book. But the mere fact of the book's existence is an acknowledgement that Benghazi will remain a topic of debate, and one that could harm Clinton with independent and center-right Republicans. And it comes as Brock-affiliated groups could fill an organizational void for Clinton, who has no machinery of her own beyond a handful of staffers since leaving the State Department." [50019]

On *State of the Union*, Senator John McCain (R-AZ) addresses the problems with Healthcare.gov: "Send Air Force One out to Silicon Valley, load it up with some smart people, bring them back to Washington, and fix this problem. It's ridiculous. And everybody knows that." [50017]

On *Fox News Sunday*, Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL) says ObamaCare "is on its way to being a substantial success, [although] it's off to a rough start with the web site..." Senator Roy Blunt (R-MO) responds, "I don't think this plan will work because it's based on a couple of premises that won't work. But when you can't even put together the package to sign up, that shows how big a job it is for the federal government to manage 16 percent of the economy and people's health insurance plans. It's not where the federal government should be." [50051]

DailyCaller.com reports, "Taxpayers could lose out big on the sale of the government's loan to Fisker automotive to a Chinese investor. The Obama administration is currently ironing out the details of its sale of its \$192 million loan guarantee to Fisker to the

Chinese billionaire Richard Li. The Energy Department completed its auctioning off of Fisker's loan this week, reports Reuters. Li and the Obama administration are currently ironing out the details of the purchase. The sale to Li represents the second acquisition of an Obama-backed green company to Chinese investors. Earlier this year, the electric car battery maker A123 Systems was sold to the Chinese auto parts conglomerate Wanxiang Group." [50042]

The New York Times reports, "Federal contractors have identified most of the main problems crippling ...Obama's online health insurance marketplace, but the administration has been slow to issue orders for fixing those flaws, and some contractors worry that the system may be weeks away from operating smoothly, people close to the project say. Administration officials approached the contractors last week to see if they could perform the necessary repairs and reboot the system by Nov. 1. However, that goal struck many contractors as unrealistic, at least for major components of the system. Some specialists working on the project said the online system required such extensive repairs that it might not operate smoothly until after the Dec. 15 deadline for people to sign up for coverage starting in January, although that view is not universally shared. In interviews, experts said the technological problems of the site went far beyond the roadblocks to creating accounts that continue to prevent legions of users from even registering. Indeed, several said, the login problems, though vexing to consumers, may be the easiest to solve. One specialist said that as many as five million lines of software code may need to be rewritten before the Web site runs properly. 'The account creation and registration problems are masking the problems that will happen later,' said one person involved in the repair effort. ...One major problem slowing repairs, people close to the program say, is that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, the federal agency in charge of the exchange, is responsible for making sure that the separately designed databases and pieces of software from 55 contractors work together. It is not common for a federal agency to assume that role, and numerous people involved in the project said the agency did not have the expertise to do the job and did not fully understand what it entailed." [50052, 50053]

At PJMedia.com Roger L. Simon suggests that "ObamaCare will defund itself" because too few healthy young people will buy insurance, and their premiums are needed to subsidize the coverage for the poor and those with pre-existing conditions. "They need young people to sign up, almost three million of them, to make the system fly, to subsidize it. But why should they? Many twenty and thirty somethings are paying off \$20,000-\$30,000 student loans. Many others don't have jobs. And those that do, already subsidize Social Security. With only a small penalty for abstaining, the numbers for signing up not only don't add up—they're absurd. Here's one of the supposedly attractive deals: 'One option available only to people under 30 is a so-called catastrophic policy that kicks in after a \$6,350 annual deductible. In Monroe County, you can buy that policy on the New York State of Health exchange for as low as \$131 a month for single coverage.' Over fifteen hundred a year for a sixty-three hundred plus deductible? What healthy thirty year old would waste his or her money? Who invented this plan? Certainly not Obama or Pelosi, neither of whom was paying close attention, I would bet. (Pelosi

admitted she wasn't. All Obama wanted was something to put his name next to, something that sounded vaguely 'progressive.')

 [50044]

Newsmax.com reports, "Wall Street went into a tizzy this weekend with the news that one of the nation's biggest banks agreed to fork over to the federal government \$13 billion in fines related to its mortgage securities business. The [New York] Post quoted bank analyst Dick Bove of Rafferty Capital as saying the deal 'is a basic and fundamental attack on capitalism.' 'It is possible that the government is taking away the property of the JPMorgan shareholders without the shareholders having committed any crime or having any say in the expropriation of these funds,' Bove told the New York Post. The deal, announced Saturday, settles civil penalties with the U.S. Justice Department, but doesn't stop any potential criminal prosecution. The Federal Housing Finance Agency sued JPMorgan and 17 other banks for faulty mortgage bonds two years ago. Wall Street insiders were furious about the deal, noting that 80 percent of the mortgages being probed were actually acquired from the failing banks Washington Mutual and Bear Stearns. JPMorgan reportedly took over the risky portfolio at the request of the U.S. government in the wake of the 2008-09 financial meltdown. 'I just think that these banks like JPMorgan are being whacked like a pinata,' hedge-fund manager Doug Kass, told the Post. 'Ultimately, the earnings power of banks is being regulated out of them from the [Securities and Exchange Commission], from the Department of Justice.'" [50045]

On October 21 the panel on MSNBC's *Morning Joe* criticizes the ObamaCare rollout of Healthcare.gov: "You search in vain for answers to lots of questions." "When governments are in crisis they withhold information and sometimes they don't tell the truth." "They're lying about it now. ... They're not even depriving us of information; they are outright lying about what's going on." "They keep using the word unacceptable. This is outrageous; it's not unacceptable. They've had two years to pull this ... program together." "It's laughable." "You ask the question, why don't they say how many people have been enrolled? Well, that leads one to believe their silence [means] that not many people have enrolled. ... Health care executives say the numbers they're getting back are not very big." "They probably should put another button on the web site that says... 'Apply by phone' and then another one that says, 'No, seriously, apply by phone.'" "I think [Secretary of Health and Human Services] Kathleen Sebelius should testify; I think the administration has been way too secretive about what's going on here." [50063, 50071, 50072, 50090]

Also on *Morning Joe*, Associated Press reporter Julie Pace says, "[E]very day they [Obama administration officials] tell us, 'We don't have that [ObamaCare enrollment] number yet. We're going to provide the first enrollment numbers in mid-November.' Really what they are trying to do at this point is that they are trying to be selectively transparent. They're telling us numbers that make the system look good: that 19 million people have looked at healthcare.gov since the site opened up to the public; they say that about a half-million people have actually gotten through the application process... That's about as detailed as we've gotten at this point. The enrollment figures, they say 'Oh, reporters you're just obsessed with this enrollment figure.' Well, that's because enrollment figures are the only things that will tell us if [ObamaCare] is going to work.

...Part of what's been so frustrating about this as a reporter is that we know that they have these numbers. It's not as if they have to wait for some tech person off in some far off place to send them the data. They're getting these numbers in. And that's what's been so frustrating." [50071, 50072, 50090, 50097]

Anticipating a dog-and-pony show from Obama at his scheduled Rose Garden address on ObamaCare, Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX) issues a statement: "Today ...Obama will draw the media's attention to a handful of persons who have applied for Obamacare while ignoring the untold number of Americans who are losing the plans they liked because of Obamacare. Yesterday, Kaiser Health joined numerous other news outlets by confirming a new victim of Obamacare: Americans who are receiving cancellation notices from their insurers due to the Affordable Act. 'Health plans are sending hundreds of thousands of cancellation letters to people who buy their own coverage, frustrating some consumers who want to keep what they have and forcing others to buy more costly policies,' Kaiser Health News reported. 'The main reason insurers offer is that the policies fall short of what the Affordable Care Act requires starting Jan. 1. Most are ending policies sold after the law passed in March 2010. At least a few are cancelling plans sold to people with pre-existing medical conditions.' ...Obama is sure to promise Americans that with more time, taxpayer money, and patience the law will perform better. Its failings, however, are not limited to its website or its rollout. We already know Obamacare can't live up to its promises. ...Obama promised Americans that their premiums would go down, taxes would stay low, millions of jobs would be created, and if they liked their healthcare plans, they could keep them. Instead, premiums are rising, taxes are higher, the economy is sputtering, and people are losing their plans. Obamacare is the nation's biggest job killer and stands in the way of our country's economic growth and prosperity. It should be defunded and repealed. ...Obama should hear the pleas from the untold number of Americans who are losing their jobs, wages, and healthcare plans, and Congress should act immediately to stop Obamacare from inflicting any more damage on the country on our hard-working citizens." [50070, 50089, 50120]

The Kaiser Health News report to which Cruz refers also states, "An estimated 14 million people purchase their own coverage because they don't get it through their jobs. Calls to insurers in several states showed that many have sent notices. Florida Blue, for example, is terminating about 300,000 policies, about 80 percent of its individual policies in the state. Kaiser Permanente in California has sent notices to 160,000 people—about half of its individual business in the state. Insurer Highmark in Pittsburgh is dropping about 20 percent of its individual market customers, while Independence Blue Cross, the major insurer in Philadelphia, is dropping about 45 percent." [50089, 50120, 50188, 50260]

Obama partially addresses the Healthcare.gov problems, after first extolling what he claims are the virtues of ObamaCare. (Standing behind him in the White House Rose Garden are 13 "sample Americans" with health care stories, only three of whom have allegedly enrolled in ObamaCare—including a woman named Janice Baker, who Obama brags is "the first woman to enroll for coverage through Delaware's exchange." Obama does not mention that Janice needed seven hours on the Internet and the telephone to sign up for coverage.) Obama laughably claims, "Thousands of people are signing up and

saving money as we speak.” Obama then goes into damage control mode, expressing faux outrage over the failure of the website—and pretending as though he was unaware that the system was not ready. (The White House defense will be to portray Obama as nothing more than an innocent bystander who was caught off guard by the problems. The problem with that approach is that it shows Obama to be a bungling administrator and leader. He either knew Healthcare.gov was going to be a disaster and ordered the switch to be flipped anyway, or his is an incompetent a moron who has no idea what goes on in his own administration.) Obama says, “But the problem has been that the website that’s supposed to make it easy to apply for and purchase the insurance is not working the way it should for everybody. There’s no sugarcoating it. The website has been too slow. People have been getting stuck during the application process. And I think it’s fair to say that nobody’s more frustrated by that than I am. Precisely because the product is good, I want the cash registers to work, I want the checkout lines to be smooth, so I want people to be able to get this great product. And there’s no excuse for the problems. And it’s—these problems are getting fixed.” [50029, 50033, 50037, 50038, 50039, 50058, 50059, 50062, 50066, 50073, 50076, 50080, 50084, 50085, 50098, 50106, 50133]

“The Affordable Care Act,” says Obama, “is not just a web site. ...The health insurance that’s affordable to people is working just fine.” Referring to one American family that will actually see prices go down because of ObamaCare, Obama says, “Instead of paying \$1,600 per month you have a plan that will only cost us \$692 a month. ...And that’s a good deal. ...The product is good. ...I want people to be able to get this great product, and that product is working. It’s really good.” Obama [reluctantly and barely] admits that the website has problems, saying, “Nobody’s madder than me about the fact that the website isn’t working as well as it should, which means it’s going to get fixed.” (Obama does not say that those who are responsible for the failures would be fired.) The White House follows up with an email stating, “And as ...Obama said today, It’s also important to remember that the website is not the only way to enroll. You can dial the call center at 1-800-318-2596 [1-800-FUCKYO] and apply directly over the phone. Typically, it takes about 25 minutes for an individual or about 45 for a family. You can also find local ‘navigators’ who can help you enroll in person at LocalHelp.HealthCare.gov. You can apply for coverage 4 ways: by phone, online, by mail with a paper application, or with the help of an in-person assister.” (Laughably, calling the telephone number and following the computer prompts only results in a busy signal, a message that no one is available to help the caller, or a message to access Healthcare.gov.) [50029, 50033, 50037, 50038, 50039, 50058, 50059, 50062, 50066, 50073, 50076, 50080, 50084, 50085, 50098, 50106, 50122, 50133]

During Obama’s address, a pregnant, diabetic woman standing in the sun behind him in becomes dizzy and has to be removed from the scene. (Some might question why Obama staffers did not have the sense to find less fragile people to use as “human props.” Others claim that the incident was staged in order to show that Obama cares about “vulnerable, at risk” Americans. In fact, a video of the incident taken from another angle suggests that the “fainting spell” was staged. If so, it was certainly done to demonstrate that Obama and the Democrats “care” about women, while Republicans would allow pregnant diabetics to die in the street. Republicans would be wise to round up their own human

props to counter the ObamaCare sales pitch. Every time a top Republican delivers a speech he should trot out an American whose insurance has been canceled or doubled in price because of ObamaCare.) [50061, 50066, 50085, 50086, 50243, 50244, 50304, 50492]

At Forbes.com Nicole Fisher writes, “Obama said he was speaking to every American wanting to get affordable health insurance. He claimed that in the last three weeks, despite the horrific technological problems with the websites, that ‘half a million consumers across the country have submitted application through federal and state marketplaces.’ He further touted that the ‘federal site alone has been visited 20,000,000 times’ in the last three weeks. Unfortunately for those American’s who are really interested in signing up on the exchange sites, he glossed over the depth and breadth of the current troubles, giving a speech that sounded more like a State of the Union address with small-business examples and reading letters written to the White House. ...Obama also alleged that no one wants to see the exchange sites improve more than the federal government, noting that, ‘the website has been too slow, and people have been getting stuck during the process.’ He also said that it is the mission of the administration to make them ‘more better,’ with visible cringing from the audience, but claimed failures were due to response rates. He said the public response was ‘overwhelming, which has aggravated the underlying problems.’ However, he failed to go any further to explain what those other underlying problems were or when specifically they will be fixed. He did say that while HHS and contractors such as CGI Federal are working out the ‘kinks,’ American’s should be patient. He claimed that ‘if the product is good, [American people] are willing to be patient,’ suggesting that there will not be a delay for the individual mandate.” [50087]

The *USA Today* editorial board writes, “Where was all this frantic effort in the three-and-a-half years from the time Obama signed the health law to the day the exchanges opened on Oct. 1? Because that might have helped avoid the unforced error that is raising doubts about the administration's ability to manage other pieces of the complex law. ...[T]he administration has been infuriatingly evasive about its failure, insisting at first that the glitches were just a matter of too many people trying to sign up. It has since become clear that the exchanges have deeper design problems the administration either didn't understand or didn't want to admit. ...Obama argued that the dysfunctional websites are the equivalent of broken cash registers in a store filled with appealing goods. Once they're fixed, shoppers will be happy. So far, there's no way to know whether he's right because the administration remains mostly clammed up. It won't say how many people have enrolled. It won't fully detail the problems. And it hasn't identified key subcontractors who botched the \$400 million start-up, or the team brought in for repairs. Any undertaking this complex was sure to have problems—and not just at the cash registers. But the administration is making a big mistake if it thinks it can stonewall its way through them. Far better to expose the weaknesses—and move quickly to fix them. A stream of surprises like the website mess will leave its credibility in tatters.” [50088]

NBC's Chuck Todd asks White House press secretary Jay Carney, “Five days before the launch, [Obama] said, ‘It's a website where you can compare and purchase affordable

health care plans, the same way you shop for a plane ticket on Kayak.’ Who misled him? Who misled [Obama] on this? Are you telling me five days before that somebody let [Obama] go out to the American public to give this speech and say this and make this promise? In fact, the next line is: ‘I promise you, this is a lot easier, it’s like booking a hotel or plane ticket.’ Who let him down?” Carney responds, “[Obama] is frustrated. He made that clear in his remarks today, and we’re focused on making improvements so that the millions of American who want affordable health insurance are getting the best consumer experience possible—as we’re opposed to Monday morning quarterbacking.” (At Townhall.com Michael Schaus observes, “Chuck Todd made an astoundingly unexpected moment of journalism amidst the beltway lapdogs reporters in the room: either [Obama] was lying, or he’s terribly incompetent as a chief executive officer of the United States of America. Because, when viewed through the lens of Todd’s question, our Pitch-Man-in-Chief either intentionally misled the American people on Obamacare’s eventual efficiency; or he himself was misled by a bunch of incompetent fools who wrote 5 million lines of untested, and obviously insufficient, code.” [50032, 50033, 50079])

Carney is also pressed about whether Americans will still be forced to pay the tax penalty for not having insurance if, through no fault of their own, they can’t even obtain it because of the problems with Healthcare.gov. Carney hems and haws and does not specifically say the penalty would be delayed—but his response makes it clear that everyone knows Obama can’t sic the IRS on millions of Americans under such a scenario. [50077]

While on his radio talk show, Sean Hannity calls the ObamaCare 800 number and speaks with a help center representative named Earlene [or Earline, sometimes reported as “Erling”] Davis in Panama City, Florida. Hannity is told by Earlene the Healthcare.gov web site will be down for 42 hours, but she can help him buy insurance—after he signs up at the web site that is not working. (Earlene is then promptly fired for speaking with Hannity—and embarrassing the Obama administration. The next day Hannity offers to pay Davis one year’s salary—\$26,000—and help her find another job. Obama won’t fire a wealthy white woman, Kathleen Sebelius, for being incompetent, but swiftly fires a single black mom for agreeing that a system for which Sebelius is responsible has serious flaws.) [50031, 50082, 50216, 50217, 50277, 50297, 50380]

The Republican National Committee sends a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services requesting “Any and all data recording each successful purchase of a health insurance policy... on any of the Affordable Care Act exchanges administered by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Service...” and “Any and all documents or communications, including but not limited to relevant emails and letters, regarding the collection of successful enrollee data on or after October 1, 2013...” [50041, 50064]

Wayne Allyn Root, who attended Columbia University at the same time Obama supposedly attended yet never saw him in any of his political science classes, writes at FoxNews.com, “There are two major political parties in America. I’m a member of the naïve, stupid, and cowardly one. I’m a Republican. ...The GOP needs to stop calling

ObamaCare a ‘train wreck.’ That means it’s a mistake, or accident. That means it’s a gigantic flop, or failure. It’s NOT. This is a brilliant, cynical, and purposeful attempt to damage the U.S. economy, kill jobs, and bring down capitalism. It’s not a failure, it’s Obama’s grand success. It’s not a ‘train wreck,’ ObamaCare is a suicide attack. He wants to hurt us, to bring us to our knees, to capitulate—so we agree under duress to accept big government [in the form of full federal control of the health care system]. ...ObamaCare is a raving, rollicking, fantastic success. Stop calling it a failure. Here is what it was created to do. It is succeeding on all counts: 1. ObamaCare was intended to bring about the Marxist dream—redistribution of wealth. ...2. ObamaCare was intended to wipe out the middle class and make them dependent on government. ...3. As a bonus, ObamaCare is intended to kill every decent paying job in the economy, creating only crummy, crappy part-time jobs. ...4. ObamaCare is intended to bankrupt small business, and therefore starve donations to the GOP. ...5. ObamaCare is intended to make the IRS all-powerful. ...6. ObamaCare is intended to unionize 15 million healthcare workers.” [50607]

CBSNews.com reports, “The U.S. National Security Agency swept up 70.3 million French telephone records in a 30-day period, according to a newspaper report that offered new details of the massive scope of a surveillance operation that has angered some of the country's closest allies. The French government on Monday summoned the U.S. ambassador for an explanation. The report in *Le Monde*, co-written by Glenn Greenwald who originally revealed the NSA surveillance program, found that when certain numbers were used, the conversations were automatically recorded. The surveillance operation also swept up text messages based on key words, *Le Monde* reported, based on records from Dec. 10 to Jan 7. The *Le Monde* reporting emerged as U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry arrived in Paris for diplomatic talks Monday about a peace process for Israel and Palestinian authorities.” Mexico also expresses outrage over U.S. spying on telephone calls and email accounts—including those of President Felipe Calderon. [50047, 50048, 50049, 50186]

The Washington Post reports that the Obama administration is refusing to lend the Smithsonian Institution a rug that has been in White House storage for 20 years. “The rug was woven by orphans in the 1920s and formally presented to the White House in 1925. A photograph shows President Calvin Coolidge standing on the carpet, ...a complicated, richly detailed work that would hold its own even in the largest and most ceremonial rooms. If you can read a carpet’s cues, the plants and animals depicted on the rug may represent the Garden of Eden, which is about as far removed as possible from the rug’s origins in the horrific events of 1915, when the fracturing and senescent Ottoman Empire began a murderous campaign against its Armenian population. Between 1 million and 1.5 million people were killed [by Turkish Muslims] or died of starvation, and others were uprooted from their homes in what has been termed the first modern and systematic genocide. Many were left orphans, including the more than 100,000 children who were assisted by the U.S.-sponsored Near East Relief organization, which helped relocate and protect the girls who wove the ‘orphan rug.’ It was made in the town of Ghazir, now in Lebanon, as thanks for the United States’ assistance during the genocide. There was hope that the carpet... might be displayed Dec. 16 as part of a Smithsonian event that would include a book launch for Hagop Martin Deranian’s ‘President Calvin Coolidge and the

Armenian Orphan Rug.’ But on Sept. 12, the Smithsonian scholar who helped organize the event canceled it, citing the White House’s decision not to loan the carpet.” (The decision to keep the rug hidden was likely made in order to avoid Turkey’s Muslims, who steadfastly deny the genocide—just as Obama avoided using the word after he won the November 2008 election. AtlasShrugs.com’s Pamela Geller writes, “The Islamic supremacist Ottoman government "embarked upon the systematic decimation of its civilian Armenian population." Millions of Christians were slaughtered. The continuing denial of the Armenian genocide is a crime against humanity. Shame on those who, for political expediency, wish to sweep this annihilation under the rug. ...Despite the monstrous lessons of the twentieth century, Obama is repeating the same terrible, ghastly pattern. Not even a precious rug can be displayed in Obama’s unending deference to the supremacist PM Erdogan. He prostrates himself at the feet of annihilationists.”) [50370, 50371]

CNSNews.com reports, “Obama’s approval rating has taken another hit, dropping for the third quarter in a row, this time to 44.5 percent between July 20-Oct. 19, Gallup reported on Monday.” [50055]

NBCNews.com reports, “Millions of American families could face a sparse holiday table when food stamps benefits get reduced in November, and that could be just the start of deeper cuts to the program to feed poor families. The modern-day food stamp plan, now called the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, is scheduled to scale back benefits for all recipients on Nov. 1 because a recession-era boost in benefits is expiring. The cut comes as lawmakers also are considering billions of dollars of reductions to the overall SNAP program, which has grown substantially in recent years amid the weak economy and high unemployment. The program is now serving more than 23 million households, or nearly 48 million people, according to the most recent government data through June. The USDA says the average monthly benefit is about \$275 per household. The exact reduction depends on the recipients’ situation, but a family of four with no other changes in circumstances will receive \$36 less per month, according to the USDA. At today’s average prices, that translates to four fewer whole chickens each month.” [50068, 50069]

According to DailyCaller.com, “Jeh Johnson, ...Obama’s nominee to head Homeland Security, represented a disgraced scientist who was sentenced to 30 months in prison for planting a fried rat’s tail in his son’s Happy Meal french fries as part of a failed extortion attempt. Michael Zanakis took a rat’s tail from the medical research laboratory where he worked, had it fried and then placed it in a package of french fries he bought at a Long Island McDonald’s on Jan. 15, 1996, prosecutors said at the time. Zanakis threatened to go public with accusations that McDonald’s served the fried rat’s tail to his son—who he said had bitten into and swallowed part of the tail—unless the company paid him \$5 million. ‘He planted the tail and thought he would get away with it,’ Assistant US Attorney Leonard Lato said. ‘The next day he was on the phone with McDonald’s. We had him on tape demanding money.’ Despite being represented by the future nominee for Homeland Security secretary, Zanakis was convicted of both the rat-tail fraud and a 1993 scheme in which he had planted bits of grease in a can of Coca-Cola Classic and then taken \$4600 from the Coca-Cola Company to keep quiet about it. Johnson, who will be

charged with overseeing DHS's vast domestic anti-terrorism and surveillance apparatus, suggested his client deserved pity because his threats against the company had stopped short of violence, and he also seemed to countenance Zanakis' committing fraud in the service of a higher truth. 'He didn't threaten to blow up a McDonald's, he didn't threaten to break anybody's arm,' Johnson told AP. 'What he said he was going to do was put a spotlight on something McDonald's wanted kept in the dark.' Johnson, then an attorney with the Manhattan firm of Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP, also characterized Zanakis as the victim of a conspiracy by two of the nation's largest companies, alleging that Coke and McDonald's convinced the federal government to crush a man who was disturbed that his child might have been harmed by eating a rat's tail." [50083, 50385]

WashingtonPost.com reports, "Days before the launch of ...Obama's online health insurance marketplace, government officials and contractors tested a key part of the Web site to see whether it could handle tens of thousands of consumers at the same time. It crashed after a simulation in which just a few hundred people tried to log on simultaneously. Despite the failed test, federal health officials plowed ahead. When the Web site went live Oct. 1, it locked up shortly after midnight as about 2,000 users attempted to complete the first step, according to two people familiar with the project. ...The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), the federal agency in charge of running the health insurance exchange in 36 states, invited about 10 insurers to give advice and help test the Web site. About a month before the exchange opened, this testing group urged agency officials not to launch it nationwide because it was still riddled with problems, according to an insurance IT executive who was close to the rollout. 'We discussed... is there a way to do a pilot [project]—by state, by geographic region?' the executive said..." HotAir.com's Ed Morrissey writes, "Amazingly, HHS didn't test the consumer end of the piece from start to finish until September 26th, just five days before the exchange opened. Obama yesterday claimed that private sector firms with expertise in web portals were now consulting on the fiasco, but HHS had that opportunity in August and September, when private-sector insurers tried to tell the Obama administration to delay the rollout. They chose not to listen, and now act surprised when the system failed. The story proves that the White House has spun a false narrative about the failures, an abjectly political spin that wants to take credit for demand on a site they made mandatory for tax compliance. The failures exist even under the lightest traffic, which means it has nothing to do with traffic at all—as anyone with even a passing familiarity with web portals figured out on Day 1. Even yesterday, Obama held a pep rally to continue blowing smoke up the skirts of Americans rather than do something significant to protect Americans from the disaster." [50096, 50097, 50134]

Senator Rand Paul introduces an Amendment to the U.S. Constitution that reads as follows: "Article-- Section 1. Congress shall make no law applicable to a citizen of the United States that is not equally applicable to Congress. Section 2. Congress shall make no law applicable to a citizen of the United States that is not equally applicable to the executive branch of Government, including the President, Vice President, ambassadors, other public ministers and consuls, and all other officers of the United States, including those provided for under this Constitution and by law, and inferior officers to the

President established by law. Section 3. Congress shall make no law applicable to a citizen of the United States that is not equally applicable to judges of the Supreme Court of the United States, including the Chief Justice, and judges of such inferior courts as Congress may from time to time ordain and establish. Section 4. Nothing in this article shall preempt any specific provision of this Constitution.” (Later on *Hannity*, Paul says, “There have been a lot of times in our history—originally, congressional members were exempt from Social Security. That’s not true now because people got mad about it. But really, the law should be applied equally to everyone. I think that’s a basic precept of the law. So I really think maybe we’ll get some bipartisanship on this and maybe we’ll get it passed.” A Constitutional Amendment requires the approval of two-thirds of the House and the Senate as well as ratification by three-fourths of the state legislatures. An alternative is passage by a Constitutional Convention called by the states, in which case Congress can be bypassed altogether.) [50100, 50156, 50157, 50183]

WeaselZippers.us reports that a new ObamaCare propaganda ad is “not quite” all that it seems. The woman featured in the ad “is Deborah Lielasus, 54, of Portsmouth, New Hampshire. Deborah is a grant writer who has obtained grants for clients, including recent grants from the DOJ and HUD among others. Turns out that the website wasn’t quite as easy for Deborah as she portrayed it in the ad. In fact, according to Deborah’s interview with the AP back on October 2, she only got as far as creating an account before the website stopped working. Of course, the ad makes no mention of this. In addition to talking about how easy the site was to use, Deborah also notes in the ad that her premiums and deductible will be lower under Obamacare than what she had been paying. What is not mentioned is that Deborah is not the usual consumer. Deborah has a significant pre-existing condition. ...So of course, even the ridiculously expensive Obamacare premiums and deductibles that have been reported might seem less [to her]. Since she doesn’t state her situation and doesn’t talk in actual numbers in the ad, you are left to think that Deborah is the norm and you too will have lower premiums and deductibles. In fact, as we found out with our experiments on the site and interviews with others who have tried the site, the premiums are significantly higher in most cases and the deductibles are ridiculous. Most of the discussion has centered on the premiums. ...Deborah also managed to obtain a grant from HHS at some point in her work as well. Given the nature of the ad, on behalf of HHS, this is something that also should have been noted, and adds to the overall deceptiveness.” (The ad does not disclose that Lielasus is a Democrat operative who likes ObamaCare because it forces young and healthy Americans to pay more for their insurance so that she can pay less.) [50102, 50103]

NationalJournal.com reports that the Spanish language version of Healthcare.gov, CuidadoDeSalud.gov, does not yet work. [50105]

HuffingtonPost.com reports, “With fresh Capitol Hill budget battles on the horizon, the head of the leading labor federation planned to issue a blistering warning to unions’ Democratic allies on Monday, saying the AFL-CIO would ‘never stop working’ to end the political careers of Democrats who cut entitlement programs. ‘No politician ...I don’t care the political party ...will get away with cutting Social Security, Medicare or

Medicaid benefits. Don't try it,' AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka said, according to prepared remarks for a speech in Las Vegas, Nev. According to the draft, which was supplied to HuffPost by the AFL-CIO, Trumka stressed his point for Democrats who may be wobbly on the issue. 'This warning goes double for Democrats,' he said. 'We will never forget. We will never forgive. And we will never stop working to end your career.'" [50111, 50112]

The Muslim Issue Worldwide blog reports, "Three-time Emmy winning journalist and former CNN reporter Amber Lyon is blowing the whistle on CNN. She says the network is paid by the Obama administration and foreign governments to avoid damaging stories and construct attractive narratives. Lyon called CNN, 'fake news.' Lyon explained she was part of a four-person team send to Bahrain to cover the Arab Spring. The colorful footage illustrated the imminent danger both the team and native activists faced at the hands of radical Muslims. But CNN never broadcasted the documentary because the U.S. supported the Bahrain regime. The Bahrain government also paid CNN not to broadcast it. Lyon said, 'I saw first-hand that these regime claims were lies, and I couldn't believe CNN was making me put what I knew to be government lies into my reporting.' The journalist discovered her reports weren't the only ones being kept off the air by the U.S. and foreign governments. Lyon challenged the left-wing network when she realized she'd found out such sensitive information. Now, Lyon is attempting to get her story to the public." [50121]

On NBC's *Nightly News*, anchor Brian Williams asks White House correspondent Chuck Todd, "Chuck, let's talk accountability. A lot of folks in the business world say if this [ObamaCare web site fiasco] happened to a private company in the real world, it could be curtains for the company, curtains for the CEO. In this case, though, the CEO people are asking about pointing to would be Health and Human Services—the cabinet secretary Kathleen Sebelius." Todd responds, "Well, everything I hear in talking to the administration, her job is safe. They don't feel—nobody in the West Wing feels that this is an administrative error, that this is a competency issue. That at the end of the day this was a problem, if anything, of over-promising, perhaps by the contractors that were used to build the website. But the other thing I'm hearing is there's such an all-hands-on-deck mentality, Brian. They know they have only weeks to get this right because it's these young people that use the web that they want to get on [enrolled in ObamaCare]. And if the website is thought of as unusable, they'll never get those young and healthy people to sign up for health care, which of course blows the entire system and then would suddenly raise the cost for everybody. So right now, they're not interested in finding accountability. It's an all-hands-on-deck. But in a few months, if they find incompetency, I'm told nothing should be ruled out." (The Obama administration makes the mistake of assuming that once Healthcare.gov's problems are addressed their problems will go away because young, healthy adults will enroll in ObamaCare. But a functioning web site will not hide the fact that the premiums are incredibly high. A web site can be designed to make it easy to purchase a new luxury automobile—but that doesn't make the car any more affordable.) [50155]

Obama's former Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton, hosts a fundraiser for New York City mayoral candidate Bill de Blasio. (De Blasio, a communist masquerading as a Democrat, is almost certain to defeat his Republican opponent.) Breitbart.com reports, "At least one of the main figures at the event is a convicted financial criminal, and another has come under the glare of federal authorities for alleged financial malfeasance. According to a document published by Capitol New York, the headlining co-chairs for the event included Paul and Mary Adler and Sant Singh Chatwal. Paul Adler once served as the chairman of the Democratic Party in Rockland County, New York, and according to a September 2000 article in the New York Times, 'was one of the county's earlier and most ardent supporters of Hillary Rodham Clinton in her race for the United States Senate.' That September 2000 article also detailed how Adler had just been arrested on corruption charges. In February 2001, the New York Times followed up with another article about how Adler admitted in federal court to attempting to bribe a town official and that he evaded paying taxes. ...Sant Singh Chatwal, another donor prominently featured at Hillary's fundraiser for de Blasio, has also faced backlash from authorities for his financial dealings. 'Sant S. Chatwal, an Indian American businessman, has helped raise hundreds of thousands of dollars for Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton's campaigns, even as he battled governments on two continents to escape bankruptcy and millions of dollars in tax liens,' John Solomon and Matthew Mosk wrote for the *Washington Post* in 2007." [50118, 50119]

Comedian Jay Leon jokes, "A friend of mine was given six months by his doctor—not to live, to sign up for ObamaCare. ...I don't quite understand how the whole ObamaCare thing works, like the other day I got a flu shot, but it was from a drone. ...[Obama] says he's bringing in the best and the brightest to solve the [Healthcare.gov] problems. Here's my question: Why didn't we bring in the best and the brightest in the first place?" [50129]

On October 22 *The Wall Street Journal* reports, "A federal judge on Tuesday refused to dismiss a lawsuit that seeks to block the Obama administration from offering subsidies to low- and middle-income individuals who buy health insurance through online exchanges run by the federal government. U.S. District Judge Paul Friedman in Washington, in an oral ruling from the bench, rejected several Justice Department arguments on why the legal challenge should be tossed out of court. The challengers, four individuals and three employers, argue that the insurance subsidies are barred by the actual language in ...Obama's signature health-care law, the Affordable Care Act. Under the act, individuals can qualify for subsidies, in the form of tax credits, if they buy health insurance through an exchange 'established by the state.' A majority of states, however, chose not to set up their own marketplaces, leaving the federal government to run some or all of the exchanges in 36 states. The challengers contend that the health law precludes subsidies for consumers who buy insurance through those federally run exchanges instead of state exchanges. They say the Internal Revenue Service contravened the text of the law when it promulgated a regulation last year making clear that the subsidies were available to individuals who bought insurance on either type of exchange." At Townhall.com Katie Pavlich notes, "The judge will not issue an injunction to stop the IRS from issuing subsidies, meaning Obamacare can move forward as planned. However, the lawsuit will

also move forward and depending on the outcome, could limit IRS power to issue Obamacare subsidies.” (At NPR.org Julie Rovner writes, “[T]he administration made a major miscalculation. Officials figured that even Republican states would both create their own exchanges and expand their Medicaid programs because both came with so much federal money attached. ‘The thought was that ultimately money trumps everything,’ says [former Health and Human Services official Jay] Angoff. ‘And that no matter what the rhetoric was of some of the elected officials against the Affordable Care Act, ultimately they would take the money. And I think what surprised most people was that in this case, money didn’t trump everything.’” At PoliticalOutcast.com Mark Horne comments, “So there it is. The Democrats designed a law on the basis of a phony premise, that they could bribe away their opposition. That they made such a miscalculation in such a cynical and unprincipled ploy is entirely the fault of the Obamapelosicrats, not the Republicans.”) [50027, 50028, 50161, 50162, 50168, 50169]

EnrollMaven.com posts an estimate of total enrollment in ObamaCare’s gold, silver, and bronze health insurance plans: 22,794. According to the site, the number “is a running estimate of the number of people enrolled in paid Obamacare plans calculated using enrollment statistics reported by governmental entities. It is not a measure of web hits, user registrations, applications started, applications completed or any other pre-enrollment parameter, does not include enrollments in jurisdictions which have not yet reported enrollment statistics (except confirmed registrations in states on the federal exchange) and does not count new Medicaid enrollees.” [50046]

Although the cost of Healthcare.gov is reportedly three times over budget, Congressman Steny Hoyer (D-MD) calls for more money to be provided for the project. (The plan is clear: the Democrats want to be share the blame for ObamaCare with the Republicans, but they cannot do that with the GOP calling for its repeal. If the Democrats demand money to “fix the problems” and the GOP refuses, the Democrats can then blame the GOP for letting Healthcare.gov fail. The Democrat goal is to force Republicans to vote on the issue—regardless of whether throwing more money at the problem would actually do any good.) [50050]

CNSNews.com reports, “The number of Americans who are 16 years or older and who have decided not to participate in the nation’s labor force has climbed to a record 90,609,000 in September, according to data released today by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The BLS counts a person as participating in the labor force if they are 16 years or older and either have a job or have actively sought a job in the last four weeks. A person is not participating in the labor force if they are 16 or older and have not sought a job in the last four weeks. In from July to August, according to BLS, Americans not participating in the labor force climbed from 89,957,000 to 90,473,000, pushing past 90,000,000 for the first time, with a one month increase of 516,000. In September, it climbed again to 90,609,000, an increase of 136,000 during the month. In January 2009, when ...Obama took office, there were 80,507,000 Americans not in the labor force. Thus, the number of Americans not in the labor force has increased by 10,102,000 [since Obama entered the White House].” [50054]

TheHill.com reports, “A top Senate Democrat said that a leading House Republican told ...Obama that they [sic; he or she] could not ‘even stand to look at you’ during negotiations over the government shutdown. Sen. Dick Durbin (D-IL) said [sic; wrote] in a Facebook post that the alleged confrontation happened during a meeting between Republicans and [Obama]. ‘Many Republicans searching for something to say in defense of the disastrous shutdown strategy will say ...Obama just doesn’t try hard enough to communicate with Republicans,’ Durbin said. ‘But in a ‘negotiation’ meeting with [Obama], one GOP House Leader told [Obama]: ‘I cannot even stand to look at you.’ ‘What are the chances of an honest conversation with someone who has just said something so disrespectful?’ the Illinois Democrat added.” (Top Republican leaders and the White House deny Durbin’s charge. The truth is likely never to be known, of course. The White House might not want anyone believing any leader detests Obama enough to make such a statement; any Republican who made such a statement would disavow it; and Durbin is known to be a smarmy, Eddie Haskell-type who would say anything if he thought it would help a partisan cause. It may be that the incident started out as a plan to discredit the GOP, taking advantage of Durbin’s nature to spread the story, but the White House may have had second thoughts that prompted it to backpedal.) [50163, 50164, 50165, 50185, 50193, 50227, 50269, 50279, 50289, 50308, 50422]

The *Chicago Tribune* later writes that, despite denials, the incident will not soon fade away because “we learned Thursday that Durbin had sent out a fundraising letter. The senior senator from Illinois cited the apparent outrage to Obama’s face, but suggested he’d feel a lot better if Democrats sent him \$16. In his fundraising pitch, Durbin writes: ‘Let me ask you: What are the chances of an honest conversation with someone who has just said, ‘I cannot even stand to look at you?’ A few paragraphs down he writes ‘Please, click here to send my campaign \$16—one dollar for every day of the reckless and irresponsible Republican Shutdown—or whatever you can afford.’ That’s right, Durbin was so upset that ...Obama’s face was disrespected—by a Republican who the White House says does not exist—that Durbin is willing to take 16 bucks. Sixteen bucks to assuage a mythical insult [to Obama]? How noble is that?” (*The Obama Timeline* assumes Durbin will not to release the name of the GOP senator because it would cause his approval rating to soar.) At least one political observer believes the White House invented the story and fed it to Durbin, knowing he would believe it and spread the word. The White House then denies the claim after the damage was done—the damage being the media spreading the story that a racist Republican Senator hates Obama so much he can’t stand to look at him. [50163, 50164, 50165, 50185, 50193, 50227, 50269, 50279, 50289, 50308]

At the daily press briefing, White House press secretary Jay Carney does his best to avoid answering questions about ObamaCare and Healthcare.gov—referring reporters to the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Carney then abruptly walks out of the room, while questions are still being asked. (At Townhall.com Guy Benson notes, “When another reporter gingerly pushed back on Carney’s constant referrals to HHS, Carney... referred him to HHS.”) [50078, 50099, 50109]

In a letter to Obama, Senator Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH) states, “Given the existing problems with the [Healthcare.gov] website, I urge you to consider extending open enrollment beyond the current end date of March 31, 2014. Allowing extra time for consumers is critically important so they have the opportunity to become familiar with the website, survey their options and enroll. Further, in light of the difficulties individuals may be having with enrolling through healthcare.gov, I ask that you clarify how the individual responsibility penalty will be administered and enforced. If an individual is unable to purchase health insurance due to technical problems with enrollment, they should not be penalized because of lack of coverage.” In addition to Shaheen, nine other Democrat Senators sign the letter: Mark Begich (D-AK), Mark Pryor (D-AR), Mary Landrieu (D-LA), Kay Hagan (D-NC), Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), Mark Udall (D-CO), Tom Udall (D-NM), Michael Bennet (D-CO) and Martin Heinrich (D-NM). [50094, 50095, 50122, 50123, 50133, 50200, 50299, 50310, 50343]

The Department of Labor reports an increase of 148,000 jobs in September—far below both the 180,000 some economists predicted and the 185,000 per month average for the year. The official unemployment rate nevertheless falls to 7.2 percent, largely because of the hundreds of thousands of people who stopped looking for work and who are therefore no longer counted as part of the workforce. The number of working women declines by 154,000 during September. (The administration excuse for reporting the unemployment figures more than two weeks later than usual is the partial shutdown, but some might suspect that had the numbers been good they would have been trotted out immediately.) [50081, 50093, 50101, 50128, 50268]

Asked if Obama and Secretary of Health and Human Services Kathleen Sebelius knew of the Healthcare.gov problems before the October 1 rollout of the web site, Congressman Henry Waxman (D-CA) responds, “I don’t have any information about that, but no one could have possibly known how bad the system would work when it was implemented all across the country for the millions of people that want insurance and have tried to access the website. So if it worked well for a smaller group, turned out it didn’t work well enough for a larger group. That often happens.” Asked if Sebelius should keep her job despite the fiasco, Waxman says, “Absolutely. There’s no reason for her not to continue on as secretary. She’s done a terrific job. I have a great deal of confidence in her. She doesn’t know about all technicalities. That was contracted out to the private sector, and the private sector with all the money they got, couldn’t develop the website that we needed. It shouldn’t have been done by government, but we should have had more competent people in the private sector, and if anybody’s head should roll, it should be the contractors who didn’t live up to their contractual responsibility.” At HotAir.com Erika Johnsen comments, “Firstly, ‘no one could have possibly known how bad the system would work,’ *really?* The failures in the beta-testing phase—you know, the one they started in the *week before* the enrollment period—wasn’t a huge giveaway? Secondly, if indeed the involved contractors ‘couldn’t develop the website that we needed’ and ‘didn’t live up to their contractual responsibility,’ then in turn, whose fault is that? It couldn’t be... the *people who hired* those contractors and/or assigned them an impossible task, could it?! Truly, the gentleman is in dire need of better talking points.” [50091, 50134]

White House press secretary Jay Carney tells reporters, “While we knew there would be some glitches [with Healthcare.gov] and actually said publicly there could be some problems, we did not know until the problems manifested themselves after the launch they would be as significant as they turned out to be.” [50170]

WashingtonPost.com reports, “Mike Hash, who directs the Office of Health reform at the Department of Health and Human Services, will brief House Democrats Wednesday about implementation of the Affordable Care Act. The closed-door session, which will start at 8:50 a.m., marks the first time the administration will have briefed members of Congress on the online enrollment system since its troubled rollout on Oct. 1. The briefing comes as HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius published a blog post detailing some of the efforts the administration is undertaking to fix HealthCare.gov, including bringing on former Office of Management and Budget acting director Jeffrey Zients.” (The meeting will exclude House Republicans—a clear sign that the meeting will be less about how Health care.gov will be fixed and more about distributing “talking points” to Democrats to ensure that they all follow the same script when dealing with the media. Brendan Buck, spokesman for House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH) states, “Far too much information about Obamacare’s rollout is being concealed from the public. All [House] members—as well as the American people—deserve answers for this debacle. That’s why we have asked the administration to provide the same briefing to House Republicans. This snub is all the more offensive after Secretary Sebelius declined to testify at a House hearing this week. It’s time for the Obama administration to honor its promises of transparency and face some accountability.”) [50092]

An astute Internet user locates a government database that appears to provide the ObamaCare premium rates without the user having to access Healthcare.gov and provide personal information. (The file is accessible at the time of this writing, but may be locked out once the Obama administration discovers that it is viewable without a password.) Also not hidden behind an appropriate firewall is a database containing the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of every ObamaCare navigator. (The Obama administration claims data entered online at Healthcare.gov will be safe and secure, but it cannot even protect its own data.) [50104, 50174, 50175]

Newsmax.com reports, “With Congress and the media focused on the government shutdown and how to avoid default on the national debt, little attention was directed toward the U.S. Postal Service which earlier this month defaulted on a required \$5.6 billion payment for the healthcare of its future retirees. The third default on the down-payment in just over a year underscores the necessity of much-needed reforms for the beleaguered Postal Service.” [50107]

At CanadaFreePress.com Judi McLeod writes, “Look out Americans! Obama may be giving the Canadian company behind healthcare.gov’s glitch-ridden website a pass for reasons other than you may think. CGI is famous in the U.S. as ObamaCare website builders, and infamous in Canada as the company that built the \$2.7 billion plus busted gun registry. Make that the \$2.7 billion plus Canadian LIBERAL Government gun registry for which the Canadian taxpayer is still paying through the nose some 20 years

later. ...Obama who threw temper tantrums in getting his way on last week's government shutdown, is curiously calm when it comes to a \$292-plus million website that's still bogged down by a potential 5 million lines of bad code. Could it be that the website that doesn't work is a diversion for something else Obama doesn't want people thinking about, like a computer driven gun registry? In 1993, the Liberals passed Bill C-68 (the Firearms Act). Over half of all registered handguns in Canada were prohibited without any evidence provided that these handguns had been misused. Almost overnight, owning a firearm, an ordinary rifle or shotgun in The Land of the Maple Leaf became a criminal offence for those not holding a valid licence. ...[M]any are suspicious that Obama can't seem to get his signature website up and running. They wonder why the his administration would hire a company whose contracts to build health care databases for diabetic clients in the provinces of Ontario and New Brunswick were cancelled for delays and cost overruns. Overnight, the CGI Gun Registry tracked gun owners in Canada. Under the Affordable Health Care Act, doctors are encouraged to ask their patients if they own a gun. Shouldn't Americans be getting suspicious by now?" [50108]

The Ulsterman Report hears from the unnamed Republican Insider, who states, "Heard this morning of a heated discussion/yelling match between [Obama political advisor] Pete Rouse and [close Obama advisor] Valerie Jarrett over the increasingly possible and impending [Kathleen] Sebelius resignation. Jarrett wants her to stay put, but Rouse, who I know is cozy with quite a few legislators here on the Hill, is apparently demanding Sebelius go sooner not later. As in last week. The two apparently did a back and forth thing throughout the afternoon yesterday that had everyone else at the White House walking on eggshells, and various versions of the conflict making its way back here. Some versions called it a disagreement, while one version had them literally screaming at each other for about ten minutes inside of Rouse's office. If true, I was told that would be very out of character for Pete Rouse. He is supposed to be a very low key out of the picture kind of guy who does most of his talking through internal memos. At any rate, I personally know of at least ten House Democrats and three Senate Democrats already willing to be a part of some kind of delay of Obamacare for at least six months. There are a lot more than that who want Sebelius gone as a way of protecting both [Obama] and the party. They need a face to hang all of this chaos on. So far it seems Jarrett has held them back. Will be interesting if Rouse can use his connections with Congress to bypass her. Start popping the corn. This could get interesting!" [50110]

Secretary of Health and Human Services Kathleen Sebelius is asked by CNN's Sanjay Gupta if she knows when Obama was first aware of the problems with Healthcare.gov. She responds, "Well, I think it became clear fairly early on, the first couple of days. Gupta: "So not before that though?" Sebelius: "No." Gupta: "Not before October 1st? There was no concern at the White House or HHS?" Sebelius: "I think that we talked about having testing going forward, and if we had an ideal situation and could have built a product and, you know, a five-year period of time, we probably would have taken five years but we didn't have five years. And certainly, Americans who rely on health coverage didn't have five years for us to wait. We wanted to make sure we made good on this final implementation of the law. And again, people can sign up. The call center is open for business. We've had 1,100,000 calls. We've had 19 million people visit the

website. Five-hundred thousand accounts created and people shopping every day. So, people are signing up and there's help in neighborhoods around the country that people can have a one-on-one visit with a trained navigator and figure out how to sign up. So people are able to sign up." (Sebelius is lying. It is absurd to believe that Obama did not know about the web site problem until after the site was made operational on October 1. Sebelius will fall on the sword to protect Obama. But she can only lie and say "He did not know." She cannot help him avoid the fallout from the questions, "Well, then *why* did he not know?" and "Who exactly is in charge at the White House?") [50113, 50137, 50146, 50156, 50160]

CNSNews.com points out that "Secretary Kathleen Sebelius often appeared vague or uncertain [during the Gupta interview], frequently hedging her remarks with the phrase, 'I think.' She appeared to 'know' very little. Sebelius used the phrase 'I think' or 'we think' or 'I don't think' 17 times during the interview. In fact, the first words out of her mouth were, 'I think what we know is...'" [50158]

At NationalJournal.com Ron Fournier writes that Sebelius' claim of Obama's ignorance of the problems before October 1 "is either a lie, which would be unforgivable. Or it reveals an unfathomable lack of oversight. For a breakdown of this magnitude to go undetected by Sebelius and her boss, there must be severe gaps in the management systems of the Obama administration that any first-year MBA student could ferret out. Even Democrats are asking, how could they let this happen?" [50295]

At PJMedia.com Bridget Johnson notes that "the inspector general for HHS issued a report at the beginning of August noting that the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services missed multiple deadlines for testing and reporting data security risks in connection with signing up on the healthcare exchanges as they barreled toward the launch date. ... This Aug. 2 report was hardly a secret confined to HHS. Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY.) used the report to call on the administration to not force people onto healthcare exchanges when the government was missing testing deadlines and benchmarks on the security of personal and financial data." Yet Sebelius tells CNN's Gupta that Obama knew nothing of Healthcare.gov problems before October 1. [50159]

Commenting on the Gupta/Sebelius interview, Mary Katherine Ham asks at HotAir.com, "So, was [Obama] so very uninterested in making sure his legacy law got launched with a modicum of competence that he never checked to make sure this was going well? Is he so surrounded by yes men and women that no one could bring themselves to tell him about this? Was Sebelius just straight-up lying to him day in and day out? Or, is she taking one for the team because he knew there were problems and was too stubborn to delay? I have pretty low expectations for Obama and government in general, but I remain a bit mystified at just how negligent it appears he was. If there's one thing he is intensely interested in, it's his own legacy, right? ... Sebelius declares there is reason for optimism in the Obamacare launch because, you see, there are so very many people lawfully required to buy insurance being prevented from buying it by this website. It's not a crisis; it's an opportunity! It's a crisitunity. ... She admits she hasn't tried to sign up using

HealthCare.gov because ‘I have insurance.’ Nice. The hundreds of thousands of people losing theirs and with no way to sign up for new, crappier plans appreciate the knife-twisting, Kath. And, finally, this classic Kinsleyan gaffe: ‘We anticipated at the outset that everyone would never use the website,’ she said.” [50146, 50182]

FoxNews.com reports that food stamp recipients are using the Craigslist and eBay web sites to illegally sell their debit cards at a discount. [50115]

Examiner.com reports, “U.S. House of Representatives Oversight and Government Reform Committee leaders are demanding information from Obamacare's top technology officials regarding the creation federal insurance exchange web site, HealthCare.gov, according to a letter sent to White House officials on Tuesday [October 22]. The letter alleges that the Obama administration ordered the web site designers and creators to hide price comparisons from Americans until after they registered and provided all personal information. According to the lawmakers, information obtained by the Oversight Committee reveals that just one month before the web site's launch Obama's minions ‘directed contractors to change the site's design to *hide price comparisons* from unregistered shoppers.’ ...The letter also states: ‘We believe that the political decision to mask the ‘sticker shock’ of Obamacare to the American people prevented contractors from using universally accepted and OMB-advocated IT ‘best practices’ in the development and roll out of this massive federal government IT project. When prudent design and programming decisions are subordinated to politics, the result is the chaotic mess we have today.’” [50117]

TheDailyBeast.com reports, “A White House national security official was fired last week after being caught as the mystery Tweeter who has been tormenting the foreign policy community with insulting comments and revealing internal Obama administration information for over two years. Jofi Joseph, a director in the non-proliferation section of the National Security Staff at the White House, has been surreptitiously tweeting under the moniker @natsecwonk, a Twitter feed famous inside Washington policy circles since it began in February, 2011 until it was shut down last week. Two administration officials confirmed that the mystery tweeter was Joseph, who has also worked at the State Department and on Capitol Hill for Senators Bob Casey (D-PA) and Joe Biden. Until recently, he was part of the administration's team working on negotiations with Iran. During his time tweeting under the @natsecwonk name, Joseph openly criticized the policies of his White House bosses and often insulted their intellect and appearance. At different times, he insulted or criticized several top White House and State Department officials, including former National Security Advisor Tom Donilon, Deputy National Security Advisor Ben Rhodes, Secretary of State John Kerry, and many many [sic] others. ...A White House spokesman confirmed that Joseph no longer works there but declined further comment.” (Among Joseph's messages: “I'm a fan of Obama, but his continuing reliance and dependence upon a vacuous cipher like Valerie Jarrett concerns me.” “Was Huma Abedin wearing beer goggles the night she met Anthony Wiener? Almost as bad a pairing as Samantha Powers and Cass Sunstein...” “So when will someone do us the favor of getting rid of Sarah Palin and the rest of her white trash family? What utter useless garbage...” It is likely that it was Joseph's criticism of

Jarrett—referred to by many as “Rasputin” and by others as “she who must not be challenged”—that got him fired.) [50205, 50130, 50202, 50205, 50266, 50409]

TheDailyBeast.com later adds that Jofi Joseph’s “number-one target was Deputy National Security Advisor for Communications Ben Rhodes, a senior official close to ...Obama. Rhodes worked for the same department as Joseph, albeit at a much higher level. In the summer of 2012, Joseph issued multiple tweets under his @natsecwonk account suggesting that Rhodes was the source of classified information leaked to the press about the Stuxnet virus, a joint U.S.-Israeli cyber warfare effort to sabotage Iran’s nuclear centrifuge program. Joseph, as an official in the non-proliferation bureau of the State Department and later inside the White House, was part of the administration’s team working on the Iranian nuclear issue. On June 14, just days after the FBI began a probe into the leak and the Senate Intelligence Committee started planning public hearings on the matter, Joseph, posing as @natsecwonk, pointed the finger at Rhodes. ‘Gotta imagine Ben Rhodes is lawyering up now that a leak investigation is underway. If anyone in the Obama White House leaked, it was him,’ he tweeted. Two days later, as speculation mounted that then National Security Advisor Tom Donilon was a source of the Stuxnet leaks, Joseph again suggested publicly on Twitter that Rhodes was the culprit. ‘Folks, even if a National Security Advisor wanted to leak, he wouldn’t be the one doing the leaking. His staff would...’ he tweeted on June 16.” [50205, 50130, 50202, 50205, 50266, 50409]

Inforum.com reports, “The Obama administration asked North Dakota’s largest health insurer not to publicize how many people have signed up for health insurance through a new online exchange, a company official says. During a Monday forum in Fargo for people interested in signing up for coverage via the exchange, James Nichol of Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Dakota told the crowd his company received the request from the federal government earlier Monday. Nichol is a consumer sales manager for the company. Still, a spokeswoman from Blue Cross Blue Shield says about 14 North Dakotans have signed up for coverage since the federal exchange went live Oct. 1. That brings total statewide enrollment to 20—less than one a day. ...An official from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, one of the main... federal agencies handling the federal marketplace, would not directly address questions about the request made of Blue Cross Blue Shield, including whether other insurers were also asked to keep quiet about enrollment.” (Inforum.com later reports, “Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Dakota says a company official ‘misunderstood internal discussions’ when he said the Obama administration asked the state’s largest health insurer to keep quiet about how many people had enrolled so far through the new online marketplace.”) [50131, 50228, 50229, 50230]

DailyCaller.com reports that Congressman Trey Radel (R-FL) “will introduce legislation to delay the Obamacare fines on individuals and families until six months after HealthCare.gov website is fully functional, companion legislation to a bill that his fellow Floridian, Republican Sen. Marco Rubio will introduce in the Senate. ...Radel and Rubio will introduce the legislation to ensure that people have adequate time to sign up for health insurance before they begin getting fined. The fines would be delayed until six

months after the Government Accountability Office certified the website as fully functional. The legislation will also ‘[exempt] people from paying the mandate fines if they can prove that they tried to sign up but could not because of technical or customer service issues,’ Rubio said in a statement earlier this week.” [50140]

Townhall.com political editor Guy Benson writes, “Barack Obama and Democrats in Congress passed a law that requires people to purchase health insurance, or face IRS tax penalties. They’ve also botched the mechanism for making said purchase so badly that for many people, the law’s requirements will kick in before they’ve even been given a reasonable chance to comply. Aside from being a ridiculous political failure, this is also egregiously unfair and unworkable. Enter Sen. Marco Rubio [R-FL], who says he’ll file legislation that would delay Obamacare’s individual mandate tax until Obamacare’s website has proven itself to be fully functional for six consecutive months. ... This bill is a self-created nightmare for Democrats. If they support the bill to avoid getting clobbered by the very ‘fairness’ attacks they love to wield, the death spiral commences. Obamacare collapses, dragging America’s health insurance market down with it. If Dems oppose Rubio’s plan while explaining (correctly) that provisions like guaranteed issue and community rating would also have to be pushed back to avoid an even worse disaster... then, great. Republicans will say, ‘we agree, let’s delay the whole damn thing.’ ... Lastly, if Democrats decline to act out of hubristic partisan pique, the GOP has a killer talking point to use relentlessly in the lead-up to 2014. ... Obama and friends have put themselves in a no-win situation by passing a terrible law, then compounding the issue by royally screwing up its roll-out. I won’t even pretend to shed a single crocodile tear for them. This is completely their fault. Worse, they’ve known this nightmare was coming for months, yet they foolishly pressed forward, impervious to facts.” (*The Obama Timeline* believes the “death spiral” is intentional, and that ObamaCare was designed to put health insurance companies out of business, at which point the government would “save the day” by implementing a fully nationalized system. The problem Obama and other leftists face is that ObamaCare may simply be too big a disaster too soon—which may deprive them of the ability to gain public support for a complete takeover of the industry.) [50181]

On the Fox News Channel’s *Special Report*, leftist panelist Juan Williams laughably blames Republicans for the failures of Healthcare.gov: “People in the White House and HHS [the Department of Health and Human Services] felt there is such massive opposition from the Republicans that they did not want to say, ‘You know, we need to slow down a little bit because we don’t have the technology in order.’ So they were willing to just say, ‘Let’s roll it out, let’s see how it works for now,’ and so, over the first 20 days, it has not worked well. But I would just caution, in the midst of all this piling on, that gee, you know, it’s been three weeks, I think it’s 20 days it’s out, it’s supposed to be a six-month roll-out, ... Obama says, I believe, 20 million people have visited this site... I would add, you can still call on the phone to get this done...” (Williams expects people to believe that the mere existence of Republican opposition caused the Obama team to implement what it knew was a faulty web site simply to avoid GOP criticism.) [50135, 50145, 50176]

Obama shamelessly uses his own disastrous ObamaCare web site to raise campaign cash, sending an email with a video link in which he says, “By now, you’ve probably heard that the website has not worked as smoothly as it was supposed to. That’s why I need your help. I’m asking you to be part of Team Obamacare... I’m asking you to help tell you friends, families, coworkers, classmates, neighbors and anyone else what the Affordable Care Act can mean for them. Remember, nobody ever expected this would be easy—change never is... [but] I’m absolutely confident that we will finish the job of making health care in the country not just a privilege for a fortunate few, but a right for all Americans to enjoy.” The email directs people to an Organize for Action web site page that warns, “The other side has already spent a whopping \$400 million in anti-Obamacare TV ads. We don’t have to beat that, but we need to have the resources to fight back. Make a donation to support OFA today.” (Unlike Healthcare.gov, the fundraising site has no glitches.) [50139, 50149]

HotAir.com argues that Obama’s “tech surge” will not be able to rescue Healthcare.gov. “Or, to be more precise, it’s not going to rescue the site anywhere near as quickly as the White House needs to avert disaster. The task is simply too complex, and Healthcare.gov’s problems too various, to get things humming smoothly within the three-to-four-week timeframe HHS is now realistically staring at. Yuval Levin claimed in a post last night that the ‘tech surge’ is actually a waste of time because everyone already working on the site will have to slow down while the ‘best and brightest’ get up to speed on the software and the scope of the challenges they’re dealing with. My layman’s sense after reading several articles about it and chatting with a friend who works in IT is that it’s like bringing in a bunch of professional writers to rework a 2,000-page first draft of a novel written by a sixth-grader. If you don’t like that analogy, a health-industry consultant told Politico, ‘It’s like you’ve built a single-story house with no basement, and then the family comes in and says, ‘Oh, we made a mistake, we wanted a multi-story house with a basement.’ Then you have to strip everything down and start over.’ It can be done, but it ain’t going to be soon. And it ain’t going to be cheap.” Additionally, VentureBeat.com notes, “The government can’t accept free services from companies, so HHS would need to find additional budget to pay for help. Another challenge is that CGI, Quality Software Solutions, Booz Allen, and the rest of the contractors would need to agree to open up their code. It’s a huge project—the New York Times quotes one specialist who said that 5 million lines of code would need to be rewritten before the website can function properly.” [50147]

HotAir.com continues, “No one, though, thinks a ‘tech surge’ is the missing piece of the puzzle in the short-term. ‘The system is already built; it’s already a disaster; so you’re going to bring in Silicon Valley to do what?’ said Netscape founder Marc Andreessen to Politico. ‘You could get Mark Zuckerberg, Larry Page and Jeff Bezos on a plane, but what are they going to do at this point?’ Which raises the question: Does the White House know that the ‘tech surge’ is largely a waste of time, a contrivance they’re using to placate Americans and stall while they figure out what to do next? Or is the depth of technological ignorance here such that they really do think Jeff Bezos and Mark Zuckerberg could whip this thing into shape in a few weeks? There’s an irony to the tech surge too, says Andreessen: ‘The government has accreted over the last 30 years

contracting rules and regulations that make it impossible' for Silicon Valley companies to compete in Washington, he said. 'So you've wired the system basically to prohibit the people who really know what's going on.' ...The final irony here, by the way, will be if the 'tech surge' manages to solve the relatively easy problem of how to create a valid user account before it solves the more daunting problem of calculating subsidies or sharing accurate information about the user with insurance companies. That would enable a huge spike in the volume of enrollments before the system is able to process those enrollments correctly; suddenly you've got hundreds of thousands of people in the queue instead of tens of thousands right now. In that sense, it's oddly analogous to delaying the mandate while keeping the rest of the law up and running, which risks an industry death spiral. Either the whole thing runs smoothly or the whole thing should be taken offline until it can run smoothly. Partial solutions are the surest path to the worst-case scenario.” [50147]

The Media Research Center posts examples of media leftists enthusiastically praising and pushing Healthcare.gov before its October 1 start-up date. CNN's Van Jones (Obama's former communist green jobs czar): “Tomorrow, ordinary Americans who don't have health insurance get a chance to sign up for the first time. That's a huge breakthrough. You can go to Healthcare.gov. If you're watching right now, you don't have health care, or your mama doesn't, you can go to Healthcare.gov and sign up for health insurance. That's a good thing in America. It's crazy town up here because something good is happening in our country and some people just can't stand for something good to happen for the American people.” MSNBC's Ed Schultz: “This is the website folks, Healthcare.gov. If you go to this website you will find out how easy it is to read, how easy it is to navigate all the information, all the basic questions, and all the direction you need to take to get involved to get health care. This is a great guide, if I may say, for any of you out there who feel so confused by all of these right-wing commercials that are just permeating through your television screen and also in the sound culture of the country with the right-wing talkers of America.” CBS's Jill Schlesinger on CBS *This Morning*: “And you know what's interesting, is this is really like going to shop for a flight on Travelocity. You're going to a place; you're comparing costs, you're choosing coverage. That's what you need to know. This is all starting tomorrow.” ABC's Rebecca Jarvis on *Good Morning America*: “Get ready to shop at the health insurance marketplace or exchange. Think of it as a health insurance mall for your state, where each store represents a different insurance company. You'll get an easy to read map or menu of options to help you navigate which plan makes the most sense for you and your family.” [50154]

The *Daily Mail* reports, “The Super Bowl champion Baltimore Ravens inked a sponsorship agreement in September with Maryland Health Connection, the state's Obamacare insurance exchange, that will pay them \$130,000 during the 2013 football season to promote the Affordable Care Act. The Maryland government announced the partnership in September, citing the Obamacare exchange's ‘opportunity to reach and engage fans while making them aware of the new opportunity they have for health coverage.’ Judicial Watch, a Washington, D.C. organization that files hundreds of public records requests every year, published a copy of the contract on Tuesday. The National

Football League resisted overtures from the Obama administration, which wanted a league-wide sponsorship deal. But the Ravens, who visited with ...Obama in June to receive his congratulations for their Super Bowl XLVII win, decided to play ball. Tom Fitton, Judicial Watch's president and a Ravens fan, called it a 'propaganda deal' for the ...team." [50201]

On the *Tonight Show*, Jay Leno jokes, "A man in New York [was] arrested for trying to join al-Qaeda. Here's the amazing part: he said it was still easier to join al-Qaeda using their web site than it was to sign up for ObamaCare. ... Today there were more problems with the web site. It seems [that] when you type in your age it's confusing, 'cause it's not clear if they want the age you are right now, or the age you'll be when you finally log in. ... [Obama] said yesterday that if it's taking too long and you're having trouble, you can bypass the web site and enroll by mail. You see, only the federal government could come up with a web site that's slower than sending something by mail." [50142]

Conan O'Brien jokes, "Pundits are comparing ... Obama pitching ObamaCare to a late-night pitchman on an infomercial. Now, when reached for comment, Obama said, 'That's not true, but don't take my word for it—just ask some of these satisfied customers.'" [50167]

On October 23 Obama advisor Valerie Jarrett, White House chief of staff Denis McDonough, Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Director Marilyn Tavenner, ObamaCare adviser Chris Jennings (a lobbyist and former Clinton adviser) meet with the CEOs of health insurance companies Aetna, Humana, CareFirst, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Florida, Health Net, Inc., Health Care Services Corporation, Independence Blue Cross, America's Health Insurance Plans, Molina Healthcare, Centene Corp., Tufts Health Plan, Blue Cross Blue Shield Association, Wellpoint, and Kaiser Permanente. (Some may assume the purpose of the meeting is to warn the CEOs not to criticize ObamaCare of the Healthcare.gov web site. Exactly what Jarrett might threaten them with is not known.) [50114, 50116, 50235]

Meanwhile, administration officials meet with House Democrats to provide an update on the status of the Healthcare.gov problems. (The meeting is likely also for the purpose of keeping the Democrats on the "same page" by issuing talking points for them to closely follow.) [50116, 50123, 50132, 50200]

Congressman Rick Nolan (D-MN), apparently choosing not to repeat the talking points, comments after the meeting: "What I heard this morning was not the least bit reassuring." Nolan also says, "I think [Obama] needs to man up, find out who was responsible and fire them." Congressman Sean Maloney (D-NY) states, "The success of this program and the ability of folks to navigate these exchanges is more important than protecting anyone who failed to do their job. I can assure you that I won't be sugarcoating it. We need to be very honest with people about the fact that there have been real problems with helping people sign up particularly on the website. And that can't happen—that just can't happen. I'm glad the administration has been getting in the game on this a little more recently. I think they were slow off the dime. I'd like to see somebody lose their job over this. I

think it's outrageous." (HotAir.com's Ed Morrissey observes, "[N]either of them called for Kathleen Sebelius specifically to resign ...they're not actually asking for any specific resignation at all. They want a head or two to roll in order to protect themselves, as both will be facing very angry constituents in next year's midterms, and neither will have a [popular presidential candidate] in their districts at the top of the ticket to protect them. There are really only two heads to roll in this situation—either HHS Secretary Sebelius, who supposedly never told Barack Obama about the problems before the system collapsed on rollout, or CMS [Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services] chief administrator Marilyn Tavenner, whose group ran the project for the last 42 months. Why not get more specific?") [50116, 50123, 50132, 50200, 50215]

Former Vice President Dick Cheney lambastes Obama and ObamaCare in a radio interview with Rush Limbaugh. Cheney says the administration is "without a clue" with ObamaCare. "It's devastating. It's having a devastating impact. I think it's a travesty. I think it's one of the worst things I've ever seen in the domestic policy arena and I hope we get it shut down before we're unable to correct it. When you put that much strain on the system as they're doing, and, as you say, by people that don't appear to be able to find their fanny with both hands, they don't know anything about the health-care industry, and he [Obama] basically is trying to take over 16, 17 percent of our economy, which is what the health-care system in this country constitutes. And they appear to be without a clue in terms of what they're doing, the damage they're inflicting. They can't even set up a computer system so you can get on to the so-called health-care system." Cheney urges members of the GOP to fight Obama rather than each other: "Barack Obama, is, in fact, the adversary. One of the things we've got to be able to do is to build bridges between and establish working relationships I think with all factions of the party. There's a tendency right now for people to want to condemn the establishment or condemn the tea party. There are people in what I would call the establishment that are comfortable with the status quo. What the tea party represents, at least in our state [Wyoming] ...are people who frankly have just gotten totally fed up with the existing operations in Washington. They feel the Constitution is threatened. They feel that their individual liberties are under threat and Barack Obama is at the base of all those concerned. But they're also looking for politicians that will stand up and fight for what they believe in. I've got a lot of friends in the tea-party movement. I don't think it's a divisive force. In my book, I'd much rather see them inside the party than outside the party. ...It is very important to push back. I think the future of the party at this stage and the conservative cause is that we need a new generation involved. Part of it is to re-energize the party and the organization and find new candidates and take on those aspects of the establishment, if you will, certainly the Obama operation if we're gonna win this fight. And we've got to do it soon. If we sit around for another three and a half years, we're gonna be in a very, very deep hole in this country because of the policies of the Obama administration. Obamacare is one of those problems." [50172]

MarketWatch.com reports, "The Obama administration will delay enforcement of the Affordable Care Act's health insurance mandate, extending how long Americans may go uninsured before facing a penalty under the law, MarketWatch has learned. The health care law requires most people to have health insurance by Jan. 1, 2014 or face a penalty,

but the Administration may postpone when those penalties will go into effect. The law allows for ‘short coverage gaps’ of up to three months before imposing the penalty, which is \$95 or 1% of an individual’s income (whichever is greater) next year. Under the current rules, someone would have to be covered by March 31, an official with the Department of Health and Human Services confirmed, which is the final day that people will be able to purchase health insurance on the public exchanges, or marketplaces, created by the ACA. But the Administration is currently working to revise its policy to ensure that people who wait till the last day in March to sign up will not face a penalty, the HHS official clarified. That means that people may go uninsured till April or May without paying a fine, as it takes up to two weeks to process health insurance applications, and new health policies take effect on the first day of each month. A last-minute March 31 application, for example, might be processed by mid-April for coverage starting May 1.” (What many fail to realize is that the delay of the individual mandate because of the failure of Healthcare.gov will leave hundreds of thousands of Americans without coverage until the problems are resolved. Across the nation, individual policies are being cancelled effective January 1, 2014 because they do not comply with the strict ObamaCare requirements. It does little good for Obama to tell someone, “Don’t worry, we won’t hit you with the fine/penalty/tax as long as you enroll in ObamaCare by March 31,” if he loses his coverage on January 1 and has a heart attack on February 10.) [50124]

RollCall.com reports that Senator Joe Manchin (D-WV) is drafting legislation to delay ObamaCare’s individual mandate, and states that he could not “imagine” Obama vetoing such legislation. On *The O’Reilly Factor*, Manchin tells host Bill O’Reilly, “I think basically there’s enough movement that this could really be a bipartisan movement to fix it. ...The easiest vote I can make up here, Bill, is a no vote. I can vote no against everything and be fine. It’d be the happy retirement home, but I came here to fix things. This bill [ObamaCare] has a lot of good things that’s helped a lot of people in West Virginia. [But] It has a lot of challenges. Affordable health care was never meant to be—if you’ve got insurance, now you’re going to have to buy insurance that’s more costly and not as good. That has to be fixed.” [50125, 50126, 50224, 50299]

It is worth noting that postponing the individual mandate while delaying nothing else in ObamaCare only makes the scheme more expensive. Americans who are sick, have pre-existing conditions, or who are eligible for substantial subsidies will continue to enroll in the system, while postponing the individual mandate will result in even fewer young, healthy people buying insurance through the exchanges. The costs will therefore escalate and the federal deficit will balloon. At Bloomberg.com Megan McArdle writes, “Delaying the individual mandate... solves a problem for individuals but destabilizes the insurance market as a whole. If it’s a tedious pain to buy insurance, the only thing standing between us and a death spiral is the fairly hefty penalty that folks who don’t buy it may have to pay. Delaying the individual mandate makes the problems created by the malfunctioning exchanges worse—which, I reiterate, will ultimately mean more uninsured people, not fewer. This is a terrible idea, which is being seized upon by the administration and Republicans not because it makes any sense, but because it is politically expedient. It is the responsibility of policy analysts and informed voters to stop

them before they irreparably damage the market for individual insurance.” [50126, 50127]

The *Daily Mail* reports, “Upset at ...Obama’s policies on Iran and Syria, members of Saudi Arabia’s ruling family are threatening a rift with the United States that could take the alliance between Washington and the kingdom to its lowest point in years. Saudi Arabia’s intelligence chief is vowing that the kingdom will make a ‘major shift’ in relations with the United States to protest perceived American inaction over Syria’s civil war as well as recent U.S. overtures to Iran, a source close to Saudi policy said on Tuesday. Prince Bandar bin Sultan told European diplomats that the United States had failed to act effectively against Syrian President Bashar al-Assad and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, was growing closer to Tehran, and had failed to back Saudi support for Bahrain when it crushed an anti-government revolt in 2011, the source said. ‘The shift away from the U.S. is a major one,’ the source close to Saudi policy said. ‘Saudi [Arabia] doesn’t want to find itself any longer in a situation where it is dependent.’” One Saudi official says King Abdullah “is convinced the United States is unreliable.” (The Saudis were, for example, shocked at Obama’s abandonment of Egypt’s Hosni Mubarak. AtlasShrugs.com’s Pamela Geller writes, “Obama is stunning in his betrayal of good, reliable allies who had unflinchingly stood by us. Exactly as I warned in my book *The Post American Presidency: The Obama Administration’s War on America*, another longtime ally is reeling from being stabbed in the back. But the Saudis, unlike, say, the Israelis, aren’t take it lying down.”) [50138, 50194, 50198, 50204]

FreeBeacon.com reports, “The National Security Agency recorded information about more than 124 billion phone calls during a 30-day period earlier this year, including around 3 billion calls from U.S. sources, according to a tally from top-secret documents released by multiple news outlets.” [50191]

DailyCaller.com reports, “One of Utah’s oldest power plants is slated to close next year due to costly Environmental Protection Agency regulations limiting mercury emissions from coal plants. The Carbon Power Plant’s location inside a narrow canyon doesn’t give plant operators enough room to install the necessary pollution control technology required by the EPA. Therefore the plant will have to be closed and 74 workers will lose their jobs. ...Another Utah coal plant operated by the Intermountain Power Agency will soon be shuttered as well as its customers in southern California are requiring energy to come from natural gas or renewable energy.” [50141]

The Tennessean reports that Senators Roy Blunt (R-MO), Lamar Alexander (R-TN), and Bob Corker (R-TN) have written the State Department and asked it to respond recent attacks on Coptic Christians in Egypt. (AtlasShrugs.com’s Pamela Geller observes, “It’s about time. *What took so long?* Republican Senators are finally standing up against the jihad against non-Muslims in Egypt and across the world. Note the notoriously pro-jihadist *Tennessean* neglected to mention that it is only *Republican* Senators.”) [50195, 50196]

At FoxNews.com Todd Starnes reports, “Soldiers attending a pre-deployment briefing at Fort Hood say they were told that evangelical Christians and members of the Tea Party were a threat to the nation and that any soldier donating to those groups would be subjected to punishment under the Uniform Code of Military Justice. A soldier who attended the Oct. 17th briefing told me the counter-intelligence agent in charge of the meeting spent nearly a half hour discussing how evangelical Christians and groups like the American Family Association were ‘tearing the country apart.’ Michael Berry, an attorney with the Liberty Institute, is advising the soldier and has launched an investigation into the incident. ‘The American public should be outraged that the U.S. Army is teaching our troops that evangelical Christians and Tea Party members are enemies of America, and that they can be punished for supporting or participating in those groups,’ said Berry, a former Marine Corps JAG officer. ‘These statements about evangelicals being domestic enemies are a serious charge.’ The soldier told me he fears reprisals and asked not to be identified. He said there was a blanket statement that donating to any groups that were considered a threat to the military and government was punishable under military regulations. ...And while a large portion of the briefing dealt with the threat evangelicals and the Tea Party pose to the nation, barely a word was said about Islamic extremism, the soldier said. ...Tony Perkins, president of the Family Research Council, tells me the Pentagon is pushing anti-Christian propaganda. ...Meanwhile, the public affairs office at Fort Hood is denying the soldiers’ allegations.” [50197, 50312]

The *New York Post* reports, “A change to the Marine Corps’ uniform hats could take the hard-nosed Leathernecks from the Halls of Montezuma to the shops of Christopher Street. Thanks to a plan by ...Obama to create a ‘unisex’ look for the Corps, officials are on the verge of swapping out the Marines’ iconic caps—known as ‘covers’—with a new version that some have derided as so ‘girly’ that they would make the French blush. ‘We don’t even have enough funding to buy bullets, and the DoD [Department of Defense] is pushing to spend \$8 million on covers that look like women’s hats!’ one senior Marine source fumed to The Post. ‘The Marines deserve better. It makes them look ridiculous.’ The thin new covers have a feminine line that some officials think would make them look just as good on female marines as on males—in keeping with the Obama directive.” (The proposed hats may remind some of observers of those once worn by the French Foreign Legion.) [50239]

CBSNews.com reports, “CBS News has uncovered a serious pricing problem with Healthcare.gov. ...A new online feature can dramatically underestimate the cost of insurance. The administration announced it would provide a new ‘shop and browse’ feature Sunday, but it’s not giving consumers the real picture. In some cases, people could end up paying double of what they see on the website... Industry analysts point to how the website lumps people only into two broad categories: ‘49 or under’ and ‘50 or older.’ Jonathan Wu is co-founder of Valuepenguin.com, a consumer finance website focusing on the impact of health care reform. His company has built a tool that provides quotes for plans on the federal exchange. He said it’s ‘incredibly misleading for people that [sic; who] are trying to get a sense of what they’re paying.’ Prices for everyone in the 49-or-under group are based on what a 27-year-old would pay. In the 50-or-older group,

prices are based on what a 50-year-old would pay. CBS News ran the numbers for a 48-year-old in Charlotte, N.C., ineligible for subsidies. According to HealthCare.gov, she would pay \$231 a month, but the actual plan on Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina's website costs \$360, more than 50 percent higher. The difference: Blue Cross and Blue Shield requests your birthday before providing more accurate estimates. The numbers for older Americans are even more striking. A 62-year-old in Charlotte looking for the same basic plan would get a price estimate on the government website of \$394. The actual price is \$634. A U.S. Department of Health and Human Services spokeswoman said the government added the 'shop and browse' feature to provide 'estimates of premiums without tax credits.' [The feature was more likely added because of widespread criticism that the web site hid the premiums until after the user had entered his personal information.] ...Industry executives CBS News spoke with could not believe the government is providing these estimates, which they said were useless and could easily mislead consumers. They also said that the website repeatedly states the actual prices could be lower, but it makes no mention that they could be higher." [50143, 50144, 50166, 50174]

House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) tells reporters, "We should be able to go forward. ...I have faith in technology and while there are glitches [with Healthcare.gov], this, uh, there are solutions as well so I'm optimistic that we'll be able to go forward on schedule. ...Well, I think somebody should fix it, and I'm a big, uh, you know, again, I'm a big believer, coming from where I do, uh, in California I have great confidence in technology and it's ability to, uh, uh, bring fresh eyes to the subject and, uh, uh, fix it, uh, so that we can go forward. Just fix it. Just fix it. ...Just fix it, so we can go forward. Fix the technology, and let's not get too bogged down in what happens if they're not able to fix it." At HotAir.com Erika Johnsen remarks, "*It's so simple.* How is it that nobody has thought of this before? The White House has been beating its brains out pressing every helper possible into service, and all along, the solution was staring them in the face: 'Just fix it.'" (Some may imagine Pelosi in a disaster film in which she says, "Just fix it. Fix the missile technology, and let's not get too bogged down in what happens if they're not able to stop the meteor from striking the earth.") [50222, 50223]

The American Center for Law and Justice (ACLJ) sets up an "I can't enroll" web site (icantenroll.com) to "send a very strong message to the Obama administration that Americans are saying enough is enough when it comes to ObamaCare." [50159]

Heritage.org posts an ObamaCare sticker shock story from Alabama, where Ben Neptun and his wife Charla learned their Blue Cross Blue Shield health insurance premium will increase from \$419 per month to \$899 per month because of the health care legislation. [50203]

WashingtonExaminer.com reports, "More than 700 websites have been created with names playing off of Obamacare or Healthcare.gov, making it likely that some Americans will mistakenly hand over private information to unknown third-parties. For instance, there is a website—www.obama-care.us—that brands itself as part of the 'Obamacare enrollment team,' directs people to an 'Obamacare enrollment form' and

asks users for their name, address, Social Security number and other contact information. According to a counter at the bottom of the page, more than 3,000 people have visited obama-care.us. This website does not actually enable people to enroll in Obamacare. ...The practice of setting up websites with names that are similar to high-profile pages is known as cyber-squatting. It can be used by private businesses looking to siphon traffic away from their competitors, by marketers selling ads to private companies—by visiting a website, you’re revealing your interest in a given product—or by identity thieves.” [50173]

At Townhall.com Conn Carroll warns that the taxpayers will be on the hook if health insurance companies lose money by providing coverage to customers at Healthcare.gov: “...Obama’s failed health insurance website may force health insurers to cover a much smaller and much sicker population than they originally planned, but don’t cry for the insurance companies yet. A key loophole in Obamacare will leave taxpayers footing the bill for Obamacare’s failure, while the health insurance companies are guaranteed to come away unscathed. ...[I]f the actual cost of providing health care for the people who sign up for Obamacare is more expensive than the insurance companies thought it would be, then HHS [the Department of Health and Human Services] will pay insurers the difference. They can’t lose! ...The health insurance industry didn’t spend \$100 million lobbying for Obamacare so they would lose money on the program. Taxpayers are going to be left holding the bag.” [50180]

At WSJ.com Daniel Henninger writes that “Obama’s credibility is melting” over a variety of issues, including his foreign policy failures and the fiasco of ObamaCare: “Last weekend the diplomatic world was agog at the refusal of Saudi Arabia’s King Abdullah to accept a seat on the U.N. Security Council. Global disbelief gave way fast to clear understanding: The Saudis have decided that the United States is no longer a reliable partner in Middle Eastern affairs. The Saudi king, who supported Syria’s anti-Assad rebels early, before Islamic jihadists polluted the coalition, watched ...Obama’s red line over Assad’s use of chemical weapons disappear into an about-face deal with Vladimir Putin. The next time King Abdullah looked up, ...Obama was hanging the Saudis out to dry yet again by phoning up Iran’s President Hasan Rouhani, Assad’s primary banker and armorer, to chase a deal on nuclear weapons. Within days, Saudi Arabia’s intelligence chief, Prince Bandar, let it be known that the Saudis intend to distance themselves from the U.S. ...Bluntly, ...Obama’s partners are concluding that they cannot do business with him. They don’t trust him. Whether it’s the Saudis, the Syrian rebels, the French, the Iraqis, the unpivoted Asians or the congressional Republicans, they’ve all had their fill of coming up on the short end... And when that happens, the world’s important business doesn’t get done. It sits in a dangerous and volatile vacuum.” [50204]

“...Then there is ...Obama’s bond with the American people, which is diminishing with the failed rollout of the Affordable Care Act. ...Now the believers are wondering why the administration suppressed knowledge of the huge program’s problems when hundreds of tech workers for the project had to know this mess would happen Oct. 1. Rather than level with the public, the government’s most senior health-care official, Kathleen Sebelius, spent days spewing ludicrous and incredible happy talk about the failure, while

refusing to provide basic information about its cause. Voters don't normally accord politicians unworldly levels of belief, but it has been Barack Obama's gift to transform mere support into victorious credulousness. Now that is crumbling, at great cost. If here and abroad, politicians, the public and the press conclude that ...Obama can't play it straight, his second-term accomplishments will lie only in doing business with the world's most cynical, untrustworthy partners. The American people are the ones who will end up on the short end of those deals." [50204]

WeeklyStandard.com's Daniel Halper reports, "New research from the Republicans on the Senate Budget Committee shows that over the last 5 years, the U.S. has spent about \$3.7 trillion on welfare." The reports states, "We have just concluded the 5th fiscal year since ...Obama took office. During those five years, the federal government has spent a total \$3.7 trillion on approximately 80 different means-tested poverty and welfare programs. The common feature of means-tested assistance programs is that they are graduated based on a person's income and, in contrast to programs like Social Security or Medicare, they are a free benefit and not paid into by the recipient. The enormous sum spent on means-tested assistance is nearly five times greater than the combined amount spent on NASA, education, and all federal transportation projects over that time. (\$3.7 trillion is not even the entire amount spent on federal poverty support, as states contribute more than \$200 billion each year to this federal nexus—primarily in the form of free low-income health care.) Because the welfare budget is so fragmented—food stamps are only one of 15 federal programs that provide food assistance—it makes effective oversight nearly impossible, at the same time disguising the scope of the budget from both taxpayers and lawmakers alike. For instance, it is easier for anti-reform lawmakers to oppose food stamp savings by obscuring the fact that a household receiving food stamps is often simultaneously eligible for a myriad of federal aid programs including free cash assistance, subsidized housing, free medical care, free child care, and home energy assistance." [50242]

CNN's Dana Bash sends a Twitter message: ""new: senior dem source tells me to expect every sen dem running in 2014 to back [Senator Jeanne Shaheen's] proposal to delay [the ObamaCare] enrollment deadline." [50189]

Several news agencies report that the Obama administration plans to delay ObamaCare's "individual mandate" by six weeks. (Depending on how the affordable Care Act is worded, Obama may not have the legal authority to implement a delay—but that probably would not stop him from doing so anyway.) [50208]

CNSNews.com reports that it has "filed a Freedom of Information Act [FOIA] request with the Department of Health and Human Services... asking that the office of HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius swiftly hand over 'all records' that have been generated by, or sent to, her office discussing the number of people who have completed the enrollment process in Obamacare by using the government's healthcare.gov website." Washington, D.C. attorney Paul Kamenar's FOIA request states, "There can be no doubt that the failure of HHS's website to enroll applicants has been perceived by the public to be a major failure and has been widely condemned by the public, the media, and even by

members of the Administration. In order to properly assess the validity of these criticisms, it is urgent that the information requested be promptly released to the public and Congress to assess the need for remedial measures.” [50232]

DailyCaller.com reports, “Obama administration Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius’ failure at designing websites to provide government services began during her term as governor of Kansas, long before the Obamacare website debacle, Kansas political insiders told The Daily Caller. Sebelius oversaw numerous costly and disastrous government website projects during her six-year governorship (2003-2009), including a failed update of the Department of Labor’s program to provide unemployment pay and other services and similar updates pertaining to the Department of Administration and the state’s Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) services. The Department of Labor’s overhaul of its computer programs was a notable boondoggle, according to 14-year former Kansas state senator and former state Labor Secretary Karin Brownlee. ...When Brownlee was appointed to head the state’s Department of Labor under new Republican governor Sam Brownback in 2011, she was tasked with cleaning up Sebelius’ technical mess. ‘When I walked in the door at Labor [the computer update] was half-done. There were about 240 errors in work-around. It was not functional,’ Brownlee said. ‘The agency was spending more than \$1 million per month on contractors and other things. So as soon as we found out how much was going out per month we had to shut that down. That wasn’t workable,’ Brownlee said. ‘In the private sector, that would never be acceptable.’ ...Sebelius’ other government website projects, funded with state taxpayer money, also created considerable headaches. ... ‘We heard several excuses for IT failures under Sebelius. Especially towards the end of her administration. The legislature was often frustrated with the Labor Department, Department of Administration, and also Pharmacy claims. It was hard to get clear answers back then too,’ Kansas state Rep. Scott Schwab told The Daily Caller. ‘We pretty much expected HealthCare.gov to fail, because she has a pattern of failing on these big initiatives. We thought that was why she was not nominated originally,’ Schwab said.” (Sebelius was Obama’s second choice to head the Department of Health and Human Services. Former Senator Tom Daschle withdrew his name from consideration after controversy over his failure to pay full income taxes. Sebelius herself had to pay \$7,040 in back taxes—and \$878 in interest for what she called “unintentional errors.”) [633, 634, 635, 637, 638, 684, 1437, 1746, 2020, 2083, 2094, 2096, 2319, 2508, 50207, 50250]

HotAir.com writes, “Although the [Healthcare.gov] site is still online, HHS is basically frozen in repairing it until they figure out how to get the back-end part running smoothly first. Unless and until the site’s database starts transmitting accurate information about enrollees to the insurance companies, they don’t dare fix the front-end part to make it easier for people to enroll. If they do, enrollees will start flooding in and insurers will end up buried under an avalanche of garbled registration paperwork. Result: Total chaos next year when coverage takes effect and people start filing claims. As things stand right now, the disaster on the front-end is actually preventing the disaster on the back-end from being even more disastrous. That’s the degree of incompetence we’re dealing with here.” (In other words, the data being passed to the insurance companies from Healthcare.gov contains errors—even though the standard (834) transaction has been in use for many

years.) “No one knows why HHS couldn’t replicate a standard form of data transmission and no one’s aware of anyone in the industry huddling with the White House to fix this. Solid. The White House’s fallback options don’t work either. The 1-800 number Obama gave out the other day is next to useless ... (how do you comparison shop among dozens of plans over the phone?)... Private insurance companies could, in theory, fill the gap if they had a way of telling enrollees what their subsidies will be before they purchase a plan, but the subsidies calculator on Healthcare.gov ... doesn’t work either. If HHS can get that up and running, at least, maybe users could be redirected to private sites like eHealthInsurance.com. But then that simply raises the question of why HHS didn’t focus on fixing that part of the site in the home stretch before launch day.” (The 1-800 number is useless because the operator taking the information has to enter it in the same Healthcare.gov web site that isn’t working for the person who called. All the operator can do is write down the information—which can lead to security problems and identity theft issues—and enter it on the system after it starts working. The 1-800 number was essentially set up only to help people who were not computer literate or who do not have Internet access. The operator needs a working web site even if the caller does not.) [50225, 50226, 50344]

On *Special Report*, George Will says the ObamaCare dam “is breaking” with Senate Democrats calling for a delay in the individual mandate “and they’re echoing what [Obama] said with his body language and his action when he said the employer mandate’s going to be [slightly] delayed. From then on, we’re all operating on the same premise, which is that the Affordable Care Act cannot be implemented as written. So now we’re just arguing about the details. There’s no great principle involved here. And so far as I can tell, what the administration is trying to do is sell something online and it can’t do it. Get [Amazon.com founder and CEO] Jeff Bezos. He’s bought the *Washington Post*, let him buy the Department of Health and Human Services. He knows how to do this. The difference is that people go to Amazon.com, a, voluntarily and, b, because they know what they want to buy. People go to healthcare.gov because they’re under government coercion and they’re confronted with something that poll after poll indicates they don’t want to buy. So the Bezos model, I’m afraid, won’t work. ... When they fix the website, their real problems will begin. They’re gonna look back on the last few weeks as the good old days. Because when people hack their way through the thicket of difficulties and get to the real choices that ObamaCare offers, particularly the 2.7 million young people they’re counting on to sign up, and the young people say, ‘This is awfully expensive for something I don’t want,’ and recoil. That is, the difficulties today are actually keeping people from seeing the bad choice they’re going to have to make once they get onto the site.” [50231]

WashingtonPost.com reports, “The Obama administration said Wednesday night that it will give Americans who buy health insurance through the new online marketplaces an extra six weeks to obtain coverage before they incur a penalty. The announcement means that those who buy coverage through the exchange will have until March 31 to sign up for a plan, according to an official with the Department of Health and Human Services. Administration officials said that the rejiggered deadline is unrelated to the many technical problems that have emerged with the Web site, HealthCare.gov, in its first three

weeks. Instead, they said, it is designed to clear up a timing confusion about the 2010 law, which for the first time requires most Americans to buy health coverage or face a penalty. Under the law, health plans available through the new federal or state marketplaces will start Jan. 1, but the open enrollment period runs through the end of March. The law also says that people will be fined only if they do not have coverage for three months in a row. The question has been this: Do people need to be covered by March 31, or merely to have signed up by then, given that insurance policies have a brief lag before they take effect? The administration made clear Wednesday night that people who buy coverage at any point during the open enrollment period will not pay a penalty.” (CNSNews.com adds, “The Obama administration is granting itself a three-month exemption from the Obamacare mandate that requires individuals to buy health insurance—even though the exemption, as written into the law itself, was plainly intended to provide forbearance to individual citizens who failed to meet the mandate, not to an incompetent administration that has failed to effectively implement the law.”) [50233, 50234, 50237]

FreePatriot.org posts a list of 197 officers who have been “removed from Obama’s military during the purge” since he took office in 2009. (One would assume that many of the officers on the list deserved to be drummed out of the military, such as sexual misconduct or dereliction of duty. But some Obama critics believe an inordinate number have been removed because their actions have been the result of loyalty to the U.S. Constitution, rather than loyalty to Obama.) [50280]

At NationalReview.com Grace-Marie Turner lists the “Top Ten Obamacare Disasters to Come.” “1. Deductible shock. [consumers will be stunned by the high deductibles in the ObamaCare plan.] 2. Will people pay? [Will Americans even be willing to pay the high premiums if the high deductibles mean the doctor will have to be paid out of their own pockets?] 3. Attracting the sickest. [The sickest and poorest Americans will enroll in ObamaCare, while the young and healthy will not.] 4. Less expensive plans vanish. [ObamaCare prohibits less expensive, bare-bones policies.] 5. Families lose out. [The ObamaCare subsidies exacerbate the “marriage penalty.”] 6. Repaying subsidies. [If a family receives a subsidy to which they are not entitled because their income increases, it must be paid back.] 7. Public health-care costs are going to explode. [Medicaid will gain new enrollees.] 8. More jobs lost. [Employers will continue to reduce employee hours and reduce staff levels in an effort to avoid ObamaCare costs.] 9. Identity theft and fraud will explode. [The web site has weak security and the ObamaCare navigators are neither licensed nor given background checks.] 10. Federal exchange subsidies *eliminated*? [Lawsuits have been filed that challenge the administration’s application of subsidies in a manner that contradicts the law.]” [50245]

CNN’s Carol Costello says, based on her experience reporting on the presidential race, “Obama’s people can be quite nasty. They don’t like you to say anything bad about their boss, and they’re not afraid to use whatever means they have at hand to stop you from doing that, including threatening your job.” (Pamela Geller observes at AtlasShrugs.com, “This explains at least some of the enemedia’s unshakeable loyalty to Obama, no matter how disastrously he fails.”) [50296, 50320, 50426]

Former Secretary of States Hillary Clinton speaks at the University of Buffalo and is heckled by someone who yells out, “Benghazi, you let them die!” [50220]

On October 24 former Vermont Governor and Democrat presidential candidate Howard Dean appears on *Morning Joe*, where he blames Republicans “first of all” for the ObamaCare failures because they tried to stop and delay the legislation. (HotAir.com’s Ed Morrissey writes, “*First* we have to blame the party that (a) didn’t cast a single vote in favor of the ACA and (b) had no control over its 42-month rollout? At which stage in the process do we hold responsible the people who spent \$400 million in three and a half years, and who assured everyone all along the way that things were going swimmingly?”) [50212]

On *CBS This Morning*, former Obama chief of staff Bill Daley says Secretary of Health and Human Services Kathleen Sebelius “is being held accountable. She is the secretary, it’s under her watch. Some people are calling for her to be fired. To me, that’s kind of like firing Captain Smith on the Titanic after it hit the iceberg. It’s not going to do much right now. I think they’ve got to get it fixed, they’ve got to get it straightened out. And then there’s the question, obviously, whether there needs to be new leadership at that department. Not only with the secretary, but other things going forward.” (In *The Wall Street Journal*, Peggy Noonan has noted, “It’s unfair to compare the rollout of ObamaCare to the voyage of the Titanic. The Titanic had at least three good days, and the captain chose to go down with the ship.”) [50218, 50294]

On MSNBC, Senator Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) says, “We have to consider delaying the [ObamaCare individual] mandate, that is, the penalty. The administration made some—” The interviewer interrupts, asking, “For how long, do you think?” Blumenthal replies, “Well, that will depend on, again, the leveling with the American people as to how soon these glitches are going to be solved. If it’s a matter of days, then the delay would be different than if it’s a matter of months. But the important point here is that we need more certainty.” [50292, 50293]

Breitbart.com’s John Nolte writes, “Less than two-hours ago, I submitted a revised W-4 form to our payroll department. My goal is to avoid being in a position where at the end of next year I am owed a refund from the federal government. As an act of civil disobedience, I am refusing to purchase health insurance. This means that I am subject to a tax/fine of 1% of my income (2% the following year, 2.5% thereafter). But the beautiful thing is that unless I am owed a tax refund, the government will never get any of that money. My decision to not purchase health insurance is a decision a lot of people—possibly millions—are going to make, either out of protest, or once the ObamaCare site is up and running and they finally get a look at the increased cost of their monthly premiums under the Orwellian-named Affordable Care Act. ...For those of you who—for whatever reason—will not be buying health insurance next year, remember that you legally do not have to pay that fine if you legally make sure that at the end of the year you are not owed a refund from the federal government. Fight the Power.” (*The Obama Timeline* has also submitted an updated tax withholding form to insure there is no tax

refund from which the IRS can deduct the ObamaCare penalty. *The Obama Timeline* has no intention of buying overpriced health insurance at Healthcare.gov and will pay cash for doctor visits—which the doctors will most certainly not turn down. ObamaCare will collapse under its own weight, but lovers of liberty can speed up the process by refusing to be part of the scheme.) [50643, 50668]

TheLocal.de reports that German Chancellor Angela Merkel “has spoken to ...Obama to complain about allegations her mobile phone was targeted by the US National Security Agency. News site Spiegel reported on Wednesday evening that Merkel’s mobile may have been spied on by the US and the German Chancellor is taking the allegations seriously. She demanded an explanation in a hastily arranged telephone conversation with Obama. Her spokesman Steffen Seibert said in a statement Merkel made it clear that she found such practices ‘completely unacceptable.’ ‘The chancellor telephoned ...Obama’ and ‘made clear that she unequivocally disapproves of such practices, should they be confirmed, and regards them as completely unacceptable,’ he said. Merkel had demanded ‘an immediate and comprehensive explanation’ from Washington, Seibert added.” White House press secretary Jay Carney states, “The United States is not monitoring and will not monitor the communications of the chancellor.” (He does not say that the United States had not monitored her communications in the past.) French President Francois Hollande also demands answers from the White House about U.S. spying. (Merkel, of course, no doubt understands that the United States has spied on her and other foreign leaders for decades—but it is rarely admitted publicly. The NSA leaks by whistleblower Edward Snowden merely made public what most reasonable people already knew, forcing Merkel to express outrage because the German voters expect her to do so. The United States, Great Britain, Australia Canada, and New Zealand—sharing a common language and some cultural elements—have been cooperating with each other’s spy operations under operation “Five Eyes.”) [50171, 50184, 50186, 50604]

Several Healthcare.gov system contractors appear before the House Energy and Commerce Committee to testify about the problems with the October 1 ObamaCare rollout. Congressman Henry Waxman (D-CA) claims, “The Affordable Care Act is an enormous success with one important exception: It has a poorly designed website.” CGI’s Senior Vice President Cheryl Campbell notes that the general contractor on the project was the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), which “serves the important role of systems integrator or ‘quarterback’ on this project and is the ultimate responsible party for the end-to-end performance.” Campbell indirectly blames Quality Software Services, Inc. for the Healthcare.gov web site’s password problems, but that company’s executive, Andrew Slavitt, states it performed proper testing and gave information about problems to HHS. During questioning, Slavitt admits that although he was able to set up an account at Healthcare.gov, “I just never received a confirmation e-mail. ...It didn’t work.” The contractors tell the committee that administration officials did not fully conduct “end-to-end” testing of the web site until a mere two weeks before October 1. (*The New York Times* notes, “The same contractors, testifying before the same committee on Sept. 10, assured lawmakers that they were ready to handle a surge of users when the federal exchange opened on Oct. 1.”) [50213, 50214, 50221, 50252, 50273, 50288, 50292, 50306]

Congresswoman Anna Eschoo (D-CA), who represents the “Silicon Valley” area, tells CGI’s Campbell, “I find this very hard to follow. This is the 21st century. It’s 2013. There are thousands of web sites that handle concurrent volumes far larger than what Healthcare.gov is faced with. You keep speaking about unexpected volumes, Ms. Campbell. ... That really sticks in my craw, I have to tell you that, because, as I said, there are thousands of web sites that carry far more traffic, so I think that’s really kind of a lame excuse. Amazon and eBay don’t crash the week before Christmas and ProFlowers doesn’t crash on Valentine’s Day.” (ProFlowers was founded by millionaire Congressman Jared Polis (D-CO), who sold the company for about \$500 million. Polis, an openly homosexual Obama supporter, wants Summit County, Colorado—the home of ritzy ski resort areas like Breckenridge, Vail, and Aspen, as well as many uninsured Hispanics—exempted from ObamaCare in its entirety because his constituents are complaining about the premium increases caused by the legislation.) [50236, 50288, 50317, 50543, 50544]

Congressman Joe Barton (R-TX) asks CGI’s Campbell, “Did y’all do any kind of a pilot program on this before it was rolled out?” She responds, “No, there was no pilot program.” [50292]

NationalJournal.com reports on the hearing: “The HealthCare.gov Congressional circus has begun. On Thursday morning, executives from two of the contractors that were responsible for building HealthCare.gov testified in front of the House Energy and Commerce Committee. But don’t count on contrition: thus far, neither executive has leapt to take blame for the site’s failures. Instead, blame is being shifted to other contractors or, most commonly, to one party that’s not represented on the panel: the Obama administration. A witness for CGI Federal, the company most commonly associated with the troubled website, said the administration is ultimately responsible for the website’s quality, and it blamed the initial bottleneck [on] a part of the site it didn’t create: the ‘doorway,’ where users set up accounts they’ll use later to shop for insurance. But a spokesman for Optum, the company responsible for developing that doorway, said that bottleneck was created by the administration’s ‘late’ policy decision to require all users to set up accounts before browsing.” [50252]

The Obama Timeline attempts again to obtain insurance information from Healthcare.gov, encountering this message: “Important: Your account couldn’t be created at this time. The combination of the first name, last name, and email address arent [sic] unique.” (The information entered, of course, are most certainly unique.)

At Townhall.com Heather Ginsberg writes, “Before the most recent [debt limit] deal, the U.S. debt was fixed at \$16.69 trillion. But now that the Treasury has a suspended debt limit through February 7, 2014, the department can basically spend as much money as they want. How much debt could the government rack up though? Well apparently, if we keep on spending at the same rate we have in the last week, the new number for U.S. public debt would be \$22.70 trillion. We just managed to reach over \$17 trillion this week. That means spending over \$5 trillion in the next 4 months!” [50177]

The Guardian reports, “The National Security Agency monitored the phone conversations of 35 world leaders after being given the numbers by an official in another US government department, according to a classified document provided by whistleblower Edward Snowden. The confidential memo reveals that the NSA encourages senior officials in its ‘customer’ departments, such as the White House, State and the Pentagon, to share their ‘Rolodexes’ so the agency can add the phone numbers of leading foreign politicians to their surveillance systems. The document notes that one unnamed US official handed over 200 numbers, including those of the 35 world leaders, none of whom is named. These were immediately ‘tasked’ for monitoring by the NSA.” [50178, 50179]

FoxNews.com reports, “The contractors behind the troubled ObamaCare website are planning to spread the blame around during highly anticipated testimony Thursday morning on Capitol Hill. While Health Secretary Kathleen Sebelius is skipping the hearing in order to visit an ObamaCare call center in Phoenix, representatives from four contracting companies are expected to testify before the House Energy and Commerce Committee. They are acknowledging problems with the site, but according to prepared testimony also pointing a finger back at the Obama administration. A top executive with CGI Federal, one of the contractors paid millions to create the ObamaCare website, said the Department of Health and Human Services ‘serves the important role of systems integrator or ‘quarterback’ on this project and is the ultimate responsible party for the end-to-end performance.’ Senior Vice President Cheryl Campbell also said in her prepared remarks that ‘no amount of testing’ could have prevented the site’s problem-plagued start. The House Energy and Commerce Committee hearing is the first since the site’s disastrous Oct. 1 launch—marked by crashes, slow response times and its inability to let customers make purchases. Contractors will likely face tough questioning from lawmakers on both sides of the aisle, though the witnesses appear to be implicating government officials overseeing the project. Prepared testimony from contractor Optum/QSSI blamed in part a ‘late decision’ to require customers to register before browsing for insurance, which could have helped overwhelm the registration system. ‘This may have driven higher simultaneous usage of the registration system that wouldn’t have occurred if consumers could window-shop anonymously,’ said Andy Slavitt, representing QSSI’s parent company.” [50192]

At Morning Jolt, NationalReview.com’s Jim Geraghty asks, “Is it possible that most Congressional Democrats don’t know about the death spiral? Or that they don’t really understand the death spiral? Or that they somehow don’t believe in it? Are they convinced you can add a lot of sick, elderly people requiring expensive care to existing insurance plans, and the insurance companies won’t suddenly need a lot more money? The insurance companies will raise premiums on their healthy customers, who will in some cases drop coverage, which will exacerbate the financial pressure ...and the cycle continues until way too few healthy people are paying for the care of way too many sick people, and the insurance company goes under. Is it that most Democrats just think health-insurance companies have access to Uncle Scrooge McDuck’s Money Bin and can always find more money from somewhere when they need it? Think about it.

Republicans in Congress were willing to go through with a shutdown in an effort to force a delay in the individual mandate specifically because it would greatly increase the odds of the whole thing collapsing within a year. And now, three weeks after Democrats fought through the shutdown and declared, ‘over my dead body!’ ...it’s looking extremely likely. ...Most Congressional Democrats see the world in fairly simple terms: Take money from taxpayers and give it to people they like. Maybe they genuinely can’t grasp anything more complicated than that. The sudden enthusiasm for delaying the individual mandate is a mind-boggling turn of events, considering the administration’s line last month that delaying the individual mandate was the policy equivalent of the Ghostbusters crossing the streams.”

DailyCaller.com reports, “Hundreds of thousands of Americans who purchase their own health insurance have received cancellation notices since August because the plans do not meet Obamacare’s requirements. The number of cancellation notices greatly exceed the number of Obamacare enrollees. Insurance carrier Florida Blue sent out 300,000 cancellation notices, or 80 percent of the entire state’s individual coverage policies, Kaiser Health News reports. California’s Kaiser Permanente canceled 160,000 plans—half of its insurance plans in the state—while Blue Shield of California sent 119,000 notices in mid-September alone. ...Nearly 800,000 New Jersey residents’ health-care plans will not longer exist in 2014, forcing insurers to create new ones for individuals and small business owners that hew to Obamacare’s new regulations, The New Jersey Star Ledger found in early October. ...More Americans have lost their individual health coverage in Florida and California than have gotten past the login screen on HealthCare.gov, according to The Washington Post, which reports that 476,000 applications have ‘been started,’ but not completed. ...Several states have released Obamacare enrollment data, ...revealing extremely low rates. South Dakota reported that only 23 people enrolled in the exchanges, a mere 0.0000276 percent of that state’s population. North Dakota enrolled only 20 residents. Alaska, meanwhile, comes in at seven total enrollees, or 0.000957 percent of Alaskans.” [50209]

From the White House East Room, Obama delivers another speech on “comprehensive immigration reform.” (The address is clearly both an attempt to take attention away from the Healthcare.gov disaster and an effort to pressure Republicans on an issue where Obama believes they are vulnerable.) Obama says, “Now, obviously, just because something is smart and fair, and good for the economy and fiscally responsible and supported by business and labor—and the evangelical community and many Democrats and many Republicans, that does not mean that it will actually get done. This is Washington, after all. So everything tends to be viewed through a political prism and everybody has been looking at the politics of this. And I know that there are some folks in this town who are primed to think, ‘Well, if Obama is for it, then I’m against it.’ But I’d remind everybody that my Republican predecessor was also for it when he proposed reforms like this almost a decade ago, and I joined with 23 Senate Republicans back then to support that reform. I’d remind you that this reform won more than a dozen Republican votes in the Senate in June. I’m not running for office again. I just believe this is the right thing to do. I just believe this is the right thing to do. And I also believe that good policy is good politics in this instance. And if folks are really that consumed

with the politics of fixing our broken immigration system, they should take a closer look at the polls because the American people support this. It's not something they reject—they support it. Everybody wins here if we work together to get this done. In fact, if there's a good reason not to pass this common-sense reform, I haven't heard it. So anyone still standing in the way of this bipartisan reform should at least have to explain why. A clear majority of the American people think it's the right thing to do.” [50210, 50219]

“Now, how do we move forward? Democratic leaders have introduced a bill in the House that is similar to the bipartisan Senate bill. So now it's up to Republicans in the House to decide whether reform becomes a reality or not. I do know—and this is good news—that many of them agree that we need to fix our broken immigration system across these areas that we've just discussed. And what I've said to them, and I'll repeat today, is if House Republicans have new and different, additional ideas for how we should move forward, then we want to hear them. I'll be listening. I know that Democrats and Republicans in the Senate, those who voted for immigration reform already, are eager to hear those additional ideas. But what we can't do is just sweep the problem under the rug one more time, leave it for somebody else to solve sometime in the future. Rather than create problems, let's prove to the American people that Washington can actually solve some problems. This reform comes as close to anything we've got to a law that will benefit everybody now and far into the future. So let's see if we can get this done. And let's see if we can get it done this year. We've got the time to do it. Republicans in the House, including the Speaker, have said we should act. So let's not wait. It doesn't get easier to just put it off. Let's do it now. Let's not delay. Let's get this done, and let's do it in a bipartisan fashion. To those of you who are here today, I want to just say one last thing and that is—thank you. I want to thank you for your persistence. I want to thank you for your activism. I want to thank you for your passion and your heart when it comes to this issue. And I want to tell you, you've got to keep it up. Keep putting the pressure on all of us to get this done. There are going to be moments—and there are always moments like this in big efforts at reform—where you meet resistance, and the press will declare something dead, it's not going to happen, but that can be overcome. ...[You] don't look like folks who are going to give up. You look fired up to make the next push. And whether you're a Republican or a Democrat or an independent, I want you to keep working, and I'm going to be right next to you, to make sure we get immigration reform done. It is time. Let's go get it done. Thank you very much, everybody.” [50210, 50219]

WND.com reports, “A multimillionaire member of Congress is seeking an exemption or waiver from Obamacare for citizens of his upscale district—known for its pricy ski resorts—because he thinks they're being forced to pay too much for health insurance. In a letter to Colorado Insurance Commissioner Marguerite Salazar, [Congressman] Jared Polis (D-CO) complains that the pricing for health coverage for residents of Summit County will be a minimum of \$427.80 a month, while the same coverage in Boulder is \$339.18 and in Denver \$296.41. ‘These high rates make it much more likely that Coloradans living in these areas will choose to forgo coverage entirely, choosing to pay the federal penalty rather than purchase health insurance,’ the congressman, whose worth

is estimated by Roll Call at about \$66 million, said.” (Polis is an avid Obama supporter.) [50236, 50317]

Asked why Healthcare.gov was not delayed when it was clear it had significant problems, White House press secretary Jay Carney tells reporters, “What [Obama] believes is that the website should have been better functioning on October 1st. What you’re asking me and what, again, these questions stem from the general direction of people who wanted to either eliminate ObamaCare or delay it so that they could eliminate it later, gets to the other heart of the matter, which is, how much longer do you ask Americans with preexisting conditions to go without health insurance? How much longer do you ask the single mom with breast cancer, how much longer do you ask her to go without health insurance, to go without coverage? And the answer is, you know, the time is now.” (In other words, “We may be incompetent, but with those evil Republicans eager to let single mothers with breast cancer die we had to act immediately.” The Obama administration is clearly running out of excuses when it has to play the “war against women” card. *The Obama Timeline* is surprised Carney did not say, “How much longer do you ask the single African-American or Hispanic mom with breast cancer, how much longer do you ask her to go without health insurance, to go without coverage?” Rush Limbaugh remarks, “[T]hat answer, ‘Why didn’t you test the website?’ ‘There are women with breast cancer.’ That’s nothing more than a focus-grouped answer to try to relate politically to other victims out there, to get their support. Don’t deal with the substance. Don’t acknowledge that the thing’s an absolute disaster.”) [50241]

Townhall.com’s Katie Pavlich writes, “No matter how the White House wants to spin it, the fact is that ...Obama delayed the individual mandate by six weeks... To understand why this is true, you must first understand how Obamacare’s individual mandate is enforced. For 2014, Americans who do not purchase health insurance must pay either a \$95 fine per adult (\$285 per family) or 1% of family income, whichever is greater. But one does not have to have insurance for 365 days a year to avoid paying the individual mandate fine. Regulations issued by the Internal Revenue Service (the agency charged with collecting the individual mandate fines) allow Americans to go without insurance for up to two months of the year. But, if someone does not have insurance for at least one day in three separate months (January, February, and March for example) then the IRS will assess the individual mandate fine. So, even though someone might purchase an insurance policy through an Obamacare exchange on March 1, that policy might not take effect until April 1, meaning they would have been uninsured for three months of 2014, and would be subject to the individual mandate fine. This is why multiple news organizations reported before that the real deadline for buying health insurance was February 15, not March 31 [because of the time it takes to process an application that typically does not begin until the first of the month after processing]. Yesterday, the White House changed the February 15 date, saying the IRS will give Americans until March 31 to purchase insurance and avoid the individual mandate fine. So, up until yesterday, the legal deadline for buying health insurance to avoid the individual mandate penalty was February 15. After yesterday, the new deadline is March 31. You can spin that all you want as a ‘correction’ or ‘fixing a glitch’ or whatever, but the simple fact is the individual mandate deadline has been delayed.” (If an individual does not purchase

insurance until March 31, it might not be effective until May 1—which certainly leaves the person uninsured long enough for the IRS penalty to be applied. By not applying the tax penalty in those cases, Obama is most certainly delaying the individual mandate and violating the Affordable Care Act through a change he is not legally entitled to make.) [50237]

WashingtonExaminer.com reports, “CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield is being forced to cancel plans that currently cover 76,000 individuals in Virginia, Maryland, and Washington, D.C., due to changes made by ...Obama’s health care law, the company told the *Washington Examiner* today. That represents more than 40 percent of the 177,000 individuals covered by CareFirst in those states. Though Obama famously promised that those who liked their health care coverage could keep it under his program, in reality, the health care law imposes a raft of new regulations on insurance policies starting Jan. 1 that are forcing insurers across the country to terminate existing plans. In theory, rules were supposed to allow pre-existing plans to be ‘grandfathered in,’ but they were written so narrowly that they leave out many plans. ‘Of the 177,000 individuals under age 65 who are covered by CareFirst, about 76,000 of them are in a non-grandfathered plan—a plan that will not comply with the guidelines imposed by the Affordable Care Act at their time of renewal this year or next,’ CareFirst said in an email in response to an inquiry by the *Examiner*.” [50240, 50259, 50286]

Fox News contributor Bob Beckel—a solid liberal—states that after he suggested delaying the implementation of ObamaCare “for six months to a year ...I got a call from somebody at the White House who absolutely bludgeoned me over it.” [50246]

According to WesternJournalism.com, former Navy SEAL Benjamin Smith “warns that the Obama administration is asking top brass in the military if they would be comfortable with disarming U.S. citizens, a litmus test that includes gauging whether they would be prepared to order troops to fire on Americans.” [50247]

Asked who has been fired over the Healthcare.gov fiasco, Secretary of Health and Human Services Kathleen Sebelius says, “No one. No one has been fired. My goal is to actually get the website up and running.” Asked about calls for her resignation, she says, “The majority of people calling for me to resign I would say are people who I don’t work for, and who do not want this program to work in the first place [sic]. I have had frequent conversations with [Obama] and I’ve committed to him that my role is to get the program up and running and we will do just that.” (Not surprisingly, Sebelius’ arrogant comment provokes criticism. Political strategist Michael Baker states, “She is ignorant of her true position in government. Sebelius works for the American people—all of the American people. Even those who are against the Affordable Care Act. And she is stonewalling a probe of the Obamacare rollout and continues to avoid answering questions about the half-billion-dollar web site that the people whom she said she doesn’t work for had to pay for—the taxpayers.” HotAir.com’s Ed Morrissey comments, “The more significant point... is what she says to the first question—‘No one has been fired.’ *Really?* Not a single person has missed a paycheck after the disaster that cost \$400 million and took 42 months to deliver? Recall that Sebelius claimed that Obama had been blindsided by the

embarrassing failure and strongly implied that she had been as well. Sebelius had, after all, spent the last several months claiming that everything was going hunky-dory and that there was no need to delay the rollout. Either Sebelius has been and continues to lie about all of the above, or her subordinates have been lying to her—and any minimally-competent manager would have canned them immediately on discovering it. The fact that no one has been fired at HHS over this strongly suggests that it's Sebelius and the White House who have been dishonest with the American public all along.”) [50251, 50267, 50285, 50324]

The Political Action Committee (PAC) “Ready for Hillary” states, “We are proud to welcome George Soros as one of the co-chairs of [our] national finance council.” (That Obama’s billionaire leftist pal will actively support Clinton in 2106 should come as a surprise to no one.) Soros also donates \$25,000 to the Clinton PAC. [50253, 50263]

National Security Agency whistleblower Edward Snowden states, “Today, no telephone in America makes a call without leaving a record with the NSA. Today, no Internet transaction enters or leaves America without passing through the NSA’s hands. Our representatives in Congress tell us this is not surveillance. They’re wrong.” (Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) has claimed, “The call-records program is not surveillance. It does not collect the content of any communication, nor do the records include names or locations.” According to Feinstein, only the from/to telephone numbers and call durations are collected. Of course, if the federal government’s spy agencies know a telephone number, they can certainly link it to a person’s name. To claim that is not surveillance on U.S. citizens is like arguing that recording the license plate numbers of all vehicles driving past the White House would not be surveillance because the driver’s name is not on the license plate.) [50255]

Ohio’s 10TV.com reports, “An investigation is underway after teachers at a Westerville school reported allegations of child abuse at a mosque. ...According to a Westerville Police report, the allegations were discovered after children told their teachers about the alleged actions at their religious school, which is part of the Masjid As-Salaamah mosque on Cleveland Avenue in Columbus. According to the police report, it all started when the teacher said how impressed she was with their knowledge of the Quran. In response, one of the students told her that, at their religious school, ‘if they do not learn their religious passages as they are instructed,’ they are sometimes chained to a wall by their wrists and ankles and beaten with a long stick.” (Obama and Attorney General Eric Holder have no comment.) [50256, 50257]

Islamist jihadis—referred to by the Reuters news agency as “pirates”—“attacked an oil supply vessel off the Nigerian coast and kidnapped the captain and chief engineer, both U.S. citizens, an American defense official and security sources said on Thursday. ...The U.S.-flagged, C-Retriever, a 222-foot (67 meter) vessel owned by U.S. marine transport group Edison Chouest Offshore, was attacked early Wednesday, UK-based security firm AKE and two security sources said. The company was not immediately available for comment. A U.S. defense official said the State Department and FBI were leading the American response to the incident. A second defense official said the U.S. Marine Corps

has a small training unit in the region but it was not clear if it would get involved.”
[50258]

At Forbes.com Josh Archambault notes that “Over 500,000 individuals have seen their insurance policies cancelled in just 3 states. In all 50 states, only 476,000 applications have been ‘filed’ in an [ObamaCare] exchange. (Even though we are still learning the true definition of ‘filed.’) ...As I have tracked enrollment by states, many are reporting out both Medicaid and exchange enrollment at the same time. Therefore the 476,000 number is misleading. My best guess is that for the 17 states that have reported out some data, the number is closer to 193,818 applications (once you pull out the Medicaid applications that have been reported on). Of course, this number is also still too high as it is compromised by the jointly reported data. What becomes clear, is that the federal exchanges in 34 states are accounting for a single digit percentage of the accounts being filed. ...In Connecticut, ‘Of the 3,847 individuals who signed up for coverage, 1,857 qualified for Medicaid, 1,897 signed up for plans with one of the three private insurance carriers, and 93 qualified for the Children’s Health Insurance Plan.’ ...In Oregon, they have signed up 56,000 new Medicaid enrollees.” According to CBS News, “[O]f the more than 35,000 people newly enrolled, 87 percent signed up for Medicaid. In Kentucky, out of 26,000 new enrollments, 82 percent are in Medicaid. And in New York, of 37,000 enrollments, Medicaid accounts for 64 percent. And there are similar stories across the country in nearly half of the states that run their own exchanges.” (Many poor Americans who were apparently unaware they were eligible for Medicaid are learning they are—because of the Healthcare.gov rollout on October 1. They are *not* “buying health insurance” via the exchanges; they are simply enrolling in Medicaid. Yet they are counted as “ObamaCare enrollees” by unscrupulous Obama administration spokesmen and their media allies. ObamaCare will certainly not reduce the deficit, as Obama has claimed, if a substantial portion of “enrollees” are nothing more than tens of thousands of people added to the Medicaid rolls. Additionally, those new Medicaid enrollees will cost the states more money, as they share the program’s costs with the federal government.)
[50260, 50284, 50316]

CNSNews.com reports, “Americans who were recipients of means-tested government benefits in 2011 outnumbered year-round full-time workers, according to data released this month by the Census Bureau. ...There were 108,592,000 people in the United States in the fourth quarter of 2011 who were recipients of one or more means-tested government benefit programs, the Census Bureau said in data released this week. Meanwhile, according to the Census Bureau, there were 101,716,000 people who worked full-time year round in 2011. That included both private-sector and government workers. That means there were about 1.07 people getting some form of means-tested government benefit for every 1 person working full-time year round.” (According to the Heritage Foundation, there are 69 federal means-tested poverty programs: “12 programs providing food aid; 10 housing assistance programs; 10 programs funding social services; 9 educational assistance programs; 8 programs providing cash assistance; 8 vocational training programs; 7 medical assistance programs; 3 energy and utility assistance programs; and, 2 child care and child development programs.”) [50271, 50300]

CBS News reporter Sharyl Attkisson reports, “A Health and Human Services official who was closely involved [with the implementation of ObamaCare] tells CBS News that in late summer [2012] the administration stopped issuing proposed rules for the Affordable Care Act until after the election. the result was what many viewed as a serious delay, as contractors, states, and insurance companies awaited crucial guidance to move forward. ‘Some of [the rules] were ready to go back in June or July,’ says one insider. ‘Suddenly everything was on hold.’ We reviewed the HHS web site and found between 2010 and August 31, 2012, 109 proposed regulations were issued. Then from September 1 until late November there were none. The flurry resumed after the election. ...Whoever decided on the delay, one government source says it meant insurance companies didn’t have information they needed to design their plans and calculate premiums. Another says that the main web site builder, contractor CGI, didn’t get all its final technical requirements until May. That includes the crucial user interface, which dictates what people see when they visit the web site and how they navigate around. Without final instructions, the source says CGI started down a path only to later discover it was the wrong path. CGI had to throw out and start over on about a third of its work. Some experts says the web site should have been tested for four to six months prior to the launch rather than just days, but some of the final technical requirements weren’t even issued six months before the launch.” [50278]

Senator Kay Hagan (D-NC) calls for a two-month extension of ObamaCare’s enrollment period. Hagan, who is up for reelection in 2014, states, “Everyone should be committed to making this work and making health care more affordable, and if that requires fixes, then we need to make those commonsense changes. An extension would provide time to assess the extent of the problems and determine whether additional delays in the individual mandate are necessary. But frankly, the administration had plenty of time to get these websites user-ready, and I would like to keep the pressure on to get these problems fixed sooner rather than later so that North Carolina families can get online and shop for the plan that suits them best. In the coming days and weeks, the Administration must be fully transparent in their efforts to get the website working. Anything less than complete disclosure and accountability is not acceptable for me or the North Carolinians I talk to everyday. The Administration must improve their communications with the American people about this very important issue.” [50287, 50299]

Democrat columnist (TheDailyBeast.com) Kirsten Powers responds to the Fox News Channel’s Megyn Kelly’s charge that Obama’s promise that you can keep your doctor and your insurance premiums will go down is not true for millions of Americans: “Right, yeah, well, and it’s actually not proving true for me. Yeah, I’m in the individual market... and I got the letter [from my insurance carrier saying my policy was being canceled], the same one that everyone’s talking about... I could roughly get the same insurance so it’s not completely clear, but it’ll go up from about \$160 a month and a \$2,500 deductible... it’ll go up to about \$300 a month. ...I think the administration would say, ‘Well, you know, you’re healthy and you’re young and so you’re part of the people who are going to, you know, I guess, see your premiums go up, but I don’t think that’s quite the way they sold it.’” (In June 2009 Obama addressed the American Medical Association and said, “No matter how we reform health care, we will keep this promise to the American

people: If you like your doctor, you will be able to keep your doctor. Period. If you like your health care plan, you will be able to keep your health care plan. Period. No one will take it away. No matter what. My view is that health-care reform should be guided by a simple principle: Fix what's broken and build on what's [sic; what] works." He made that same promise in dozens of speeches, if not hundreds.) [50281, 50311, 50375, 50376, 50379]

The *CBS Evening News* features a segment emphasize that for many Americans, Obama's "if you like your insurance plan you can keep it" pledge is invalid. Reporter Carter Evans notes the experience of a California woman, Natalie Willes. Carter: "Natalie Willes helps parents in Los Angeles care for their newborns. She buys her own health insurance." Willes: "I was completely happy with the insurance I had before." Evans: "So she was surprised when she tried to renew her policy... Her insurer, Kaiser Permanente, is terminating policies for 160,000 people in California, and presenting them with new plans that comply with the health care law." Willes: " Before [ObamaCare] I had a plan that—I had a \$1,500 deductible. I paid \$199 a month. The most similar plan that I would have available to me [now] would be \$278 a month. My deductible would be \$6,500. And all of my care after that point would only be covered 70 percent... So now, I'm being forced to choose from a bunch of new plans that I don't want to choose from that are all more expensive." UCLA's Dr. Gerry Kominski condescendingly comments that with ObamaCare "you're paying more for a better product and for more protection, and you won't understand the value of that until you need it." (A doctor should understand that most healthy young women do *not*, in fact, need the health insurance forced on the, by ObamaCare.) [50391, 50400]

Obama attends a \$32,400 per person fundraiser at the Jefferson Hotel in Washington, D.C. [50276]

On October 25 *WashingtonTimes.com* reports, "A management expert hired to turn around the bug-riddled Obamacare website said Friday the insurance portal is fixable and that a new general contractor will help the Obama administration 'punch out' problems so that the vast majority of users can enroll by the end of November. Jeff Zients, a former budget director at the White House, said the administration tapped Quality Software Services Inc. (QSSI)—an existing Obamacare contractor—to oversee improved performance on HealthCare.gov and iron out widely criticized structural bugs in the exchange system. ...[Zients] said the website's much-maligned performance so far has been 'volatile' and 'unacceptable,' but a team of technical experts can right the ship. 'Let me be clear—HealthCare.gov is fixable,' he told reporters on a conference call hosted by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). Several contractors, including QSSI, told Congress on Thursday that CMS did not fully test the federal exchange system until two weeks prior to launch." [50262]

Michelle Malkin asks at *Townhall.com* "What happened to all of Obama's technology czars?" Malkin writes, "In May 2009, [Obama] appointed Aneesh Chopra 'to promote technological innovation to help the country meet its goals such as job creation, reducing health care costs and protecting the homeland. Together with Chief Information Officer

Vivek Kundra, their jobs are to make the government more effective, efficient and transparent.’ Chopra’s biggest accomplishment? A humiliating cameo in December 2009 on ‘The Daily Show’ with liberal comedian Jon Stewart, who mocked the administration’s pie-in-the-sky Open Government Initiative. Chopra resigned three years later, ran unsuccessfully for Virginia lieutenant governor and now works as a ‘senior fellow’ at the far-left Center for American Progress, which is run by former Clinton administration hit man turned Obama helpmate John Podesta. Obama replaced Chopra with Todd Park, the former ‘chief technology officer of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.’ The White House described him as a ‘change agent and ‘entrepreneur-in-residence,’ helping HHS harness the power of data, technology and innovation to improve the health of the nation.’ Park oversees the ‘Presidential Innovation Fellows’ program and is also a ‘senior fellow’ in health IT and health reform policy at Podesta’s Center for American Progress. CAP has tirelessly defended Obamacare and its global joke of an IT infrastructure. In 2010, when ...Obama first rolled out a dog-and-pony demonstration of Healthcare.gov, Park basked in the glow of positive media coverage. He bragged to TechCrunch.com about working ‘24/7 ...in a very, very nimble hyper consumer focused way ...all fused in this kind of maelstrom of pizza, Mountain Dew and all-nighters, and you know, idealism.’ It was, as you all now know, all hype and glory. So who has Obama called in to oversee the HealthCare.gov rescue mission? None other than the administration’s ‘change agent and entrepreneur-in-residence,’ CTO Todd Park, who helped build the broken system in the first place!” [50261]

Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) says, “The rich are willing to pay more [in taxes]. They’re not the ones out here saying, ‘Please don’t tax me.’ But the only, the only people who feel there shouldn’t be more coming into the federal government from the rich people are the Republicans in the Congress. Everybody else, including the rich people, are willing to pay more. They want to pay more.” [50264, 50330, 50373]

Campaign for Liberty releases a video in which Senator Rand Paul (R-KY) states, “There’s no time to waste. Right now, the U.S. Senate is preparing to debate and confirm the new Obama nominee [Janet Yellen] to chair the Federal Reserve. I say not so fast. You see, while the Fed continues to inflate our currency, wreck our economy, and operate in the shadows, you and I have an opportunity. I say vote no on a new Fed chairman without a vote on my ‘Audit the Fed bill.’” [50265]

Appearing on CNBC’s Squawk Box, Obama health policy advisor Dr. Ezekiel Emanuel (a brother of former Obama chief of staff Rahm Emanuel), says, “Now, there are glitches in the roll-out of this thing [Healthcare.gov], and I’m very disappointed in it, and it wasn’t managed well. But, these are technical problems that are blocking and tackling [sic] and that will be solved, and over the next year or two it’s going to be a much better shopping experience, and then we’re all gonna look back and say, ‘Wow, this was a great restructuring of the health care system.” (Emanuel makes the same “blocking and tackling” comment in a combative interview with the Fox News Channel’s Megyn Kelly.) [50274, 50325]

Congressman Jason Chaffetz (R-UT) tells radio talk show host Laura Ingraham that Obama advisor Valerie Jarrett “seems to have her tentacles into every issue and every topic... her name ultimately always comes up.” [50305]

The *New York Post* editorial board calls ObamaCare “Medicaid on steroids,” writing, “When ObamaCare was being sold to the American people, one of the claims was that it would get uninsured Americans private insurance. Instead, it seems to be going in the opposite direction. This week, The Post’s S.A. Miller and Carl Campanile reported that only a third of the 37,000 New Yorkers who enrolled in health care through the state’s new exchange signed up for private insurance. Nearly two-thirds opted for Medicaid, a state program partly funded by the federal government. That’s just what’s got many insurers worried. Because to pay for ObamaCare’s benefits, they need a great many more healthy people to sign up. It’s not just New York, either. We’re seeing the same trend in other states with their own health-care exchanges. Indeed, the number of new Medicaid enrollees in states like Kentucky, Washington and Oregon tops 80 percent. And why not? In contrast to the private plans, Medicaid is free. These new waves of enrollment come after a years-long bipartisan effort to make it even easier to join Medicaid. That’s a big deal for New York, because the Empire State already spends more than any other state on Medicaid, with costs growing at an unsustainable 13 percent per year. Other states are going to find themselves with similar problems if the trend on the state exchanges continues. And unless the trend reverses, it’s going to be a bigger headache for ObamaCare.” [50351]

DailyCaller.com reports, “A veteran Washington D.C. investigative journalist says the Department of Homeland Security confiscated a stack of her confidential files during a raid of her home in August—leading her to fear that a number of her sources inside the federal government have now been exposed. In an interview with The Daily Caller, journalist Audrey Hudson revealed that the Department of Homeland Security and Maryland State Police were involved in a predawn raid of her Shady Side, Md. home on Aug. 6. Hudson is a former Washington Times reporter and current freelance reporter. A search warrant... indicates that the August raid allowed law enforcement to search for firearms inside her home. The document notes that her husband, Paul Flanagan, was found guilty in 1986 to resisting arrest in Prince George’s County. The warrant called for police to search the residence they share and seize all weapons and ammunition because he is prohibited under the law from possessing firearms. But without Hudson’s knowledge, the agents also confiscated a batch of documents that contained information about sources inside the Department of Homeland Security and the Transportation Security Administration, she said.” [50275, 50318, 50338]

“Outraged over the seizure, Hudson is now speaking out. She said no subpoena for the notes was presented during the raid and argues the confiscation was outside of the search warrant’s parameter. ‘They took my notes without my knowledge and without legal authority to do so,’ Hudson said this week. ‘The search warrant they presented said nothing about walking out of here with a single sheet of paper.’ ...After the search began [on August 6 at 4:30 a.m.], Hudson said she was asked by an investigator with the Coast Guard Investigative Service if she was the same Audrey Hudson who had written a series

of critical stories about air marshals for The Washington Times over the last decade. ...But it wasn't until a month later, on Sept. 10, that Hudson was informed... that five files including her handwritten and typed notes from interviews with numerous confidential sources and other documents had been taken during the raid. 'In particular, the files included notes that were used to expose how the Federal Air Marshal Service had lied to Congress about the number of airline flights there were actually protecting against another terrorist attack,' Hudson wrote in a summary about the raid..." (Hudson's files included names of whistleblowers and other confidential sources within the government. Knowing their identities, the Obama administration can now retaliate against them.) [50275, 50318, 50338]

At CNN.com Danielle Dellorto writes, "To see just how easy—or hard—enrolling over the phone would be, I called the 800 number [1-800-fuckyo] Obama provided in his Monday speech. 'Average wait times for calls is less than 30 seconds, and 3 minutes for chats,' wrote Secretary Kathleen Sebelius on the HHS blog Thursday. It all sounds so easy, right? Not quite. Sebelius was right about the wait time. I was able to get a person on the phone in less than a minute. They [sic; he or she] told me we needed to first get set up with an application. That part was very simple too—I was asked basic questions like my name, address and Social Security number. Five minutes later, they said I was I all set. So did that mean I was enrolled? No. I have to call back—in one to three weeks—for that. [It] Turns out, the call center can't actually process applications over the phone. They can just take your information and submit it for you. Once I get a paper statement in the mail saying I'm eligible to enroll, I can then call the center back and enroll over the phone, the representative said. From a consumer standpoint, the most frustrating aspect was that I couldn't get any specifics about the various insurance options during this call either. I was told they can't divulge the information about the four levels of coverage choices until I get that piece of paper in the mail—a long, drawn-out process for something that it appears could be done immediately with technology. 'No one gets new benefits until January 1st,' said Sebelius on Friday at an event in Austin, Texas. 'And if an individual signs up by the 15th of December, they will have coverage on day one.' Based on my experience, there should be an asterisk by the December 15 date. At least in terms of calling to enroll over the phone, which I quickly learned is a several-step—and several-weeks-long—process." (To paraphrase House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), "You have to agree to purchase the health insurance before you can find out what you bought.") [50282]

The *San Francisco Chronicle's* Debra Saunders writes that "as of December 2012, there were 491,977 covered lives in individual health care plans regulated by the state Department Insurance that are not grandfathered under the Affordable Care Act. (If they bought a plan after March 2010, their coverage is not grandfathered.) This is a 2012 number, but if the number of people with private coverage hasn't changed much in the last ten months, that's half a million Californians who will lose their coverage [on January 1, 2014]. ...[T]here were about 50,000 individual and 60,000 PPO policies that were not grandfathered at the end of the year, which would add another 110,000." [50302, 50303, 50411]

In *The Wall Street Journal*, Peggy Noonan reminds readers that at a hearing in April, Senator Max Baucus (D-MT) warned Secretary of Health and Human Services Kathleen Sebelius, “I understand you’ve hired a contractor [for Healthcare.gov]. I’m just worried that that’s going to be money down the drain because contractors like to make money more than they like to do anything else. That’s their job.” [50307]

Obama attends two fundraisers in New York, after visiting the Technology Early College High School—a visit which makes his trip “official” and forces the taxpayers to pick up the tab for the flight on Air Force One. (DailyCaller.com notes, “Obama is expected to say something inspiring and non-partisan to the students before he leaves to meet his wealthy donors.” According to TheHill.com, Obama has at least eight fundraisers scheduled over the next five weeks.) [50276, 50290, 50291, 50340]

At Townhall.com former Congressman Bob Beauprez posts the health insurance premium rates obtained by a man in Raleigh, North Carolina who was finally able to get that far within Healthcare.gov. The man and his wife have three children aged 14 to 18. The lowest-priced “bronze plan” would cost the family as much as \$1,051.90 per month, for a mere 60 percent coverage *after* an annual deductible of almost \$10,000 was reached. The 70 percent “silver plan” would cost as much as \$1,354.26 per month, with a deductible of about \$5,000. Even the cheapest plan would cost the family more than \$20,000 per year in premiums and deductible. [50309]

WeeklyStandard.com reports, “Health-care premiums in Wisconsin will almost double under Obamacare, compared with their current rates, according to a report from the MacIver Institute. The state’s free-market think tank figured the average premiums of the insurance plans the Obamacare exchange offers for several categories of Wisconsinites: 27-year-olds, 50-year-olds, and a family of four from data found on a federal database. The institute then compared those rates with the average premiums on the private market, using figures from eHealthInsurance.com. MacIver found that rates will jump significantly, especially for the young: A 27-year-old will see premiums more than double in one county in 2014, and see his rates go up by 93.6 percent in Madison, 91.2 percent in Milwaukee, and 72.6 percent in Eau Claire. Fifty-year-olds will be paying more overall, too, but their premiums won’t go up quite as much, jumping by about half. Families will see their premiums rise at similar rates to young people: A family of four will see a spike of 97.2 percent in Brown County, and increases of just below 90 percent in Milwaukee and Dane counties.” [50313, 50314]

NYPPost.com reports, “ObamaCare is making seniors sick. Elderly New Yorkers are in a panic after getting notices that insurance companies are booting their doctors from the Medicare Advantage program as a result of the shifting medical landscape under ObamaCare. That leaves patients with unenviable choices: keep the same insurance plan and find another doctor, pay out of pocket or look for another plan where their physician is a member. New York State Medical Society President Sam Unterricht is demanding a congressional probe after learning that one health carrier alone, UnitedHealthcare, is terminating contracts with up to 2,100 doctors serving 8,000 Medicare Advantage patients in the New York metro region. There are 2.6 million elderly New Yorkers who

receive Medicare, the public health-insurance program for the elderly. But one in three patients—nearly 900,000—are enrolled in Advantage, Medicare HMOs run by private insurers. Dr. Jonathan Leibowitz, who serves 30 patients under Medicare Advantage at his Brooklyn practice, said he was blindsided by UnitedHealthcare’s decision to give him the boot. ‘A patient can’t see his doctor? What are they doing!’ he asked. UnitedHealthcare told Leibowitz that because of ‘significant changes and pressures in the health-care environment,’ he’d be getting the ax on Jan. 1. Leibowitz’s patients are furious. Alfred Gargiulio, who has cerebral palsy with a seizure disorder, has been seeing Leibowitz since 1993. ‘Obama had said I could keep my doctor. Now they’re doing away with my doctor. They kicked him out! After 20 years, that’s not right. We love Dr. Leibowitz,’ said Gargiulio.” [50315]

Breitbart.com reports that Congressman James Sensenbrenner (R-WI) “will introduce major legislation to rein in NSA surveillance activities of American citizens on Tuesday [October 29]. The United and Strengthening America by Fulfilling Rights and Ending Eavesdropping, Dragnet Collection, and Online Monitoring Act, or USA FREEDOM Act, is somewhat of a step beyond the controversial ‘Amash Amendment’ that narrowly failed to pass the House in July that would have stripped funding for NSA programs collecting the telephone records of those in the United States. Sensenbrenner is the former Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee and current Chairman of the subcommittee on Terrorism and Homeland Security. He was also the original sponsor of the PATRIOT Act. The Wisconsin lawmaker has previously stated that the PATRIOT Act was ‘deliberately drafted to prevent [the] data mining’ yet the NSA interpreted his legislation to justify their dragnet style surveillance of American citizens. His support, as the drafter of the PATRIOT Act, could be influential with a few of his national security oriented Republican colleagues. There is expected to be companion legislation in the Senate. Sources indicate that Senator Patrick Leahy (D-VT), Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, may be introducing that version.” [50887]

Australia’s new Prime Minister, Tony Abbott, tells *The Washington Post*, “The carbon tax is bad for the economy and it doesn’t do any good for the environment. Despite a carbon tax of \$37 a ton by 2020, Australia’s domestic emissions were going up, not down. The carbon tax was basically socialism masquerading as environmentalism, and that’s why it’s going to get abolished. If the Labor Party wants to give the people of Australia a Christmas present, they will vote to abolish the carbon tax. It was damaging the economy without helping the environment. It was a stupid tax. A misconceived tax.” DailyCaller.com reports, “The carbon tax increased taxes on 2.2 million people and did nothing to decrease carbon dioxide emissions, according to a study by Dr. Alex Robson, economist at Australia’s University of Brisbane. The study was conducted for the Institute for Energy Research, which opposes a carbon tax. News Limited Network reported in March that the tax was contributing to a record 10,632 businesses facing insolvency in 2012... The country’s hospitals were also affected. The Herald Sun reports that Victoria provincial hospitals spent an extra \$6.1 million in energy costs in just six months due to the carbon tax. The carbon tax made up 8-22 percent of the hospitals’ total energy costs.” [50326]

At FoxNews.com Catherine Herridge and Pamela Browne report, “A former Guantanamo Bay detainee with Al Qaeda ties was in Benghazi the night of the Sept. 11 attack, according to a source on the ground in Libya. The source told Fox News that ex-detainee Sufian bin Qumu, who is suspected of running camps in eastern Libya where some of the assailants trained, is also a ‘respected member’ of Ansar al-Sharia—one of the Islamist groups identified in State Department email traffic two hours after the attack. Two sources familiar with the investigation, when asked about bin Qumu’s whereabouts the night of the attack, did not dispute the claim he was in Benghazi. While it is not clear whether bin Qumu was directing the assault, his security file from Guantanamo may be revealing. Having already trained in Usama bin Laden’s camps, in 1998 bin Qumu joined the Taliban in Pakistan and ‘communicated with likely extremist elements via radio during this period indicating a position of leadership,’ the file shows. ...After Fox News reported earlier this week that the Benghazi suspects are not included on the State Department’s ‘Rewards for Justice’ program, which offers cash for tips that lead to suspected terrorists, Republican Rep. Michael McCaul, chairman of the House Homeland Security Committee, wrote to Secretary of State John Kerry questioning the omission. The letter is now being circulated on Capitol Hill for signatures, Fox News has learned, and should be delivered to Kerry’s office no later than next week. A draft reviewed by Fox News includes highly critical language. ‘We fail to understand how such an important counterterrorism tool could not be used by the administration, when you and the president claim that bringing the assailants to justice is such a high priority,’ the draft says.” [50339]

Patti Davis, daughter of Ronald Reagan, sends a Twitter message: “Could [Obama] please explain why I and others are losing our health ins. plans? Wasn’t supposed to happen!” [50389]

At DailyKos.com, leftist Ted Rall disputes Sarah Palin’s suggestion that ObamaCare was designed to fail so that it could be replaced with a single-payer system: “The problem with this reasoning (which echoes 9/11 Truther theories that the Bush Administration couldn’t possibly be stupid enough to let hijacked planes fly around the U.S. for nearly two hours) is that Obama and his team aren’t really smart. They’re calm. It’s not the same. If Team Obama had been plotting Canadian-style socialized medicine all along, they wouldn’t have floated all those dumb ‘heckuva job, Barry’-style excuses that turned healthcare.gov into [Obama’s] Katrina moment: Too much volume. But corporate websites routinely handle more than the ACA sites. Besides, the feds knew that, in a nation with tens of millions of uninsured people, tens of millions of people were going to check out the website. The truth, as any idiot could plainly see, was that volume wasn’t the issue. Lousy coding was. ACA is ‘more than a website’—and anyway, why don’t people use the phone? Actually, that’s not true. For most people, the ACA are the websites. That’s how Obamacare was promoted. People were told to go online. So they did.” [50396, 50397]

“As for those who threw up their hands and tried calling—I was one of them—there was no way to buy a plan by phone. Everyone knew there would be glitches. The problem with that Democratic talking point is that while Americans may suffer from short

memories, they're not totally retarded. We still recall September 2013. It's not like anyone in the White House announced before the launch: 'Hey, don't freak if you can't access the websites right away. Chillax, wait a month or two. We're expecting a lot of glitches, and things could be less than cromulent for a while.' No, Governor Palin, the truth behind the ACA mess is that Obama and his gang of golfing buddies are idiots. ...Primarily, Obama and the Democrats were idiots to think that the ACA's bastard hybrid of public and private could function properly—certainly not on 'a project of such immense complexity. The federal exchange must communicate with other contractors and with databases of numerous federal agencies and more than 170 insurance carriers.'" Rall then proceeds to advocate the very system Palin warned about: "The common sense solution? Cut out the insurers; put them out of business. Nationalize hospitals and private clinics. Turn doctors and nurses into federal employees." [50396, 50397]

Rall's protestations notwithstanding, it is no secret to readers of *The Obama Timeline* that Obama has on several occasions advocated a "single payer" health care system in which private health insurers are eliminated and the federal government takes over the implementation of all health care. Breitbart.com notes that before entering the Oval Office, Obama told the AFL-CIO, "I happen to be a proponent of a single-payer health universal health care plan. I see no reason why the United States of America, the wealthiest country in the history of the world, spending 14 percent—14 percent of its gross national product on health care, cannot provide basic health insurance to everybody. And that's what Jim is talkin' about when he says, 'Everybody in. Nobody out.' A single payer health care plan, universal health care plan. That's what I'd like to see, but as all of you know, we may not get there immediately. Because first we've got to take back the White House and we've got to take back the Senate, and we've got to take back the House." On March 23, 2007 Obama said, "But I don't think we're gonna be able to eliminate employer coverage immediately. There's gonna be potentially some transition process. I can envision a decade out, or 15 years out, or 20 years out..." On August 4, 2007 Obama told an audience, "This is a two trillion dollar part of our economy, and it is my belief that—not just politically but also economically—it's better for us to start getting a system in place, a universal healthcare system signed into law by the end of my first term... and build off that system to further, to make it more rational. By the way, Canada did not start immediately with a single payer system. They had a similar transition step." On June 15, 2009 Obama told the American Medical Association, "The public option is not your enemy. It is your friend... Let me also address an illegitimate concern that is being put forward by those who are claiming a public option is somehow a Trojan horse for a single payer system." (Their concern was, of course, legitimate, as proven by the prior Obama quotes.) [50396, 50397, 50482]

On October 26 thousands of people rally at the National Mall in Washington, D.C. to protest NSA surveillance on U.S. citizens. [50323, 50355, 50432]

DailyCaller.com reports, "CGI Federal Inc., the mastermind behind healthcare.gov, is assisting the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in the distribution of \$1.7 billion in relief for Hurricane Sandy. In a memo obtained by FreedomWorks titled, 'Minutes of the 295th meeting of the members of the Housing

Trust Fund Corporation held on May 9, 2013, at 8:30 a.m.,’ CGI Federal is tasked with implementing the Disaster Housing Assistance Program. Additionally, they are asked to aid in the implementation of the Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Program, an assistance program that had recently obtained \$1.7 billion. ...The Associated Press revealed Tuesday that a mere \$700 million of the \$60 billion federal aid package—1.2 percent of the total funds—has been given to victims of super storm Sandy. Nearly a year after the devastating storm, a majority of the 24,000 families that have requested monetary assistance have yet to receive a penny from the federal aid package.” (The mainstream media generally ignored the Hurricane Sandy story—and its victims—after Obama was reelected. Had George W. Bush still been in office, a few journalist might have bothered to ask why a Canadian company was contracted to implement a U.S. disaster program. According to the *New York Post*, about \$648 million “meant for housing recovery sits largely unused, with only one woman in Staten Island having received funds,” yet there has been no national uproar. Reuters reports, “A year after Superstorm Sandy inundated the East Coast with record flooding that left 159 people dead, residents of hard-hit New Jersey and New York shore communities still have a ways to go in rebuilding damaged homes”—and no one in the mainstream media complain that Obama has not done enough to assist the victims.) [50327, 50352, 50467]

Reuters reports, “The United States may have bugged Angela Merkel’s phone for more than 10 years, according to a news report on Saturday that also said ...Obama told the German leader he would have stopped it happening had he known about it. Germany’s outrage over reports of bugging of Merkel’s phone by the U.S. National Security Agency (NSA) prompted it to summon the U.S. ambassador this week for the first time in living memory, an unprecedented post-war diplomatic rift. Der Spiegel said Merkel’s mobile telephone had been listed by the NSA’s Special Collection Service (SCS) since 2002—marked as ‘GE Chancellor Merkel’—and was still on the list weeks before Obama visited Berlin in June. In an SCS document cited by the magazine, the agency said it had a ‘not legally registered spying branch’ in the U.S. embassy in Berlin, the exposure of which would lead to ‘grave damage for the relations of the United States to another government.’ From there, NSA and CIA staff[s] were tapping communication in the Berlin’s government district with high-tech surveillance.” (The incident marks yet another example of Obama “not knowing” about the operations of the U.S. government. Obama also supposedly did not know about Operation Fast and Furious, the IRS targeting of conservative groups, the inadequate security of U.S. personnel in Benghazi, the spying on German Chancellor Angela Merkel, the fact that Healthcare.gov would not be ready on October 1—and countless other issues.) [50328, 50398]

At a town hall meeting, Congressman Larry Pittman (R-NC) defends Obama against charges that he is a traitor: “I don’t always agree with the guy, [and I] certainly didn’t vote for him. But I’ve got to defend him on this one. I just don’t think it’s right at all to call Barack Obama a traitor. You know, there’s [sic] a lot of things he [has] done wrong, but he is not a traitor. At least not as far as I can tell, because I’ve not come across any evidence yet that he has done one thing to harm Kenya.” [50372]

FoxNews.com reports, “An Israeli defense official says a new report claiming Iran could produce enough weapons-grade uranium to build a nuclear bomb in less than a month is further justification for why Israel will take military action before that happens. Danny Danon, Israel’s deputy defense minister told USA Today that Iran is speedily moving to develop advanced centrifuges that will enable it to enrich uranium needed for nuclear weapons within weeks. ‘We have made it crystal clear—in all possible forums, that Israel will not stand by and watch Iran develop weaponry that will put us, the entire Middle East and eventually the world, under an Iranian umbrella of terror.’” (Pamela Geller comments at AtlasShrugs.com, “Obama knows this—which is why he is putting a [smiley face] on Iran’s savagery and calling it a new era. He is right, but for the wrong reason. A nuclear weaponized Iran is a new era. Despite the obvious fact that Iran has given no quarter, no indication that they were willing to suspend uranium enrichment, Obama rewarded them anyway, which has led to more threats and more demands. Obama’s response? He is weighing unfreezing Iran’s assets. If this is the new era Obama is heralding in Iran, build your bomb shelters.”) [50329, 50337]

At WeeklyStandard.com Fred Barnes writes that Obama “is facing the abyss. It’s that moment when... plans are overwhelmed by his problems, and he’s relegated to playing defense for the rest of his White House term. Obama’s agenda already lingers near death. His poll numbers have slipped to new lows. His speeches are full of alibis and accusations. Obama hasn’t reached the point of no return, but he’s close. His biggest problem is the collapse of Obamacare on its launching pad as the entire country watched. And there’s worse trouble ahead. More likely than not, Obamacare will be the dominant issue in the final three-plus years of his [administration]. From that, there’s no recovery. ...Obama seems unprepared to avert paralysis. The failed startup of Obamacare, its website a ‘joke’ in the view of 60 percent of America in a Fox News poll, caught [Obama] by surprise. He refused to acknowledge the magnitude of the problem, conceding only that healthcare.gov wasn’t working as ‘smoothly as it was supposed to.’ ...From all appearances, Obama sees the Obamacare mess as partly a political headache. A headline in Politico last week captured this: ‘White House works to flip Obamacare narrative.’ It’s as if Obama and his advisers think they’re dealing with a faux pas to be smoothed over with political spin. Commentary’s Peter Wehner calls this attitude ‘detachment from reality.’ True, Obamacare will be a campaign issue in the 2014 midterm elections and no doubt a significant factor in the presidential election two years later. But that’s not because Obamacare is merely a matter of politics. It’s because Obamacare is now the official health care system for 310 million people and represents one-sixth of the American economy. And it’s a national embarrassment whose troubles are only beginning. Unpleasant shocks loom for a majority of Americans who tap into Obamacare exchanges. Those 40 years of age and younger will discover next year their insurance premiums are ‘a lot higher than they would pay in today’s market,’ says health care expert James Capretta. That will create a furor.” [50334]

“So, too, some lower-middle-income and middle-class Americans will find their access to doctors is limited. Why? Because many of the country’s biggest and best hospitals and some doctors have not agreed to take on this category of patients. Also, patients will be forced to endure longer waits as a result of a doctor shortage. In 2015 and 2016, the

popular Medicare Advantage program will shrink. Low-income folks and those with preexisting conditions will prosper under Obamacare. But how will middle-income Americans feel when they learn they're paying considerably more for the same insurance? Not happy, I suspect. Or those under 30 who chose a 'catastrophic-only' policy with high deductibles? They won't be thrilled when told they are ineligible for a subsidy, whatever their income. The point is that as Obamacare is rolled out over the final years of [Obama's second term], there will be numerous occasions when Obama's promises about the new health insurance scheme are exposed as untrue. If these incidents don't provoke a crisis, they'll at least keep Obamacare from fading as a prominent and fiercely debated issue. And [Obama] will pay a price. He'll be stuck on defense, unable to change the subject. His agenda won't help. A \$9 minimum wage, universal preschool, immigration reform, global warming legislation, more infrastructure spending, higher taxes—there's nothing close to a national consensus in support of these liberal leftovers. ...But ponder this: Had Obamacare been created as a private enterprise with Obama as CEO, it wouldn't have lasted a week. Not only would the stumbling company have been put out of business, so would its incompetent CEO. And we'd all—well, most of us—be better off." [50334]

Saturday Night Live skewers the launch of Healthcare.gov, with actress Kate McKinnon addressing the nation as Secretary of Health and Human Services Kathleen Sebelius: "A lot of folks have been talking about our health care enrollment website. Now it's been crashing and freezing and shutting down and stalling and not working and breaking and sucking. Well, tonight, I have a number of friendly tips to help you deal with those technical problems. For example, have you tried restarting your computer? ...If our website still isn't loading properly, we're probably just overloaded with traffic. Millions of Americans are visiting healthcare.gov, which is great news. Unfortunately, the site was only designed to handle six users at a time." [50346, 50353, 50356, 50377]

On October 27 Obama skips golf and goes to church—for the first time in many months. (Some might assume Obama is trying to boost his low approval ratings in the polls.) [50349]

The image of a smiling young woman is removed from Healthcare.gov's main page. (Some might assume the change was made to protect her, as she was quickly becoming the most hated woman in the nation.) [50360, 50361, 50386]

Former Vermont Governor Howard Dean appears on ABC's *This Week* and argues that young, healthy Americans aren't as critical for ObamaCare as most believe. Columnist S. E. Cupp states, "ObamaCare relies on Millennials, these young invincibles, who have never bought health insurance in the past, to suddenly change their behavior and buy something they don't think they need, and in some cases can't afford. ...But culturally, it also reads... as an inability to read their language... Millennials... don't meet in person with insurance brokers or travel agents, or anyone... They're not going to be patient as the administration tweaks all of those glitches." Dean responds, "It is not true that if young people don't sign up the program doesn't work. That's false. ...And the reason that is framed as being true is everybody assumes that you can't do community rating

without an individual mandate, and that's not true, and I know because I did it twenty years ago. We did most of the stuff that's in Obamacare in Vermont... The problem is scale. It probably would have been better to have four or five regional exchanges rather than one big federal one. They didn't know thirty-six states would refuse to participate in the regional exchanges. We can fault the Obama administration. ...I should add, though, that the Republicans bear some responsibility for this... Everything the Obama administration had to do has had to go upstream against Republicans who wanted to kill this bill no matter what." (Dean may, in fact, be partially correct. Although ObamaCare does need young, healthy Americans who are currently uninsured to buy insurance to help provide the funds for the parasites who will be getting free or subsidized insurance, there will *also* be hundreds of thousands of currently insured older Americans whose existing policies are being canceled effective January 1, 2014 and who will be forced to buy more expensive replacement policies on the ObamaCare exchanges. Those older Americans will also be a source of revenue to offset the expense of the parasites.) [50342]

Also appearing on *This Week*, Senator John Barrasso (R-WY) says of Secretary of Health and Human Services Kathleen Sebelius, "She's lost considerable credibility. She's the laughingstock of America." Senator Joe Manchin (D-WV) repeats his call for a one-year delay in ObamaCare's individual mandate, and says, "Nobody should be forced to buy a policy that costs more than what they had and is inferior to what they had. Those things have to be worked out." [50354, 50396]

On *Face the Nation*, Senator Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH) observes, "The [ObamaCare] rollout has been a disaster. ... We're hearing from lots of constituents in New Hampshire, that they want to enroll in health insurance—that they can't because of the problems with the website." Congressman Darrell Issa (R-CA) calls for the resignation or firing of Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius: "[Obama] has been poorly served in the implementation of his own signature legislation" and if she can't do the job "she shouldn't be there." [50359, 50362, 50396]

On *Meet the Press*, Kentucky's Democrat Governor Steve Beshear notes that 26,000 people have "signed up" for ObamaCare coverage—but 21,000 of them are going to get free health care through Medicaid. Beshear says, "You know, it's a lot quicker to get somebody enrolled in Medicaid once you find out they're eligible. When you go to the plans [on the healthcare exchange web site], they've got to look at all the details and pick the plans that they want. You know, this is working in Kentucky. We had, and have, some of the worst health statistics in the country, and it's been that way for generations. The only way we're going to get ourselves out of the ditch is some transformational tool. That's what the Affordable Care Act is going to do for us." (Beshear states the obvious: yes, it is "a lot quicker" to give people free health care via Medicaid than to get them to purchase insurance. It is easier to give away free Cadillacs than to get people to buy them as well. But exactly how the debt-ridden federal and state governments can get "out of the ditch" by giving millions more American free or subsidized health insurance is not clear. ObamaCare may be a "transformational tool," but in the end most Americans may not like the result of the transformation.) [50405, 50416]

On *State of the Union*, Obama health advisor Dr. Ezekiel Emanuel (brother of former chief of staff Rahm Emanuel) arrogantly dismisses the fact that hundreds of thousands of Americans are losing their health insurance because their plans are being canceled, saying those policies “are not worth the paper they’re written on. We would not allow unsafe cars without seat belts, without airbags, on the roads. Similarly, we should not allow health plans out there that are really not health plans. ...A health plan that excludes certain kinds of care, like maternity care, is not a health plan.” (Male Americans might disagree with Emanuel.) [50406]

As noted previous in this *Timeline*, Emanuel wrote in the medical journal *The Lancet*, “Unlike allocation [of health care] by sex or race, allocation by age is not invidious discrimination. Every person lives through different life stages rather than being a single age. Even if 25-year-olds receive priority over 65-year-olds, everyone who is 65 years now was previously 25 years. Treating 65-year-olds differently because of stereotypes or falsehoods would be ageist; treating them differently because they have already had more life-years is not.” Emanuel is stating that he believes it is not discriminatory to deny health care to the elderly. He has written that “individuals who are irreversibly prevented from being or becoming participating citizens” should not necessarily be guaranteed health services. “An obvious example is not guaranteeing health services to patients with dementia.” Elderly persons suffering from dementia or Alzheimer’s are therefore among those who Emanuel (and Obama) would consider denying treatment. Emanuel has also written, “Doctors take the Hippocratic Oath too seriously.” Ezekiel Emanuel is a fellow of the Hastings Center, an organization “dedicated to bioethics.” One of its goals is “to collaborate with policy makers, in the private as well as the public sphere, to identify and analyze the ethical dimensions of their work.” Also affiliated with the Hastings Center is Emanuel’s ex-wife, Linda L. Emanuel, author of *Regulating How We Die*. (The Emanuel family appears to have a fascination with methods for ridding society of the elderly and the unproductive.) Of Ezekiel Emanuel, columnist George Potts Thompson writes at CanadaFreePress.com, “This guy is quite frankly frightening in his view of humanity. You are only worthy of care if you are ‘Contributing to the Communitarian.’ After you’ve outlived your usefulness to the state... go away and die. Ezekiel Emmanuel and Joseph Mengele would have got on famously. For they both apparently share a common view of mankind. People only exist as a ‘Resource’ to be used on behalf of The State. When the resource is used up, it is discarded. Sarah Palin was correct in her assessment [“death panels”] of this monstrous Legislation. It’s EVIL.” [3736, 4043, 4124, 4125, 4126, 4271, 4290, 50406]

On *Fox News Sunday*, Congresswoman Marsha Blackburn (R-TN) asks, “How can you expect the government to handle one sixth of the economy when there is this type of staggering incompetence on a Web site rollout?” Also appearing on the program is Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal, whose state did not expand Medicaid as the Obama administration wanted under ObamaCare. Jindal says, “To us, it made no sense to expand Medicaid where for every uninsured person you’re covering, you take more than one person out of private insurance. Secondly, it would mean 41 percent of our population... would be in Medicaid. I think you need more people pulling the cart than are in the cart.

Third, it would cost my taxpayers up to \$1.7 billion over 10 years. This isn't free money. ...In Louisiana, we're not only putting more people into private plans, not only are we reforming this charity hospital system, we're also going to have more people working in the private sector than at any time in our state's history, you see average incomes going up. And that's really the best solution, is to give people good-paying jobs and the ability to afford their own healthcare." [50405]

Newsmax.com reports, "More than 41,000 healthcare workers have been laid off so far this year, and much of the blame goes to Obamacare. The cuts have affected mostly hospital staffing in response to reduced reimbursement rates for Medicare patients under the sequester, and cuts for some providers under the Affordable Care Act, according to an article by Kevin D. Williamson for National Review Online. Private insurers are also reducing payments. ...The Independent Payment Advisory Board (IPAB) is required by the healthcare reform act to reduce the growth of Medicare spending. The bill also bars the IPAB from raising Medicare premiums or rationing care, so most of any savings will come from reduced Medicare payments to providers." (Of course, reducing payments to doctors and hospitals necessarily results in rationing, because fewer doctors and hospitals will be willing to accept Medicare patients.) "Also, the aging of the U.S. population means that a larger share of healthcare will be paid at Medicare rates in future years. That will put financial strain on hospitals, so hospitals have begun cutting back. Some hospitals will reportedly be forced to close due to the reduced Medicare payments." [50345]

FoxNews.com reports that Obama "knew of the organization's spying on German Chancellor Angela Merkel—and approved of the efforts, a National Security Agency official has reportedly told a German newspaper. The Economic Times writes the 'high-ranking' NSA official spoke to [the newspaper] Bild am Sonntag on the condition of anonymity, saying the president, 'not only did not stop the operation, but he also ordered it to continue.' The Economic Times also reports the official told Bild am Sonntag that Obama did not trust Merkel, wanted to know everything about her, and thus ordered the NSA to prepare a dossier on the politician. The account could mean difficulties for the White House, given another report claiming Obama told Merkel during a telephone conversation last Wednesday he was not aware of the NSA's spying. The Economic Times cited Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung in writing that when Merkel called Obama last week to alternately complain—and get an explanation—about the NSA surveillance, [Obama] assured her he wasn't aware of the campaign regarding her, and would have halted it, had he known. According to The New York Times, Susan E. Rice, [Obama's] national security adviser, insisted that Obama did not know about the monitoring of Merkel's phone, during a call last week with Christoph Heusgen, Rice's German counterpart." According to *The Telegraph*, Obama "allegedly allowed US intelligence to listen to calls from the German Chancellor's mobile phone after he was briefed on the operation by Keith Alexander, director of the National Security Agency (NSA), in 2010." (It is, of course, absurd for Obama to suggest—and for anyone to believe—that he has been in the White House for five years without any knowledge that surveillance of foreign leaders was taking place.) [50347, 50348, 50369, 50398]

A critical data center fails, preventing the use of the ObamaCare web site for tens of millions of Americans. According to Reuters, “The data center operated by Verizon’s Terremark experienced a connectivity issue that caused it to shut down, affecting the federal government’s already problem-plagued online marketplace Healthcare.gov and similar sites operated by 14 states and the District of Columbia, according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Obama administration and company officials could not say how long it would take to fix the connectivity problem.” (On the morning of October 28 the Obama administration claims the problem had been resolved—at the same time web page was still displaying the message, “The system is down at the moment.”) [50392, 50423]

DailyCaller.com reports, “Universities are cutting back on adjunct professors’ work hours to comply with Obamacare—an unfortunate wake up call for some liberal academics who supported the law. ‘I understand that colleges don’t have money to throw around and there’s a larger issue here, but it is frustrating to feel like, that in the face of this legislation designed to help people, that instead it’s hurting people,’ said Amy Poff, an adjunct professor who teaches art classes at various Maryland colleges, in a statement to The Baltimore Sun. Under [Obama’s] health care law, employees who work 30 hours each week are eligible for health benefits. Since many adjunct professors teach enough classes to meet that bar, college administrators must choose between paying extra healthcare costs or cutting back adjunct work hours. For many universities—both public and private—the decision is an easy one: punish the adjuncts. ‘Am I saying it’s the right thing to do? No,’ said Robert Conlon, senior vice president at Sibson Consulting, a firm that advises colleges on employment decisions, in a statement to Inside Higher Ed. ‘But is it the logical thing to do? Yes.’ Some 48 percent of universities—including 49 percent of public universities—have decided to place limitations on the number of hours adjunct professors can work, according to a survey conducted by Inside Higher Ed.” [50382]

Leftist blogger Ian Welsh blames his fellow “progressives” for not holding Obama’s feet to the fire and insisting that he move the nation more to the political left. He observes, “Unlike the Tea Party, most left wingers don’t really believe their own ideology. They put partisanship first, or they put the color of a candidate’s skin or the shape of their genitals over the candidate’s policy. Identity is more important to them than how many brown children that politician is killing. So progressives have no power, because they have no principles: they cannot be expected to actually vote for the most progressive candidate, to successfully primary candidates, to care about policy first and identity second, to not take scraps from the table and sell out other progressive’s interests. The Tea Party, say what you will about them, gets a great deal of obeisance from Republicans for one simple reason: they will primary you [challenge a candidate in the primaries] if they don’t like how you’ve been voting, and they’ll probably win that primary. They are feared. Progressives are not feared, because they do not believe enough in their ostensible principles to act on them in an effective fashion. That is why the progressive revolution of the early 2000s failed. If you want the next left wing push to succeed, whatever it is called, learn the lessons of the last failure.” [50460]

At PJMedia.com Roger L. Simon writes, “When I read Sunday evening in the *Wall Street Journal* that Barack Obama was ‘unaware’ until last summer that the U. S. spied on thirty-five world leaders, including German Chancellor Angela Merkel, I was frankly stupefied. (Well, maybe not entirely stupefied, but at least semi-stunned.) No wonder Obamacare and practically everything else from foreign policy to energy policy is an unmitigated mess. [Obama] and his administration have taken hands-off leadership and leading from behind to unprecedented levels. What exactly does [Obama] *do* for a living? What’re we paying him for? ...Forget ‘high crimes and misdemeanors.’ For those you have to do something and be *conscious*. Barack Obama should be impeached for cluelessness.” [50402]

60 Minutes airs what Townhall.com’s Katie Pavlich calls “a damning report from reporter Lara Logan about the details of the Benghazi attack, including an interview with ‘Morgan Jones,’ a former British soldier who spoke under a pseudonym in order to protect his identity. After witnessing the attack, Jones went looking for US Ambassador Christopher Stevens at a hospital that had been overrun by Al Qaeda terrorists. Jones found Stevens, dead. ‘I dreaded seeing who it was,’ Jones tells CBS’ Lara Logan. ‘I could see through the glass, I didn’t even have to go into the room to see who it was. It was the Ambassador, dead.’ Jones explains the lead up to the Benghazi attack on 9/11, which included seeing black Al Qaeda flags flying in the city as the terrorist group took over buildings. He talked about a militia that was openly hanging out at the consulate on a regular basis ‘training for consulate security.’ He asked for them to leave, they refused and nobody bothered forcing them to leave. ‘I was saying these guys are no good, they need to get out of here,’ Jones says. ‘I got quite bored hearing my own voice say it.’” (On November 7 CBS issues a statement: “60 Minutes has learned of new information that undercuts the account told to us by Morgan Jones of his actions on the night of the attack on the Benghazi compound. We are currently looking into this serious matter to determine if he misled us, and if so, we will make a correction.”) [50341, 50363, 50365, 50366, 50367, 50395, 50450, 50600, 50880, 50881, 50983, 50987, 51024]

“Ambassador Stevens was well aware of these threats and asked multiple times for more security from Washington D.C. Those requests were repeatedly denied. ...The threats were there all along and the State Department knew all about it. Al Qaeda promised to attack the United States in Benghazi after singling out the Red Cross and British forces in warnings online. ...Benghazi whistleblower and former deputy to Ambassador Stevens Greg Hicks revealed to Logan that one hour into the attack, he had to call the CIA annex where Navy SEALs Glen Doherty and Tyrone Woods and information management officer Sean Smith were fighting, to tell them help may not be coming for them. ‘I made the call to the annex chief and said, ‘Listen, you have to tell those guys there might not be help coming,’” Hicks said. ‘For us, for the people who go out onto the edge to represent our country we believe that if we get in trouble they’re coming to get us, our back is covered. Too hear that it’s not, it’s a terrible, terrible experience.’” Logan later comments that her reporting was hindered by “An extraordinary amount of pressure on the people involved not to talk. And an extraordinary amount of pressure on anyone in the government—the military side, the political side—not to say anything outside of official channels. I mean, to the point where people that we’ve known for years would call people

who were no longer in their positions, and they would call someone else that we knew, and messages would be delivered like that because there couldn't be any trail linking you directly to our story. The administration is cracking down so hard on leakers: no one wants to put anything in writing, everybody is scared to talk over the phone, people want to meet in person—all of that makes it that much harder to investigate anything.” (*The Obama Timeline* believes there was essentially nothing new in the *60 Minutes* report, and it failed to attribute any blame for the failed attack response or the cover-up to Obama or then-Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.) [50341, 50363, 50365, 50366, 50367, 50395, 50450, 50600, 51024]

On October 28 Jan Crawford reports on *CBS This Morning*, “Nearly five weeks into the launch of HealthCare.gov, the management expert brought in to turn around the website says its issues are fixable. But it's going to take weeks, not days. That comes as some Americans are being surprised, not only that they are being booted off their current plans, but at how much they're being asked to pay for new ones. For many, their introduction to the Affordable Care Act has been negative: a broken website, and now cancellation notices from insurance companies followed by sticker shock over higher prices for the new plans. It's directly at odds with repeated assurances from Obama [who said, 'If you like your insurance plan, you will keep it. No one will be able to take that away from you']. But people across the country are finding out they're losing their existing insurance plans under Obamacare because requirements in the law, such as prenatal and prescription drug coverage, mean their old plans aren't comprehensive enough. In California, Kaiser Permanente terminated policies for 160,000 people. In Florida, at least 300,000 people are losing coverage. That includes 56-year-old Dianne Barrette. Last month, she received a letter from Blue Cross Blue Shield informing her as of January 2014, she would lose her current plan. Barrette pays \$54 a month. The new plan she's being offered would run \$591 a month—10 times more than what she currently pays. Barrette said, 'What I have right now is what I am happy with and I just want to know why I can't keep what I have. Why do I have to be forced into something else?'" [50359]

On *Fox & Friends*, Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC) says, “I'm going to block every appointment in the United States Senate until the [Benghazi] survivors are being made available to the Congress [to testify]. We need to get to the bottom of this. Fourteen months later, the survivors of Benghazi have not been made available to the U.S. Congress for oversight purposes. ... Where was Hillary Clinton during all these multiple requests for security? You could see this attack a long time in the making, according to the people on the ground in Libya. Why couldn't you see it in Washington? Who... told [then ambassador the United Nations] Susan Rice this story about a [Youtube video] protest gone bad? And who told [Obama] there was no evidence of a preplanned terrorist attack, in light of all this information?" [50417, 50681]

Attorney Joe DiGenova, who represents Benghazi whistleblowers, is interviewed on WMAL. He asks, “Here's an interesting question. Remember General Ham and what happened the night of the assault on the American embassy? We have reason to believe that things happened that night in the chain of command where people were relieved of their duties because they insisted that there be a military response. We're working on

trying to establish that with some news organizations but there's very, very good evidence that people were actually relieved of command because they refused not to try and dispatch troops and some response. And by the way, this notion that the administration has put out—it's this little straw man that the military couldn't have landed in Libya, Greg Hicks [former deputy chief of the mission in Libya] has testified and so have some other military people that if there had only been a flyover, that would have dispersed these crowds because they remembered what the American military did [with] its flyovers and its assaults. There were planes in Croatia that could have been there by the time of the attack on the annex and no planes were ever sent. That was because [Obama] refused to issue an order allowing for the dispersal of military into Libya because that was considered an act of war. [Obama] himself, who went to sleep, refused to issue some order. You know, [former Secretary of Defense Leon] Panetta is not a bad man. He knows what went wrong that night. He's never been properly questioned about this and pressed. And if he were he would admit all of this stuff." [50410]

AtlasShrugs.com's Pamela Geller comments on the *60 Minutes* report on Benghazi: "Obama lied, so vicious a lie, so seditious, that if we had a functioning government he would be impeached and indicted. Hillary lied. Jay Carney lied. And was still lying weeks, months after the attack. The more we learn, the more we see what a monster we elected. In yet another declaration of war on September 11, al Qaeda attacked and burned our consulate to the ground in Benghazi and murdered our ambassador and three attaches. Despite repeated cries for help from the two US soldiers on the ground battling these savages alone, Obama refused help. The buck stops with that weak and feckless traitor. Traitor is too harsh, you say? What else would you call a Commander-in-Chief who armed the attackers, refused military backup to the skeletal response team on the ground, and then covered up for the murdering savage militia by blaming the first amendment and some youtube amateur filmmaker? Over a year after the murderous attack, finally, media is talking straight about Benghazi. I am not surprised that Lara Logan is the reporter on the story. She was attacked by Muslim supremacists in Cairo while reporting on the Muslim Brotherhood revolution, aka the Arab Spring." [50368]

Townhall.com political editor Guy Benson points out that the Affordable Care Act [ObamaCare] did *not* require the Healthcare.gov web site to be implemented on October 1. The legislation states that the enrollment period shall be "as determined by the secretary." Sebelius was therefore lying when she said on October 25, "In an ideal world there would have been a lot more testing, but we did not have the luxury of that and the law said the go-time was October 1." Benson observes, "Administration officials *could* have delayed this portion of the law, but that might have looked like a cave to Republicans, so that option was scratched off the list. Instead, they decided to cross their fingers, close their eyes, make a wish, and hope for the best. The best... hasn't panned out. (Remember, they've known this thing was on track to flop for months; as recently as very late September, a trial run of healthcare.gov went down in flames). What's ironic about Sebelius' erroneous comment is that her boss has displayed scant hesitancy in unilaterally delaying other portions of the law that actually are set in stone. In this case, the administration genuinely had some legal discretion to play with, but chose not to

exercise it. Sebelius either doesn't realize this (head-spinning incompetence), or she's actively lying to cover her own ass. Neither infraction is worthy of firing, it would seem—'full confidence,' and all that. No, that level of accountability is reserved for the little people." [50374]

At the daily White House press briefing, press secretary Jay Carney is asked about Obama's repeated promise, "If you like your health insurance plan you can keep it." HotAir.com describes Carney's response: "Carney's reply to this is, essentially, (a) a lot of people will be able to keep their plan if they like it, even if it's not quite everyone, and (b) those who are getting dropped from their plans will get more comprehensive coverage on the exchanges. The latter point is like having the CEO of DirecTV tell customers that their monthly bill is about to double but they'll now receive an extra hundred channels in return, maybe one or two of which people will actually watch. Comprehensive coverage is lovely, but if you're on a budget basic coverage might be more cost-effective; why pay \$1,000 extra a year for a new package that includes substance-abuse treatment, say, if you don't drink or do drugs? Obama took the option of cheaper catastrophic care away from people because insurers wanted to squeeze healthy middle-class suckers for extra revenue by forcing coverage on them that they don't need. And yet Carney's basically selling this as a *good* thing about the law, a sort of upgrade over the basic—but affordable!—plans people have now. Remind me again: Isn't 'affordability' supposed to be a key plank of the Affordable Care Act?" [50418]

NBCNews.com reports, "[M]illions of Americans are getting or are about to get cancellation letters for their health insurance under Obamacare, say experts, and the Obama administration has known that for at least three years. Four sources deeply involved in the Affordable Care Act tell NBC News that 50 to 75 percent of the 14 million consumers who buy their insurance individually can expect to receive a 'cancellation' letter or the equivalent over the next year because their existing policies don't meet the standards mandated by the new health care law. One expert predicts that number could reach as high as 80 percent. And all say that many of those forced to buy pricier new policies will experience 'sticker shock.' None of this should come as a shock to the Obama administration. The law states that policies in effect as of March 23, 2010 will be 'grandfathered,' meaning consumers can keep those policies even though they don't meet requirements of the new health care law. But the Department of Health and Human Services then wrote regulations that narrowed that provision, by saying that if any part of a policy was significantly changed since that date—the deductible, co-pay, or benefits, for example—the policy would not be grandfathered. Buried in Obamacare regulations from July 2010 is an estimate that because of normal turnover in the individual insurance market, '40 to 67 percent' of customers will not be able to keep their policy. And because many policies will have been changed since the key date, 'the percentage of individual market policies losing grandfather status in a given year exceeds the 40 to 67 percent range.' That means the administration knew that more than 40 to 67 percent of those in the individual market would not be able to keep their plans, even if they liked them. Yet ...Obama, who had promised in 2009, 'if you like your health plan, you will be able to keep your health plan,' was still saying in 2012, 'If [you] already have health insurance, you will keep your health insurance.'" [50419, 50476]

Not long after it is posted, the NBC article is scrubbed from its web site, resulting in the message, “We cannot find the page you requested. Error 404.” A modified version is then posted under a different link, with the excuse, “Editor’s Note: A publishing glitch took down our story on policy cancellations under Obamacare. Republished here: <http://t.co/HegN2kyvyV>.” The modified version *excludes* the following paragraph: “None of this should come as a shock to the Obama administration. The law states that policies in effect as of March 23, 2010 will be ‘grandfathered,’ meaning consumers can keep those policies even though they don’t meet requirements of the new health care law. But the Department of Health and Human Services then wrote regulations that narrowed that provision, by saying that if any part of a policy was significantly changed since that date—the deductible, co-pay, or benefits, for example—the policy would not be grandfathered.” Apparently realizing it was caught in the act of hiding something negative about Obama, yet another version includes the paragraph. NBC also appears to have deleted more than 3,000 comments that followed the article, most of which may have been critical of the Obama administration and ObamaCare. [50419, 50428, 50429, 50430]

NBC relates the experience of “George Schwab, 62, of North Carolina, [who] said he was ‘perfectly happy’ with his plan from Blue Cross Blue Shield, which also insured his wife for a \$228 monthly premium. But this past September, he was surprised to receive a letter saying his policy was no longer available. The ‘comparable’ plan the insurance company offered him carried a \$1,208 monthly premium and a \$5,500 deductible. And the best option he’s found on the exchange so far offered a 415 percent jump in premium, to \$948 a month. ‘The deductible is less,’ he said, ‘But the plan doesn’t meet my needs. It’s unaffordable. I’m sitting here looking at this, thinking we ought to just pay the fine and just get insurance when we’re sick. Everybody’s worried about whether the website works or not, but that’s fixable. That’s just the tip of the iceberg. This stuff isn’t fixable.’” [50419]

The Associated Press reports, “With website woes ongoing, the Obama administration Monday granted a six-week extension until March 31 for Americans to sign up for coverage next year and avoid new tax penalties under [Obama’s] health care overhaul law. The move had been expected since White House spokesman Jay Carney promised quick action last week to resolve a ‘disconnect’ in the implementation of the law. ...As a consequence, Republican lawmakers, and some Democrats as well, are calling for a one-year delay in the penalties most Americans will face starting next year if they remain uninsured. Monday’s action by the administration stops well short of that, and amounts only to a limited adjustment. Under the latest policy change, people who sign up by the end of open enrollment season March 31 will not face a penalty. That means procrastinators get a grace period. Previously you had to sign up by the middle of February, guaranteeing that your coverage would take effect March 1, in order to avoid fines for being uninsured. The extension—granted for 2014 only—addresses confusion that was created when the administration set the first open enrollment period under the law from Oct. 1-March 31. The problem was that health insurance coverage typically starts on the first day of a given month, and it takes up to 15 days to process applications.

So somebody signing up March 16—well within the open enrollment period—wouldn't get coverage until April 1, thereby risking a penalty for being uninsured part of the year.” (Some argue that the language of the Affordable Care Act does not allow for Obama to make changes in the deadline. He is therefore arbitrarily changing a law, without he legal authority to do so, on the assumption that Congress will not have the courage to challenge him because it also wants the delay.) [50420]

DailyCaller.com reports, “Michelle Obama and her Princeton classmate whose company received the no-bid government contract to build the HealthCare.gov Obamacare website were both members of a black student organization that caused a tense scene on campus by inviting a PLO leader who advocated for terrorism. Michelle Obama '85 and her classmate Toni Townes-Whitley '85, a senior vice president at CGI Federal, were both students at the university when their groups the Organization of Black Unity (OBU) and the Third World Center (TWC) engaged in a confrontation with Jewish students on campus. Michelle Obama was a member of both the OBU and TWC during her time at Princeton (1981-85). Townes-Whitley also belonged to OBU and TWC. ‘It was an ugly scene, but few expected perfect harmony when the OBU, in conjunction with the Third World Center (TWC), invited Hassan Rahman, the Palestine Liberation Organization’s deputy UN observer, to appear on campus,’ according to a January 25, 1982 Princeton Alumni Weekly (Volume 82) article entitled ‘War of Words’ in the column ‘On the Campus’ by Ted Lempert '83. Rahman ‘reiterated the PLO’s position that the Palestinians deserve a homeland and that they are entitled to use terrorism to achieve their goal, just as American revolutionaries did against the British.’ ‘We have the right to kill them if they are traitors and negotiate with the Israelis,’ Rahman said of non-PLO supporting Palestinians at the event.” [50383]

Sue Klinkhamer, a former aide to former Congressman Bill Foster (D-IL) writes in an email to Foster and other Democrats, “I spent two years defending Obamacare. I had constituents scream at me, spit at me and call me names that I can't put in print. The congressman was not re-elected in 2010 mainly because of the anti-Obamacare anger. When the congressman was not re-elected, I also (along with the rest of our staff) lost my job. I was upset that because of the health care issue, I didn't have a job anymore but still defended Obamacare because it would make health care available to everyone at, what I assumed, would be an affordable price. I have now learned that I was wrong. Very wrong.” (The *Chicago Sun Times* explains her “sudden change of heart”—insurance premiums that are more than doubling, and an increase in her deductible.) [50393, 50394, 51003]

Former Obama chief of staff Bill Daley, brother of former Richard M. Daley, joins CBS News as a “contributor.” [50401]

Former Congressman Jesse Jackson, Jr. reportedly begins serving his 30-month prison sentence at a federal facility in Butner, North Carolina. (According to Fox32 in Chicago, “It also happens to be the same prison where Jackson’s predecessor in congress, Mel Reynolds, served time.” It is worth noting that Obama’s first excursion into politics was running for the Illinois State Senate seat of Alice Palmer, who relinquished that position

to run for Reynolds' spot in Congress. Mel "I won the Lotto" Reynolds was sentenced to seven years in jail for having sex with a 16-year-old campaign volunteer, but Bill Clinton commuted his sentence—perhaps because of a special affinity for elected officials who have sex with young campaign workers. Palmer likely would have won the special election to replace Reynolds had Jesse Jackson not entered the race. Obama ran for Palmer's State Senate seat with the understanding that he would withdraw if she lost the Congressional election. He then reneged on his promise and won his own primary—by using lawyers to get the names of all opponents removed from the ballot. In 2008 Palmer supported Hillary Clinton, rather than Obama. Had Reynolds not been a child molester he arguably could have retained his Congressional seat, Palmer would have remained in the State Senate, and Obama's political career would have taken a different path—perhaps not ending in the White House.) [75, 269, 329, 1361, 1470, 1471, 50421]

FoxNews.com reports, "The Department of Homeland Security is quietly considering lifting a long-standing ban on Libyans coming to the U.S. for training in the aviation and nuclear fields, according to an internal document, raising red flags for lawmakers who say Libya is still a security threat." Congressman Jason Chaffetz (R-UT) comments, "Now, more than ever, we have concerns about terrorist activity in that country. Now the administration wants to normalize—that's just not acceptable." (AtlasShrugs.com's Pamela Geller asks, "Why? Why is Obama training jihadists? He authorized the DoD [Department of Defense] to train the jihadists in Syria... now Libya? Libyans attacked our embassy and killed our people. Why would Obama bring them here—on US soil, and *train them?*" [50424, 50425]

Obama advisor Valerie Jarrett tweets, "Nothing in Obamacare forces people out of their health plans. No change is required unless insurance companies change existing plans." (At HotAir.com Mary Katherine Ham states what should be obvious to all but the most fervent and delusional Obama supporters: "It's just one tweet, but the sheer mendacity requires its own post. With the media finally in 'now it can be told' mode since Obamacare passed and ...Obama was reelected, pretty much everyone is admitting what all of us knew four years ago—that no, not everyone would be able to keep their plans if they liked their plans. And, yes, the Obama administration knew it just as sure as its critics did. It was a lie and an obvious one, but the administration, much of the media, and Obamacare supporters happily acted as if it were true and happily smeared those who suggested otherwise. Tonight, [Obama's] right-hand woman tries the lie again, even as it's demonstrably unraveling before the nation's eyes. Let's try to walk through this inanity. There's nothing in Obamacare that forces people out of their health plans. Instead, Jarrett asserts, insurance companies are just deciding to change their plans, throwing people off their current coverage. She leaves out the part where Obamacare legally requires all health insurance plans to include a certain number of benefits that was above and beyond what many more, ahem, *affordable* plans offered, thereby making certain plans illegal. Many of those plans were plans that people liked and were assured they could keep. Obamacare offered a 'grandfathering' clause, which the administration later eviscerated after it had served its political purpose, ensuring even more people would lose their current coverage. So, no change is required by you under Obamacare

unless your insurance company goes and changes your existing plan to *comply with Obamacare.*”) [50399]

At NationalJournal.com Ron Fournier writes, “Incoming from Democrats: ‘Dem Party is F*****d.’ That was the subject line of an email sent to me Sunday by a senior Democratic consultant with strong ties to the White House and Capitol Hill. The body of the email contained a link to this *Los Angeles Times* story about Obamacare ‘sticker shock:’ ‘These middle-class consumers are staring at hefty increases on their insurance bills as the overhaul remakes the healthcare market. Their rates are rising in large part to help offset the higher costs of covering sicker, poorer people who have been shut out of the system for years. Although recent criticism of the healthcare law has focused on website glitches and early enrollment snags, experts say sharp price increases for individual policies have the greatest potential to erode public support for ...Obama’s signature legislation.’ In his story, reporter Chad Terhune also quoted a letter sent to a California insurance company executive. ‘I was all for Obamacare,’ wrote a young woman complaining about a 50 percent rate hike related to the health care law, ‘until I found out I was paying for it.’ Also of interest to the Democratic consultant: A Josh Barro column on Obama’s promise that ‘if you like your health plan, you can keep your health plan.’ It was never a reasonable pledge, Barro argues, and it’s being proven false. He called this ‘a good thing’ because ‘a lot of existing health plans were bad.’ Reforming the nation’s health care system ‘was necessarily going to have to change a lot of people’s health plans,’ Barro wrote. The Democratic consultant said none of this is news to him, but he wonders why Obama wasn’t honest with Americans. He predicted surprise and outrage over higher costs and lesser coverage. ‘We will own this problem forever,’ the Democrat wrote.” (Obama has spent his entire political career lying, and a Democrat consultant wonders “why Obama wasn’t honest with us.”) [50413, 50414, 50415]

TheHill.com reports, “A senior administration official on Monday rejected [Senate] Intelligence Committee Chairwoman Diane Feinstein’s claim that the U.S. has halted intelligence collection against its allies. In a statement released earlier Monday, the California Democrat said that the White House ‘has informed me that collection on our allies will not continue.’ But the administration official called that statement ‘not accurate.’ ‘While we have made some individual changes, which I cannot detail, we have not made across the board changes in policy like, for example, terminating intelligence collection that might be aimed at all allies,’ the administration official said. After the administration’s statement, a spokesman for Feinstein clarified that the senator intended to say that the U.S. was ceasing ‘collection on foreign allied leaders.’ Feinstein also said that it was her understanding ...Obama ‘was not aware’ the U.S. had been monitoring the cellphone [sic; cell phone] of German Chancellor Angela Merkel. *The Wall Street Journal* reported Sunday that Obama first learned of the program, which apparently began in 2002, during an internal audit of intelligence practices this summer. In an interview Monday afternoon with Fusion [Fusion.net], [Obama] refused to comment when asked about when he became aware of the surveillance.” [50431]

LATimes.com reports, “The White House and State Department signed off on surveillance targeting phone conversations of friendly foreign leaders, current and former

U.S. intelligence officials said Monday, pushing back against assertions that ... Obama and his aides were unaware of the high-level eavesdropping. Professional staff members at the National Security Agency and other U.S. intelligence agencies are angry, these officials say, believing [Obama] has cast them adrift as he tries to distance himself from the disclosures by former NSA contractor Edward Snowden that have strained ties with close allies. The resistance emerged as the White House said it would curtail foreign intelligence collection in some cases and two senior U.S. senators called for investigations of the practice. France, Germany, Italy, Mexico and Sweden have all publicly complained about the NSA surveillance operations, which reportedly captured private cellphone [sic; cell phone] conversations by German Chancellor Angela Merkel, among other foreign leaders.” (Townhall.com’s Guy Benson writes that Obama “pretended that he and his inner circle were unaware of this [spying] practice. In doing so, he angered and alienated the people who know better. ‘Restoring our image in the world’ via infuriating close allies, then dishonestly throwing your own intel people under the bus in an act of fleeting damage control. Well played, champ. *Smart power*. There are conflicting accounts of who knew what, and when. The *Washington Post* says Obama was first briefed about this program over the summer, but wasn’t upset by what he heard. The *LA Times* piece... quotes sources who say it would be inconceivable that Obama didn’t know all along, unless he hasn’t been reading his intelligence briefings—a duty he’s been known to routinely shirk. Senate Intelligence Chairwoman Dianne Feinstein [D-CA] has pronounced herself outraged over this new revelation, but are there strong hints that she’s been in the know, too? Collecting relevant information on friends and foes alike is what intelligence services do.”) [50435, 50436, 50444]

DailyCaller.com notes, “The New Yorker magazine’s latest issue features a nearly 10,000 word article on the rise in homelessness in New York City—but the piece doesn’t mention the name ‘Barack Obama’ a single time. According to the article, the number of homeless in New York City has exploded in recent years. ‘For baseball games, Yankee Stadium seats 50,287. If all the homeless people who now live in New York City used the stadium for a gathering, several thousand of them would have to stand,’ the article opens.” [50438]

On *Special Report*, Charles Krauthammer comments on the lunacy of ObamaCare requiring 58-year-old men to pay for pre-natal care: “It’s precisely why historically centrally-planned economies don’t work. The Soviets had a plan for this much steel and this much concrete and it had no response to what was out there in the market and they overproduced. So, they had a lot of production numbers and they had an economy that was unworkable. ... [I]f you’re a single male in your 60s, you don’t need the maternal care, you don’t need—you’ve never smoked dope—you don’t need the substance abuse stuff. You want a catastrophic plan which is very rational, but [White House press secretary] Jay Carney is saying, you know, ‘You’re too stupid to understand what you want.’ Once you eliminate the market response, which is a lot of people decid[ing] I know what I want better than the bureaucrat—and they’re eliminating this [freedom of choice]. That’s the essence of what’s happening and that’s why it’s not going to work.” [50358]

MSNBC's Chris Matthews, generally a passionate Obama sycophant, excoriates the administration for its failure to come to the aid of Ambassador Christopher Stevens and three other Americans in Benghazi. Matthews says Obama has "the best security agency, people are sitting in the White House 24/7, there are officers on deck, they are getting an instantaneous report on what's happening there. What were they looking at in forms of assets that could have been sent? Where was the U.S. Cavalry, to use an American image. Where were the people that could've come or tried to get there within how many hours it took to save the lives of the people still living? Where were they and why weren't they called to do it? I'm going to ask that question until I get an answer. ...My interest is on facts, and the questions I have about this are what was the State Department's role in real-time, not beforehand, but at the time of the attack in defending the lives of their people, especially the U.S. ambassador, who was a friend, a friend of the Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton? What was [sic] their actions, what was the tick-tock? What did they do when they got the warning of the attack?" Guest Jay Newton-Small suggests the problem was that "help was really far away. It wasn't like it was next door. It was several hours away in Italy, so—" Matthews interrupts, "But the fight went on for seven hours." Newton-Small: "Yeah, but then if you're doing it in waves, you think the attack is over and sending somebody is not going to help anymore, right? Then all of a sudden, they attack again." Matthews: "I'm going to ask you something. If that was your brother or father in there, would you say that's an acceptable response? 'Oh, it's probably over by now, it's no good to send anybody.' Or would you say, 'I don't care if it's over or not, I'm going to collect the bodies if nothing else. I'm going to get there and show I cared.' That's what I'd do." Newton-Small: "These are questions that Hillary will have to answer if she runs for president in 2016—" Matthews: "And [Obama] and the National Security Adviser and everybody sitting in that Situation Room. We had lots of coverage of people when we killed bin Laden, we had a lot of coverage of that. There's [sic] a lot of photographers around during that. How come this is shrouded in mystery? What I can't understand is all these months later we're still trying to figure out what happened. I just want to know, as an American, what happened? Did everybody do what they were supposed to do? Did everybody make a really good desperate effort to save the lives of our people over there or didn't they? If they didn't, that's a problem, but I want an answer." (Conveniently for Obama, Matthews did not want an answer in the weeks leading up to the November 2012 election.) [50451]

The Obama Timeline again attempts to access Healthcare.gov, and *again* is greeted with an inappropriate error message after completing the first few pages: "Important: Your account couldn't be created at this time. The combination of the first name, last name, and email address aren't [sic] unique." *Again*, the system forces a return to the first page and the reentry of *all* information. (Unless someone else has already signed up at the site using the *Timeline's* name and email address, the Healthcare.gov message is incorrect.)

On October 29 syndicated columnist Charles Krauthammer appears on *Morning Joe* and comments, "[Obama] doesn't succeed in all the things he wants to do. He isn't able to cut the government, but he changes the way we look at the government. Obama has always seen himself—and it is remarkable because he did this as an outsider, somebody who really had a long shot at the White House, but he saw himself long ago as world

historical, as a figure who would change that trajectory, end the 30-year conservative ascendancy ushered in by Reagan and begin a new liberal ascendancy. The irony is that his signature achievement, ObamaCare, is the test of this new liberalism, and today it hangs in the balance of a website or a promise here and there. So there's kind of a practical reality check on his ambitions. If he does not succeed with ObamaCare, the cause of the kind of expansive liberalism, the kind of entitlement state he's been looking for I think will be set back a full generation." [50446]

At LATimes.com "guest blogger" Matthew Fleischer, a self-described "healthy 34-year-old with a taxable income hovering right around the Obamacare subsidy level," slams ObamaCare and the administration's claim that "1 million single adults between the ages of 18 and 35 will be eligible for an Obamacare insurance plan costing less than \$50 a month." Fleischer writes that he currently has "a relatively inexpensive catastrophic health insurance plan from Blue Shield. I get to see the doctor four times a year for a \$30 co-pay, and I won't have to spend the rest of my life working off the debt if I get hit by a bus. Last month, however, I received a letter from my insurance company informing me that my plan was 'no longer available' due to 'new requirements for health coverage under the Affordable Care Act.' I am being funneled into the closest equivalent plan under the new California health exchange, and my monthly premium is going to rise by nearly 43% to \$214 a month. ... Under my old plan, my maximum out-of-pocket expense was \$4,900. Under the new plan, I'm on the hook for up to \$6,350. Copays for my doctor visits will double. For urgent-care visits, they will quadruple. Though slightly cheaper plans exist if I decide to shop around on the exchange, I will lose my dental coverage should I switch. Needless to say, I am not pleased." [50577]

"... We've been hearing people complain that the Obamacare-approved policies cover too much, not too little. That's part of the reason premiums are higher. But from my view, a higher monthly premium along with higher copays create a disincentive. Paying more to see a doctor means there's less chance I'll use that service unless I'm absolutely desperate. All of this isn't simply idle hand-wringing. If young healthy people like myself feel we're being taken advantage of, and opt out of purchasing insurance—paying the penalty instead—the healthcare exchanges will collapse. ... When Obamacare comes fully online, it will do wonders to provide healthcare for people who were not eligible for Medicaid but still could not afford health insurance. If this system is going to be sustainable, however, we're going to need to find a way to get older and wealthier Americans to chip in more. Because, right now, it's young, middle-class people just outside the subsidy range who are biting the bullet. Young, middle-class people who already bore the highest toll in the recent financial collapse, who have seen our wages sliced and our job prospects dwindle. You can only ride our backs for so long before we're going to tell you enough is enough." [50577]

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) states he will not support any easing of Pentagon spending cuts brought about by the sequestration deal unless Republicans agree to "new revenues." (In other words, Reid is demanding tax increases—knowing full well the GOP will not agree to them—in an effort to produce another government shutdown showdown he thinks the Democrats can win.) [50502]

Marilyn Tavenner, head of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, testifies before the House Ways and Means Committee. She states, “I want to apologize to you that the website is not working as well as it should. I want to assure you that HealthCare.gov can be fixed, and we are working around the clock to give you the experience that you deserve.” Congressman Kevin Brady (R-TX) asks if she can guarantee that “no American will experience a gap in their health care.” Tavenner says, “[W]hat I can guarantee is we have a system that’s working. We’re gonna improve the speed of that system...” An astounded Brady interrupts: “Excuse me, you’re saying the system right now is *working*?” Tavenner: “I’m saying it’s working. It’s just not working at the speed that we want and at the success rate that we want, and those are the things we’re working on. We also have alternative methods for folks. They can use the call center. They can use paper applications, and then we have in-person assistance available in each state, so I can guarantee you that we can reach out to each individual and help them select a plan and enroll.” [50407, 50408, 50412, 50447]

Tavenner states that no ObamaCare enrollment numbers will be released until “mid-November. We have people who are shopping now. We expect the initial number to be small, and I think you’ve seen that in our projections, and that was the Massachusetts experience as well.” According to CNSNews.com, Tavenner claims 700,000 people have enrolled at Healthcare.gov. (That does not mean they all purchased insurance, however.) Tavenner states she expects 7 million to buy insurance on the exchanges by the end of March. Asked by committee chairman Dave Camp (R-MI) if there will be enough young and healthy people in the 7 million to make the system viable, Tavenner responds, “I don’t have that metric with me, but I’ll check on it.” Camp presses Tavenner on the enrollment figures, “So do you not know, do you not have any idea of how many people have enrolled...?” Tavenner: “Folks are still in the process of enrolling both at the—in the state-based exchanges and in the federal exchange, and we will have those number available in mid-November. ...Am I getting those numbers? Not yet.” [50407, 50408]

Camp continues: “You have no numbers on who’s enrolled—so you have no idea?” Tavenner: “We will have those numbers available in Mid-November.” Camp: “So no one is forwarding even weekly updates...?” Tavenner: “I think you’ve seen some in the press, and I think that was on the graph earlier, about what states have listed. We will get those numbers in mid-November.” Camp: “But, I understand you’re not publicly releasing those numbers, but I’m asking do you have any idea of, on a weekly basis, how many people are enrolling, I mean, how do you not know how many people have enrolled?” Tavenner: “Chairman Camp, we will have those numbers available in mid-November.” Camp: “But is your staff updating you on those, are you getting those on a periodic basis? I realize you’re not prepared to give this to the committee, even though this is a government program and we’re trying to do oversight here and we’re trying to understand what the problems are—but do you have some idea what some of those problems might be, in terms of the numbers.” Tavenner: “I’m not quite sure what you’re asking.” [50407]

Camp: “Well you said 700,000 people have completed the application process, so clearly you’re getting some information. Do you have any idea of how many of those can move to the next step of enrolling, looking at plans, how many are eligible, how many have decided to enroll?” Tavenner: “Once individuals complete the applications, then they go into the shopping experience where they can look at plans. We do get numbers on the number of applications, and then we need to break those out, and that’s what I said, this is part of the rollout that we will give in mid-November for the October data.” Camp: “Okay, so you do have the applications, which is the 700,000 number, but you don’t have how many people successfully enrolled. Tavenner: “I’m saying people are still in the process of enrolling.” Camp asks how many of the 700,000 enrollments so far are eligible for Medicaid. Tavenner responds, “We have some information on who is eligible for Medicaid, and obviously states have their own information about that, and it depends on whether a state has expanded or not, and what’s going on inside—it’s very state-specific.” [50407]

Camp: “Can you share with the committee the information you have about those that have enrolled and are eligible for Medicaid?” Tavenner: “We will also have that information available in mid-November as well.” Camp: “Because that would mean of those 700,000, a significant portion could not be enrolling in the exchange—would not be in the exchange—if they’re qualifying for Medicaid, is that correct?” Tavenner: “We will have that information available to you in mid-November.” Camp: “Yeah, but the law is, that if they’re eligible for Medicaid, they’re not enrolling in the exchange, that’s my question.” Tavenner: “Correct.” Camp: “So there could be a significant portion of that 700,000 that would not be enrolling in an exchange. Is that correct?” Tavenner: “There could be numbers in there that will be eligible for Medicaid, that’s correct.” Camp asks how many of the 700,000 are just looking at prices and appear not to be buying coverage. Tavenner replies, “We actually look at the people who are shopping, and obviously the majority of the people who are completing applications are there to actually purchase the insurance. And so they continue to go through the shopping experience.” (Some might wonder how Tavenner can know that “the majority” of the 700,000 “are there to actually purchase the insurance” yet not know how many have done so. Clearly she is stonewalling—at the direction of Obama and Kathleen Sebelius—and they are all keeping their fingers crossed that by mid-November they will have respectable numbers to report. What they will do if they do not remains to be seen.) [50407]

White House press secretary is asked, “Can you explain in just really clear and plain terms the disconnect between what [Obama] said about if you want to keep your plan, you can keep it, and what we see people complaining about, which is being kicked out of their plan or being told they have to buy a more expensive plan, or just general unhappiness in that segment? Can you explain?” Carney responds in part, “So, what we’re talking about here is the five percent in the country who currently purchase insurance on the individual market. And that market has been like the wild west. It has been under-regulated, it is this place where Americans have most keenly felt the challenges posed by the insurance system in this country where, for example, insurers could deny you coverage if you had a pre-existing condition, or they could offer you coverage that in its fine print excluded benefits specifically related to your pre-existing

condition. So if you are, if you have hypertension or you're a cancer survivor, they could carve out coverage on those specific issues and then give you a plan that would cover you on other things. They could also and did routinely change your plan or eliminate it altogether annually. They could throw you off. They could jack up your premiums. They could change your coverage. And one of the issues that the Affordable Care Act was designed to address was the need to provide greater security to those Americans who had no other option but to seek insurance on the individual market. So that's the universe we're talking about, five percent of the population." [50445]

"And I think it's important to know that, because in some of the coverage of this issue in the last several days, you would think that you were talking about 75 percent or 80 percent or 60 percent of the American population. So there's that. As the law says and as [Obama] made clear... if you had insurance coverage on the individual market when the Affordable Care Act was passed into law and you liked that plan and you wanted to stay on it even though it didn't meet the minimum standards that the Affordable Care Act would bring into place on January 1, 2014, you can keep that coverage. You're grandfathered in. That plan and your association with it are grandfathered in citizen in perpetuity. Not for a year, not for five years, but forever. But what is not the case is if your insurer basically threw you off that plan by telling you after a year or two that it was changing and said here's your new option because your plan has changed, that that new plan is grandfathered in because how could that be? You can't grandfather in a plan in 2010 that didn't come into existence into 2012 or 2011." [50445, 50453]

Carney conveniently neglects to mention that if a grandfathered plan does *not* comply with ObamaCare, the individual may be able to keep it but the individual must *also* pay the tax penalty for not having "government approved" coverage. That is, the individual would be paying *both* the premiums for his policy *and* the annual tax—2.5 percent of his income in 2016—for not having an Obama-approved policy. The insurance companies therefore must change their plans to comply with ObamaCare—and Carney blames them for doing just that. At HotAir.com Erika Johnsen comments on "the new, obfuscatory defensive line that 'insurers are responsible for canceling plans, not ObamaCare'—which evidently took less than 12 hours to become a bona fide progressive talking point—really helps to drive the point home. Trying to shift the blame onto insurers for the oh-so-heinous crimes of offering a wide variety of both comprehensive and non-comprehensive plans, and pricing them according to their actual associated costs and risks, in an individual market with a high rate of turnover is just another way for the Obama administration to yet again insist to both individuals and businesses that their arbitrary determinations of 'fairness' are both wiser and nobler than anything that freely cooperative actors could ever come up with—which they use their executive fiat to override and ignore. They certainly did a lovely job of selling the 'Affordable' Care Act as a favor they were doing all Americans, the only problem being that it's a favor many Americans are discovering they don't actually want." (The Americans who lose their individual policies because of ObamaCare will then have to go to Healthcare.gov to buy a replacement policy—even though it will likely be more expensive. Obama will then shamelessly *take credit* for providing them with health insurance—because they will be

counted in with everyone who never had insurance but purchased it via Healthcare.gov.) [50445, 50453]

Politico reports that Obama “will campaign for Virginia gubernatorial candidate Terry McAuliffe this weekend, giving a late boost to McAuliffe as he seeks to energize core Democratic voters in an off-year governor’s race... Obama is set to appear at a Sunday afternoon get-out-the-vote rally in Northern Virginia. It will be [Obama’s] first campaign appearance for McAuliffe, the former chairman of the Democratic National Committee.” The Republican candidate, Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli, comments, “The move makes official what we have already known to be true: McAuliffe’s unwavering support for [Obama’s] signature legislative achievement, Obamacare. As governor, I will continue to do everything in my power to stop the law from exacerbating the uncertainty already felt by our job creators and leading to fewer options and more expensive health care for middle-class Virginia families.” (McAuliffe has been a political operative for most of his life and has no known managerial or leadership skills. His main claim to fame is his connections to Bill and Hillary Clinton.) [50427]

A new web site called ICouldntKeepMyPlan.com compiles reports of Americans whose health insurance has been canceled because of ObamaCare. The site is sponsored by the Civitas Institute. [50439, 50440, 50441]

Several thousand coal miners demonstrate at the Capitol Building in Washington, D. C. to protest Obama’s war on coal—and their livelihoods. Congressman Andy Barr (R-KY) tells the assembled crowd, “The figure that really matters is the number of innocent people caught up in the Obama administration’s war on coal. ...I don’t care if you’re a Democrat or a Republican, it is fundamentally wrong, it is fundamentally immoral, it is downright outrageous that the federal government would put the American, hardworking family in economic distress. ...Small businesses have no customers, county governments have no tax revenues to invest in schools or infrastructure. The unemployment in some counties is in double digits, including in my district in central eastern Kentucky. The outcomes are the result of an artificial crisis—an economic downturn engineered in the West Wing [of the White House] and enforced by the EPA [Environmental Protection Agency]. Unelected, unaccountable Washington bureaucrats have decreed that this way of life, the symbol of Appalachia, must now come to an end, regardless of the consequences on the lives of their fellow Americans. ...I have a message for ...Obama: Come to eastern Kentucky. Visit Appalachia’s coal fields, speak with these coal miners and their families who have been issued pink slips because of your environmentalist agenda, and then ask yourself—look yourself in the mirror, Mr. [Obama]—‘Is this the kind of hardship I want to inflict on the American people?’” (DailyCaller.com notes, “According to the American Coalition for Clean Coal Electricity, more than 300 coal-fired generators have already been closed or slated for shutdown across 33 states due in part to EPA regulations.” [50479]

Entertainer Kanye West tells radio host Ryan Seacrest, “There’s no way that Kim Kardashian [the mother of his child, “North West”] shouldn’t be on the cover of *Vogue* [as Michelle Obama was]. She’s like [sic] the most intriguing woman. Right now Barbara

Walters is calling her like [sic] every day. And collectively, we're the most influential with clothing. No one is looking at what [Obama] is wearing. Michelle Obama cannot Instagram a pic like what my girl Instagrammed the other day." [50500, 50501]

TalkingPointsMemo.com (TPM) reports, "The health insurance industry is planning to warn members of Congress that extending Obamacare's open enrollment period, which a group of Democratic senators have begun to urge the White House to do, could have a disastrous effects on insurance premiums. The proposal to extend the open enrollment period, which has been endorsed by 10 Democratic senators, is a reaction to the well-documented problems with HealthCare.gov in its opening month. With many people having trouble applying for insurance through the website, and the administration setting a Nov. 30 deadline for the site to be fully functional, the senators say people need more time to sign up for coverage. The enrollment period is scheduled to end March 31. The senators haven't asked for a specific new end date yet. But expect to start hearing a significant amount of pushback from the industry, with a message focused on the fact that insurance premiums could skyrocket in 2015 if the enrollment period is extended. 'We are focused on educating lawmakers and the broader policy community about why the individual mandate and defined open enrollment periods are essential to achieving broad participation in the marketplaces,' Robert Zirkelbach, spokesman for America's Health Insurance Plans, a major industry lobbying group, told TPM. 'Without these enrollment incentives, many young, healthy people may wait to purchase coverage until they need it, driving up premiums for everyone else.' The problem, according to the industry, is that an extended enrollment period could skew their calculations for 2015 premiums." [50442, 50443]

At NationalReview.com Jonathan String reports, "House Democratic Whip Steny Hoyer conceded to reporters today that Democrats knew people would not be able to keep their current health care plans under Obamacare and expressed qualified contrition for President Obama's repeated vows to the contrary. 'We knew that there would be some policies that would not qualify and therefore people would be required to get more extensive coverage,' Hoyer said in response to a question from National Review. Asked by another reporter how repeated statements by Obama to the contrary weren't 'misleading,' Hoyer said 'I don't think the message was wrong. I think the message was accurate. It was not precise enough... [it] should have been caveated with [sic; come with a caveat]—'assuming you have a policy that in fact does do what the bill is designed to do.' Hoyer noted that people losing access to their current plans are mostly in the individual market, which is a small segment of the overall market. He also argued that requiring those plans to follow new mandates and regulations was important for ensuring those plans included 'adequate coverage so the public would not have to be on the hook for serious illnesses or other illnesses.'" (George Will remarks on *Special Report*, "And as a result supporters of ObamaCare are pioneering new dimensions of sophistry. Steny Hoyer [D-MD], the second-ranking Democrat in the House, today said [Obama] should have caveated it. Now that's a clunky verb. What he means is he should have put a big asterisk over his statement, and the asterisk would say, 'You can keep your insurance if but only if you buy the insurance that we think you ought to have,' which reveals the part of ObamaCare that is 'applied Bloombergism.' The mayor of New York's [Michael

Bloomberg] been a very candid progressive. He says, ‘I know what you ought to eat, I know what you ought to drink, and I’m going to use the police power of the city to make you do it.’ And ObamaCare says exactly the same thing: You’re free to choose if you choose the right thing.” [50448, 50453, 50468, 50473, 50477]

Townhall.com political editor Guy Benson comments, “The White House’s response to all this is to sniff that Obama didn’t really say what he said [about being able to keep your plan if you like it], and chalking up the millions of affected Americans as ‘anecdotes.’ The level of arrogant perfidy is sickening. Meanwhile, many insurers and doctors are declining to participate in Obamacare at all, severely narrowing options for consumers within the exchanges. If the coverage ‘death spiral’ plays out—rapidly or gradually—more insurers may drop out of Obamacare, resulting in fewer and more expensive options for those relying on the law. As premiums spike to compensate for losses (which may be artificially mitigated by hugely costly government bailouts for a time), healthy people will bid farewell to their carriers. If the remaining consumer pool is too sick to sustain, insurance companies will face the choice of withdrawing from Obamacare or going out of business. Either way, expect ‘access shock’ to get a lot worse.” (Of course, Obama does not care if insurers go out of business—because that gives him a crisis he can “solve” with a fully nationalized health care system. That may, in fact, have been his plan all along, but it was thwarted when Republicans won control of the House of Representatives in the November 2010 elections.) [50474]

DailyCaller.com reports, “The Obama administration appears to have passed up offers from Amazon and Microsoft to help fix the federal government’s troubled healthcare enrollment website, according to documents released on Tuesday by a Republican-led congressional investigating committee. An October 7 inquiry from Amazon’s subsidiary Amazon Web Services Inc. was turned down by two senior officials at the Department of Health and Human Services, which is overseeing implementation of ...Obama’s healthcare reform law, according to copies of emails provided by the House of Representatives Oversight and Government Reform Committee. Microsoft also contacted HHS and the White House with offers of ‘technical expertise and assistance,’ but the company has not provided any such services, a Microsoft representative said in an October 25 letter to the committee. The letter did not say whether the administration had responded to Microsoft’s offers.” [50480, 50489]

NYPPost.com reports, “New York doctors are treating ObamaCare like the plague, a new survey reveals. A poll conducted by the New York State Medical Society finds that 44 percent of MDs said they are not participating in the nation’s new health-care plan. Another 33 percent say they’re still not sure whether to become ObamaCare providers. Only 23 percent of the 409 physicians queried said they’re taking patients who signed up through health exchanges. ‘This is so poorly designed that a lot of doctors are afraid to participate,’ said Dr. Sam Unterricht, president of the 29,000-member organization. ‘There’s a lot of resistance. Doctors don’t know what they’re going to get paid.’ Three out of four doctors who are participating in the program said they ‘had to participate’ because of existing contractual obligations with an insurer or medical provider, not because they wanted to. Only one in four ‘affirmatively’ chose to sign up for the

exchanges. Nearly eight in 10—77 percent—said they had not been given a fee schedule to show [how] much they’ll get paid if they sign up.” The newspaper quotes several doctors: “Obama Care wants to start right away, but who see all these new patients???? Not me.” “I plan to retire if this disaster is implemented. This is a train wreck.” “I refuse to participate in the exchange plans! I am completely opposed to this new law.” “The solution is simple: Just say no.” “I am seriously considering opting out of all insurance plans including Medicare because of [ObamaCare].” “ObamaCare is a disaster. I have already seen denial of medication, denial of referrals.” “Any doctor who accepts the exchange is just a bad businessman/woman. Pays terrible.” “Can’t imagine any doctors would be willing to work for so little money? All doctors should boycott.” “I get screwed from insurance companies already. I refuse to get screwed any longer.” “This is a joke. We are flying blind.” [50449]

Body language expert Dr. Lillian Glass tells DailyCaller.com, “Basically, we’re seeing an Obama that we’ve never seen before. Body language-wise, he looks tentative. He looks down. We see an embarrassed Obama. He’s not as confident as he once was. It’s really taking its toll on him. He swallows more when he speaks. He has much more tension in his lower jaw. His posture is more slouched over... This whole [ObamaCare rollout] situation has affected him. The tension around the jaw is very prevalent, more than it was before. That signifies a lot of anger and a lot of tension and anxiety. You see the puffiness around his eyes. He’s losing a lot of sleep over this for sure. What is so unusual body language-wise is that we’ve never seen him in this state. We really see how this has had an effect on him. ...Even though Obama talked about body language and said in one speech, ‘don’t look at body language,’ the body doesn’t lie. People pick things up. When we decipher it and we analyze it, it’s quite relevant because we’re seeing it in action right away. It’s really forced a changed in his demeanor. You can physically see a difference in him and this is probably the most tense we’ve ever seen him.” [50457]

Money.CNN.com reports, “The Obamacare website has more than annoying bugs. A cybersecurity expert found a way to hack into users’ accounts. Until the Department of Health fixed the security hole last week, anyone could easily reset your Healthcare.gov password without your knowledge and potentially hijack your account. The glitch was discovered last week by Ben Simo, a software tester in Arizona. Simo found that gaining access to people’s accounts was frighteningly simple.” [50474]

The Wall Street Journal writes, “For all of the Affordable Care Act’s technical problems, at least one part is working on schedule. The law is systematically dismantling the individual insurance market, as its architects intended from the start. ...Americans should understand that this month’s mass cancellation wave has been [Obama’s] political goal since 2008. Liberals believe they must destroy the market in order to save it. ... One of every 10 private policies is sold through the individual market, covering about 7% of the U.S. population under age 65. Some states have ruined this market through regulation and price controls, and in others costs can be high. But the individual market works well for millions of people, who can choose from many plans—from Cadillac coverage to cheaper protection against catastrophic illness. The political problem for the White House is that these choices are a threat to ObamaCare. If too many people keep these policies instead

of joining the government exchanges, ObamaCare could fail. HHS has thus reviewed the decisions of people in the individual market and found them wanting. HHS believes as a matter of political philosophy that everyone should have the same kind of insurance, and in the name of equity it wrote rules dictating the benefits that all plans must cover and how they must be financed.” [50510]

“In most cases these mandates are more comprehensive and thus more expensive than the status quo, but the ObamaCare refugees aren’t merely facing higher costs. The plans they want and are willing to pay for have been intentionally outlawed. Ponder that one. Liberals claim the new insurance should cost more because it’s better, at least as defined by liberal paternalism. But the real reason they want policies to cost more is to drive as many people as possible out of this market and into the subsidized ObamaCare exchanges. The exchanges need these customers to finance ObamaCare’s balance sheet and stabilize its risk pools. On the exchanges, individuals earning more than \$46,000 or a family of four above \$94,000 don’t qualify for subsidies and must buy overpriced insurance. If these middle-class ObamaCare losers can be forced into the exchanges, they become financiers of the new pay-as-you-go entitlement. ...None of this is an accident. It is the deliberate result of the liberal demand that everyone have essentially the same coverage and that government must dictate what that coverage is and how much it costs. Such political control is the central nervous system of the Affordable Care Act, and it is why so many people can’t keep the insurance they like.” [50510]

On the Fox Business Channel, Neil Cavuto delivers a scathing attack on Obama for his lies, obfuscations, and failure to deliver on his many promises. Cavuto argues that Americans do not trust ObamaCare because they don’t trust Obama. [50452]

Late in the evening, *The Obama Timeline* attempts to access Healthcare.gov and receives the message, “The system is down at the moment. We are experiencing technical difficulties and hope to have them resolved soon. Please try again later. In a hurry? You might be able to apply faster at our Marketplace call center. Call 1-800-318-2596 to talk with one of our trained representatives about applying over the phone.”

On October 30 *The Washington Post’s* Glenn Kessler writes, “[Obama’s] pledge that ‘if you like your insurance, you will keep it’” deserves “four Pinocchios.” It was also an extraordinarily bold—and possibly foolish—pledge, unless he thought he simply could dictate exactly how the insurance industry must work. At the time, some observers noted the problems with Obama’s promise. After Obama made his speech before the AMA, the Associated Press ran a smart analysis...that demonstrated how it would be all but impossible for [Obama] to keep that pledge. The article noted that the Congressional Budget Office assumed that 10 million Americans would need to seek new insurance under the Senate version of the bill. Meanwhile, in the Republican weekly address on Aug. 24, 2009, Rep. Tom Price (R-GA), a doctor, made this point: ‘On the stump, [Obama] regularly tells Americans that ‘if you like your plan, you can keep your plan.’ But if you read the bill, that just isn’t so. For starters, within five years, every health care plan will have to meet a new federal definition for coverage—one that your current plan might not match, even if you like it.’ One might excuse [Obama] for making

an aspirational pledge as the health-care bill was being drafted, but it turns out he kept saying it after the bill was signed into law. By that point, there should have been no question about the potential impact of the law on insurance plans, especially in the individual market.” [50464, 50465, 50466, 50484]

“As we have noted, a key part of the law is forcing insurers to offer an ‘essential health benefits’ package, providing coverage in 10 categories. The list includes: ambulatory patient services; emergency services; hospitalization; maternity and newborn care; mental health and substance use disorder services, including behavioral health treatment; prescription drugs; rehabilitative and habilitative services and devices; laboratory services; preventive and wellness services and chronic disease management; and pediatric services, including oral and vision care. For some plans, this would be a big change. In 2011, the Department of Health and Human Services noted: ‘62 percent of enrollees do not have coverage for maternity services; 34 percent of enrollees do not have coverage for substance abuse services; 18 percent of enrollees do not have coverage for mental health services; 9 percent of enrollees do not have coverage for prescription drugs.’ The law did allow ‘grandfathered’ plans—for people who had obtained their insurance before the law was signed on March 23, 2010—to escape this requirement and some other aspects of the law. But the regulations written by HHS while implementing the law set some tough guidelines, so that if an insurance company makes changes to a plan’s benefits or how much members pay through premiums, copays or deductibles, then a person’s plan likely loses that status. ...One provision says that if copayment increases by more than \$5, plus medical cost of inflation, then the plan can no longer be grandfathered. ...Another provision says the coinsurance rate could not be increased at all above the level it was on March 23, 2010. ...In the individual insurance market, few plans were expected to meet the ‘grandfathered’ requirements, which is why many people are now receiving notices that their old plan is terminated and they need to sign up for different coverage. Again, this should be no surprise. As HHS noted in a footnote of a report earlier this year: ‘We note that, as the Affordable Care Act is implemented, we expect grandfathered coverage to diminish, particularly in the individual market.’” [50464, 50465, 50466]

“The administration is defending this [“If you like your plan you can keep it”] pledge with a rather slim reed—that there is nothing in the law that makes insurance companies force people out of plans they were enrolled in before the law passed. That explanation conveniently ignores the regulations written by the administration to implement the law. Moreover, it also ignores the fact that the purpose of the law was to bolster coverage and mandate a robust set of benefits, whether someone wanted to pay for it or not. [Obama’s] statements were sweeping and unequivocal—and made both before and after the bill became law. The White House now cites technicalities to avoid admitting that he went too far in his repeated pledge, which, after all, is one of [his] most famous statements... [Obama’s] promise apparently came with a very large caveat: ‘If you like your health care plan, you’ll be able to keep your health care plan—if we deem it to be adequate.’” [50464, 50465, 50466]

Secretary of Health and Human Services testifies before a House committee and states, “I would suggest that the web site [Healthcare.gov] never crashed. It is functional, but at a very slow speed and very low reliability, and has continued to function.” As Sebelius speaks, the web site displays the message, “The system is down at the moment.” CNN broadcasts a split-screen of Sebelius and the error message. The web site remains unavailable during her three-and-a-half hours of testimony. (Sebelius’ denial may remind some of a scene in the movie, *A Guide for the Married Man*, in which a character played by Joey Bishop is caught in bed with another woman. Bishop pretends the woman is not in the motel room and keeps repeating to his wife, “What woman?” while the woman gets out of bed, gets dressed, and leaves. Deny, deny, deny worked for the Bishop character, and Obama and Sebelius apparently believe it may work for them as well. NationalReview.com Jim Geraghty writes at *Morning Jolt*, “This is the spin of the desperate man: *Despite all the evidence all around us that things are not fine, I will insist that everything is fine, and my hope is that I will create enough doubt in enough minds about whether or not things are fine to survive the day.* That argument isn’t really enough to win—he’s not likely to persuade the public that the sites are working hunky-dory—but it might reassure the low-information voters inclined to like him that the current outrage is overhyped.) Sebelius also defends Obama’s many “You can keep your plan” promises, stating that was true if the policy had been maintained and not changed since the passage of the Affordable Care Act. (She does not mention that the policyholder would have to pay the individual mandate tax if the coverage is not ObamaCare-compliant.) [50455, 50458, 50461, 50481, 50483, 50534]

Sebelius admits, “We did not adequately do end-to end-testing” of the web site. “Access to healthcare.gov has been miserable for millions of Americans.” Sebelius claims, “We do not have any reliable data about enrollment.” She also states, “You deserve better. I apologize. I’m accountable to you for fixing these problems. Hold me responsible for the debacle.” (By “hold me responsible” she means only, “Don’t blame Obama or any Democrats running for reelection in November 2014. She certainly does not mean, “I should be fired.”) Sebelius states she does not support a delay in the individual mandate, and claims the web site will be fixed by the end of November. (There is a very good chance that Sebelius is mistaken and that significant problems will continue to plague the system long after November. Health Care Policy and Marketplace Review’s Bob Laszewski notes the problems with the “834 transaction” which exchanges enrollment data between the government and the insurance companies. “This process is where the federal government’s backroom has come off the rails and is in need of an urgent fix.” Industry expert Daryl Chapman tells Laszewski it may take “at least a year” to reduce 834 errors to an acceptable level.) [50472, 50483, 50491, 50513, 50517, 50518]

Asked by Congressman Cory Gardner (R-CO) if she has enrolled at Healthcare.gov and purchased her own insurance at the exchange, Sebelius says she has not because “I am not eligible. ...It’s illegal.” Sebelius is lying. She can certainly buy insurance via the exchange, but she would lose the taxpayer-subsidy she gets with her current government-provided insurance. (For the record, Gardner declined taxpayer-paid insurance and purchased his own family plan in Colorado. His policy has been canceled because of ObamaCare.) Congressman Billy Long (R-MO) also pushes Sebelius to buy an

ObamaCare policy: “There are a lot of things striking about the roll out of this and about the Affordable Care Act altogether, but the thing that’s most striking to me is that when we have the point person for the roll out here, and you’re not going into the exchange. Will you tell the American public that, ‘Yes, I will go into the exchanges next year like everyone else?’” Sebelius responds, “I think it’s illegal for me.” Long: “If it’s not illegal. If it’s legal, will you go in?” Sebelius: “If I have affordable coverage—” Long: “Come on in, the water’s fine.” (As Long’s questioning time runs out, Sebelius turns to an aide and is overheard saying, “Don’t do this to me.” What the aide said to prompt the response is not known, but perhaps Sebelius was told she was wrong and that she could legally enroll in ObamaCare.) [50462, 50463]

Congressman Gregg Harper (R-MS) says to Sebelius, “[Obama] is ultimately responsible [for ObamaCare failures], and while I think it’s great that you’re a team player and you’re taking responsibility, it is [Obama’s] ultimate responsibility, correct?” Sebelius responds, “I... you clearly... uh... whatever. Yes... he is responsible for a government programs.” [50470, 50471, 50494]

Congressman John Shimkus (R-IL) asks Sebelius, “...Another transparency issue: Um, if someone—a constituent of mine or someone in this country [who] has strongly held pro-life views, can you commit to us to make sure that the federal exchanges that offer that is clearly identified, and so people can understand if they’re going to buy a policy that has abortion coverage or not? Because right now, you cannot make that determination.” Sebelius replies, “Sir, I, I don’t know... I, I know exactly the, the, uh, um issue that you are talking about, I will check and make sure...” (Sebelius is lying. She certainly knows that all the plans offered on the healthcare.gov web site are required to provide abortion coverage. The abortion coverage reportedly adds about \$1 per month to the cost of insurance. That can add up to as much as \$1 billion per year for abortions. At Townhall.com Cortney O’Brien notes, “What’s more, Obamacare has a ‘gag rule’ that forces employers to keep mum about which plans include an abortion premium until the time they enroll. It gets better, yet. *Planned Parenthood*—the largest abortion provider in the country—helped write all these mandates.”) [50475, 50497]

In general, *The Obama Timeline* believes the questioning of Sebelius by the Republicans was weak and allowed her to recite talking points and avoid direct answers. (One suggested question: “Ms. Sebelius, the contractors testified that the Department of Health and Human Services was warned that the web site was not adequately tested and would not be ready by October 1. You state you were not aware of their warnings. Please give us the name of the highest-level HHS official who was aware of the warnings and did not pass that warning on to you.” Such a question would force Sebelius to either admit that she did, in fact, know of the warnings, or provide a name. The person she named could then be subpoenaed to testify before the committee.)

Senator Rand Paul (R-KY) comments on Sebelius’ testimony: “I think government is inherently inept, but this brings it to a new level of incompetence. I can’t imagine how she could continue in her job, she should resign really from mere embarrassment. I’ve never seen anything this bad and here’s the thing when [Obama] said you could keep

your doctor and now we find out [at least] 2 million people are going to lose their doctor and lose their insurance, I just can't imagine how they can be proud of what they're doing and how he can't say that he's going to hold someone responsible." [50530]

Senator Mary "proud to have voted for ObamaCare" Landrieu (D-LA), who faces a tough reelection battle in 2014, says she will propose legislation allowing Americans to keep their health insurance policies—despite ObamaCare. Landrieu tells reporters, "The promise was made [by Obama], and it should be kept. And it was our understanding when we voted for that bill that people when they have insurance could keep with what they had. So I'm going to be working on that fix." But she defends Obama's pledge, saying, "We said when we passed that, 'If you had insurance that was good insurance that you wanted to keep it [sic], you could keep it.'" Politico observes, "[T]he unequivocal promises Democrats made in 2009 have emerged as a political liability for the White House and Democrats in Congress. ... Landrieu said that her bill would 'grandfather' in soon-to-be-cancelled plans, even if insurance holders could find better policies through the exchanges. Asked if she believed Obama wasn't forthright with the public about the law, Landrieu said: 'I didn't think it was intentional' and said that the country would be 'better off' if Republicans had tried to improve the law rather than repeal it repeatedly. Responding to criticisms that she was taking the action to protect herself politically, Landrieu said of Republicans: 'These guys will make up anything—always have. And I've beat them every time, and I intend to do it again.'" (Landrieu has her job mostly because of her name. Her father, Moon Landrieu, was mayor of New Orleans between 1970 and 1978.) [50456, 50511, 50562]

Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL) says on the Senate floor, "The only thing it [my proposed legislation] says is that you cannot enforce the individual mandate, that you cannot tell people next year that we will fine you, that the IRS is going to impose a fine on you. You will not be able to do that until the website is fully working. In terms of this preventing people from getting health insurance, that's simply not accurate. This doesn't prevent anyone from going on to the website and signing up." Senator Max Baucus (D-MT) absurdly calls Rubio's proposal "inappropriate" because it is an attempt to change an existing law. Rubio responds, "If we begin to argue around here that once something is existing law it can never be changed, we might as well close up shop because that's what we do. That's what the legislative process is about." Rubio says, "If in fact you [Democrats] are so confident that the websites are going to be up and running by the end of November, this problem will be taken care of. If in fact you are right and the websites are going to be up and running by the end of November, then the mandate will be back in effect. The only thing my bill does is says as long as the website is not working and until it is working, you cannot enforce the Obamacare mandates on people through a fine from the IRS." [50627]

Prior to Obama's arrival in Massachusetts to push ObamaCare and counter criticism of its rollout, former governor Mitt Romney states, "Had ... Obama actually learned the lessons of Massachusetts health care, millions of Americans would not lose the insurance they were promised they could keep, millions more would not see their premiums skyrocket, and the installation of the program would not have been a frustrating embarrassment. In

the years since the Massachusetts health care law went into effect nothing has changed my view that a plan crafted to fit the unique circumstances of a single state should not be grafted onto the entire country. Health reform is best crafted by states with bipartisan support and input from its employers, as we did, without raising taxes, and by carefully phasing it in to avoid the type of disruptions we are seeing nationally.” [50459]

During a speech in Boston, Obama blames the insurance companies, rather than the Affordable Care Act, for the cancellation of health insurance policies for hundreds of thousands of Americans. Obama says, “One of the things health reform was designed to do was to help not only the uninsured but also the under-insured. And there are a number of Americans, fewer than 5 percent of Americans, who’ve got cut-rate plans that don’t offer real financial protection in the event of a serious illness or an accident. Remember, before the Affordable Care Act, these bad apple insurers had free rein every single year to limit the care that you received or used minor pre-existing conditions to jack up your premiums or bill you into bankruptcy.” Obama says, “Just shop around in the new marketplace. You’re going to get a better deal.” (Many Americans, of course, liked their “cut-rate plans” because they found it more rational to buy catastrophic-only coverage, rather than “Cadillac” plans that cover almost everything and cost a fortune in premiums. Americans have every right to be able to purchase whatever coverage they want, even if it might not satisfy Obama, and they have every right to be angry with Obama for forcing them into more expensive plans they neither need nor want. Men and 60-year-old women should not have to pay for maternity coverage, people who neither drink nor take drugs should not have to pay for substance abuse coverage, and Americans with their heads on straight should not be forced to pay for mental health coverage. That Obama may want or need substance abuse coverage does not mean everyone else does as well.) [50485, 50486, 50499, 50504, 50529, 50531]

Obama also states, “Right now, the [Healthcare.gov] web site is too slow, too many people have gotten stuck, and I am not happy about it. So there’s no excuse for it, and I take full responsibility for making sure it gets fixed ASAP.” (Whether the audience realizes that Obama’s understanding of the words “responsibility” and “accountability” are far different than theirs is not known.) Laughably, Obama claims, “Nobody’s losing their right to health care coverage, and no insurance company will be able to deny you coverage or drop you as a customer altogether. Those days are over, and that’s the truth....It’s no surprise that some of the same folks trying to scare people now are the same folks who’ve been trying to sink the Affordable Care Act from the beginning. And frankly, I don’t understand it. Providing people with health care, that should be a no-brainer.” [50485, 50486, 50499, 50504]

At Townhall.com Katie Pavlich notes that Obama promised “If you like your health care plan you can keep it” at least 24 times since 2009—and posts a video proving it. [50469]

Author Michelle Malkin tweets, “Shorter Obama: You stupid individual market consumers can’t possibly have liked the plans you can’t keep anymore.”

DailyCaller.com reports, “HealthCare.gov contractor CGI warned the Obama administration that the website might not be ready just one month before launch... CNN obtained a memo from CGI, the main contractor that built HealthCare.gov, informing administration officials that the site wasn’t finished and wouldn’t be by Oct. 1, but Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) officials claimed again just Monday that they had no knowledge of the problems. A whole slew of problems were named in the Sept. 6 memo sent to CMS officials, including that ‘hub services are intermittently unavailable’—a key indicator that the site could face outages. Testing timeframes were ‘not adequate to complete full functional, system, and integration testing activities,’ according to the document, and the problems would have ‘significant’ impact on the site, according to CNN. For the highest priority element the report describes, there was ‘not enough time in schedule to conduct adequate performance testing.’ And the problems were just a matter of time. For a ‘severe’ and ‘high priority’ problem, CGI warned that the company ‘does not have access to necessary tools to manage envs [environments] in test, imp, and prod,’ three stages of site development where the page is tested, improved and produced. ‘Specifically (1) we don’t have access to central log collection/view (2) we don’t have access to monitoring tools,’ the documents reads. ‘We have repeatedly asked CMS and URS but have not been granted this access.’ CMS head Marilyn Tavenner testified to the House Ways and Means Committee on Monday that her department was not aware of the problems, but the memo from the contractor suggests otherwise.” On October 29 Tavenner said, “We had tested the website and we were comfortable with its performance. The volume issues and the creation of account issues was not anticipated and obviously took us by surprise. And did not show up in testing.” [50478]

Obama’s approval/disapproval rating sinks to 42/51 percent in an NBC/Wall Street Journal poll. Even worse for Obama, his favorable/unfavorable rating falls to 41/45. (Although Obama’s job approval rating has been under 50 percent for some time, he was still considered “likeable” by a majority of Americans. He is now “underwater” on that metric as well—even though Obama has tended to do well in the NBC/WSJ polls. Much of Obama’s slippage appears to be among women.) *The Obama Timeline* believes Obama’s approval and favorability ratings will fall even more throughout 2014 because of ObamaCare—and the *disastrous* effect it will have on the economy. In addition to businesses slashing employees hours and cutting back on new hires, millions of Americans will have less money to spend in the economy because they will need it for rising insurance premiums—or for health care expenses they must pay out of pocket if they cannot afford to buy a policy at healthcare.gov to replace their canceled plan. If a family must, for example, spend \$400 more per month for health insurance premiums, that means it has \$400 less each month to spend on other things. If a family loses its coverage and cannot afford to replace the policy, it will have to set aside money each month for a “rainy day fund” to cover health care expenses that will no longer be paid by an insurance company. Whatever money goes into that fund will be money *not* spent on something else. The *Timeline* believes sales of new car sales, televisions, appliances, and other high-priced items will plummet, as well as home sales. Americans will be angry, and they will direct their anger at Obama and members of Congress who voted for ObamaCare. All the Republicans need to do to achieve significant victories in November

2014 is to repeat throughout the year, “Don’t blame me... I opposed ObamaCare from day one.” [50487, 50488, 50496, 50505]

According to the same NBC/WSJ poll, “A majority of Americans—52 percent—believe the health care law needs either a major overhaul or to be completely eliminated... Forty-four percent think it either needs minor modifications or that it’s working well as is. ...Americans called it a bad idea by a 47-37 percent margin—a shift from 43-38 percent earlier this month. But among women, a group ...Obama won by 11 points in 2012, just 38 percent think it’s a good idea, while 45 percent do not. That’s down from early October, when most women said the law was a good idea by a 41-39 percent margin. Among white women, results are even worse. Three weeks ago, they thought it was a bad idea by a 46-36 percent margin. Now a majority say so, at 52-32 percent.” [50538]

At FoxNews.com John Gibson writes, “There are two kinds of people when it comes to lying, purposely not telling the truth. One is the kind of person who is embarrassed or shamed by being caught in a lie. The other is the kind of person who just doesn’t care, who feels no shame, whose face doesn’t flush red, a person who just goes on, and probably lies again. Evidently [Obama] is the second kind of person.” [50490]

At Forbes.com Mike Patton posts average ObamaCare health insurance premiums for various age and family scenarios under the bronze, silver, gold, and platinum plans. A 30-year-old married couple with two children, for example, would pay an average of \$818.16 per month under the bronze plan; \$885.12 under the silver plan; \$1,045.59 for the gold plan; and \$1,071.39 under the platinum plan. Patton explains, “[E]very insurance plan sold in the Marketplace must offer 10 essential health benefits (EHB). Here is a list of the various plans and the approximate percentage of EHBs they are expected to pay: Bronze (60%); Silver (70%); Gold (80%); and Platinum (90%).” The 10 “Essential Health Benefits” are: “1. Ambulatory patient services; 2. Emergency services; 3. Hospitalization; 4. Maternity and newborn care; 5. Mental health and substance use disorder services, including behavioral health treatment; 6. Prescription drugs; 7. Rehabilitative and habilitative services and devices; 8. Laboratory services; 9. Preventive and wellness services and chronic disease management; and 10. Pediatric services, including oral and vision care.” (Most Americans would not consider these average premiums “affordable.” Under the bronze plan, for example, only 60 percent of hospitalization expenses are covered—yet that coverage would cost a young couple with two children \$818.16 per month. Further, the 60 percent would be paid only after the family met the annual deductible of several thousand dollars.) [50495]

According to a Crossroads GPS poll, 70 percent of Americans want a one-year delay in ObamaCare’s individual mandate. [50498]

Obama falls to second place, behind Russian President Vladimir Putin, in the annual Forbes list of the World’s Most Powerful People. (The top 10 are Putin, Obama, China’s Communist Party leader Xi Jinping, Pope Francis, German Chancellor Angela Merkel, Microsoft founder Bill Gates, Federal Reserve Board chairman Ben Bernanke, Saudi King Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud, European Central Bank president Mario Draghi,

and Wal-Mart CEO Michael Duke. (Making money, spending money, and printing money apparently earns one a place on the list.) [50506, 50507, 50508, 50549]

Congressman Michael McCaul (R-TX), chairman of the House Homeland Security Committee, tells radio talk show host Laura Ingraham, “I am not going to go down the road of conferencing with the Senate [immigration] bill and I told [House Speaker John] Boehner that he needs to stand up and make that very clear. We’re not going to conference with the senate period. I was invited to the White House yesterday and I refused to meet with [Obama] because I saw it as a political trap.” (If the House passes an immigration bill it will not match the Senate’s bill. A Senate-House conference would then be the normal process for ironing out the differences, but the Republicans are justifiably concerned that the result of the conference will essentially be amnesty legislation.) [50509]

WashingtonTimes.com reports, “Masked from public view, two of the U.S. military’s elite special operations commandos have been awarded medals for bravery for a mission that further undercuts the Obama administration’s original story about the Benghazi tragedy. For months, administration officials have claimed no special operations forces were dispatched from outside Libya to Benghazi during the Sept. 11, 2012, al Qaeda terrorist attacks on the U.S. diplomatic mission and CIA annex because none was within range. The Pentagon, under intense public criticism for not coming to the aid of besieged Americans, published an official timeline in November that carefully danced around the issue. It said time and distance prevented any commandos outside Libya from reaching a CIA compound under attack. The timeline disclosed that a reinforcement flight 400 miles away in Tripoli contained two ‘DoD personnel’ but did not describe who they were. Later, the official State Department report on Benghazi said they were ‘two U.S. military personnel’—but provided no other details. It made no mention of special operations forces. But sources directly familiar with the attack tell The Washington Times that a unit of eight special operators—mostly Delta Force and Green Beret members—were in Tripoli the night of the attack, on a counterterrorism mission that involved capturing weapons and wanted terrorists from the streets and helping train Libyan forces. When word of the Benghazi attack surfaced, two members of that military unit volunteered to be dispatched along with five private security contractors on a hastily arranged flight from Tripoli to rescue Americans in danger, the sources said, speaking only on the condition of anonymity because the special operations forces’ existence inside Libya was secret. The two special operations forces arrived in time to engage in the final, ferocious firefight between the terrorists and Americans holed up in the CIA annex near the ill-fated diplomatic mission in Benghazi, the sources added. The two special operators were awarded medals for valor for helping repel a complex attack that killed Ambassador J. Christopher Stephens, another American diplomat and two former Navy SEALs, but spared many more potential casualties.” [50512, 50525]

Cybersecurity expert Alex McGeorge tells NBC News, “This [Healthcare.gov web site] is a very, very enticing target for attackers because it’s very simple to turn personal identifying info into hard currency. You have to weigh the privacy risks of, ‘I’m going to put all my information with the government in this one basket in order to receive

healthcare.’ And one of the risks that you take is well, if it's all in one basket, it could be stolen from that basket.” Former Social Security Administration head Michael Astrue tells NBC, “There were shortcuts taken on the information technology, and there were shortcuts taken in terms of adherence to the laws that protect our rights.” According to Astrue, the web site’s design violates the Federal Privacy Act. “I was extremely upset [when I found out]. First of all they were violating the statute. Second, there would be real world consequences for Americans. ...Many of their systems were put up quickly, shoddily, and tied together shoddily. It’s a hacker’s dream.” [50519]

“At least 140,000 Minnesotans who buy health insurance on their own are being notified that their plans will no longer be available under the new federal health care law,” reports StarTribune.com. [50520, 50521]

Not only will millions of Americans not be able to keep their insurance plans because of ObamaCare, many will not be able to keep their hospitals either. WatchDog.org reports, “Most of the top hospitals will accept insurance from just one or two companies operating under Obamacare. ...Watchdog.org looked at the top 18 hospitals nationwide as ranked by U.S. News and World Report for 2013-2014. We contacted each hospital to determine their contracts and talked to several insurance companies, as well. The result of our investigation: Many top hospitals are simply opting out of Obamacare. Chances are the individual plan you purchased outside Obamacare would allow you to go to these facilities. For example, fourth-ranked Cleveland Clinic accepts dozens of insurance plans if you buy one on your own. But go through Obamacare and you have just one choice: Medical Mutual of Ohio.” Gail Wilensky, Medicare advisor for George W. Bush and senior fellow for Project HOPE states, “Many companies have selectively entered the exchanges because they are concerned that they will be dominated by risky, high-using populations who wanted insurance [before Obamacare] and couldn’t afford it. They are pressed to narrow their networks to stay within the premiums.” Josh Archambault, senior fellow with the Foundation for Government Accountability, adds, “In many cases, consumers are shopping blind when it comes to what doctors and hospitals are included in their Obamacare exchange plans. These patients will be in for a rude awakening once they need care, and get stuck with a big bill for going out-of-network without realizing it.” [50524]

Residents of Virginia, Kentucky, and Idaho—and Obama—cannot blame their insurance companies for canceling their policies, because those states prohibit policies that do not meet the minimum coverage requirements of ObamaCare. (CNN.com reports that “about half of the roughly 600,000 people in Kentucky’s private insurance market will have their current insurance plans discontinued by the end of next year.” GOPTheDailyDose.com remarks, “One point missing in the CNN article is that millions are not only losing their insurance, they are also losing their insurance because the government is forcing them to buy coverage they do not need. For example, ObamaCare forces single men and people long past parenting age to purchase maternity care. On top of that, we must all own coverage for pediatric services and treatment for drug, alcohol, and mental health issues. Let us not forget that the world might look a whole lot different today had the mainstream media listened to conservative writers and think tanks who warned that this would

happen. Instead the media fact-checked us as liars and racists. But now that it is too late, and millions have already lost the insurance Obama promised them they could keep, the media are all over it.”) [50526, 50527, 50539]

According to the ADP National Employment Report findings, the economy added only 130,000 jobs in October—the second-worst month of the last 12. (Some will blame the partial government shutdown, but the numbers have been heading downward since June. HotAir.com’s Ed Morrissey adds, “This decline started months ago, and it’s not a decline from a starting point of strength, either. In the past 12 months, we’ve had only one month of even decently strong hiring, with another just barely over the 200K mark. This economy needs 150,000 jobs added every month just to keep pace with population growth. Five of the last twelve months didn’t even cross *that* treading-water threshold in a series that routinely overstates actual BLS job-growth numbers, and four of those misses are in the previous seven months.”) [50532]

A poll from Democracy Corp shows Republican members of Congress have lost some support because of the partial government shutdown that was blamed on them, but the news is even worse for Democrats. MotherJones.com notes, “In Democratic districts, net incumbent approval has plummeted by 11 points, from +8 approval to +3 *disapproval*. In Republican districts, incumbent approval has gone down only 4 points. ... This isn’t good news for Democrats. It’s true that attitudes toward the Republican Party have taken a bigger hit than attitudes toward the Democratic Party, but attitudes toward actual incumbents are exactly the opposite. And in elections, that’s what matters.” [50596, 50664]

The Wall Street Journal’s Daniel Henninger writes, “Let us try to understand clearly what is happening now with the Obama [administration]. On display to everyone watching this week is not merely the failure of a federal website or a software program or Ms. Sebelius’s management skills. This is the failure of the very idea of progressive government. Not liberal government. Progressive government. ... That battle a few weeks ago over the government shutdown was a familiar Beltway spectacle. But what is happening this week to ObamaCare and the political class that created it is historic. Forty years from now, the millennials who in 2008 and 2012 believed in and voted for the progressive ideal—limitless, mandated, state-led goodness—can tell their grandchildren they watched it fall apart in 2013. This is the glitch that failed. ... Barack Obama may have spent a lifetime failing up, but eventually it’s just failure. He has presided over five years of sickly economic growth, inadequate job creation, a doubling of the food stamp population and now this—ObamaCare. Progressive government has failed in the U.S. Most fascinating to behold will be whether the Democratic presidential candidate who follows this meltdown will embrace it, fake it or move on.” [50546]

On *Special Report* Charles Krauthammer comments, “[W]hat [Obama] did say was, ‘If you like what you have, you can keep it, period.’ When you add the word ‘period,’ what you mean is there is no context, there are no percentages, one percent, five percent, 100 percent—there is [sic] no extenuations, there are no explanations, it’s ‘period.’ And that’s the reason [ObamaCare] passed; [panelist] Jonah [Goldberg] is right. That was an

extremely important element of the law. That is a flat out lie. Did he know it? Did he not? I suspect he did; it's possible that he didn't. What I find remarkable is that [Obama] is able to give these speeches and he seems to live in a universe where his rhetoric trumps reality. He gives a speech a couple of weeks ago, the "Ginsu knife speech" in which he gives out the 800 number and thinks that the people who call are not going to discover that at the other end of the line is somebody who has got to enter the information into the web site that's not working. And today he did the same thing, telling people whose policies are cancelled that they're going to get improvements. And we've seen dozens of people on the air who say, 'I like the plan, I chose the plan and I want to stay with the plan and now I have lost the plan.' He actually imagined that if he said something, it trumps reality. And that, to me, is what is staggering." (*The Obama Timeline* believes Obama is mentally unstable and actually does often believe in his own lies.) [50536]

On *On the Record*, Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL) tells Greta Van Susteren the cancellation of health insurance policies because of ObamaCare are not "an unintended consequence. It was an intended consequence. This was done on purpose because they want to undermine and gut the individual marketplace." [50535]

On CNN's *Anderson Cooper 360*, investigative reporter Drew Griffin reports, "What is going on is, [a] behind the scenes attempt by the White House to at least keep insurers from publicly criticizing what is happening on this Affordable Care Act rollout. Basically, if you speak out, if you are quoted, you're going to get a call from the White House, pressure to be quiet. Several sources tell me and my colleague Chris Frates that insurance executives are being told to keep quiet. [The head of] a consulting firm for [a] big insurance [company] and an outspoken critic of ObamaCare says he is getting calls from these executives who want him to speak out, Anderson, for them about the problems because they feel defenseless against the White House PR team. ...[T]he White House is exerting massive pressure on the industry, including the trade associations, to keep quiet. Sources telling us they fear White House retribution." DailyCaller.com notes, "Prior to the Obamacare rollout, insurance companies issued warnings to the White House about the possibility of mass cancellations, which the administration ignored. Although the mass cancellations are an embarrassment to insurance companies, they are more concerned about losing their biggest customer—the federal government." Griffin says, "Executives are willing to listen to the White House, because right now, it's the government that's the biggest customers of these insurance companies. Government-backed plans accounted for about 48 percent of healthcare policies last year, Anderson, a number that's expected to grow this year, and [for] years to come." (Not surprisingly, White House press secretary denies the allegations of intimidation.) [50516, 50533]

On October 31 Senate Republicans block the nomination of Congressman Mel Watt (D-NC) to be director of the Federal Housing Finance Agency. (The agency regulates Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, yet Watt has no experience in mortgage finance.)

At Forbes.com Avik Roy suggests that as many as 93 million Americans will lose their health insurance and be forced into more expensive policies because of ObamaCare. (That is, roughly half of all group policies do not comply with ObamaCare, will not be

“grandfathered” under the law, and will have to be replaced. Workers with employer-provided coverage will also be affected by ObamaCare, because the cost of those plans will increase. The ObamaCare “damage” will not be limited to those Americans who have individual policies.) Roy writes, “It turns out that in an obscure report buried in a June 2010 edition of the Federal Register, administration officials predicted massive disruption of the private insurance market. . . . Section 1251 of the Affordable Care Act contains what’s called a ‘grandfather’ provision that, in theory, allows people to keep their existing plans if they like them. But subsequent regulations from the Obama administration interpreted that provision so narrowly as to prevent most plans from gaining this protection. ‘The Departments’ mid-range estimate is that 66 percent of small employer plans and 45 percent of large employer plans will relinquish their grandfather status by the end of 2013,’ wrote the administration on page 34,552 of the Register. All in all, more than half of employer-sponsored plans will lose their ‘grandfather status’ and get canceled. According to the Congressional Budget Office, 156 million Americans—more than half the population—was [sic] covered by employer-sponsored insurance in 2013. Another 25 million people, according to the CBO, have ‘nongroup [sic; non-group] and other’ forms of insurance; that is to say, they participate in the market for individually-purchased insurance. In this market, the administration projected that ‘40 to 67 percent’ of individually-purchased plans would lose their Obamacare-sanctioned ‘grandfather status’ and get canceled, solely due to the fact that there is a high turnover of participants and insurance arrangements in this market.” [50514]

Roy asks, “How many people are exposed to these problems? 60 percent of Americans have private-sector health insurance. . . . As to the number of people facing cancellations, 51 percent of the employer-based market plus 53.5 percent of the non-group market (the middle of the administration’s range) amounts to 93 million Americans. . . . Obama’s famous promise that ‘you could keep your plan’ was not some naïve error or accident. He, and his allies, knew that previous Democratic attempts at health reform had failed because Americans were happy with the coverage they had, and opposed efforts to change the existing system. Now, supporters of the law are offering a different argument. ‘We didn’t really mean it when we said you could keep your plan,’ they say, ‘but it doesn’t matter, because the coverage you’re going to get under Obamacare will be better than the coverage you had before.’ . . . It was well known, as far back as 2009, that millions of Americans would lose their existing coverage under the Obamacare bill. Landrieu still voted for it. In September of 2010, Senator Mike Enzi (R-WY) introduced legislation that would protect small businesses from losing their health plans’ grandfathered status under Obamacare. [Senator Mary] Landrieu [D-LA] voted against the bill, on a party-line vote. But Landrieu’s flip-flop illustrates the potency of this issue. If Americans were truly being forced off of their existing insurance plans—that they like—and into better and more affordable ones, the outcry would be minimal. But that isn’t what’s happening. People are being forced into inferior and costlier plans. And they’re making their displeasure felt in Washington.” (At the time Landrieu and others voted against the legislation, Senator Charles Grassley (R-IA) said, “Only in the District of Columbia could you get away with telling the people if you like what you have you can keep it, and then pass regulations six months later that do just the opposite and figure that people are going to ignore it. . . . The administration’s own regulations prove this is

not the case. Under the grandfathering regulation, according to the White House's own economic impact analysis, as many as 69 percent of businesses will lose their grandfathered status by 2013 and be forced to buy government-approved plans." In August 2013 Landrieu said, "If I had to vote for the [ObamaCare] bill again, I would vote for it tomorrow. There are a lot of good things about this bill.") [50514, 50556, 50557, 50570, 50571]

Democrat Senators who voted against the September 2010 legislation to allow Americans to keep their insurance policies and who are also up for reelection in 2014 are: Mark Begich of Alaska, Richard Durbin of Illinois, Al Franken of Minnesota, Kay Hagan of North Carolina, Mary Landrieu of Louisiana, Jeff Merkley of Oregon, Mark Pryor of Arkansas, Jack Reed of Rhode Island, Jeanne Shaheen of New Hampshire, Mark Udall of Colorado, Tom Udall of New Mexico, and Mark Warner of Virginia. [50730]

The Ulsterman Report hears from his unnamed Republican insider, who observes, "The Sebelius hearing went about as well or as bad as most of us figured. [I] Was grateful that at least some members of Congress actually made an issue about what Obamacare itself is doing to peoples' health insurance costs, losing existing plans, etc. The website just makes the administration look bad. The rest of it exposes them for the lying frauds they really are. If you haven't done it yet check out the report by Avik Roy that just came out on how the administration knew about almost a 100 million people getting kicked off their health plans. [Kathleen] Sebelius and [Jay] Carney and [Obama] and probably some in the media now will keep repeating the 5% claim. As in only 5% of the population is being impacted by Obamacare terminating their existing health plan. Well, first off, 5% of the population is about 15 million people, so for them to just dismiss that kind of number as 'oh well so sorry' should have them called out by the media and smacked across the face with it. Second, they are lying. And I really mean flat out lying about that. Their own report, the one from 2010, outlines numbers that are much higher, and those cancellations are coming from both the private insurance market and the employer sponsored plans. Everyone is getting their lives altered by this law. Everyone. So some of us are pushing our [Republican] people to keep hammering this point home, as it really pins down the administration on a lie they can't escape from. Thing is, they won't have to if more people don't call them out on it. It's the old frustration with this White House. They just say lies, and then sit back and wait for the story to blow over, which the media allows them to do over and over again." [50515]

"[I] Want to jump to something else that is sort of festering just below the surface right now. I knew there was animosity toward [Senator] Ted Cruz [R-TX] within the party leadership. [I] Shared that with you before and then other media outlets have picked that up too. What I didn't know is that there are, right now, Republican leadership members actively seeking to destroy Senator Cruz. They are apparently feeding character assassination stories to members of the media who have a long history of attacking Republicans. So basically, this party's leadership is arming the enemy with ammunition to try and silence one of their own. That's how out of touch these people are. The good news for now is that people like Ted Cruz are showing an amazing amount of resilience. The party is changing, and for the better. The old guard knows it, hates it, is fighting

against it, but they are losing. And how I know this is money. The money is coming in for the ones who are willing to speak out loud and proud about small government conservatism, and willing to call out the Obama administration for just how bad it really has been for America. The rest of them are counting on the crumbs from the GOP machine, but those dollars are not nearly as much as they should be at this point in an impending Midterm Election cycle. Not sure that makes any sense to you, but if not, just trust me on this. The grassroots are changing the party with their small donations that are accumulating into big influence, and that is just plain awesome.” [50515]

“On a related note to that, the Obama campaign operatives are crawling around this place promising Democrats that they will be receiving cash for their own re-election coffers if they ‘keep quiet and stay on script.’ That’s a quote. Isn’t it odd that the Obama campaign created the most powerful and intricate technological election voter data base and yet failed so miserably on the Obamacare rollout? Makes you think it might all be going ‘according to plan’ huh? Anyways, the White House is making it very clear it wants a clear runway after 2014. Now think back to how much damage they did to the country when they had two years of owing the White House and the Congress. It makes me wonder what in the world they have in mind if they get to do that again after 2014? Talk about some real nightmares. Sorry for the delay in these updates. While all of you were eyeballing the Obamacare hearings, I’ve been working behind the scenes on this immigration reform stuff. Once again, it’s the Republican leadership who are putting up the biggest fight against the rest of us who are telling them to back off the issue. They are expending so much political leverage on that one issue, while we have the entire country getting ticked off about Obamacare. Why not focus in on that? I think the reason is there are a few of the high placed Republicans who actually want government controlled healthcare. I think they believe the country is moving in that direction and they want to be a part of that history. It’s sick. These people are sick. And it makes me sick every time I walk past them. I really hope the voters send a message and help us to clean house up here. I promise to try and update more often. Should have more time now. Then again, maybe not. We’ll just have to see. Will do my best though.” [50515]

At *Morning Jolt*, NationalReview.com’s Jim Geraghty writes, “Over the next few weeks, you’re going to hear a lot of administration defenders insisting that things with the [Healthcare.gov] website aren’t so bad lately. They’re wrong... You’re also seeing people assuming that it will be fixed at the end of November. As we’ve laid out, a fully or even largely functional web site by November 30 is probably a longshot [sic; long shot], and perhaps even an impossibility. No wonder they’re in a ‘bunker mentality,’ as [NBC’s] Chuck Todd says. Obama and his team have finally encountered a problem that they can’t successfully spin, cover up, distract from, or blame on the opposition. (This doesn’t mean they won’t try, of course.) Benghazi, Fast and Furious, and the IRS targeting of conservatives impacted too few people. The Syria bombing about-face is easily forgotten. The NSA scandal and its fallout abroad doesn’t impact Americans on a day-to-day basis. But this... this is just too big. You can’t just trot out another shiny object. (‘Hey, the Obamas have a new puppy!’) You can’t ignore it. You can’t wait for the media to forget about it.” Geraghty notes some of the terrible enrollment numbers: Oregon’s healthcare exchange “has failed to enroll a single person.” Tennessee’s number

are “in the low hundreds.” Alaska: 35 enrollees. Idaho: fewer than 100. Montana: “a little more than 30.” Nebraska: “fewer than 100.” South Dakota: 26. Minnesota: 406 “completed the purchase of private plans,” while most of the other several thousand enrollees will be going on Medicaid.”

Former President Jimmy Carter tells *Parade* magazine that Obama has “done the best he could under the circumstances. His major accomplishment was ObamaCare, and the implementation of it now is questionable at best.” [50522, 50609]

TheHill.com points out that Obama was not the only Democrat promising Americans they could keep their insurance if they liked it. Senator Patty Murray (D-WA) said on June 10, 2009, “If you like what you have today, that will be what you have when this legislation is passed.” On July 28, 2009 Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) said, “It not only means making sure you can keep your family’s doctor or keep your healthcare plan if you like it, but also that you can afford to do so.” On July 30, 2009 Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL) said, “Many people say: ‘I like my health insurance right now. I don’t want to change. I don’t want to go into Medicare or Medicaid. I like what I have. Would you please leave people alone?’ The answer is yes. In fact, we guarantee it. We are going to put in any legislation considered by the House and Senate the protection that you, as an individual, keep the health insurance you have, if that is what you want.” In September 2010 Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA) said, “One of the things we put in the healthcare bill when we designed it was the protection for consumers to keep the plan they have if they like it; thus the term ‘grandfathered plans.’ If you have a plan you like—existing policies—you can keep them.” [50528]

On the *CBS Evening News*, reporter Sharyl Attkisson states, “Early [ObamaCare] enrollment figures are contained in notes from twice a day war room meetings from the Centers of Medicare and Medicaid services after the web site failed on October 1st. They were turned over in response to a document request from the House Oversight Committee. ... Publicly, the government said there were 4.7 million unique visits in the first 24 hours, but at a meeting Wednesday morning, the war room notes say 6 enrollments have occurred so far. They were with Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Carolina, CareSource, and Health Care Service Corporation. By Wednesday afternoon [October 2], enrollments were up to approximately 100. By the end of Wednesday, the notes reflect 248 enrollments nationwide. The health care exchanges need to average 39,000 enrollees a day to meet the goal of 7 million by March 1st. The war room notes give a glimpse into some of the reasons customers had problems. Direct enrollment—signing up directly on an insurer’s web site—is not working for any issuers. Experian credit reporting agency is creating confusion with credit check information. Issuer phone numbers are not appearing correctly on the pay now page. The notes leave no doubt the enrollment figures, which the administration has chosen to keep secret, are available. Statistics coming in say notes from the very first meeting, the morning of October 2nd, contractor QSSI has a daily dash board [summary?] create[d] ... every night. But head of CMS, Marilyn Tavenner, wouldn’t disclose the figures, when Dave Camp, chair of the House Ways and Means Committee, asked earlier this week.” (The Obama

administration has been repeatedly lying when it claims it does not have enrollment data.) [50537, 50553, 50566, 50576, 50591]

The White House issues a Twitter message: “Obama: ‘Oregon has covered 10% of its uninsured citizens already... Arkansas has covered almost 14% of its uninsured.’” (The actual number of Oregon residents who have enrolled in ObamaCare plans *for which they will pay premiums* is reportedly zero. Obama’s 10 percent figure represents Oregonians who have enrolled in taxpayer-funded *Medicaid* because of ObamaCare. Obama is therefore bragging that more people are being added to the welfare rolls.) [50540, 50541, 50542]

WashingtonExaminer.com reports, “The Internal Revenue Service shared highly confidential tax information of several Tea Party groups in the IRS scandal with the Federal Election Commission, a clear violation of federal law, according to newly obtained emails. The public watchdog group Judicial Watch [stated] Thursday that it was former scandal boss Lois Lerner who shared the information on groups including the American Future Fund and the American Issues Project. The emails obtained by Judicial Watch show that the IRS, which was considering the tax status of the groups, gave the FEC the tax returns of the groups, including income, expenditures and staff pay. The emails also revealed the exact working of the prying political questions the IRS wanted the groups to reveal, such as their goals and the requests for brochures and ads. The information, sent via email, to the FEC came in response to the organization’s questions about whether the IRS had granted tax-exempt status to the Tea Party groups. It is unclear how the information the IRS sent was going to help the FEC, since the IRS hadn’t determined the tax status of the groups yet. The emails were produced to Judicial Watch last week by the FEC in response to an Aug. 9, 2013, Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request.” Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton states, “These extensive emails and other materials provide a disturbing window into the activities of two out-of-control federal agencies: the IRS and FEC. And there is the very real question as to whether these documents evidence a crime.” [50545]

An ObamaCare navigator in Summit, Colorado tells Al Jazeera television she has enrolled “no one” in ObamaCare. “Thus far everybody has taken a look at the rates and they’ve walked out the door. There’s sticker shock. They just can’t afford it.” [50547]

Politico reports, “Top Barack Obama campaign aides considered replacing Vice President Joe Biden with Secretary of State Hillary Clinton on the 2012 Democratic ticket, going so far as to test the shake up in polls and focus groups, according to a new book. The bombshell details are revealed in ‘Double Down: Game Change 2012,’ by journalists Mark Halperin and John Heilemann—a copy of which was obtained by Politico on Thursday. Top Obama aides Jim Messina, David Plouffe and then-White House chief of staff Bill Daley all used Obama campaign focus and polling groups to determine whether there was any political advantage to replacing Biden with Clinton. Daley, in particular, was a major proponent of the idea, and in an interview with the Times he confirmed that he had considered the idea. ... Ultimately, the idea was dropped

when it was determined there would be no significant advantage in the polls by replacing Biden with Clinton.” [50548]

CNN.com reports, “Israeli warplanes struck a military base near the Syrian port city of Latakia this week, an Obama administration official told CNN on [October 31]. An explosion at a missile storage site in the area was reported in the Middle Eastern press, but an attack has not been confirmed by the Israeli government. The target, according to the Obama administration official, was missiles and related equipment the Israelis felt might be transferred to the Lebanon-based militant group Hezbollah. The official declined to be identified because of the sensitive nature of the information. There was some confusion about the timing of the attack, with some reports saying it happened [October 30], and others saying [October 31]. When asked for comment, an Israel Defense Forces spokeswoman told CNN: ‘We don’t refer to foreign reports.’” [50554]

WND.com reports, “Retired Army Maj. Gen. Patrick Brady, recipient of the U.S. military’s highest decoration, the Medal of Honor, as well as other top retired officers, say ...Obama’s agenda is decimating the morale of the U.S. ranks to the point members no longer feel prepared to fight or have the desire to win. ‘There is no doubt he (Obama) is intent on emasculating the military and will fire anyone who disagrees with him’ over such issues as ‘homosexuals, women in foxholes, the Obama sequester,’ Brady told WND. ‘They are purging everyone, and if you want to keep your job, just keep your mouth shut,’ one source told WND. Not only are military service members being demoralized and the ranks’ overall readiness being reduced by the Obama administration’s purge of key leaders, colonels—those lined up in rank to replace outgoing generals—are quietly taking their careers in other directions. Retired Army Lt. Gen. William G. ‘Jerry’ Boykin, who was with Delta Force and later Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence under President George W. Bush, says it is worrying that four-star generals are being retired at the rate that has occurred under Obama. ‘Over the past three years, it is unprecedented for the number of four-star generals to be relieved of duty, and not necessarily relieved for cause,’ Boykin said. ‘I believe there is a purging of the military,’ he said. ‘The problem is worse than we have ever seen.’” [50555]

The Washington Post reports, “The first month of the new health law’s rollout reveals an unexpected pattern in several states: a crush of people applying for an expansion of Medicaid and a trickle of sign-ups for private insurance. This early imbalance—in some places, nine out of 10 enrollees are in Medicaid—has taken some experts by surprise. The Affordable Care Act, which expanded Medicaid to cover millions of the poorest Americans who couldn’t otherwise afford coverage, envisions a more even split with an expanded, robust private market. ‘When we first saw the numbers, everyone’s eyes kind of bugged out,’ said Matt Salo, who runs the National Association of Medicaid Directors. ‘Of the people walking through the door, 90 percent are on Medicaid. We’re thinking, what planet is this happening on?’” (Why the enrollment response should be a surprise to anyone is, in itself, surprising. With Medicaid rules expanded under ObamaCare to give more Americans *free* health care coverage, and the non-poor being forced to *overpay* for

insurance, why would anyone *not* expect the number of people in the first group to vastly exceed the number in the second group?) [50559]

WashingtonTimes.com reports that Obama will be a no-show at the commemoration of the 150th anniversary of Lincoln's Gettysburg Address. "A journalist at Harrisburg's Patriot News said Mr. Obama doesn't have 'the stones' to attend; York's Daily Record newspaper called the decision 'unacceptable' and said 'Mr. Obama's retreat from Gettysburg will linger long and bitter.' The Gettysburg Times reported that local officials in and around the town have spent months preparing—in vain—for a potential visit from Mr. Obama, who twice carried Pennsylvania in the presidential election (by 11 percentage points in 2008 and five in 2012). Instead, the White House will send Interior Secretary Sally Jewell to the Nov. 19 event, which will be held at the Soldiers' National Cemetery. ...Twenty-four presidents have visited Gettysburg since the summer of 1863, when the town gained its notoriety after the bloody three-day battle that turned the tide of the Civil War. President Kennedy was invited to speak at the 1963 ceremony marking the 100th anniversary of the speech, but opted to travel to Dallas instead, where he was fatally shot a few days later." [50560, 50561, 50618, 50844, 51028]

At PJMedia.com Roger L. Simon writes that Obama's "lies are not mainly for self-defense (although Benghazi has elements of that). They are lies of ideological volition. He lies to get his way. And he does it so well, with so much seeming earnestness—as in his umpteen (and continuing!) pronouncements that *no one* would lose their health insurance or personal physician from Obamacare, when, it's now clear, he knew all the while this was utterly false—that his behavior appears almost sociopathic. In other words, to Obama these are not really lies, because he has no values, religious or otherwise, that make them so. This is more than just the prototypical Marxist ends justifying the means... Moral codes are almost all religiously based, even to agnostics, and Obama is not immune to this. These codes are imbued in early childhood, by the family and environment. I suspect that Obama's core belief—his key religious value, if you will—is an American form of *taqiyya*—the Muslim dictate that it is permissible to lie to non-believers for the preservation of Islam. He believes in left-wing *taqiyya*. ...Now I do not think for a second that Obama is a Muslim any more than I think he is a Christian. He is a typical postmodern agnostic who only goes to church—and then rarely—for political purposes. But he grew up in the Islamic world in the midst of the psychological climate of *taqiyya*, with preservation of the group taking precedence over even the hint of democracy. And that climate harmonized completely with his other influences—anti-imperialism augmented by Alinksyite methods, themselves anti-democratic. He never had a moral basis for honesty. Lying, from the Choom Gang through Reverend Wright and beyond, was his lifestyle. And he had the consolation that he was lying for a better good. No one ever told him otherwise. If that goes on for long enough, you lose contact with truth. It becomes almost a non-existent phenomenon, an irrelevancy. ...I don't like living under American *taqiyya*. I can't stand being lied to and I can't imagine anyone else likes it either, no matter for what reason or what supposed good cause. We are at a turning point now and it will be fascinating to see what happens next." [50578]

Townhall.com political editor Guy Benson comments on the sudden eagerness of some Senate Democrats (those up for reelection in 2014) to pass legislation guaranteeing that Americans can keep their insurance policies, despite ObamaCare regulations to the contrary. “Responding to Republican accusations that [Senator Mary Landrieu (D-LA) is] finally kicking up a fuss to cover her own political ass, Landrieu had the audacity to accuse the GOP of ‘making things up,’ and said she expects to be re-elected next fall. Your call, Louisiana.” (Landrieu and *all other Senate Democrats* voted against a September 2010 bill to reverse the ObamaCare regulations that are now causing millions of Americans to lose their insurance coverage.) Benson notes that “Obamacare cannot withstand this [newly proposed] legislation. *Not* forcing people into more expensive coverage would uproot a major part of the law’s redistributionist cost structure. [Senator Ron] Johnson’s [R-WI] proposal, like other populist ‘solutions’ to the current mess, would make matters worse. But it’s outstanding politics.” [50562]

“Will [Senate Majority Leader] Harry Reid [D-NV] allow a vote on the bipartisan Landrieu-Johnson plan, which simply demands that [Obama] keep his promise to millions of people? If it passes, Obama will be in the excruciatingly awkward position of being forced to veto a [“keep your plan”] proposal that’s literally named after [his] most famous promise... ‘Own it,’ Democrats. I’ll leave you with three points: The Left has taken to arguing that Obama’s breached vow is actually good news because a lot of people’s current plans are ‘junk’ coverage that’s been foisted upon them by ‘bad apple’ insurers in an ‘unregulated’ individual market. Obamacare’s new (and more expensive) coverage will be ‘better,’ they say. (1) Even if that were all true, people were still promised the choice of keeping their plan, which millions now cannot. (2) The vast majority of current coverage is not ‘junk,’ and the marketplace has been very heavily regulated for years. Some people are being coerced into buying empirically worse coverage for more money, or obtaining benefits they do not need. David Frum calls this phenomenon the ‘Obamacare rip-off.’ Obama’s blaming of insurers for dropping existing coverage is another preposterous lie. His law forced them to do so. (3) Trying to spin the indefensible leads to lots of uncomfortable stammering...” [50562]

CNN.com reports, “Senate Democrats voted unanimously three years ago to support the Obamacare rule that is largely responsible for some of the health insurance cancellation letters that are going out. In September 2010, Senate Republicans brought a resolution to the floor to block implementation of the grandfather rule, warning that it would result in canceled policies and violate ...Obama’s promise that people could keep their insurance if they liked it.” (Why it took CNN three years to report the story is not explained.) [50589]

The House Oversight and Government Reform Committee subpoenas documents related to Healthcare.gov from Secretary of Health and Human Services Kathleen Sebelius. Committee chairman Darrell Issa (R-CA) states, “The administration’s failure to provide answers about what led to the disastrous launch of HealthCare.gov and what is being done to fix it is completely unacceptable. The evidence is mounting that the website did not go through proper testing, including critical security testing, and that the Administration ignored repeated warnings from contractors about ongoing problems.”

ObamaCare has “given us skyrocketing out-of-pocket costs, fewer choices, and the cancellation of millions of people’s current health insurance coverage.” Healthcare.gov is “just the beginning of the problems with the healthcare law,” and Americans deserve “to “know why the Administration spent significant taxpayer money on a product that is entirely dysfunctional and puts their personal information at risk.” [50567]

CNSNews.com reports, “The fiscal 2014 budget justification released by Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Administrator Marilyn Tavenner explains that CMS is requesting that Congress appropriate \$803.5 million for operations and management of the Obamacare exchanges during the fiscal year so that, among other things, CMS can ‘ensure the integrity of programs that redistribute tens of billions of dollars.’ Overall, CMS wants \$2 billion to run what it calls the ‘Federal Marketplace’ for health insurance. ‘CMS’ program level request for the Marketplaces totals \$2.0 billion in FY 2014, to support the first year of program operations,’ says the budget justification. The agency estimates \$1.5 billion of that will come from ‘discretionary Program Management resources’ and \$450 million from ‘anticipated user fee collections.’ The ‘Operations and Management of Marketplaces’ subsection of the justification says that CMS intends to spend \$803.5 million in this area. That includes money that will be spent on ‘data mining techniques’ to make sure the right people are benefiting from the new system of health-insurance subsidies set up by the Affordable Care Act.” [50568]

TheHill.com reports, “A contractor heavily involved in repairing HealthCare.gov was previously criticized for endangering the personal data of more than 6 million government beneficiaries through insufficient security controls. Lax data safety at Quality Software Services, Inc. (QSSI) was deemed a ‘high’ risk in a June probe by federal investigators who revealed the company had failed to stop its employees from connecting unauthorized USB devices to highly sensitive Medicare systems. The June report by the Health and Human Services (HHS) inspector general revealed that QSSI’s inaction allowed workers to connect unsanctioned devices, such as iPods, to 29 out of the 30 workstations studied, all of which had access to millions of Medicare patients’ personal data. The unhindered access to USB ports raised the possibility that workers could have introduced malware to Medicare’s systems or ‘inappropriately accessed’ personally identifiable details, the report stated. The information of more than 6 million Medicare beneficiaries was at ‘greater risk from malware, inappropriate access or theft’ as a result, wrote HHS Assistant Inspector General Kay Daily.” [50572, 50573, 50579]

The CBS affiliate in New York reports that “college students in New Jersey” are shocked to find out “that they can’t buy low-cost health insurance at their schools because of the Affordable Care Act. ...Many students have found themselves in health care limbo this semester. Community colleges in New Jersey used to offer cheap health insurance for hundreds of dollars a year but they had to drop the practice because Federal Law prohibits the sale of bare bones policies. Under the Affordable Care Act it would have cost more to run the program and the cost would have been passed on to students.” [50595]

CNN.com reports, “A House Intelligence subcommittee will hear from CIA security officers who are expected to tell a much more detailed story about the terror attack in Benghazi, Libya, that killed Ambassador Christopher Stevens and three other Americans last year, CNN has learned. The men, described by sources as former Navy SEALs, former Army Special Forces and former Marines, were under contract to guard CIA agents on the ground there. The security officers were among those who responded when Stevens’ compound was attacked on the night of September 11, 2012. They will appear before lawmakers behind closed doors during the week of November 11, sources told CNN. Members of Congress have been trying to get access to the security officers and CIA agents, but those attempts have failed to date. Of the estimated nearly two dozen CIA operatives on the ground that night, only one has testified, the sources said.” [50574, 50575]

At HuffingtonPost.com Howard Feinman writes, “Senate Democrats facing reelection next year aren’t just fretting about a balky website and ...Obama’s misleading campaign statements on health care. Now they’ve begun worrying about another deadline a year away. According to an Affordable Care Act timetable established by administration officials, early next October insurance companies will announce their new menu of health care plans for the ACA marketplaces—plans that may be more varied and numerous than those offered this year, but that almost certainly will come with higher prices. The likely price hikes will hit the individual and small-business insurance markets only weeks before Election Day on Nov. 4, 2014. ‘What genius came up with that timetable?’ asked one key Democrat, who declined to be quoted by name because he is involved in private White House talks.” [50678, 50679]

Interviewed by Glenn Beck, former Secret Service agent and Republican Congressional candidate in Maryland Dan Bongino says, “We’re at a very dangerous point, Glenn. We’re in a lot of trouble. [Obama] sees government—and I think it’s because of his lack of experience, and maybe community organizing in the past—as like this shiny new toy. And for all the disagreements I had with Clinton, Carter, and Bush, there were always limits. There was that line you just didn’t cross—we [now] cross that seemingly every day... It’s to the point where these scandals in and of themselves [that] would be huge, backbreaking scandals are just lost in the ‘scandal fog’ of this administration. It’s worse than people know; I’m not trying to scare you either. ...[If] You give the government information, it will be abused. It is not a matter of *if* it will be abused, it’s only a matter of when. ...It’s only a matter of time before someone slaps an email on your desk that you sent fifteen years ago threatening to punch out your neighbor for not pruning his trees, and says, ‘Look at what I [have] got against you. We need your information on whatever...’” [50580, 50581, 50582, 50673, 50837, 50902]

Retired Army Major General Patrick Brady, a Medal of Honor recipient, tells WND.com, “There is no doubt he [Obama] is intent on emasculating the military and will fire anyone who disagrees with him. ...I hear from many off the record who are upset with the current military leadership and some are leaving. ...To understand the insufferable assaults on our military and veterans, who should be exempt from political squabbles but are often at the forefront of Obama threats, we need to understand the psyche of the elite

in this country led by Obama. It is no accident that [Obama] used the... sequester and shutdown to punish the military family. It is part of his DNA. In fact it is in the psyche of the entire liberal/progressive establishment—the elite. President Clinton outed himself and this ilk when he declared his loathing of the military. Who could believe progressives/liberals care about veterans and military? ...We cannot survive without increasing patriotism, a youth schooled in the Constitution. If the uncommon common American is to prevail against the elite, we need to return to the truths of our Constitution. We need to realize that this recent assault on the military and veterans is no accident. It is purposeful. The elite loathe our military, the one sure guarantor of our freedom. These elite—not a shutdown or default—and their assault on the Constitution and our military are the real threat to our future.” Retired Army Lieutenant General William G. “Jerry” Boykin says, “Over the past three years, it is unprecedented for the number of four-star generals to be relieved of duty, and not necessarily relieved for cause. I believe there is a purging of the military. The problem is worse than we have ever seen.” But, as bad as Boykin believes Obama may be, Boykin accepts that “Our Constitution puts a civilian in charge of the military and as a result a coup would not be constitutional. You’re not going to see a coup in the military. ...I talk to a lot of folks who don’t support where Obama is taking the military, but in the military they can’t say anything. ...Morale is at an unprecedented low ...The last time we won an all-out war was in 1944. Now, we don’t have the will to win.” [50965, 50966]

On *Special Report*, George Will says, “Subtract six from seven million. That’s the number they expect to have or need to have signed up by March and it will only decline. There’s an old axiom in Washington, if you don’t like news, make some of you own. So, [Obama] went to Boston, and with utter predictability, turned this into an attack on insurance companies, bad apple insurers whose sins was selling customers policies the customers wanted but that the administration thinks they shouldn’t want. Now, this is the most transparent administration in history, by its own description, [and it] is complaining today about leaks from itself from documents that leaked numbers [the six ObamaCare enrollments on day one] it claims it doesn’t have. It’s not a pretty picture.” [50646]

On *On the Record*, conservative author (*Suicide of a Superpower: Will America Survive to 2025?*) and former presidential candidate Pat Buchanan tells Greta Van Susteren Obama’s Boston speech was “arrogant, it’s arrogant.” Obama “unbelievably—he deliberately misled, deceived the American people about whether or not they could keep their health care and this is suddenly discovered and blown up and he said, ‘Don’t worry about it, these are bad apple insurers. You can do away with those policies. We can get you new ones. You can go into your exchanges and get a new policy.’ I think the more serious thing here is, really, look this is a manifest act of incompetence on the part of the administration. But more seriously it goes to his credibility, which goes to character, which goes to integrity. Lest we forget, a president of the United States [Richard M. Nixon] left office because he had failed to tell the truth about a major matter. And we are told for three years these people have deceived and misled the American people. I mean, Greta, a lot of us when we were told you can keep your health care policy, you can keep your doctors, were relieved. And then we said, ‘Okay, we’ll help other folks. We got a program to do that,’ and you forgot about it. They were not telling the truth. They were

systematically deceiving the American people. I don't know how you lead a country after you have done that." [50565]

"You know... he is sitting up there in Boston and you know what he is saying to himself? 'So what if these guys complain about it? This thing is locked in concrete. There is no way they can change it if I've got veto power. I will have veto power until January 2017. Things go bad? So what, it's there, it's my legacy.' That's the attitude I picked up in Boston. I watched that speech from beginning to end. It was really a smugness, arrogance, and self-confidence despite the fact of this revelation, which I find remarkable that he deliberately deceived and misled the American people for three years. I think what happened is the speechwriter said, 'Our big problem [is that] people are concerned, sir, that they might lose their health care, lose their doctors and there are all these rumors going around. You get up there and tell them nobody is going to lose health care they want and nobody is going to have to change their doctor, period.' And so he said, 'Okay, I will do it.' But they have to know that there are hundreds of thousands or rather millions of policies that are going to be tossed out because of what they've done. Now, when did they find out? We found out [that Obama] now, he really is out of touch. We found that out with Benghazi and all these things. And maybe he was out of touch. But I find it hard to believe at no time did they know what just was revealed this last week was going to be revealed." [50565]

Also appearing on *On the Record* is health policy expert Heather Hadley, who tells Van Susteren her own policy—which she likes and costs only \$113 per month—has been canceled. The “affordable” ObamaCare plan would double her monthly premium, and increase her deductible from \$2,700 to \$3,500 per year. Hadley says, “I can't believe that would be better for me or something that I would choose to do on my own. That's why I imagine they have a mandate making this mandatory. ...I think my experience is representative of the experience of what will be millions of people who buy their own health insurance, especially young Americans. I've seen studies that estimate that women's premiums might double and young men's might triple.” [50990]