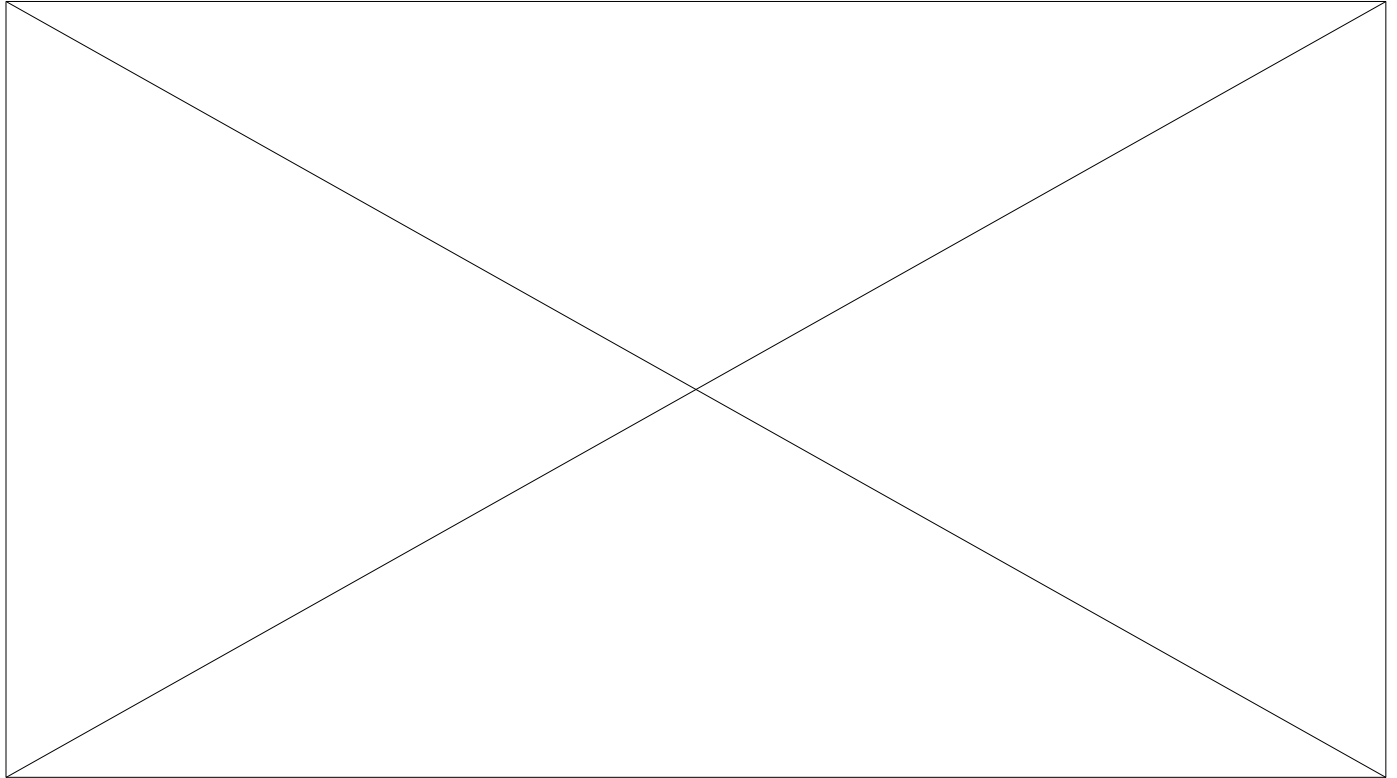


Deal is Done: What's Next?

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FAYETTEVILLE, AR-- The federal government is back open. But Kathy Deck, an economist at the University of Arkansas believes folks willingness to spend money, has taken a hit.

"I think from our perspective in Northwest Arkansas, just like everybody else in the country, that's kind of the best news," Deck said. "It's very important for consumer confidence to be good going into the holiday season :27 particularly for our local companies like Walmart which really do depend on a very strong Christmas for a great deal of their revenue."

The uncertainty isn't just taking a toll on retailers, but service providers like the Benton County Senior Center, who rely on donations and federal money to function.

This center in Bentonville alone serves 66,000 meals a year with a suggested donation price of three dollars to cover costs.

But if the government went into default, social security checks could have stopped. An organizer at the group explained, "With that looming and hanging over their heads, they've been concerned about their finances so it effects their ability to donate to us to support us."

Plus, interest rates were on the rise during the shut down, but Deck says that's short term.

"We're going to see interest rates kind of get back to more normal path. I think the fact that we came to a solution, mitigate some of those fears again, and leads us to think that you know, we can come to a solution over the longer term."

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