

By Richard Ryman | Gannett Wisconsin Media

n two weeks, the centerpiece of President Obama's comprehensive health reform law — the Affordable Care Act, or ACA — begins to take shape in Wisconsin and across the U.S. On Oct. 1, state-by-state exchanges — websites through which you can buy health insurance — become available and participants will have several months to make a decision. In the end, you will be required to have health insurance or pay a tax penalty. If you already get health insurance through your employer, Oct. 1 will be a non-event. But for the uninsured — 173,800 in the state, according to advocacy group Citizen Action of Wisconsin — and the 90,000 people who will be bounced from Wisconsin's BadgerCare Plus Medicaid program, the date will be momentous.

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The Affordable Care Act will touch nearly every American. As key parts of the complex law begin to take effect, Gannett Wisconsin Media is launching a special in-depth series of stories examining the most important issues for consumers. The series, "Health Care Reform & You," will focus on helping you understand what you need to do, how to do it and how to get help. Installments in the series mostly will appear on Sundays and Mondays, but we'll also report on related news developments as they **COMING MONDAY:** How to protect yourself from scammers.

Lawmakers prepare for 2014

By Logan T. Carlson Central Wisconsin Sunday lcarlson2@cwnews.net

Legislators will be back in Madison next week to start the fall session, which will likely see debates over access to public lands around a proposed

mining site, and potential changes to election and campaign finance laws.

But as lawmakers debate proposed legislation this fall, behind-the-scenes preparations are underway for the 2014 general election that will most likely see a few hotly contested

races in central Wisconsin.

In 2012, Rep. Amy Sue Vruwink, D-Milladore, and Rep. Scott Krug, R-Nekoosa, each narrowly defended their seats by less than 150 votes. The two legislators had the smallest

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Gannett Central Wisconsin Media to offer improved TV section

Central Wisconsin Sunday

Starting in October, Gannett Central Wisconsin Media will offer readers a much more complete look at their television schedules.

During that month, we'll

transition from the "TV This Week" section inserted in the Central Wisconsin Sunday edition to a new section, "TV Weekly," that will be available only through a separate

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SANNETT WISCONSIN ILLUSTRATION/SEAN MCKEOWN-YOUNG

\$1.50 Retail For home delivery pricing, see Page 2A

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David Wolfe

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Today: A little a.m. rain; clouds breaking

High: 65 Low: 38



Includes a choice

of 4 breakout

sessions and **lunch session**

choices

Women Empowered Safety Event

Oct. 5, 2013 • 9am-5pm • Holiday Inn Stevens Point

\$35 adults/\$25 students (high school through college)

Call Theresa for more information and to register 715-572-9405 (evenings). All debit/credit card types accepted

This is a non-profit organization.



Session choices:

 Self Defense **Kickboxing**

College Security

Police Dept (aware of surrou Bar Safety

 Pet Safety Car Safety