

Capitol News

Dear Neighbors,

Well, fall is finally around the corner even if the recent weather seems to indicate otherwise.

For the Assembly, this means that it is time to go back into session. This is our opportunity to debate issues that we did not have time to address during the budget process. For me, the start of session brings hope that two of my job creating bills will be able to continue on their legislative

journey. As many of you know, right before the budget, the Assembly passed on a wide bipartisan vote my bill to expand the Workforce Advancement Training grant program without



adding any additional cost. And most recently, a bill that I co-authored with State Senator Julie Lassa to expand the Workforce Development Grant Program recently had a public hearing in the Senate. Both of these bills will help technical colleges and local businesses work together to help train the existing workforce and the future one to help bridge the skills gap. As the fall session progresses, I will be sure to keep you updated on their progress.

As always, I am honored to serve as your state representative. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns about any state or legislative issue. I am always happy and willing to help.

Sincerely,

September 6, 2013

Contact Me



Walking in the Kornfest Parade

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In The District

STEVE DOYLE
State Representative
94th Assembly District

Getting Ready for the Exchange



This month, the Office of the Commissioner of Insurance (OCI) will be holding town hall meetings across the state on the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA), also known as Obamacare. This is a great opportunity for all of us to get information about PPACA and have experts in the field answer any questions we may have about the new exchanges.

In addition to the meeting held in La Crosse on September 3rd, the OCI held legislative briefings for my colleagues and I so that we will be able to help our constituents with any problems they may run into with the new exchange.

The first place to turn for all of your questions regarding the healthcare exchange is healthcare.gov. Technically speaking this is the exchange. It is a website where people like you can look at all your options for buying insurance to figure out what is the best coverage for you. Kind of like a one stop shop for insurance.

Want to know what you need to do if you already have job-based insurance? Want to know what to do if you are retired but not eligible for Medicare? Concerned about fraud on the new exchanges? Healthcare.gov is the place to go. Even though the exchange will not go into effect until October 1, healthcare.gov is full of useful information in an easy to understand format so that can get all your questions answered.

Not feeling particularly tech savvy? Healthcare.gov has a 24 hour hotline for people with questions 1 (800) 318-2596.



La Crosse Storytelling Festival

Friday - Saturday, Sept. 6 - 7

Myrick Park
2000 La Crosse Street
La Crosse, WI 54601

Enjoy storytelling, workshops, music and delicious food.

[Click Here for More Information](#)

Noises Off

September 6th - 22nd

La Crosse Community Theatre
428 Front Street South
La Crosse, WI 54601

A hilarious play about what goes on backstage during a performance. Follow the unfortunate adventures of a off off off Broadway acting troupe as they struggle to put on a show.

[Click Here for More Information](#)

Ring of Fire: The Life and Music of Johnny Cash

Friday, Sept. 13 7:30pm

Healthcare.gov also put together a handy checklist of sorts to help people get ready for open enrollment.

- **Sign up for email and social media updates to stay informed about important news.** (I signed up for this so that I will be able to help you out as much as possible).
- **Do your research.** Now is the time to learn about the different plans and funding options available.
- **Ask questions.** Make a list of questions you have before it is time to choose your health plan. You can ask your questions online at healthcare.gov, through one of their live chats, call the hotline or discuss it with my office or [Congressman Ron Kind's district office](#).
- **Do more research.** Learn about premiums, deductibles, out-of-pocket maximums and copayments. Feeling a little overwhelmed? Don't worry. Healthcare.gov has a [glossary of definitions](#).
- **Know your household income.** To save time once the exchange is open, now is the time to gather your income information (you can find it on your W-2, pay stubs or tax return). Follow [this check list](#) to make sure you have what you need.
- **Set a budget.** Just like when you shop for anything, there will be lots of different options ranging in price and coverage. It is helpful to come up with a budget so you can easily pinpoint which plans will work best for your finances.
- **Talk to your employer if they provide your insurance.** If you are still covered under their insurance, you are all set. Relax or keep reading so you can learn how to help others go through this process.
- **There are other programs available now that you might be covered under.** [Are you under 26 and do your parents have health insurance?](#) Do you qualify for [Medicaid](#), [Medicare](#), or the [Children's Health Insurance Program](#)? Find out now.
- **Play around with healthcare.gov.** Because the Federal Government is setting up Wisconsin's exchange, healthcare.gov is the only website you will have to deal with. If you have a free 30 minutes, familiarize yourself with the website so that it all isn't brand new when enrollment time comes around.

For small business owners who are looking to provide coverage for their employees, there is SHOP, the Small Business Health Options Program. It simplifies the process of buying health insurance for businesses with less than 50 full time employees. Just like in the individual market, you can compare rates and coverage options to find out what plans for best for you and your business. [Click here for more information](#). There is also a SHOP hotline that you can call with questions, Monday – Friday from 9-5 at 1(800) 706-7893.

Viterbo University Main Theater
900 Viterbo Drive
La Crosse, WI 54601

A musical revue of legendary musician Johnny Cash, featuring such hits as *I Walk the Line* and *Folsom Prison*.

[Click Here for More Information](#)

Garland Days

Friday, Sept 13- Saturday, Sept 15
all day

West Salem, WI

A celebration of author Hamlin Garland

[Click Here for More Information](#)

Young Eagles EAA September Free Airplane Rides

Saturday, Sept 14th 10 am - 12pm

La Crosse Municipal Airport
La Crosse, WI 54601

Children and teens between 8 - 17 will have the opportunity to go up in a plane for free at this fun event. Bring a parent to sign registration forms

[Click Here for More Information](#)

Tri-Quest Run, Bike and Golf

Sunday, Sept. 15th

Drugan's Castle Mound Golf Course

Here are the important dates to remember:

October 1: Open Enrollment Begins – this is the day that you can start looking online through the exchange for healthcare insurance.

January 1: Coverage begins

March 31: Open Enrollment Ends.

This is an exciting time for Wisconsin but it can also be a bit intimidating to think about. Just remember that there are people there to help and to answer questions.

From the Press Room

“Skills Gap” Bill Gets Senate Hearing Lassa/Doyle Proposal Creates Rapid Response Grants



Madison — A bill to close Wisconsin’s “skills gap”, authored by State Senator Julie Lassa (D-Stevens Point) and Rep. Steve Doyle (D-Onalaska), received a public hearing in the State Senate today before the Committee on Universities and Technical Colleges.

Senate Bill 44, the Workforce Growth Program would provide rapid response grants to technical colleges to expand their capacity to train workers in high demand skills. At the hearing, tech college representatives reported an estimated 39,000 jobs requiring technical college level skills training that will exceed the colleges’ capacity over a two year period.

“Businesses all over the state have told us how difficult it is for them to find workers with the specialized skills they need,” Lassa said. “Their inability to find or train the skilled workforce they require is a major impediment to job growth in our state. At the same time, people are waiting in line to get trained at our tech colleges. This bill will address that skills

W7665 Sylvester Road
Holmen, WI 54636

A 5K run, a 33K bike, and 18 holes of Golf. A challenging athletic competition and a fundraiser for the Family and Children's Center

[Click Here for More Information](#)

The Wedding Event by Charlotte's Bridal

Onalaska Omni Center
255 Riders Club Rd.
Onalaska, WI 54650

Sun, Sept. 22 11am

See vendors in categories like photographers, caterers, dress shops, cakes, flowers and more for your special day.

[Click Here for More Information](#)

The Friends of the Onalaska Public Library present: Free Movies with Free Popcorn

The Great Gatsby

Onalaska Public Library
741 Oak Avenue South
Onalaska, WI 54650

Wednesday, Sept. 25 6:30pm

Enjoy a free movie with a free snack!

[Click Here for More Information](#)

gap and help put people back to work in good-paying jobs.”

“These competitive grants are a perfect marriage between technical colleges and local businesses and will allow them the flexibility to create individualized solutions to the skills gap,” said Doyle.

Under the program, a business, a consortium of multiple businesses, workforce development board or an economic development organization can partner with their local technical college to apply to WTCS through a competitive grant process for workforce growth funding to meet their local skilled worker training needs.

Depending on the needs in a particular region or industry in our state, the grants could be used to expand tech college facilities, purchase equipment, hire faculty or develop curriculum. Workforce Growth Program funding could also be used to address student needs such as training scholarships, student career support services, job placement, and business recruitment.

“The tech colleges have been on the front lines of preparing Wisconsin workers for today’s careers,” Lassa said. “Tech college graduates have an 88% success rate in finding work within six months of graduation, at median starting salary of more than \$36,000. The Workforce Growth Program will expand the tech colleges’ capacity to help Wisconsin workers and businesses compete in the changing world economy.”

“This bill will help the people on the ground bridge the skills gap by connecting businesses to the tech colleges who will be training their future workforce,” said Doyle. “It will be a fast and effective way to help jumpstart Wisconsin’s economy.”

* * *

Back to School Health Tips



Even though August was National Immunization Awareness Month, with school starting soon, it is a good time to remind people about recommended vaccinations. The CDC has put together a handy website to help provide information on this matter. From here, you can look up vaccinations by age, take a quiz to see what shots you need and figure out when and where you can get your shots updated.

Oktoberfest 2013

Friday, Sept. 27 - Saturday, Oct 5

#1 Oktoberfest Strasse
La Crosse, WI 54601

*the 53rd Annual Oktoberfest
including the Maple Leaf Parade,
carnival rides, ethnic food,
entertainment and music.*

[Click Here for More Information](#)

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Maple Leaf Parade

Saturday, September 28

Downtown La Crosse

*One of the largest parades in the
Midwest! Part of the Oktoberfest
celebration.*

[Click Here for More Information](#)

**If you have any changes to
these events or new ones that
you want featured in my e-
newsletter, send them to me at
rep.doyle@legis.wisconsin.gov.**

In The Legislature

Legislative Committees

[Assembly Committee on Corrections -
Ranking Member](#)

[Assembly Committee on Insurance](#)

[Assembly Committee on Tourism](#)

[Assembly Committee on
Transportation](#)

[Here is a link to the recommended immunizations for children from birth through age 6.](#)

For preteens and teens, [these are the recommended shots and vaccines.](#) Here you can check to see if your kids are missing any shots and consult with helpful resources on how to get them back on track.

For adults, the CDC reminds us that we never outgrow the need for vaccines. The specific shots that you may need will vary based on your age, lifestyle, travel plans and previous immunizations. [Check out this link to figure out what vaccines you need.](#)

And even though summer is over and most of us are done with our vacationing for the year, it is always good ideas to know what vaccinations are recommended if you are traveling overseas. [Check out this helpful tool](#) where you can search the CDC's recommendations based on where you are traveling and any specific personal health issues you may have.

Under the Affordable Care Act, immunizations like these are considered a preventive service so they will be fully covered by all plans under the new insurance exchanges. If you are not sure whether your vaccinations will be covered, check with your insurance company.

Alpaca Visits



Last month, I visited Eagle Crest assisted living in Onalaska with two very special guests. Two of my baby alpacas.

The tradition started as a way to bring a little joy and excitement to the residents there, many of whom have never seen an alpaca. Now it has become one of my favorite parts of being a state representative.

During the summer when we are not in campaign mode, it is nice to just get out and talk to people as their state representative. I get to answer questions both about what I have been doing in the legislature and what we do over at [Double D Alpaca Ranch](#). One of the things I have noticed is that even people who are mad about government don't yell at me when they are holding a baby alpaca in their arms. There is nothing quite as soft or as cuddly as an alpaca.



It is also important to me to reach out to those living in assisted care because it can be difficult for the elderly to attend other listening sessions and political events. And of course it is fun for me to get to chat and visit.

So if you know a local group that would love an alpaca visit, just give my office a call. The baby alpacas love the attention and its just another excuse for me to go out and talk with all of you.

If you would like to have your name removed from this email list, [please reply to this message](#) with "Unsubscribe" in the subject line