



Banks eye potential Venezuela investment

BUSINESS, 4A

Stevens Point Journal weekend

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Fewer Wisconsinites sign up for Obamacare



A sign on an insurance store advertises Obamacare in San Ysidro, San Diego, CA, October 26, 2017. MIKE BLAKE/REUTERS

Costs of coverage spike as federal subsidies expire

Sarah Volpenhein
Milwaukee Journal Sentinel
USA TODAY NETWORK – WISCONSIN

Nearly 290,000 Wisconsinites have signed up for health insurance sold on the marketplaces set up under the Affordable Care Act, as of Jan. 3, according to new data released by the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

That's down from nearly 307,000 who had signed up for health plans sold on the marketplace as of the same time

last year.

The figures are an early look at this year's marketplace enrollment, which is expected to drop, now that enhanced federal subsidies that brought down the cost of coverage under the Affordable Care Act have expired.

Millions of Americans benefited from the subsidies since Congress first expanded them in 2021 following the pandemic, driving costs for marketplace plans even lower and making some Americans eligible for the financial aid for the first time. The enhanced subsidies

have been credited with doubling marketplace enrollment, from 12 million in 2021 to 24 million last year.

Last fall, disagreements over the federal subsidies fueled the longest government shutdown in U.S. history, with Congressional Republicans rejecting Democrats' demands to continue the subsidies at their expanded levels.

The enhanced subsidies expired at the end of 2025, when Congress let the tax credits revert to their earlier, less-generous levels.

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Note to readers

Due to the upcoming Martin Luther King Jr. Day holiday, there will be no mail delivery on Monday, Jan. 19. Instead of receiving your Jan. 19 paper on Monday, you'll receive it in the mail on Tuesday, Jan. 20.

TRSD earns 2025 District of Distinction honor

Nida Tazeen
AI-assisted reporter
USA TODAY NETWORK

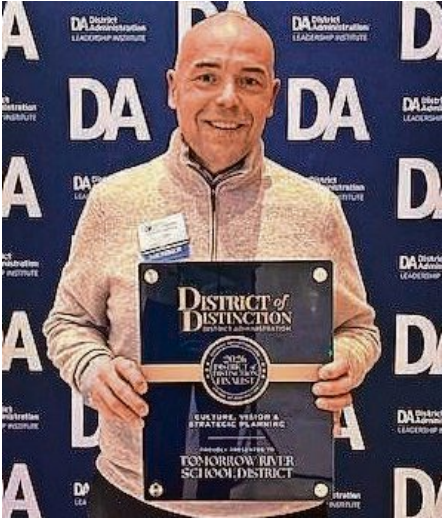
AMHERST – The Tomorrow River School District in Amherst recently was recognized as a 2025 District of Distinction during the District Administration Leadership Institute National Superintendents Summit, according to a community announcement.

Superintendent Ryan Ruggles accepted the award on behalf of the entire staff.

The award program recognizes education leaders and educational initiatives driving meaningful change across multiple categories. Tomorrow River was selected as one of three national finalists for District of Distinction in the Culture, Vision, and Strategic Planning category.

The District Administration Awards

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Superintendent Ryan Ruggles accepted Tomorrow River's 2025 District of Distinction award, celebrating staff leadership and impactful educational initiatives. PROVIDED BY TOMORROW RIVER SCHOOL DISTRICT

UW-Stevens Point to honor MLK at Jan. 27 event

Nida Tazeen
AI-assisted reporter
USA TODAY NETWORK

STEVENS POINT – The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point will host a public event honoring the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The event, titled "One Better World,"

is scheduled from 4:30-6 p.m. Jan. 27 in the Alumni Room of the Dreyfus University Center, 1015 Reserve St., according to a community announcement. Doors will open at 4 p.m., and refreshments will be served.

Vernon Wall, an author and lecturer, is slated to be the guest speaker. Wall is the president and founder of One Better

World LLC, a consulting firm that assists universities and organizations with inclusive excellence. He is also the chief of staff for LeaderShape, Inc.

Wall has 35 years of professional student affairs experience at Iowa State University, the University of

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