



'Made in America' vape products gain ground

BUSINESS, 5A

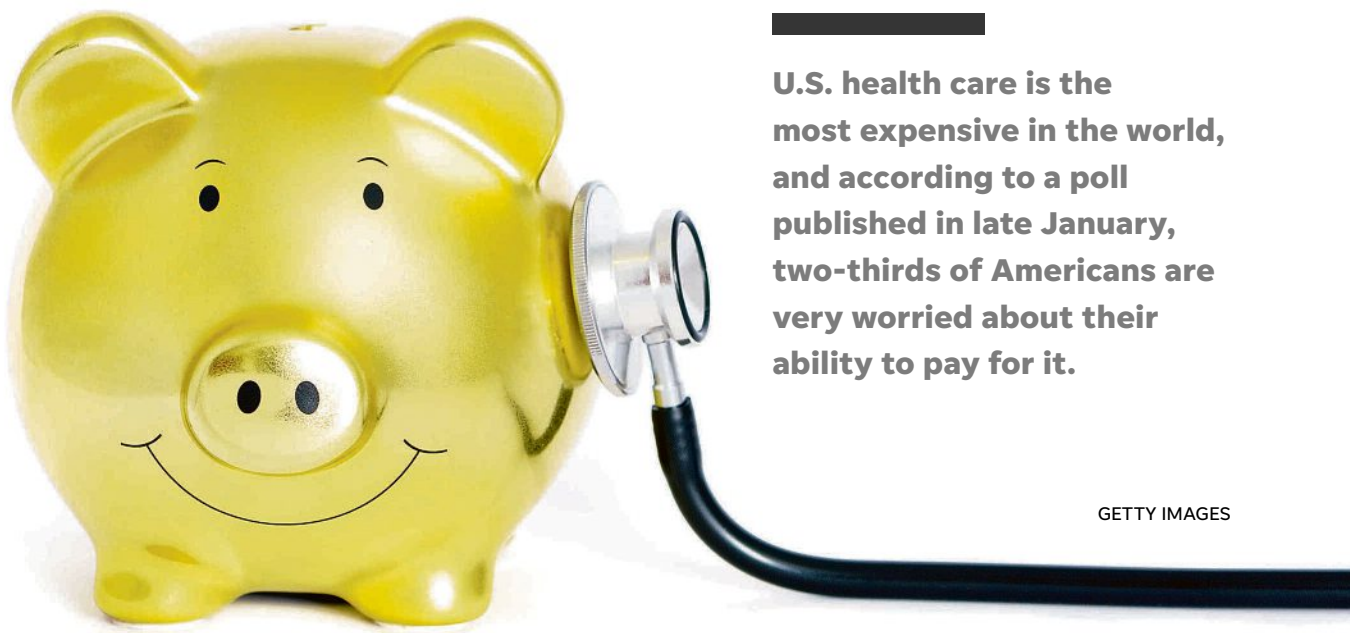
The Bulletin

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ANALYSIS

The high cost of U.S. health care



U.S. health care is the most expensive in the world, and according to a poll published in late January, two-thirds of Americans are very worried about their ability to pay for it.

GETTY IMAGES

Complex system, competing interests barriers to lower prices

Patrick Aguilar Washington University in St. Louis | THE CONVERSATION

In announcing its "Great Healthcare Plan" in January, the Trump administration became the latest in a long history of efforts by the U.S. government to rein in the soaring cost of health care. • As a physician and professor studying the intersection of business and health, I know that the challenges in reforming the sprawling U.S. health care system are immense. That's partly for political and even philosophical reasons.

But it also reflects a complex system fraught with competing interests – and the fact that patients, hospitals, health insurance companies and drug manufacturers change their behaviors in conflicting ways when faced with new rules.

Soaring costs

U.S. health care is the most expensive in the world, and according to a poll published in late January, two-thirds of Americans are very worried about their ability to pay for it – whether it's their medications, a doctor's visit, health insurance or an unpredictably costly medical emergency.

Disputes over health policy even played a central role in the federal government shutdown in fall 2025.

Trump's health care framework outlines no specific policy actions, but it does establish priorities to address a number of longtime concerns, including prescription drug costs, price transparency, lowering insurance premiums and making health insurance companies generally more accountable.

Why have these challenges been so difficult to address?

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When COVID-19 pandemic era Affordable Care Act subsidies expired on Jan. 1, about 1.4 million people dropped coverage, and for most who didn't, premiums more than doubled.

ANDREW HARNIK/GETTY IMAGES

NORWICH

Different figures proposed for school budget

Matt Grahn
Norwich Bulletin
USA TODAY NETWORK

Going into budget season, it's going to be crucial for Norwich and other cities to advocate to the state for increasing education funding.

"It worries me how our budget is on the school side right now," Norwich Mayor Swarnjit Singh said.

The Norwich City Council held a Departmental Budget Hearing for the Board of Education on April 7. Currently, the Norwich Board of Education is asking for a 5.09% increase, but City Manager John Salomone only included a 0.5% increase in his draft budget.

Many things can change between now and when the city has to complete its budget process in early June.

2025-2026 school budget increase was only 1% over prior year

For the 2025-26 school year, the Board of Education asked for a 4.9% increase, but City Manager John Salomone

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Senator calls for probe into sale of CT Sun

P.R. Lockhart
The CT Mirror

As sports fans across Connecticut continue to process the news that the Connecticut Sun is leaving the state, U.S. Sen Richard Blumenthal is looking to investigate the sale further.

On Monday, the senator said he requested that the U.S. Department of Justice formally launch an antitrust investigation into the WNBA's role in the Connecticut Sun sale.

"My concern is that the WNBA

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addressUSA

The market won't wait. And neither should you.

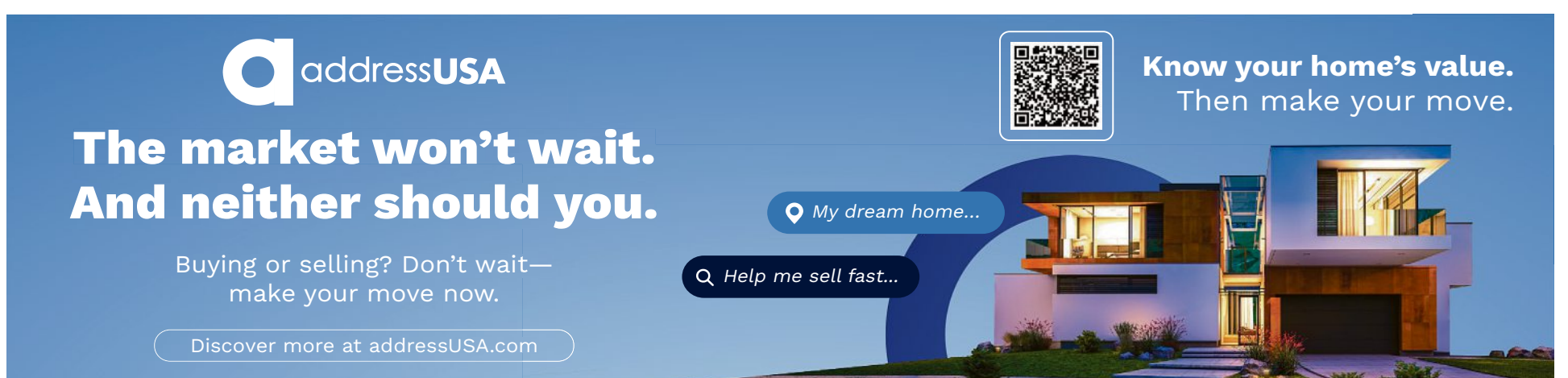
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