

# ‘Huge sticker shock’ for Floridians

Residents get a look at Obamacare price hikes

By Skyler Swisher  
Orlando Sentinel

Nathan Sharp is trying to figure out how he'll pay for health care now that the federal pandemic-era help that made his coverage more affordable is set to end.

The 49-year-old Crystal River resident learned this week the monthly cost of his Affordable Care Act, or Obamacare, plan will more than double, jumping from \$202 to \$450. He said his co-pays are also increasing, and he's considering going without coverage next year.

"I am not going to be able to afford my insurance," said Sharp, who does digital marketing and is self-employed. "I am just going to

have to self-pay."

Millions of Floridians are facing higher Obamacare prices with the start of open enrollment Saturday. Costs are being driven up by the expiration of enhanced subsidies, enacted in 2021, that helped many people pay for health insurance — and are now at the center of the federal government shutdown dispute.

The Sunshine State has about 4.7

million people enrolled in Affordable Care Act plans, and it's estimated as many as a third could drop their coverage given the higher prices.

"There is going to be huge sticker shock," said Steve Freedman, a professor of health policy at the University of South Florida's Chiles Center. "It's not going to be without real public outcry."

Rates will vary based on a

person's age, income, coverage plan and location. Obamacare is meant to make health insurance more affordable and accessible to people who do not access insurance through an employer, and about 97% of Florida enrollees receive income-based discounts that make their premiums cheaper.

But next year, many are slated to

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# A boxer's victory

New film 'Christy' tells how Central Florida athlete overcame terrifying abuse

By Matthew J. Palm | Orlando Sentinel

Christy Martin was used to making headlines. As a young athlete with knockout drive, she put women's boxing on the map as one of its first superstars, even making the cover of "Sports Illustrated." But in 2010, the headlines were of a different — and terrifying — nature. The Central Floridian was shot and stabbed by her husband, saved only when — bloodied and dazed but determined to live — she flagged down a passing motorist in her Apopka neighborhood.

Now, a new movie titled



Top: Boxer Christy Martin is pictured in Apopka on July 19, 2005. ORLANDO SENTINEL

Above: Martin, left, and Sydney Sweeney arrive at the AFI Fest premiere of "Christy" on Oct. 25 at the TCL Chinese Theatre in Los Angeles. JORDAN STRAUSS/INVISION

"Christy" tells her story. Starring Sydney Sweeney ("Euphoria," "The White Lotus," "The Handmaid's Tale"), it opens in theaters Nov. 7.

Martin — known as the "Coal Miner's Daughter" during her career because of her West Virginia roots and her father's occupation — is pleased with the film, though the boxing sequences riled her up. She laughs as she relates how she'd find herself shouting at the screen, "Throw a left hook!"

The scenes depicting the night her husband, Jim Martin, stabbed her repeatedly before

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# Uthmeier's time at law firm raises questions

Potential ethical issues stem from AG's brief tenure at GrayRobinson

By Jeffrey Schweers  
Orlando Sentinel

When James Uthmeier took a leave of absence from Gov. Ron DeSantis' administration so he could run the governor's flailing presidential campaign in 2023, he also signed on with one of the state's most powerful and politically connected law firms, which regularly lobbies the state of Florida on behalf of its clients.

His time at the law firm was brief. What he did there and what he got paid are not publicly known. But Uthmeier's stint at the private practice — reported for the first time here — raises ethical and legal questions about the Republican attorney now running for the job of Florida's top prosecutor.

Financial disclosure forms filed by Uthmeier show he worked for GrayRobinson from September 2023 to January 2024. The law firm's lobbying clients include Meta Platforms, Walt Disney World and Uber, and GrayRobinson also has provided legal services to the state, racking up more than \$140 million in billings over the last five years.

Uthmeier returned to his job as DeSantis' chief of staff after the GOP governor suspended his presidential campaign in early 2024 following a resounding defeat by Donald Trump in the Iowa caucus. DeSantis this year appointed Uthmeier to fill the remaining term of former Attorney General Ashley Moody, whom he'd appointed to the U.S. Senate.

This revolving-door arrangement between the state's top office and a high-powered law firm that lobbies for its clients in Tallahassee and has made millions doing business with the state opens a gate to potential conflicts of interest, political experts said. More broadly, it

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