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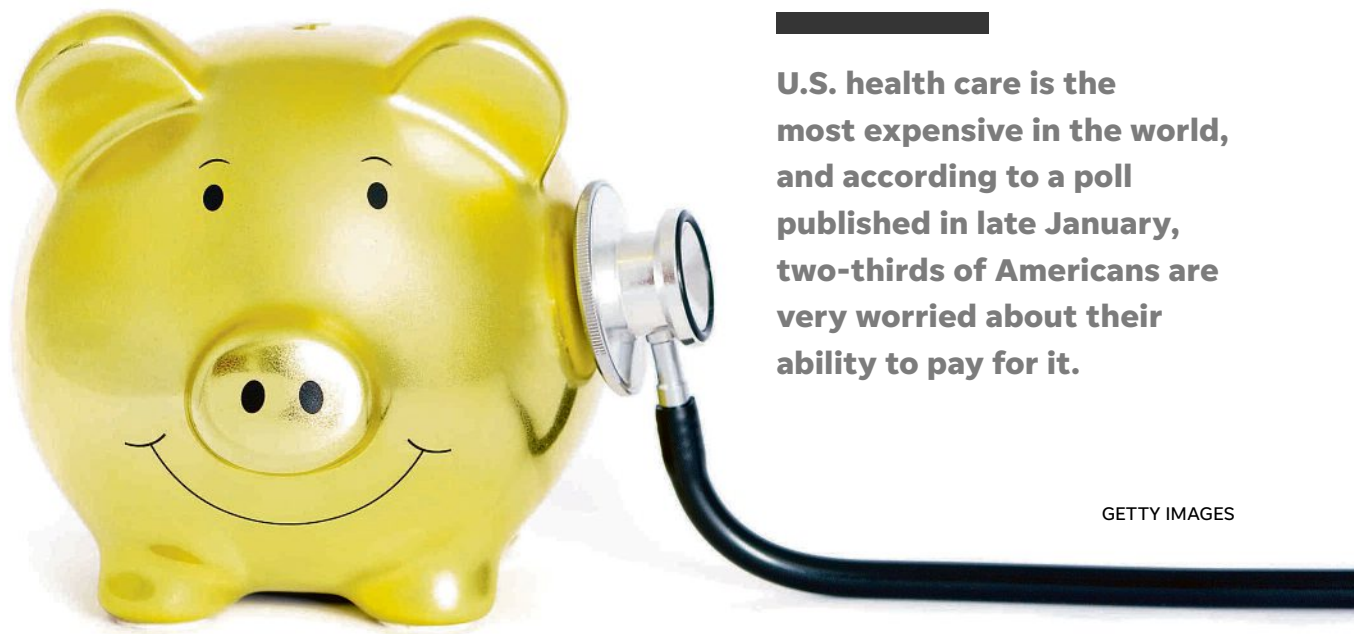
# The Register-Mail

FRIDAY, APRIL 10, 2026

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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?

See **HEALTH CARE**, Page 5A



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



The Creston plant is one of several in the central states that manufacturers products like Brach's Peanut Clusters, Trolli Sour Brite Crawlers and Black Forest fruit snacks for Ferrara Candy Co.

RODNEY WHITE/THE REGISTER

## Eight IL companies on most-ethical list

Claire Grant

Springfield State Journal-Register  
USA TODAY NETWORK

SPRINGFIELD – Eight Illinois-based businesses have secured a spot on the list of the most ethical companies globally.

Ethisphere, a Scottsdale, Arizona-based firm, recently released its list of the “World’s Most Ethical Companies” for 2026, recognizing companies for having “best-in-class ethics and compliance programs, corporate governance practices and cultures of integrity,” according to its website.

The firm puts together the list annually and is celebrating their 20th year of the list.

Any company who wants to be considered submits an application long before each new list is revealed. This year, 138 companies across 40 industries across 17 countries were rewarded with a spot on the list.

### What are the most ethical companies in Illinois?

From Chicago-based firms to national tractor brands in Moline, eight Illinois businesses were included in the 2026 list.

- ADM, Chicago, seven-time honoree in food and beverage
- Allstate, Northbrook, 12-time honoree in property and casualty insurance
- CME Group, Chicago, one-time honoree in financial services
- Ferrara Candy Company, Chicago, one-time honoree in food and beverage
- Ingredion, Westchester, 12-time honoree in food and beverage
- JLL, Chicago, 19-time honoree in real estate
- John Deere, Moline, 19-time honoree in industrial manufacturing
- W.W. Grainger Inc., Lake Forest, two-time honoree in retail

## Nine things to do this weekend in the Galesburg area

Kathi Edwards

Special to the Galesburg Register-Mail  
USA TODAY NETWORK

The weekend brings the G-ALES-burg Beer Fest, Bishop Hill’s 2026 Spring Fling and Tapestry Unraveled, along with fundraisers, live music and more to the Galesburg area.

### Anniversary Film Series: 'Ferris Bueller's Day Off'

What: Ferris Bueller’s Day Off is celebrating its 40th anniversary. Celebrate with friends and family and share this classic film with long time fans and first time viewers. A brash, cocky high school senior, tired of skipping school to

spend a boring day at home, is determined to enjoy an epic day roaring around his favorite Chicago sites, enlisting his best friend and girlfriend to join him on the adventure. Tickets are only available at the door.

When: 2 and 7 p.m. April 10  
Where: The Orpheum Theatre, 57 S. Kellogg St., Galesburg

Cost: \$5

### 2026 Spring Fling

What: Stores, museums and restaurants will offer special discounts. From 9 a.m.-3 p.m., enjoy This ‘N That

See **THINGS TO DO**, Page 2A

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