



Michigan measles spread triggers urgent recommendation for babies

INSIDE, 3A

PRESS & ARGUS

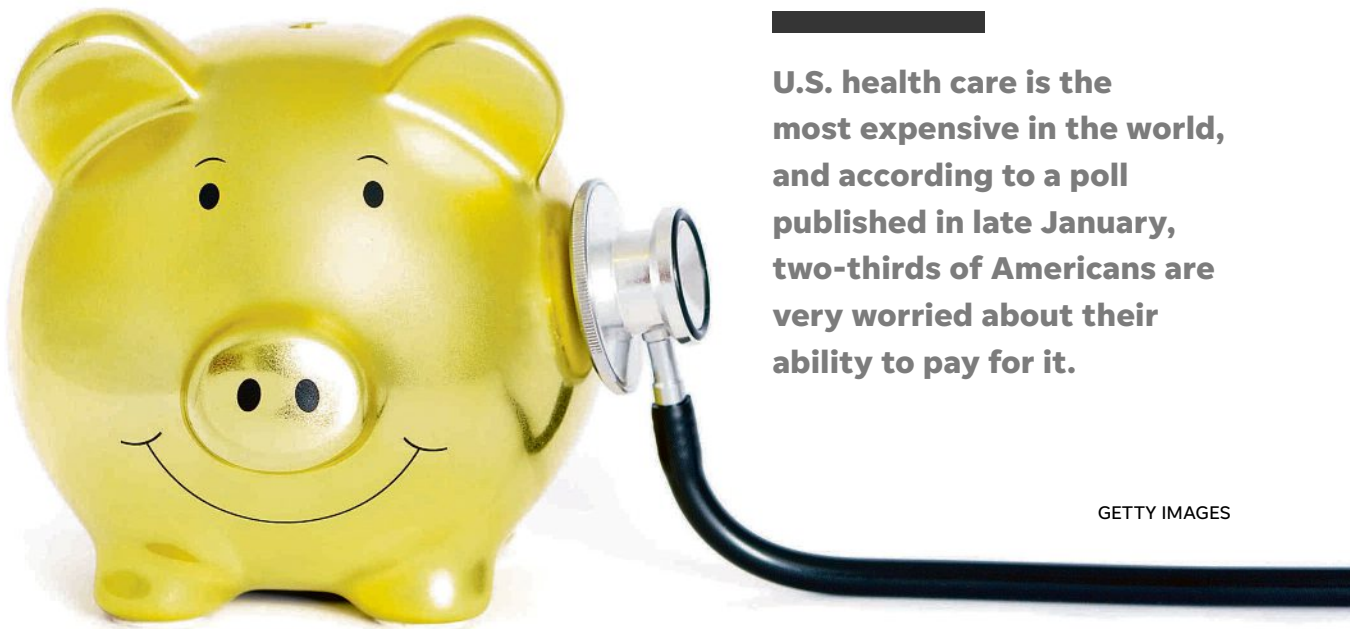
LIVINGSTON DAILY

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ANALYSIS

The high cost of U.S. health care



GETTY IMAGES

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.

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

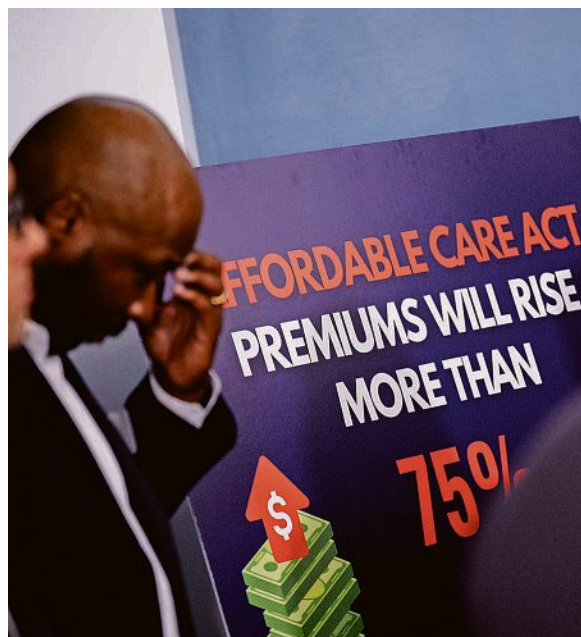
U.S. health care is the most expensive in the world, and according to a poll published in late January, two-thirds of Americans are very worried about their ability to pay for it – whether it’s their medications, a doctor’s visit, health insurance or an unpredictably costly medical emergency.

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 4B



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

Eight-hour parking limits frustrate Howell drivers

Tess Ware

Livingston Daily

USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

Howell-based artist Kat Markovich, known locally as Kat McButterfly, has lived in her downtown apartment for two years. When she moved in, she said, the building’s owner showed her where residents could park on the east side of the lot behind Cleary’s.

More than a month ago, Markovich received a parking ticket for the first time – even after parking where she said she was directed. Markovich said several other residents also received tickets, but none were notified of a change in parking limits or enforcement.

“There was no council meeting about

See PARKING, Page 6A



The cast of “Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat” at Howell High School. PROVIDED BY

TOM GOULD/HOWELL PUBLIC SCHOOLS

HHS to present ‘Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat’

Evan Sasiela

Livingston Daily

USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

Howell High School students are performing a beloved family musical in April.

“Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat” opens at 7 p.m. April 17 with additional shows at 7 p.m. April 18 and 2 p.m. April 19, according to a community announcement. The production is hosted at the HHS Rod Bushey Performing Arts Center, 1200 W. Grand River Ave.

“Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat” is told entirely through song and is guided by narrators (Delaney Cain and Lily Rozmy), according to the announcement. The story follows Joseph (Jeffery Stimson), the favored son of

See MUSICAL, Page 6A





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