

MLB is cool with ABS era: But is rule a Trojan horse for robo-umps?

SPORTS, 14A

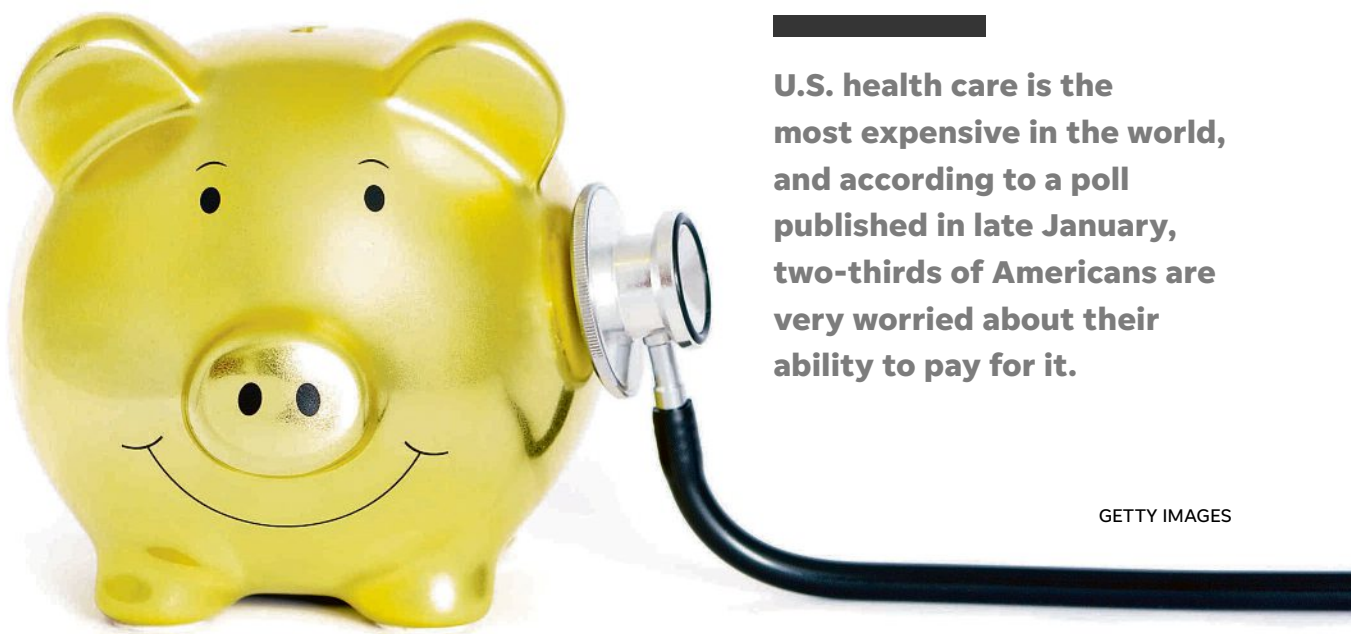
Ashland TIMES-GAZETTE

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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.

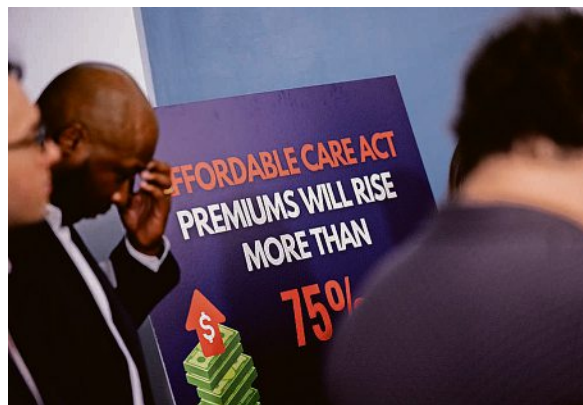
But it also reflects a complex system fraught with competing interests – and the fact that patients, hospitals, health insurance companies and drug manufacturers change their behaviors in conflicting ways when faced with new rules.

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.

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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

‘Coffee brings people together’

Mobile coffee truck offers drinks, connection

Miranda McGrath
Wooster Daily Record
USA TODAY NETWORK

From school parking lots to Friday night football games, a coffee truck is making regular stops across the Wooster area, bringing drinks and a sense of connection along with it.

Operated locally by Ashly Hart, Travelin’ Tom’s Coffee of Greater Wooster is a mobile coffee service that travels to schools, businesses and events rather than operating from a traditional storefront.

“I think what I love most about coffee is how it brings people together,” Hart said. “You could have a bad day and want to go get a cup of coffee to cheer you up... or meet a friend. It just brings people together.”

A business built on movement and flexibility

Travelin’ Tom’s operates on a mobile schedule, with locations changing daily based on bookings and events.

“It depends on the schedule, which is my favorite part, because every day is different,” Hart said.

On a typical day, Hart said she may travel to two or three different stops, including corporate offices, schools and community locations.

“We mainly cover the Wooster, Orrville over through North Canton area, but we’ll travel also to Ashland and to Millersburg as well,” she said.

Serving more than just coffee

The truck offers a wide variety of drinks beyond traditional coffee options.

“We have over 20 different beverage varieties with gluten-free, dairy-free options,” Hart said.

The menu includes cold brew, refreshers, energy drinks, lemonade,

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Doering, 39, of Mansfield, indicted on reckless homicide

Lou Whitmire
Mansfield News Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

A Mansfield man has been indicted on charges of reckless homicide and tampering with evidence, both third-degree felonies, by the Ashland County Grand Jury.

Joseph Frederick Doering, 39, was also indicted March 12 by the grand jury on a charge of aggravated possession of drugs, a fifth-degree felony, according to Ashland County Prosecu-

tor Chris Tunnell.

The Ashland County Sheriff’s Office investigated the death of 26-year-old Brandon Sheaffer on Feb. 19, at 39 Maine St. in the village of Mifflin, Ashland County.

On Feb. 20, Doering was charged with reckless homicide, a third-degree felony, and possession of methamphetamine, a fifth-degree felony, related to the death, Tunnell said earlier.

The indictment stated Doering recklessly caused the death of Sheaffer when the two were using metham-

phetamine and engaging in other high-risk behavior. Detectives found methamphetamine and other evidence in the house during the investigation, Tunnell said.

On Feb. 19, Mifflin Township Fire Department’s emergency services were sent to the residence for an unresponsive person, the sheriff’s office said earlier.

Sheaffer was unconscious and unresponsive on the floor. Life-saving measures were initiated, but Sheaffer did not survive, the News Journal re-

ported earlier.

“The Ashland County Sheriff’s Office is continuing the investigation into the circumstances surrounding Mr. Sheaffer’s death and is being assisted by the Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation, the Mifflin Police Department and the Ashland County Coroner’s Office,” Sheriff Kurt Schneider said in the news release.

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