



The Record Herald

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There is no print edition of the paper today, but you can find today's puzzles, comics, national news and sports here in the eNewspaper.

Rural hospitals close in increasing numbers



Activists protest cuts to Medicaid, in 2025 in Washington, DC. Federal Medicare and Medicaid reimbursements are a critical revenue source for rural hospitals, which tend to serve large numbers of Medicaid patients.

TASOS KATOPODIS/GETTY IMAGES FOR PEOPLE'S ACTION INSTITUTE

Closures have domino effect on communities, residents

Shayann Ramedani and Daniel R. George

Penn State
THE CONVERSATION

Some Pennsylvania hospitals are being pushed beyond the brink of closure.

Taylor Hospital in Ridley Park closed in April 2025, Crozer-Chester Medical Center in Upland closed in May 2025, and Heritage Valley Kennedy Hospital, formerly the Ohio Valley Hospital, in Kennedy Township closed in June 2025.

Rural hospitals are particularly vulnerable.

The UNC Sheps Center, which tracks rural hospital infrastructure in the United States, has documented 195 rural hospitals that have closed or converted to outpatient facilities since January 2005. Closures have far outpaced the opening of new rural hospitals during this period.

As a physician who has trained in rural communities and a researcher who studies community well-being and public health, we see that every rural hospi-



A 2022 study found that when a rural hospital closes, hospitals nearby see a measurable spike in inpatient admissions and emergency room visits that can cause significant financial strain. GETTY IMAGES

tal closure exerts a domino effect on surrounding communities and residents. This can be difficult to quantify but manifests as lost jobs and economic

decline, poorer health and a pervasive sense of fraying community fabric.

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COVID-19 tax relief may be possible for some

Susan Tompor

Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

DETROIT – Oodles of taxpayers – from the very well off to the barely making it – could be owed a chunk of change from the Internal Revenue Service after a complex court decision involving what rules did and didn't apply during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Like anything else relating to taxes, it's not going to be simple to get your money – or even to figure out if you're owed a refund related to some penalties and interest assessed years ago. These refunds are not automatic; you won't stumble upon a check out of the blue here. Most taxpayers will need to rush to file a special tax form by July 10 if they hope to see any relief.

The National Taxpayer Advocate began publishing a series of online blogs in late April to better explain the potential refunds – and why many everyday households need to act now to potentially get some cash.

We're looking at the 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022 tax years.

You could be affected if you filed a tax return late between Jan. 20, 2020, and July 11, 2023. The well-to-do can

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Hormuz standoff leaves sailors stranded

Imad Creidi
REUTERS

DAMMAM, Saudi Arabia – Iran's publication of a new map asserting its control over the Strait of Hormuz risks extending an already punishing ordeal for thousands of mariners trapped on ships in the Gulf.

Over 20,000 sailors are stuck on around 2,000 vessels in the Gulf, many of them unable to leave ship, lacking adequate supplies of food and fresh water, and fearful of an uncertain future at sea in a war zone. Sailors interviewed in recent weeks have described the hardships and anxieties of their experience, and a federation representing them warns of dire conditions.

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