

TORRES REMODELING LLC
FULL HOUSE REMODELING

INTERIOR

- Kitchens/Custom Cabinets • Walk-In Shower/Handicaps Stalls & Tubs
- Painting • Tape, Float & Texture
- Electrical & Plumbing
- Floors/Windows/Doors

BBB
★★★★★
5 STAR RATING

EXTERIOR

- House Leveling/Foundations
- Pier & Beams Patios/Porches
- Roofing & Siding • Exterior Painting
- Major & Minor Repairs
- Water Damage & Reroutes

FREE ESTIMATES
SENIOR & MILITARY DISCOUNT
SAME DAY SERVICE

VISA MasterCard
Senior Discount 361-510-3927 30+ Years of Experience

CC-42300936

CORPUS CHRISTI

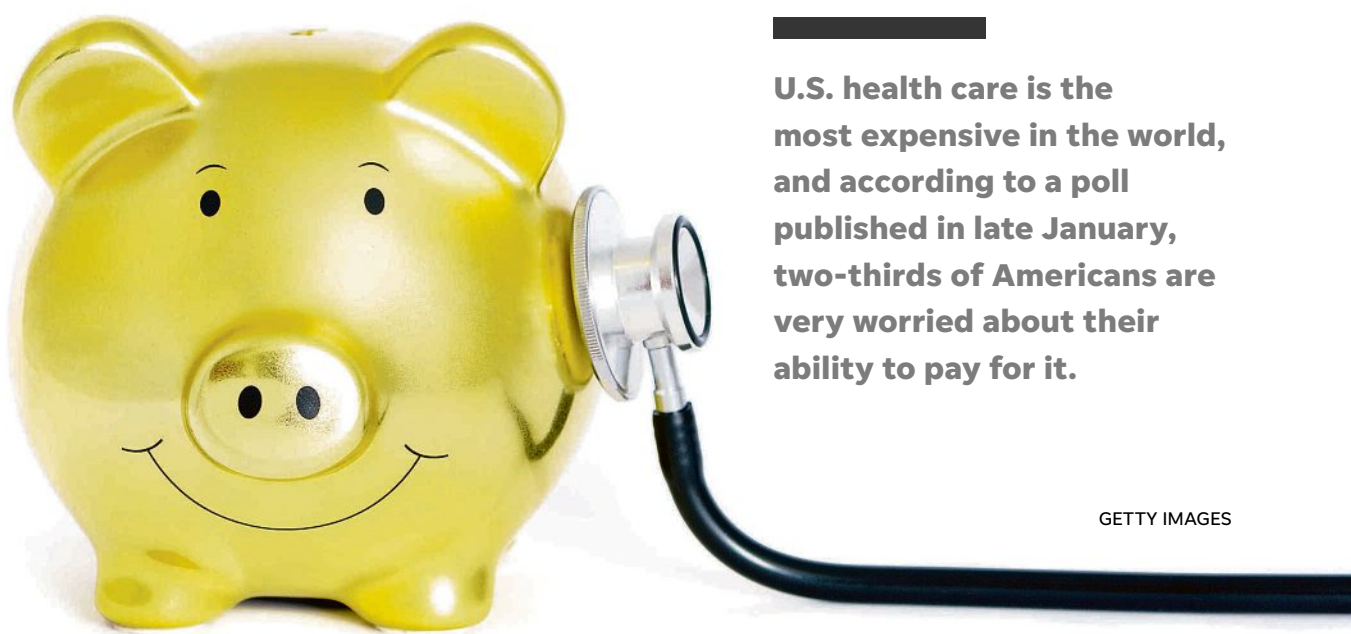
Caller Times

FRIDAY, APRIL 10, 2026 | CALLER.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

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

DEL MAR COLLEGE TUITION

Early data shows waiver retains students

Olivia Garrett

Corpus Christi Caller Times
USA TODAY NETWORK – TEXAS

Students who participated in Del Mar College’s Freedom to Dream program, signing on for full-time studies in return for waived tuition and fees, are showing a much higher persistence rate compared to the historical college average.

Across Del Mar College, about half of students stuck with their program between fall 2024 and spring 2025. About half didn’t reenroll.

This year, Freedom to Dream students persisted at a much higher rate. About 8 out of 10 Freedom to Dream students reenrolled after their first semester this fall.

“That’s what full-time status does,” President Mark Escamilla said.

These figures were shared with the Del Mar College Board of Regents on April 7, along with additional data comparing the first and second cohorts of the Freedom to Dream program.

The college launched Freedom to Dream in fall 2025, offering first-time college students a tuition waiver if they committed in a formal agreement to enroll in at least 12 semester credit hours a semester and maintain a minimum 2.0 grade point average.

The program is only open to students residing in the Del Mar College taxing district. Adult learners with no more than 12 credit hours are eligible, as well as recent high school graduates, regardless of how many dual credit hours they’d completed.

The college is accepting applications for year two of Freedom to Dream through April 30. The college is holding an information session for applicants at 5:30 p.m. April 15 at the Windward Campus Coleman Center at 4101 Old Brownsville Road.

Who applied for Freedom to Dream in its first year?

More than 5,000 students applied, though many did not meet the requirements. The college approved 1,717 applications, resulting in 1,684 students enrolling this fall.

Only about 15% of approved

See DMC, Page 3A

Fish aggregating devices washing up here often have long journeys

Jace Tunnell
HARTE RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Along the high tide line this week, nestled among tangles of sargassum, I came across something far more industrial than the usual driftwood and shells

– a fish aggregating device, or FAD, washed ashore.

At first glance, it looked like a large, flat plastic tabletop, weathered by months at sea. Flip it over, and the purpose becomes clear. Ropes, netting and trailing lines hang beneath it, designed

to create structure in the open ocean where fish gather. Nearby, still tethered by a thick rope, was a satellite beacon etched with letters and numbers. These identifiers often trace the device back to distant fleets, many originating off West Africa.

This wasn’t my first encounter. I find four or five of these each year along our beaches. Not all are high-tech. Some are homemade, PVC pipes, metal frames rigged with water jugs for flotation, even

See FAD, Page 2A

Subscriber-only eNewspaper

The eNewspaper is an electronic copy of your print newspaper. Enjoy every page by going to caller.com/enewspaper or scan this code on your mobile device. You will also find late news and sports in the bonus sections. Check it out today!



Volume 144 | Issue 69
Subscribe 844-900-7096
©2026 \$3.50



7 64709 00001 2