

## High cost of medications forcing difficult decisions

Insurers are covering fewer prescription drugs while raising costs, review shows. **In Money**

## MLB star finds peace after big contracts fall through

Carlos Correa lost more than \$100 million in deal with Twins but calls it "the best thing." **In Sports**

## 'Bachelorette' hopes to be role model, break mold

Jenn Tran talks pressures and joys starring as the first Asian lead. "I just never saw myself as a main character before," she says. **In Life**

# USA TODAY

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RAMONA ROSALES/DISNEY



## Rural hospitals shuttered, left empty

### Hard-to-fill real estate adds to health care void

**Taylor Sisk**  
KFF Health News

JELICO, Tenn. — In March 2021, this town of about 2,000 residents in the hills of east Tennessee lost its hospital, a 54-bed acute care facility.

Campbell County, where Jellico is located, ranks 90th of Tennessee's 95 counties in health outcomes and has a poverty rate almost double the national average, so losing its health care cornerstone sent ripple effects through the region.

"Oh, my word," said Tawnya Brock, a health care quality manager and a Jellico resident. "That hospital was not only the health care lifeline to this community. Economically and socially, it was the center of the community."

Since 2010, 149 rural hospitals in the United States have either closed or stopped providing in-patient care, according to the Cecil G. Sheps Center for Health Services Research at the University of North Carolina. Tennessee has recorded the second-most closures of any state, with 15, and the most closures per capita. Texas has the highest number of rural hospital closures, with 25.

Each time a hospital closes there are health care and economic ripples across a community. When Jellico Medical Center closed, some 300 jobs went with it. Restaurants and other small businesses in Jellico also have gone under, said Brock, who is a member of the Rural Health Association of Tennessee's legislative committee. And the town must contend with the empty husk of a hospital.

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**Sandy Terry, the mayor of Jellico, Tenn., says local officials are talking with entities that have expressed interest in reopening Jellico Medical Center, which closed in March 2021.**  
TAYLOR SISK FOR KFF HEALTH NEWS



**Water surrounds an ocean-front beach home in Nags Head, N.C., as Hurricane Dorian hits the area on Sept. 6, 2019.**

MARK WILSON/GETTY IMAGES

## Altered landscape

### Climate change reshaping these iconic US destinations

**Dinah Voyles Pulver, Elizabeth Weise, Jeanine Santucci, Doyle Rice, Kayla Jimenez and Joel Shannon** USA TODAY

As millions of Americans flock to the nation's coasts, islands and national monuments this summer, experts have a sobering message: Climate change is rapidly reshaping some of the United States' most iconic destinations. ● Devastated tropical islands. Ruined coastal homes. A flooded capitol. The changes are unfolding in plain sight and at a rapid and terrifying pace, experts told USA TODAY — with no sign of stopping. ● Some of the most obvious and dramatic changes can be seen at the bustling coast, where rising seas mean summer vacation spots face a supercharged risk. There, the natural rhythm of water meeting land increasingly results in flooding and erosion that eats away at roads, homes and businesses. ● Here is a look at some of the nation's most famous destinations, which are being altered by a warming world:

#### California's Big Sur Coast Highway is falling into the ocean

One of California's most scenic and best-known attractions is the Big Sur Coast Highway, which clings to the side of cliffs and offers breathtaking views of the Pacific Ocean.

But it's increasingly inaccessible because of climate change-induced landslides, cliff collapses and rock-falls.

"We have much more intense, prolonged winter storms that bring heavy rain and wind. As a consequence, the rate of failure due to landslides has increased significantly," said Peter Swarzenski, interim acting chair with the U.S. Geological Survey's Pacific Coastal and Marine Science Center.

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**A section of California's famed Highway 1 broke off and fell in the ocean near Big Sur after a heavy storm in March. The road offers amazing views of the Pacific Ocean.**  
JUSTIN SULLIVAN/GETTY IMAGES

### CAMPAIGN WHISPERERS WES MOORE

## Can he quell cynicism of Black voters?

### Md. governor stands with Biden as top surrogate

**Francesca Chambers**  
USA TODAY

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. — Olaf El hasn't felt this inspired in a long time. But Maryland Gov. Wes Moore pulled him in.

The first Black person to win the governor's mansion in his state. The third Black person to be elected governor in the country, ever. An Army vet. A successful author. And he's only 45.

Like many young, Black voters, El

### About this series

This is part of USA TODAY's occasional series Campaign Whisperers. The series takes an in-depth look at the aspiring presidential candidates, lawmakers and officials President Joe Biden and his reelection team have chosen to act as surrogates for his campaign, working to address dissent, smooth out tensions, and, ultimately, get swing voters to cast a ballot for Biden.

says he backed President Joe Biden in the last election. But it's the "the younger generation" he wants to hear from now.



**Moore**

Josh Stein, the Democratic gubernatorial candidate.

An impassioned Moore spoke about leadership, patriotism and freedom for people to feel safe. "We are going to invest in the remarkable men and women of law enforcement, and we are going to

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