

FUNDING DIDN'T LEAD TO BETTER GRADES
OPINION | PAGE A4



KERR AGREES TO DEAL TO STAY WITH WARRIORS
SPORTS | PAGE A5

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Lake County Record-Bee

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ANDERSON RANCH HOUSE

GRAND RE-OPENING



Front of the Anderson Ranch House, reopened for first time in 10 years after it was threatened by the Clayton Wildfire celebrated May 8 with a crowd of Lake County residents visiting one of the pioneer settlements in Lower Lake. PHOTOS BY WILLIAM ROLLER — LAKE COUNTY PUBLISHING

By William Roller
LAKE COUNTY RECORD-BEE

LOWER LAKE — If you have driven past Anderson Marsh State Historic Park lately or visited the park, you will know there has been a lot of construction activity, explains Roberta Lyons, president of the Anderson Marsh Interpretive Association, (AMIA) who oversees docent tours.

One exciting development is construction of an accessible trail from the parking lot to the Ranch House, and all the way out to the boardwalk that leads to Cache Creek.

"As AMIA goes into its 41st year, we have a lot to look back on and a lot to be proud of," noted Lyons in their monthly newsletter. "Things have changed, especially since COVID, but we're still here and are still busy helping the park, even though we have changed some of our activities," she said.

The monthly guided nature walks are going well. Henry Bornstein is the usual leader, and he always gets a good turnout.

"I attended one recently and found out I can still learn something about Anderson Marsh State Historic Park. I urge park fans to attend these walks. They are fun, educational, and a nice social event in nature," he said.

When the Andersons moved here, the house was too small, Lyons pointed out. So, a second part of the house was constructed.

The Andersons migrated here from Edinburgh, Scotland. They sailed around Cape Horn (Cape Horn is located in Chile, specifically in the Tierra del Fuego archipelago) and wound up in Lake County. "They added this portion, called the Parlor," said Lyons. The wall paneling is redwood, and the floors are fir, cut near Fort



Inside the parlor of the Anderson Ranch House, reopened to commemorate the Anderson family settlers. Far right, AMIA Board President Roberta Lyons lectures visitors in the parlor of the house. The House welcomed those visiting one of the pioneer homesteads in Lower Lake with a cake on Friday.

Bragg and shipped down here. The fireplace was put in the 1920s. We're still working on getting this place decorated.

She added that Saturday was the first time the House has been open to the public since the Clayton Fire (August 123, 2016).

Mara Anderson, daughter to John Still Anderson and Sarah Anderson, lived at the Ranch House until her death in 1966. Their photo portraits sit on the upright piano, a replica, as the original is in the museum in Lakeport, Lyons noted.

Standing just off the veranda, was Gordon Haggitt, a descendant of the Andersons. "I'm going to show you the heart of the Anderson ranch house," he said. "If you look at the gabled section with two windows upstairs, if you

picture that by itself, that's all that was here when the Andersons moved in," Haggitt said. Basically, it's a cabin with a loft and two bedrooms upstairs. That was built by the Grigsby family. They ran it as a dairy until they left for Oregon in the 1870s."

Then the Andersons arrived from Scotland in 1885, and they were quite well off, living in a castle with a crew of servants to help care for them. Haggitt pointed out some of the beams are not perfectly flush. "So, the craftsmanship, wasn't like today, yet it withstood nearly 200 years," he said. "And the fireplace at the back of the parlor was the only source of heat and it was what they cooked over. And in the summer, they constructed a lean-to to cook outside."

See RANCH on Page A3

PRIMARY ELECTION

Candidates revive single-payer promise

Gov. Newsom said he'd implement single-payer health care in 2018, but that never happened

By Grant Stringer and Grace Hase
BAY AREA NEWS GROUP

OAKLAND — When billionaire philanthropist and Democratic candidate for governor Tom Steyer took the stage at a campaign rally Tuesday with the powerful California Nurses Association, he promised to deliver one of the union's top policy goals: universal healthcare for Californians.

"I will die on this hill," Steyer said to wild applause. He's not the only Democrat pledging single-payer healthcare, a form of universal coverage and a progressive rallying cry, as candidates court voters ahead of the June 2 primary election. Former U.S. Rep. Katie Porter and California state Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond have made that promise as well.

In reality, Democratic lawmakers in Sacramento have repeatedly rejected the idea, which would replace most private health insurance with a single payer: the state of California.

See ELECTION on Page A3

Trump promised cheaper drugs

While some prices dropped, many others shot up

By Elisabeth Rosenthal and Arthur Allen
KFF HEALTH NEWS

Since his second term started, President Donald Trump has announced, negotiated, or floated a flurry of initiatives aimed at taming the excesses of the pharmaceutical industry.

No surprise, about 60% of American adults are "worried about being able to afford prescription drug costs for themselves or their families," a recent KFF nationwide poll showed. More than 80% consider the price of prescription drugs "unreasonable," and most support increased regulation to lower costs. Americans pay about three times as much as people in other countries for the same prescription drugs.

Last July, Trump sent letters to 17 drug-makers, demanding they voluntarily lower drug prices. Then the president said he'd negotiated with more than a dozen pharmaceutical executives one by one at the White House. In December, he announced that he had compelled them to agree to "most favored

See PRICES on Page A2

Stanford research finds California's education system lacks coherence

By John Fensterwald
EDSOURCE

Stanford University on Thursday released a sweeping research project that takes a 360-degree, immersive look at all aspects and operations of public education in California, from preschool through high school, from special education to teacher certification, enrollment decline to high school redesign.

Called "Getting Down to Facts," the research project comes at what Stanford education professor and project

director Susanna Loeb calls "an inflection point" for California education.

In a 40-page summary of 55 technical reports and 22 research briefs, Loeb writes that the findings arrive amid major shifts: the election of a new governor and state superintendent of instruction, the retreat of the federal government's oversight and education-funding responsibilities and the emergence of new technologies and their impact on the classroom and the workplace. Together, she said, these changes require

the schools to respond to new conditions.

"Getting Down to Facts" is "designed to help Californians understand the condition of the state's education system and the policy choices needed to improve it." This is the third such report from Stanford since 2007.

While the project details financial pressures facing districts, Loeb said that "California's goals for students have grown broader and more ambitious, and the state is better positioned than before to pursue them."

Overall, state funding is at record levels, with billions invested in transitional kindergarten, after-school programs, the establishment of thousands of community schools and early literacy reforms, as foundations for the future.

And as a result of investments in teacher recruitment, like the Golden State Teaching Grant program, the latest data shows that the number of newly credentialed teachers is the highest in a decade.

See EDUCATION on Page A3



Students work in a classroom at Benjamin O. Davis Middle School in Compton on Feb. 6, 2025. ERIC THAYER — THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

WEATHER FORECAST
TODAY: High 49, Low 49
WED: High 49, Low 49
THU: High 50, Low 50
Full weather report A2

BUSINESS
Dow Jones: 49,704.47 (+95.31)
S&P 500: 7,412.84 (+13.91)
Nasdaq: 26,274.13 (+27.05)

INDEX
Weather: A2
News: A3
Opinion: A4
Volume 152, Issue 99
Sports: A5
Classifieds: A6
Comics: A8



RANCH

From Page 1

A back bedroom, just north of the parlor, was a bedroom known as Uncle Willy's room, who was the second oldest son, yet only two of the Anderson children married. "My grandmother and Uncle Russel one of the oldest," Haggitt said. "Back there in the corner is the commode (chamber pot) they used if they did not want to go outdoors to use one of two outhouses."

When the Andersons arrived, they were savvy businessmen and knew how to run a cattle ranch. Haggitt assured the tour audience. The Andersons lived frugally, were well respected and did a lot for the community and were renowned as generous people. Only two of the Anderson children married, Haggitt's grandmother and his uncle Russel. The children lived their entire lives in the Ranch House. "This (pointing to a chest of drawers) is an original dresser," he said. "And you'll notice in this part of the house the ceilings are just eight feet high. And when the Andersons arrived, they were strictly into cattle."

The family had 200 to 300 head of cattle and drove the herd similarly as depicted on Westerns shown on TV, down to Calistoga, put them on a rail car and ship them to San Francisco. Then as times progressed from the 19th to 20th centuries, cattle were loaded into tractor trailer trucks. "They were savvy business people and knew how to run a cattle ranch and were well respected since they were well off, but they were generous with their neighbors. They did everything for themselves and never bothered to buy groceries. They



Inside the kitchen of the Anderson Ranch House, reopened to commemorate the Anderson family settlers. Far left, AMIA Board member Henry Bornstein lectures visitors in the kitchen which was added 30 years after the Andersons bought the property. The House welcomed visitors on Friday with a cake, visiting one of the pioneer homesteads in Lower Lake. WILLIAM ROLLER — LAKE COUNTY PUBLISHING

had cattle, chickens and hogs, and made their own milk and butter."

But there were no refrigerators in the first couple of decades in the 20th century noted Henry Bornstein. "So, what did you do with the meat—how did you keep it? You smoked the meat over a couple of weeks in a smokehouse, then you could store it." The smokehouse had windmills to pump water. The Andersons used the latest technology which was available at that time.

"They had magneto telephones—like a generator, you wound it up and it would ring, along with all the other phones in the system," he said. Individuals with phone lines assigned to them were well off, but they were generous with their neighbors. They did everything for themselves and never bothered to buy groceries. They

party you reached to come to your house, then hung up."

Mara, the youngest Anderson child, came over from Scotland as an 8-year-old and yet lived to be 96. They had assets in land and livestock, but not money. She was still making a fire in the fireplace. "She was offered an electric stove, but she wouldn't accept, she didn't want any re-modeling," Bornstein explained. The Anderson's all original ceilings, floors and trim work were all utilitarian. The dining room was part of the original footprint, but soon thereafter, they added the parlor, which is the taller portion of the structure. They added on the kitchen in the 1920s, and that is also when they first got electricity and running water.

Haggitt has been an AMIA Board member for 15 years. When the California State Parks system bought the

Anderson Ranch in 1982, it stoked his enthusiasm to get involved. "I always had a connection to the ranch," he said. "I was raised in Petaluma, but I'd come up here and visit my maternal grandmother who lived in Lower Lake," he said. "I graduated with a forestry degree from Humboldt State University and worked for timber companies for five years, and then stayed in surveying for 35 to 40 years." The last 15 years however, he worked as a surveyor for Lake County.

But he continued to feel a strong connection with the Anderson Ranch he confided. "Hardly two weekends would go by when we weren't up here," he stressed. "I spent a lot of time being on this ranch. I now live out by the airport between Kelseyville and Lakeport. Yet, serving on the AMIA Board is a labor of love."

EDUCATION

From Page 1

But an overriding theme of "Getting Down to Facts" is that school performance remains widely uneven, and the state lacks the ability to bring to scale examples of excellence in districts once they're identified.

Loeb and the studies repeatedly cite "a lack of coherence" that is draining energy and holding back improvement. That term translates into paperwork burdens for administrators, unclear guidance over curriculum and insufficient instruction for teachers. It's been accompanied by inconsistent levels of support from the state Department of Education, county offices and other agencies over how to improve. Multiple new initiatives by Gov. Gavin Newsom and legislators who created the state's standards system over decades sent mixed messages regarding priorities.

In her summary paper, Loeb breaks down the dilemma as an ABC of challenges:

A FOR ALIGNMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

"Governance structures are fragmented, and policies have proliferated over time, often creating disconnected, contradictory, and burdensome guidance to schools," Loeb wrote.

Responsibilities for overseeing and helping schools' improvement are divided among agencies, with no clear authority over who answers to whom. These include the State Board of Education, the state education department and the Collaborative for Educational Excellence, a small agency that works to help poorly performing districts. County offices of education are assigned a primary role, yet they vary in their ability to provide effective assistance, thereport said.

The state established the California School Dashboard and districts' Local Control and Accountability Plans (LCAPs) to measure school performance and hold districts accountable for setting and meeting multiple goals. But researchers' surveys found that principals and superintendents largely ignore the multicolored dashboards, which many parents find indecipherable, and view LCAPs as burdensome and complicated.

An analysis of 7,000 LCAPs—the first using AI—found that only 79% of the districts' goals for improving test scores, attendance, graduation rates and other areas

included a quantifiable target, and many appeared to be cut-and-paste goals common among districts.

"The Dashboard and LCAPs do not, in practice, play the role of helping districts undertake strategic, long-term planning," researchers concluded.

B FOR BALANCE BETWEEN STATE GUIDANCE AND LOCAL CONTROL

In 2012, the Legislature created the Local Control Funding Formula, which, as the name implies, emphasized giving districts more autonomy. "The motivating belief was that more equitable funding, combined with local discretion over spending, would allow districts to respond more effectively to student needs," Loeb wrote. Fourteen years later, the balance is skewed, researchers found, with little guidance and lots of burdens that "leave districts to fend for themselves while requiring extensive planning and compliance monitoring."

Researcher surveys of district administrators found that they spend roughly 19 or 20 hours—more than two days every week—on compliance tasks, from writing LCAPs to filling out reports on state grants and regulations. Other requirements, such as regulating schools' daily-minute requirements, hinder efforts to redesign schedules and integrate experiential learning.

While complying with regulations is mandatory, districts under local control can ignore guidance, "even where the research base about what works is strong," Loeb cited tutoring as an example. Recognizing its effectiveness, other states have elevated tutoring as a key element to their instructional strategies; California included it as one of many allowable uses in multi-billion-dollar block grants, but did not spur its adoption or define what constitutes a quality tutoring program.

In surveys, administrators and school board members said they would welcome clearer guidance on matters such as which new math materials to use. "The evidence points to the importance of better supporting local control by ensuring districts have the capacity to exercise it effectively," concluded a research brief on instruction.

Several studies cited California's recent comprehensive approach to early literacy as a potential model. After years of ignoring the dashboards, which many parents find indecipherable, and view LCAPs as burdensome and complicated.

the state over several years adopted evidence-based instruction that requires phonics in the early grades.

The state funded \$500 million to hire reading coaches in the highest-needs schools. The Legislature required teacher credentialing programs to teach the criteria. The state board developed curricula that meet the criteria, and to incentivize participation, the state will fund teacher instruction, but only in districts that adopt the state-approved curricula.

Early evidence from schools with state-funded coaches showed larger gains in test scores than nonparticipating schools, Sarah Novicoff, a "Getting Down to Facts" researcher, found.

Todd Collins, a former Palo Alto school board member and early literacy proponent, said it is too soon to predict if most districts will choose to adopt the reading reform, but he liked the use of a financial incentive. Other states like Louisiana and Mississippi that have taken a more direct and "muscular" approach to reading achieved great success in raising statewide test scores, he said.

"I'm a big fan of the funding formula, but I think the pendulum has swung too far in terms of what we call local control, which is actually leaving people to their own devices," he said.

C FOR CAPACITY

The term "capacity" refers to staffing districts with fully qualified teachers and administrators, providing them with professional development and retaining them. It also applies to building a stable leadership.

"Teacher shortages, uneven preparation, fragmented support for district staff, and leadership instability make it difficult to deliver high-quality, coherent learning experiences at scale" and turn ambitious goals into classroom practice, Loeb wrote.

Teacher shortages are concentrated in low-income districts where only about 70% of math teachers hold a full credential, compared with 82% in nonlow-income districts.

Surveys on instruction found that California teachers, compared with teachers nationally, report less curriculum instruction, less coaching, less time collaborating with other teachers on curriculum.

One in five California districts offered no consistent math professional development in 2024-25, and most math trainings were voluntary, researchers found. Compounding that problem, teachers lacking confidence in math are less likely to pursue training.

Shortages are especially acute in special education; three-quarters of new special education teachers had not completed teacher certification, and then left their positions sooner at higher rates, the report said.

Superintendent turnover is widespread. California trailed the national average in retention over a five-year period. From 2019-20 to 2025-26, more than two-thirds of California districts experienced at least one superintendent transition.

School boards are also experiencing rapid change. In a survey, only about half of school board members said they would definitely consider seeking another term. And fewer people want to replace them; 38% of school board members were elected without an opponent, and 7% were appointed to their positions.

ELECTION

From Page 1

"It's like the central issue in Democratic primaries in this generation," said UC San Diego political science professor Thad Kousser, "but it's not become a central issue in any Democratic administration—whether that was Gavin Newsom in California or Joe Biden in Washington, DC."

Like candidates this year, Gov. Gavin Newsom was a staunch supporter of single-payer healthcare when he first ran for the office in 2018. That helped him shore up support from Democrats angry and anxious about healthcare costs.

But Democratic lawmakers, who controlled the state legislature for all of Newsom's tenure as governor, killed three universal healthcare bills in that time over concerns about its huge cost—along with the most recent blow coming last month.

With steep cuts to state funding for Medi-Cal expected in the next fiscal year, as part of President Donald Trump's "Big, Beautiful Bill" passed by Congress in 2025, Newsom and state lawmakers have focused on shoring up California's fractured healthcare system.

About 3.5 million residents could lose their eligibility for Medi-Cal, the state's version of Medicaid, which provides free or low-cost health insurance for low-income residents and people with disabilities.

In the Bay Area, that's a major fiscal challenge for health systems. With those and other federal cuts to health spending under Trump, recent polls show Californians worry more about surprise medical bills than any other household expense.

A UC Berkeley analysis this year projected CalCare, the proposed single-payer system, would cost \$73 billion each year, plus \$10 billion needed in reserves. Federal funding would account for a quarter of the cost. However, experts also expect that administrative efficiencies would drive massive cost savings in the long term.

Advocates of single-payer in California note the U.S. is one of the few industrialized countries without universal healthcare. The nation's fractured system is associated with worse health outcomes and barriers to care, according to the nonprofit health analyst group KFF.

Countries have different versions of single-payer healthcare, including Canada and Taiwan. In Canada, residents pay for care via taxes. Its system ranks above the U.S., but still poorly due to low access to care and health outcomes. Taiwan's single-payer system covers every resident and is mostly funded with premiums paid by individuals and businesses. Patients still have to pay out-of-pocket expenses, but the island nation spends far less on healthcare than the U.S.

In California, single-payer is fiercely opposed by health insurers, the California Medical Association, chambers of commerce and a laundry list of industry trade associations. The nurses' union and some physician groups have supported universal healthcare bills in that time.

Adding to the uphill battle for advocates: To help pay for single-payer healthcare, the federal government would need to allow California to repurpose federal funds for Medi-Cal, the state version of Medicaid, and other health programs. President Donald Trump's Republican administration would almost certainly refuse to do so.

This spring, San Jose Assemblymember Ash Kalra's Guaranteed Health Care for All Act died in the statehouse without a hearing—or even an assignment to a policy committee, the first step in the process from bill to law.

"I'm disappointed. I and the nurses have been working on this for many years," he told this news organization. "We're going to keep pushing it."

That bill would have established CalCare, a single source of health insurance covering citizens and residents without legal status, without premiums, deductibles or copays. Kalra's office said patients could keep their doctors as well.

Kalra tried to pass similar bills in 2022 and 2024. He wasn't able to rally enough support from his Democratic colleagues, largely because of the price tag. As governor, Newsom moved toward an incremental expansion of existing healthcare tools, rather than the complete overhaul he campaigned on in 2018. He has focused instead on extending private and public health insurance coverage to more residents, in part by expanding Medi-Cal. His administration made progress in slashing the number of people without coverage.

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