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Eisenhower Health opens simulation lab



Igor Malenko, a field support service representative with Gaumard, left, and first year emergency medicine resident Nam Nguyen, MD, respond to a simulated child in medical distress. PHOTOS BY EMA SASIC/THE DESERT SUN

Center will allow for advanced training, education for graduate students

Emma Sasic Palm Springs Desert Sun | USA TODAY NETWORK

If the 1987 movie "Mannequin" blew your mind when it came to department store figures, just wait until you see what's happening behind Eisenhower Health's doors.

The Rancho Mirage hospital held a ribbon cutting ceremony Monday to celebrate the new John Stauffer Center for Innovation in Learning. The \$3.5 million high-tech simulation laboratory — a philanthropic gift from the John Stauffer Charitable Trust and the Thomas and Elizabeth Grainger family — will allow for advanced training and education opportunities for graduate students, physicians, nurses, respiratory technicians and other health care professionals.

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RIGHT: First year emergency medicine resident Nam Nguyen, MD, sets up a simulation at the John Stauffer Center for Innovation in Learning.



State may scale down its new home loan program

Program plans to provide \$300M worth of down payments for an estimated 2,300 first-time buyers

Alejandro Lazo CalMatters

In this economy, who has enough money for a down payment on a house?

Despite a projected \$25 billion budget deficit, the state of California does. At least for now.

The California Housing Finance Agency is poised to launch a scaled-down version of its new shared equity home loan program on March 27. With the Dream for All program, the state plans to provide \$300 million worth of down payments for an estimated 2,300 first-time homebuyers.

The complicated program involves the state paying some or all of the upfront costs for buying a home — the down payment, for instance — in exchange for a share in the home's value when it is sold, refinanced or transferred.

If the home appreciates in value, those gains to the state would then be used to fund the next borrowers — a little for the seller; a little for the next aspiring buyer.

"With interest rates rising, the program is needed more than ever..."

Christopher Woods, budget director for Atkins

Everybody wins — as long as prices go up.

The trouble is that home prices have been declining in the state for months, even as higher mortgage interest rates have made monthly mortgage payments more expensive.

A potential economic downturn looms as well, as the Federal Reserve weighs raising borrowing costs even further as soon as today.

And California's tech industry is taking a beating and laying off workers, contributing to a decline in personal incomes. Income taxes are the state's biggest revenue source.

Given the uncertainty, Gov. Gavin Newsom in January proposed a significantly smaller version of the 10-year, \$10 billion program originally envisioned by Senate President Pro Tem Toni Atkins, a Democrat from San Diego. In his January budget, Newsom proposed spending an initial \$300 million on the program, a cut from the \$500 million compromise signed last year.

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Valley leaders urge Newsom to keep Blythe prison open



The Chuckawalla Valley State Prison, shown from above, is set for closure by March 2025, according to the state. But local officials are pushing back on the decision. CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS AND REHABILITATION

Tom Coulter Palm Springs Desert Sun | USA TODAY NETWORK

After the state recently announced that a prison in Blythe will close in a couple years, several Coachella Valley officials have joined in calling on Gov. Gavin Newsom to reverse the decision, which they say could spell the demise of the small town along the California-Arizona border.

The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation announced in December that it was beginning the process to close the Chuckawalla Valley State Prison in Blythe by March 2025, with plans to offer transfers to the facility's staff and to move the

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