



Jessica Christian/S.F. Chronicle
Siu Kuen Huie, 96, left, puts away dishes while On Lok caregiver Yan Hua Yu prepares fruit at Huie's home on Friday in San Francisco. On Lok provides in-home services for seniors in lieu of facility living.

Older immigrants getting help at home

Pioneering program On Lok bridges gaps for seniors

By Ko Lyn Cheang

When Jennifer Lai's mom was diagnosed with Alzheimer's in 2021, she scrambled to find a residential care facility where the Cantonese-speaking 88-year-old could live. Lai retired early to care for her mom, but she knew she'd eventually need around-the-clock help. Her mom had lost her English-speaking ability by then, a common effect of dementia. The pair visited one facility after another that had only English- or Spanish-speaking staff.

"How could I put her there?" Lai said she thought to herself. "Without language, she cannot communicate. How could people help her?"

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Lea Suzuki/S.F. Chronicle
Jennifer Lai, right, and her mother, Mooi, left, participate in a game of balloon volleyball Tuesday at the On Lok memory care center.

Is funding real reason in school closure?

By Jill Tucker, Anna Bauman and Jessica Flores

Two of the richest people in the world made a slew of promises to low-income families when they opened a nonprofit school in East Palo Alto in 2016.

Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg and his pediatrician wife, Priscilla Chan, vowed that the Primary School would give their children a free education, with a long list of extras on top to overcome the odds the families faced.

No one thought the

promises had an expiration date.

Last week, hundreds of families learned the Primary School would close at the end of the 2025-26 academic year. Then they were told why: There wasn't enough money to keep it open.

Zuckerberg and Chan, worth an estimated \$200 billion combined, were walking away.

The news shook the families of the 443 students attending the Primary School in East Palo Alto, who tried to make sense of it.

A week later, they were

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Santa Clara, S.F. sue over federal job reductions

President acted in 'excess of his authority,' coalition's filing claims

By Anna Bauman and Bob Egelko

San Francisco is among more than two dozen local governments, nonprofits and labor unions that sued the Trump administration Monday over sweeping reductions to the federal workforce.

The coalition argues in a complaint filed in U.S. District Court in San Francisco that President Donald Trump has dismantled the federal government without congressional approval "in clear excess of his authority."

Among the dozens of defendants is Elon Musk, the tech billionaire heading the Department of Government Efficiency, an office created by Trump that has initiated many of the cuts in the name of eliminating government waste.

"There has been absolutely no public process by which the Administration's current proposals have been vetted," the complaint says. "Instead, the Administration is proceeding secretly, and by fiat."

Federal agencies have initiated mass firings in recent months and weeks, sometimes despite their own leaders' concerns. An IRS official has said in a sworn affidavit that she was placed on leave after attempting to resist firing workers. The cuts have also impacted the Department of Health and Human Services, which announced a 10,000-person reduction in late March; AmeriCorps, which reduced agency staff by 50% in April; and the Envi-

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Order challenges undocumented students' tuition

By Nanette Asimov

An executive order by President Donald Trump, aimed at forcing local governments to turn people over to federal immigration officials when asked, also contains a single line that could have a seismic impact in California by promising to make it illegal for undocumented students to pay in-state college tuition.

Trump's order, issued Monday, vows to stop states from enforcing laws that "provide in-state higher education tuition to aliens but not to out-of-state American citizens."

At least 25 states, including California, as well as the District of Columbia, allow residents regardless of immigration status to pay in-state tuition at public or private universities. Students from outside the state typically pay far more.

The idea, education advocates say, is to provide access to college for thousands of qualified students who otherwise wouldn't be able to afford it. Nonresident tuition at the University of California, for example, is about \$50,000 a year — more than triple the \$15,000 base tuition for in-state students.

But while Trump's order frames the issue as a price war between "aliens" and "out-of-state American citizens," legal experts say that California and other states have written their laws to avoid violating the federal law cited by Trump.

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Relative of extinct butterfly released in Presidio

By Tara Duggan

A group of scientists and volunteers released seven silvery blue butterflies in San Francisco's Presidio on Tuesday in an effort to add a hint of new life to a biodiversity-constrained world.

The silvery blue is a close relative of the Xerces blue, a former inhabitant of the dunes that was last seen in San Francisco in the 1940s and the first butterfly in North America whose extinction was recorded. Tuesday's release at the restored native dunes of Lobos Creek Valley in the Presidio, a former Army post, was part of a multiyear effort to return a similar insect to the

Xerces' habitat.

"Restoring and bringing back this biodiversity is an act that we can do together to stop the extraordinary decline in life that we've all caused as humans," said Lew Stringer, associate director of natural resources at the Presidio Trust, the federal agency that runs the Presidio.

Silvery blues are tiny and silver-gray when closed. The wings of the males are a velvety sky blue when open, while the females are tarnished silver or pewter in color, as Durrell Kapan, a senior research fellow and lead researcher on the project for the California Academy of Sciences, said.

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Stephen Lam/S.F. Chronicle
A silvery blue butterfly is released by scientists in the Presidio. The second annual release is part of a project to reintroduce the butterfly into the habitat that was once occupied by the now-extinct Xerces blue.