



Written by [Staff](#) on April 25, 2023

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Inside Track

Whole Foods Closes San Francisco Store

Whole Foods temporarily closed its store at Trinity Place in San Francisco's Market Street neighborhood in early April, just about a year after its opening, to protect employees from the area's growing crime, homelessness, and open drug use. Whole Foods opened the store in March 2022 in the midst of deteriorating local street conditions and leftist leadership that has allowed crime to go unchecked.

According to the *San Francisco Standard* on April 10 of this year, a Whole Foods spokesperson said, "We are closing our Trinity location only for the time being. If we feel we can ensure the safety of our team members in the store, we will evaluate a reopening of our Trinity location."

In a March 2023 report titled "Tracking the San Francisco Bay Area's Pandemic Recovery," the Bay Area Council Economic Institute, a San Francisco think tank, said Covid policies had reduced foot traffic in the Market Street neighborhood.



(AP Images)

Though that reduced traffic may have contributed to the store's closing, the more likely culprits are the area's crime, homelessness, and drugs. San Francisco Board of Supervisors member Matt Dorsey, who represents the closed store's district, admitted as much, tweeting on April 10, "Our neighborhood waited a long time for this supermarket, but we're also well aware of problems they've experienced with drug-related retail theft, adjacent drug markets, and the many safety issues related to them."

The *Standard* reported that the store "slashed its operating hours due to 'high theft' and hostile visitors in October of last year, according to one of the store's managers. And in November, the store enforced new bathroom rules after syringes and pipes were found in the restroom." Due to California's Proposition 47, nonviolent property crimes for which the value does not exceed \$950 are a misdemeanor, so police officers no longer arrest the thieves, leading to commonplace smash-and-grab crimes throughout the city.

The closing of the Trinity Place Whole Foods is an example of the long-term consequences of leftist policies driven by Democratic leadership in blue cities nationwide.



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— David Kelly

Governor to Pay Churchgoers Who Violated Lockdowns

On April 10, a federal appeals court ordered Kentucky Governor Andy Beshear to pay the legal fees for three people who sued him after he threatened them with prosecution for attending church during the early months of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals upheld a district-court decision awarding \$272,143 in attorney's fees to Theodore Roberts, Randall Daniel, and Sally O'Boyle. The plaintiffs had attended a 2020 Easter service two days after the Democratic governor issued a press release warning that state police would be "recording the license plate numbers of any vehicle seen at" church services, after which the owners would be required "to self-quarantine for 14 days," forbidden to leave either the county or the state. Failure to comply constituted a "misdemeanor violation of the emergency orders issued by the Governor and Kentucky Department for Public Health."



Andy Beshear (AP Images)

Roberts, Daniel, and O'Boyle were among those receiving such citations. But rather than meekly acquiescing to Beshear's unconstitutional dictates, they took him to court. The Sixth Circuit granted their request for a preliminary injunction in May 2020, writing, "The unexplained breadth of the ban on religious services, together with its haven for numerous secular exceptions, cannot co-exist with a society that places religious freedom in a place of honor in the Bill of Rights: the First Amendment."

Representative Thomas Massie (R-Ky.) congratulated the plaintiffs, tweeting that Beshear "infringed civil rights when he shut down churches. Then he wasted tax dollars defending his behavior."

Roberts addressed those "wasted tax dollars" paying for Beshear's unconstitutional behavior in an April 10 tweet. "I know a lot of people who are outraged that the TAXPAYER is on the hook for ANDY'S constitutional violation. I share this outrage, but this outrage must be aimed at Beshear," he wrote. "If the people of Kentucky want to quit being taxed to pay for these court judgments, Kentucky MUST elect a governor who will actually follow the constitution."

— Michael Tennant



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Two 9/11 Hijackers Might Have Been CIA Recruits

Shocking, newly reported evidence suggests that at least some of the 9/11 hijackers were, in fact, recruits of the Central Intelligence Agency.

Watchdog group Florida Bulldog reported on April 9 about a sworn declaration by Donald Canestraro, an investigator for the Office of Military Commissions (part of the Department of Defense's Military Commissions Defense Organization), revealing that the CIA refused to provide the FBI with knowledge that could have prevented the September 11, 2001 attack.

Canestraro is part of the defense team for Ammar al-Baluchi, a Pakistani and Guantanamo detainee awaiting trial for allegedly planning the 9/11 attack, and his declaration is the product of interviews with 11 former FBI agents, two former CIA agents, a CNN journalist, former Deputy National Security Advisor Richard Clarke, and former Senator Bob Graham (D-Fla.), who was the co-chair of Congress' Joint Inquiry into 9/11.



(Flickr/Michael Foran)

Florida Bulldog reports that the declaration supports “allegations that top CIA officials, including Director George Tenet, intentionally withheld vital intelligence from the FBI that might have prevented the Sept. 11, 2001 al Qaeda attacks ... specifically, that known operatives and future hijackers Nawaf al Hazmi and Khalid al Mihdhar had entered the U.S. in ... 2000,” and that “the CIA kept silent because it was secretly working hand in glove with its Saudi Arabian counterpart to recruit Hazmi and Mihdhar as informants.”

Per the declaration, former NSA Deputy Clarke was one of several sources confirming that the CIA did not tell the FBI about Mihdhar and Hazmi because the agency was trying to recruit the two terrorists by means of a “false flag” operation. Eventually, the CIA lost track of both men.

The 9/11 attack provided the government with the justification it needed to create a surveillance state with the passage of the Patriot Act and to invade the Middle East, thrusting the country into costly and ultimately futile wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

— *Luis Miguel*



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Meat Consumption in Germany Dropped Dramatically in 2022

A survey presented April 5 on ProVeg, an NGO promoting plant-based solutions for food, shows that meat consumption in Germany has dropped to its lowest level in three decades. Data indicate that Germans are eating 9.8 percent less pork, 8.2 percent less beef and veal, and three percent less poultry as compared with 2021.

In addition to Germans eating less meat, sales of plant-based foods throughout Europe rose by six percent, with the German market leading the way with a 42-percent increase in plant-based retail sales between 2020 and 2022.

Plant-based meat and plant-based milk sales increased significantly, and most other plant-based food solutions, such as seafood, meats, creams, and desserts, also showed substantial gains.

Statistics show that the average German ate approximately 52 kilograms (about 115 lbs.) of meat last year, down around 4.2 kilograms (9 lbs.) from 2021. That 52 kilograms is the lowest mark since the government began tracking meat consumption in 1989.



(grandriver/E+/GettyImagesPlus)

The survey also claims that up to 55 percent of German consumers now consider themselves to be “flexitarian” in their diet. The flexitarian diet is described as “a flexible eating style that emphasizes the addition of plant or plant-based foods and beverages, incorporates dairy and eggs and encourages meat to be consumed less frequently and/or in smaller portions.”

Although not as dramatic as the German decline, meat consumption is falling all over Europe, with nations such as Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Sweden, and the United Kingdom reporting decreases in meat consumption and an increased demand for plant-based foods. The United States appears to be holding steady in meat consumption, although climate hysteries are hoping to attack that consumption in coming years.

Overall, the global war against farmers and livestock appears to be having some effect, especially in Europe, where onerous EU regulations — particularly in the Netherlands and Slovenia — seem focused on limiting the population’s food options due to erroneous climate concerns.

— *Jim Murphy*



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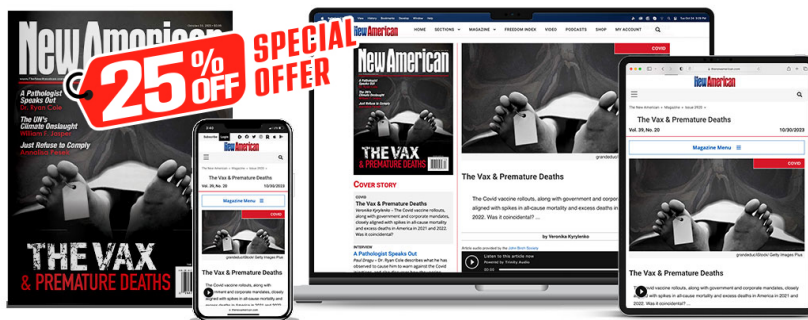
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