

# G WIRE

WEEKLY DIGEST  
MAY 29, 2020



**FRESNO, MADERA HAIR  
STYLISTS ALREADY BUZZING  
WITH BUSINESS »  
IN RURAL CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY,  
OFFICIALS SLOW REOPENING »  
FOUR MINNEAPOLIS POLICE  
OFFICERS FIRED AFTER DEATH  
OF BLACK MAN »**





GV Wire/Jim Jakobs

# FRESNO, MADERA HAIR STYLISTS ALREADY BUZZING WITH BUSINESS

May 27, 2020 | Jim Jakobs

Buzzers and blow dryers are making a comeback in the Valley. Governor Newsom gave the green light for barber shops and hair salons to reopen this week. So far, only a handful have done so in Fresno and surrounding areas.

**The state's guidance says customers and workers in barbershops and salons must wear face coverings during hair-cutting and other close-contact services.**

The state's guidance says customers and workers in barbershops and salons must wear face coverings during hair-cutting and other close-contact services.

Fresno, Kings, Madera, Merced, and Kern counties are among those the state allowed to move faster on reopening their economies. GV Wire took a look around Fresno and Madera. We found some shops fully open, and several others on the cusp of reopening.

**Related Story: Need a Haircut? Barbershops and Hair Salons Get OK to Reopen in Fresno, Other ...**

## La Vogue Beauty Shoppe

La Vogue Beauty Shoppe at West Shaw and Fruit avenues opened just before noon Wednesday. Employees dusted blinds, placed social distancing markers between chairs, and made sure the sneeze guard was up at the cash register. Hand sanitizer was at the front. "There was lots to alter in the salon. Phone's been ringing off the wall. Everybody's very excited," owner David Stone said through a face shield. Stone also explained how hair products for sale are stocked behind a shower curtain on a shelf to keep people from touching them.

## Beto's Barber Shop (Madera)

Madera residents filled the chairs inside and outside of Beto's Barber Shop (450 S Madera Ave., Suite A). Adults and children sat patiently as the barbers worked their magic fingers. Adrian Valdez, the owner's son was called into work by his dad. "We follow

what the city of Madera says. Masks and six feet social distancing," said Adrian Valdez. Madera resident Jose Chavez lives just down the street from Beto's and saw the "open" sign. He loaded up his two kids and brought them all in. Tired of having his brother-in-law cut his hair, he was thankful to have this opportunity. "It's been two months since I had a professional haircut," Chavez said.

## World Hairstylist

Fresno City Council President Miguel Arias confirmed to GV Wire's David Taub he got his hair trimmed Wednesday at "World Hairstylist" at Blackstone and Shaw avenues. GV Wire called and an employee confirmed the shop was open "but wear a mask."

## Bullard Barber Shop

The Bullard Barber Shop at Bullard and Marks avenues is preparing for a Friday morning opening. A flashing "Barber Shop" neon sign was the first sign of life in the window in months. The shop's crew was inside cleaning the floor, spacing chairs, and making sure everything was in working order.

## The Great American Barbershop (Fresno and Clovis)

All Fresno and Clovis locations of the Great American Barbershop opened Wednesday. The owner posted the announcement on Facebook after the governor's announcement.

Before you go, you'll need to check in ahead of time on their website. When you arrive, text "here" and wait in your car. You will receive a text to come in when your chair is sanitized and ready to go.

## Sport Clips/Supercuts

Sport Clips' newest location at Herndon and Brawley avenues plans to open at 9 a.m. Friday. GV Wire called several Supercuts locations and didn't receive any...

**GV Wire took a look around Fresno and Madera. We found some shops fully open, and several others on the cusp of reopening.**

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## CORNERSTONE CHURCH WILL JOIN LAWSUIT CHALLENGING NEWSOM'S RULES

Downtown Fresno

May 27, 2020 | Jim Jakobs

Pastor Jim Franklin will open Cornerstone Church this Sunday. That's not the only door he'll open. Franklin says Gov. Gavin Newsom and other leaders have opened the door for a lawsuit. "Our theater seats 1,400 people but we are only allowed to have 100 people. That is approximately 7%," says Franklin. "No other business is being placed under these restrictions."

This Sunday, Franklin plans to operate at 25% of capacity. He's upset he can't operate at 50%, which he says is the standard for other businesses. "The governor of California is still violating the civil rights of churches," says Franklin.

### Eastern District Federal Court Lawsuit

On Monday, the state released a framework that permits counties to allow in-person worship services as COVID-19 re-

strictions ease. They include limiting worshipers to 100 or less, taking everyone's temperature, limiting singing and group recitations, and not sharing prayer books or other items. Franklin says Cornerstone Church church will join a lawsuit in California's Eastern District Federal Court. Cornerstone Church will be represented by Advocates for Faith & Freedom, Tyler & Bursch, and The National Center for Law and Policy.

"We will be seeking action against the county of Fresno health director, the state of California health director and the governor of California," says Franklin. "We expect to have our claims joined with the lawsuit filed by Cross Culture Christian Church from Lodi, California. "It is my belief by keeping the church doors closed that we are denying them a vital part of their religious freedom, the ability to gather together." The Fresno...

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## 'FRESNO, OUT!' BASKETBALL VIDEO SEEN BY MILLIONS ON TWITTER

May 26, 2020 | GV Wire

A smack-talking playground basketball player who says he's 59 years old is one of the hottest things on sports social media this week.

"I told you I'm no joke," he says after surprising a group of players with his play.

Not only does he block two dunk attempts by much younger players and make a long sweeping hook shot, but he ends the video by saying, "Fresno, out!"

Does anyone from Fresno recognize this veteran of the concrete courts? The video was originally posted on Instagram by ajaylapray, who says he is a Pepperdine University alum.

That brought it to the attention of ESPN's SportsCenter Twitter account. As of Tuesday afternoon, the 1 minute, 39-second video had 2.4 million views and 93,000 likes...

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Twitter

## BIG AND SMALL, LOCAL GYMS PREPPING TO REOPEN DOORS

May 26, 2020 | David Taub

Fitness gyms big and small around Fresno and Clovis are preparing to reopen. Regardless of the size, the plans are similar – physical distancing and lots of sanitization. "People need gyms for anxiety, stress or help to stay in shape. So it's going to be good when we get back," said George Brown, owner of local fitness chain GB3. "We're really excited to get back whenever that is. We're ready to go."

Gyms like GB3 have been shut down since state and local emergency orders went into effect in March. Despite the easing of restrictions on many businesses, gyms are considered higher risk and will be in Stage 3 of California's reopening plan. No date has been given as to when that may happen. While Brown says he will wait for the green light, a smaller facility in Clovis will open its doors no matter what on June 1. Athletic Performance Fitness in Old Town Clovis is proud to have local professional athletes among its clients. That includes Jordan Luplow of the Cleveland Indians, Milwaukee Brewers...

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AP Athletic Performance





AP file

# STATE IN RURAL CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY, OFFICIALS SLOW REOPENING

May 26, 2020 | AP News

SAN FRANCISCO — Humboldt County on California's North Coast was among the first in the state to get the governor's green light to open up restaurants and stores after a two-month statewide coronavirus lockdown. With only about 50 cases confirmed in the whole month of April in the county of 130,000, many breathed a sigh of relief that they'd survived the worst of it. Soon, though, county officials saw a worrisome trend: nearly 30 new cases in a two-week period and the first two

**With only about 50 cases confirmed in the whole month of April in the county of 130,000, many breathed a sigh of relief that they'd survived the worst of it. Soon, though, county officials saw a worrisome trend: nearly 30 new cases in a two-week period and the first two deaths.**

deaths. That has prompted Humboldt County officials to take a more cautious approach to reopening, in what may be a harbinger of the "toggle switch" local officials are likely to negotiate as they emerge from the lockdown. "We have to recognize that due to some pretty serious increases that we've seen in cases and recently, two deaths, that it's prudent to take a really careful approach and open up things a little more slowly than we'd really like to," said Supervisor Virginia Bass, whose district includes Eureka, the county's biggest city with 27,000 people.

Gov. Gavin Newsom has approved 45 of California's 58 counties to reopen some businesses since May 8 when he loosened his original mid-March stay-at-home order. Los Angeles County, where more than 2,400 have died, is moving more cautiously, on Friday allowing curbside pickup to resume at indoor malls. Rural Modoc County, where no cases have been reported, reopened businesses the first week of May. In Humboldt County, known for its beautiful landscapes and booming marijuana fields, the numbers have been low. But the coronavirus lurks there as well and on Saturday the county had 93 cases. County officials said two employees at

an assisted living facility were the latest confirmed cases. Businesses are required to submit a health and safety plan and meet a list of requirements before they are certified to reopen. In a video released this week, Humboldt County Health Officer Teresa Frankovich said the county will continue accepting applications but may need to slow down certifications to "match what is happening on the ground."

## For Most People, the Coronavirus Causes Mild or Moderate Symptoms

Since the county received its May 13 go ahead, hundreds of the 6,500 licensed businesses have applied to restart, Sheriff William Honsal said in a video this week in which he answered reporters' questions. The county's website shows 255 were certified to reopen as of Friday. "People want to get their business open and I agree ... it's time for certain businesses but understand, it is going be a slow process," Honsal said. About 100 restaurants have applied, but none have been approved to resume dine-in service, he said.

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Neither Frankovich or Honsal responded to interview requests from The Associated Press. Frankovich said in the video that the new cases are due to several virus clusters, mostly the result of people gathering outside their households and making nonessential trips out of the county. "People are moving about more in our community in spite of our shelter-in-place order, and people are gathering to some extent," she said. "And some people are traveling, for nonessential travel." One of those outbreaks is at Alder Bay Assisted...

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# FRESNO SUPERVISORS APPROVE RESOLUTION TO DELAY VEHICLE MILES TRAVELED LAW

May 26, 2020 | *Jim Jakobs*

The Fresno County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved a resolution Tuesday backing a two-year delay on implementing a controversial law taking effect July 1. Board chair Buddy Mendes and supervisor Steve Brandau co-sponsored the resolution.

The board weighed in on the implementation of Senate Bill 743, which changes how transportation-related fees for new housing projects are calculated. Kate Gordon, the director of the state Office of Planning and Research, previously has said the deadline won't change. She is also Gov. Gavin Newsom's senior adviser on climate. Two letters opposing the

resolution were submitted to the county prior to the vote, which was moved off the consent agent. In her letter, Fresno resident Marianne Kast wrote, "VMT evaluation does not increase the price of housing and other development when new projects are placed close to existing public transportation networks."

A letter from Radley Reep, a retired teacher who has been critical of the county's planning practices, stated: "It's evident that the Legislature was aware of housing needs when it enacted SB 743. Important to this hearing is the fact that there is no evidence before your Board that, since the bill's...

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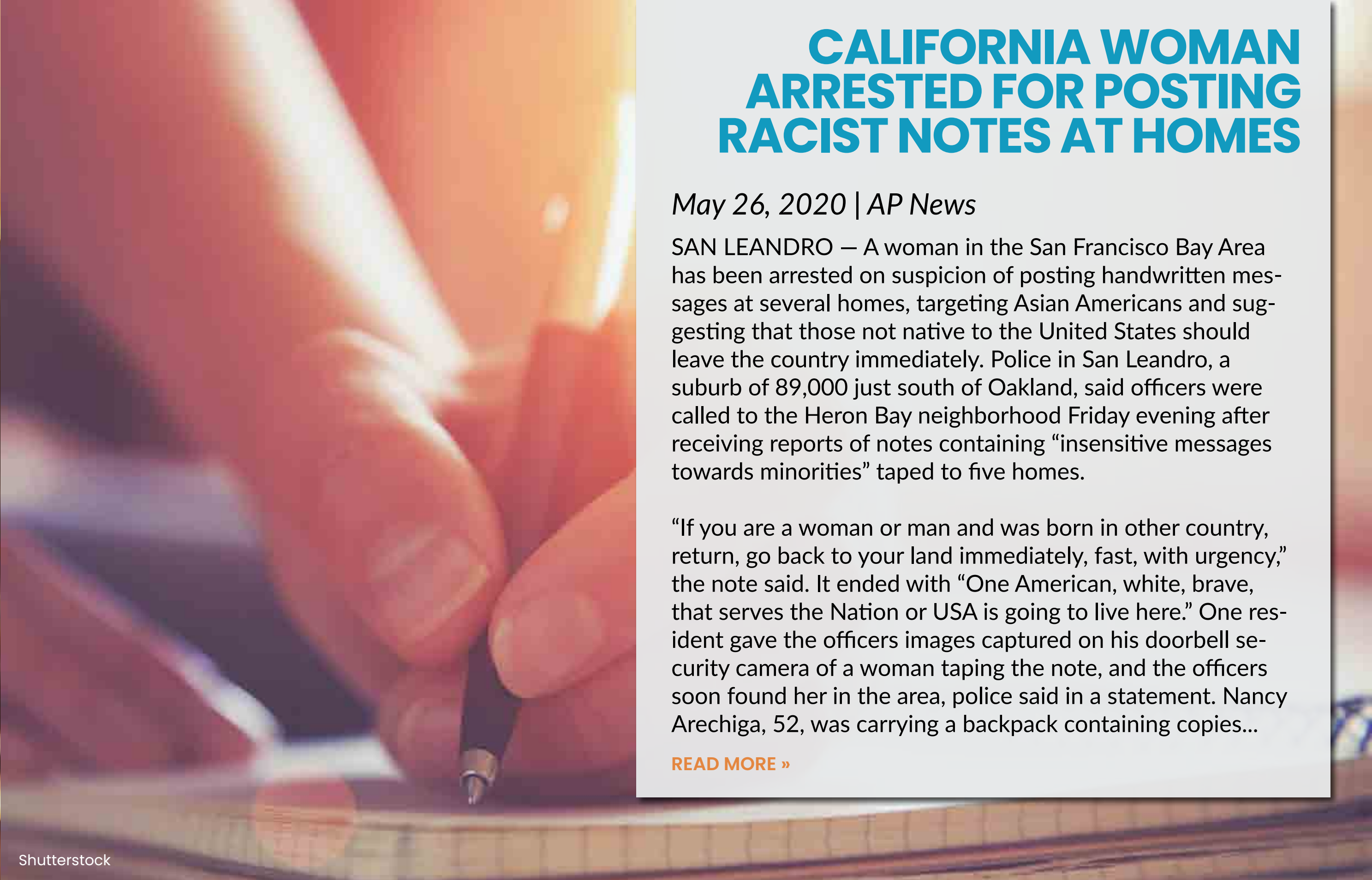
## CALIFORNIA WOMAN ARRESTED FOR POSTING RACIST NOTES AT HOMES

May 26, 2020 | *AP News*

SAN LEANDRO — A woman in the San Francisco Bay Area has been arrested on suspicion of posting handwritten messages at several homes, targeting Asian Americans and suggesting that those not native to the United States should leave the country immediately. Police in San Leandro, a suburb of 89,000 just south of Oakland, said officers were called to the Heron Bay neighborhood Friday evening after receiving reports of notes containing "insensitive messages towards minorities" taped to five homes.

"If you are a woman or man and was born in other country, return, go back to your land immediately, fast, with urgency," the note said. It ended with "One American, white, brave, that serves the Nation or USA is going to live here." One resident gave the officers images captured on his doorbell security camera of a woman taping the note, and the officers soon found her in the area, police said in a statement. Nancy Arechiga, 52, was carrying a backpack containing copies...

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## BIG OIL LOSES APPEAL, CLIMATE SUITS GO TO CALIFORNIA COURTS

May 27, 2020 | *AP News*

LOS ANGELES — Big Oil lost a pair of court battles Tuesday that could lead to trials in lawsuits by California cities and counties seeking damages for the impact of climate change. The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals rejected arguments by energy companies and ruled state courts are the proper forum for lawsuits alleging producers promoted petroleum as environmentally responsible when they knew it was contributing to drought, wildfires, and sea level rise associated with global warming.

The lawsuits claim Chevron, Exxon Mobil, ConocoPhillips, BP, Royal Dutch Shell and other companies created a public nuisance and should pay for damage from climate change and help build sea walls and other infrastructure to protect against future impact — construction that could cost tens of billions of dollars. The ruling overturned a decision by one federal judge, who had tossed out lawsuits brought by the cities of San Francisco and Oakland. "It is time for these companies to pay...

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AP File





Elizabeth Flores/Star Tribune via AP

# FOUR MINNEAPOLIS OFFICERS FIRED AFTER DEATH OF BLACK MAN

May 26, 2020 | AP News

MINNEAPOLIS — Four Minneapolis officers involved in the arrest of a black man who died in police custody were fired Tuesday, hours after a bystander's video showed the handcuffed man pleading that he could not breathe as a white officer knelt on his neck. Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey announced the firings on Twitter, saying "This is the right call." The man's death Monday night was under investigation by the FBI and state law enforcement authorities. It immediately drew comparisons to the case of Eric Garner, an unarmed black man who died in 2014 in New York after he was placed in a chokehold by police and pleaded for his life, saying he could not breathe.

Frey apologized to the black community early Tuesday in a post on his Facebook page for the officer's conduct, which included keeping his knee on the man after he stopped moving. "Being Black in America should not be a death sentence. For five minutes, we watched a white

**"Being Black in America should not be a death sentence. For five minutes, we watched a white officer press his knee into a Black man's neck. Five minutes. When you hear someone calling for help, you're supposed to help. This officer failed in the most basic, human sense." — Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey**

officer press his knee into a Black man's neck. Five minutes. When you hear someone calling for help, you're supposed to help. This officer failed in the most basic, human sense," Frey posted. Police said the man matched the description of a suspect in a forgery case at a grocery store, and that he resisted arrest. The video of the incident starts with the shirtless man on the ground, and does not show what happened in the moments prior. The unidentified officer is kneeling on his neck, ignoring his pleas. "Please, please, please, I can't breathe. Please, man," said the man, who has his face against the pavement. The man also moans. One of the officers tells the man to "relax." At one point the man calls

for his mother and says: "My stomach hurts, my neck hurts, everything hurts ... I can't breathe." As bystanders shout their concern, one officer says, "He's talking, so he's breathing." But the man stops talking — and slowly becomes motionless under the officer's restraint. The officer does not remove his knee until the man is loaded onto a gurney by paramedics. Several witnesses had gathered on a nearby sidewalk, some recording the scene on their phones. The bystanders became increasingly agitated. One man yelled repeatedly. "He's not responsive right now!" Two witnesses, including one woman who said she was a Minneapolis firefighter, yelled at the officers to check the man's pulse. "Check his pulse right now and tell me what it is!" she said.

**In Minneapolis, kneeling on a suspect's neck is allowed under the department's use-of-force policy for officers who have received training in how to compress a neck without applying direct pressure to the airway. It is considered a "non-deadly force option," according to the department's policy handbook.**

## The Victim Was Identified as George Floyd

At one point, one officer says: "Don't do drugs, guys." And one man yells: "Don't do drugs, bro? What is that? What do you think this is?" The victim was identified as George Floyd by Ben Crump, a prominent civil rights and personal injury attorney who said he had been hired by Floyd's family. "We all watched the horrific death of George Floyd on video as witnesses begged the police officer to take him into the police car and get off his neck," Crump said in a statement. "This abusive, excessive and inhumane use of force cost the life of a man who was being detained by the police for questioning about a non-violent charge." Charles McMillian, 60, of Minneapolis, said he saw police trying to get Floyd into the back of the squad car and heard Floyd tell them he was claustrophobic. "It's sad because...

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# 41 MILLION HAVE LOST JOBS SINCE VIRUS HIT, BUT LAYOFFS SLOW

May 28, 2020 | AP News

WASHINGTON — Roughly 2.1 million people applied for U.S. unemployment benefits last week, a sign that companies are still slashing jobs in the face of a deep recession even as more businesses reopen and rehire some laid-off employees.

About 41 million people have now applied for aid since the virus outbreak intensified in March, though not all of them are still unemployed. The Labor Department's report Thursday includes a count of all the people now receiving unemployment aid: 21 million. That is a rough measure of the number of unemployed Americans. The national jobless rate

was 14.7% in April, the highest since the Great Depression, and many economists expect it will near 20% in May. States are gradually restarting their economies by letting some businesses — from gyms, retail shops and restaurants to hair and nail salons — reopen with some restrictions.

As some of these employers, including automakers, have recalled a portion of their laid-off employees, the number of people receiving unemployment benefits has fallen. First-time applications for unemployment aid, though still high by historical standards, have now fallen for eight straight...

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University of Maryland School of Medicine via AP

## AP-NORC POLL: HALF OF AMERICANS WOULD GET A COVID-19 VACCINE

May 28, 2020 | AP News

Only about half of Americans say they would get a COVID-19 vaccine if the scientists working furiously to create one succeed, a number that's surprisingly low considering the effort going into the global race for a vaccine. But more people might eventually roll up their sleeves: The new poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research found 31% simply weren't sure if they'd get vaccinated. Another 1 in 5 said they'd refuse.

Health experts already worry about the whiplash if vaccine promises like President Donald Trump's goal of a 300 million-dose stockpile by January fail. Only time and science will tell — and the new poll shows the public is indeed skeptical. "It's always better to under-promise and over-deliver," said Dr. William Schaffner, an infectious disease specialist at Vanderbilt University Medical Center. "The unexpected looms large and that's why I think for any of these vaccines, we're...

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## FRAUDSTERS HIT WASHINGTON FOR HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS IN UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS

May 28, 2020 | AP News

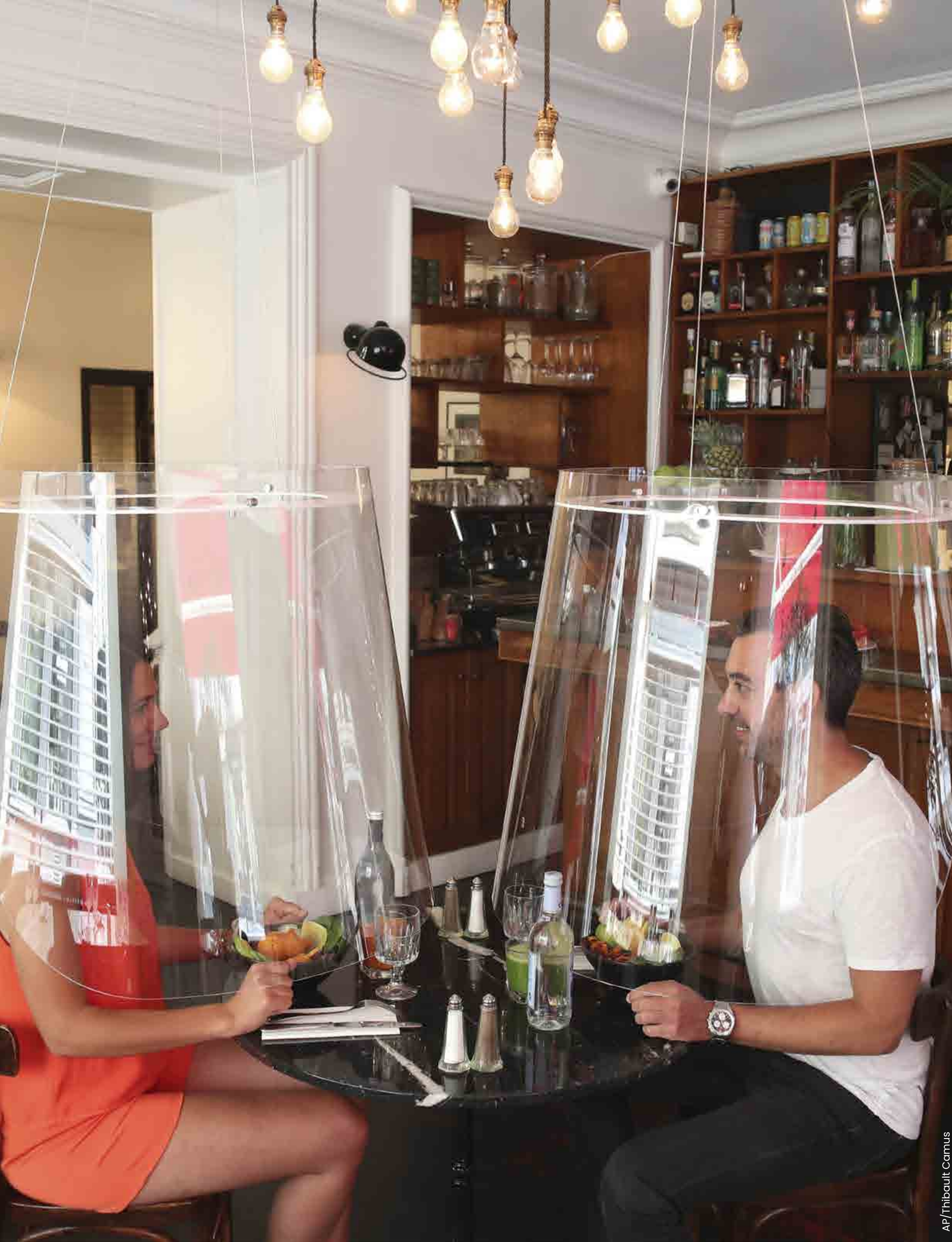
SEATTLE — The first word Seattle political consultant Dayna Lurie had that someone filed for unemployment benefits in her name was when her boss called. "Did you quit without telling me?" he asked. "We got an unemployment form from the state of Washington saying you don't work here anymore." It turned out that, like thousands of Washington state residents, Lurie's identity was used by criminals seeking to capitalize on a flood of legitimate unemployment claims by sneaking in fraudulent ones.

Washington's race to help newly laid-off residents as the coronavirus pandemic ravaged the economy left it vulnerable to such scams, and last week officials hinted at the scope of the damage done: hundreds of millions of dollars paid out in fake claims. Much of it apparently went to a West African fraud ring using identities stolen in prior data breaches, such as the massive 2017 Equifax breach. State and federal...

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AP/Thibault Camus

# WORLD

## NEVADA CASINOS TO REOPEN; AMERICA IN LOCKDOWN DEVOURS PIZZA

May 27, 2020 | AP News

The outbreak of the coronavirus has dealt a shock to the global economy with unprecedented speed. Following are developments Wednesday related to the national and global response, the work place and the spread of the virus.

**TRAVEL & LEISURE:** Viral videos out of places like Lake of the Ozarks over the holiday weekend showed how willing people are to gather, even in a pandemic. Tourist destinations, from countries to theme parks, are laying out plans for operations during, and potentially after, the pandemic fades.

**Viral videos out of places like Lake of the Ozarks over the holiday weekend showed how willing people are to gather, even in a pandemic. Tourist destinations, from countries to theme parks, are laying out plans for operations during, and potentially after, the pandemic fades.**

— Nevada's casinos will reopen next week, including those on the Las Vegas Strip. The casino's, which power Nevada's economy, were ordered closed more than 11 weeks ago. They will be allowed to open June 4, right before the weekend.

— Disney World and SeaWorld will reveal their plans for a phased reopening in Florida. If there is such a thing as an amusement park mecca for both companies, it's Florida. Disney runs four parks at its Walt Disney World Resort in Orlando. The parks attract more than 150 million people annually. Executives will address the Orange County Economic Recovery Task Force before noon Wednesday. Any plan will have to be approved by Gov. Ron DeSantis. Universal and Six Flags outlined new park guidelines earlier this month.

— Cyprus has pledged to cover all costs for anyone testing positive for the coronavirus while on holiday in the east Mediterranean island nation. That includes lodging, food, drink and medication for COVID-19 patients and

their families. A 100-bed hospital will cater exclusively to foreign travelers who test positive. A 500-room "quarantine-hotel" will exclusively host patients' family members and other close contacts.

**THE WORK PLACE:** The pace of returning to work varies by industry, with some tech companies dropping any requirement of returning to the office, and industrial companies creating new safety requirements for workers.

— Ford temporarily halted production on the transit side of its Kansas City assembly plant so it can perform a deep cleaning after a worker tested positive for COVID-19. In addition to disinfecting the employees' work area and the paths taken while at the plant, Ford is notifying people known to have been in close contact with the person and asking them to self-quarantine for 14 days.

— Google is giving a \$1,000 allowance to each worker to expense necessary equipment and office furniture. The company will also start reopening more offices in more cities beginning July 6.

CEO Sundar Pichai said employees will return on a rotating basis, at about 10% building occupancy. The company hopes to ramp up that rotation in September, eventually reaching 30% occupancy. Those who can work remotely will be allowed to do so through 2020.

**GOVERNMENTS & CENTRAL BANKS:** Countries continue to roll out new funding measures to support hospitals, businesses and citizens. The push to reopen...

**The pace of returning to work varies by industry, with some tech companies dropping any requirement of returning to the office, and industrial companies creating new safety requirements for workers.**

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# AIRCRAFT CARRIER RETURNS TO SEA AFTER CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK

Staff Sgt. Jordan E. Gilbert/U.S. Marine Corps via AP

May 22, 2020 | AP News

WASHINGTON — After nearly two months sidelined in Guam with a coronavirus outbreak, the USS Theodore Roosevelt has gone out to sea for training, in preparation to return to duty in the Pacific. Nearly 800 fighter squadron personnel from the Central Valley are aboard the carrier.

The ship has been docked in Guam since March 27, as the 4,800 crew members went through rotations of quarantine, and more than 1,000 of them have tested positive for the virus over that time. “It feels great to be back at sea,” Rear Adm. Stu Baker, commander of Carrier Strike Group 9, said in a statement. “Getting Theodore Roosevelt and Carrier

Air Wing 11 one step closer to returning to their mission in the Indo-Pacific is a great achievement for the crew.” In an Associated Press interview from the aircraft carrier earlier this week, Navy Capt. Carlos Sardiello said the ship will sail with a scaled-back crew of about 3,000, leaving about 1,800 sailors on shore who are still in quarantine or working with those who are.

The sailors in quarantine include up to 14 who recently tested positive again for the virus, just days after getting cleared to return to the carrier. The puzzling COVID-19 reappearance in the sailors adds to the difficulty in getting the...

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## HOW THE TALIBAN OUTLASTED A SUPERPOWER: TENACITY AND CARNAGE

May 26, 2020 | [The New York Times](#)

ALINGAR, Afghanistan — Under the shade of a mulberry tree, near grave sites dotted with Taliban flags, a top insurgent military leader in eastern Afghanistan acknowledged that the group had suffered devastating losses from American strikes and government operations over the past decade.

But those losses have changed little on the ground: The Taliban keep replacing their dead and wounded and delivering brutal violence.

“We see this fight as worship,” said Mawlawi Mohammed Qais, the head of the Taliban’s military commission in Laghman Province, as dozens of his fighters waited nearby on a hillside. “So if a brother is killed, the second brother won’t disappoint God’s wish — he’ll step into the brother’s shoes.”

It was March, and the Taliban had just signed a peace deal with the United States that now puts the movement on...

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## WHY BOMBS MADE IN AMERICA HAVE BEEN KILLING CIVILIANS IN YEMEN

May 22, 2020 | GV Wire

A \$38 billion military aid package for Israel is moving to the Senate after being approved in the chamber’s Foreign Relations Committee on Thursday. The bill (S.B. 3176) provides Israel, which currently receives more American aid than any other nation, an additional \$3.8 billion a year over the next decade. It includes financing to upgrade most of Israel’s fighter aircraft, improve its ground forces’ mobility and strengthen its missile defense systems. The measure also expands a stockpile of weapons that the United States keeps in Israel, which Israeli forces may access in wartime.

### Largest Ever Military Assistance Deal

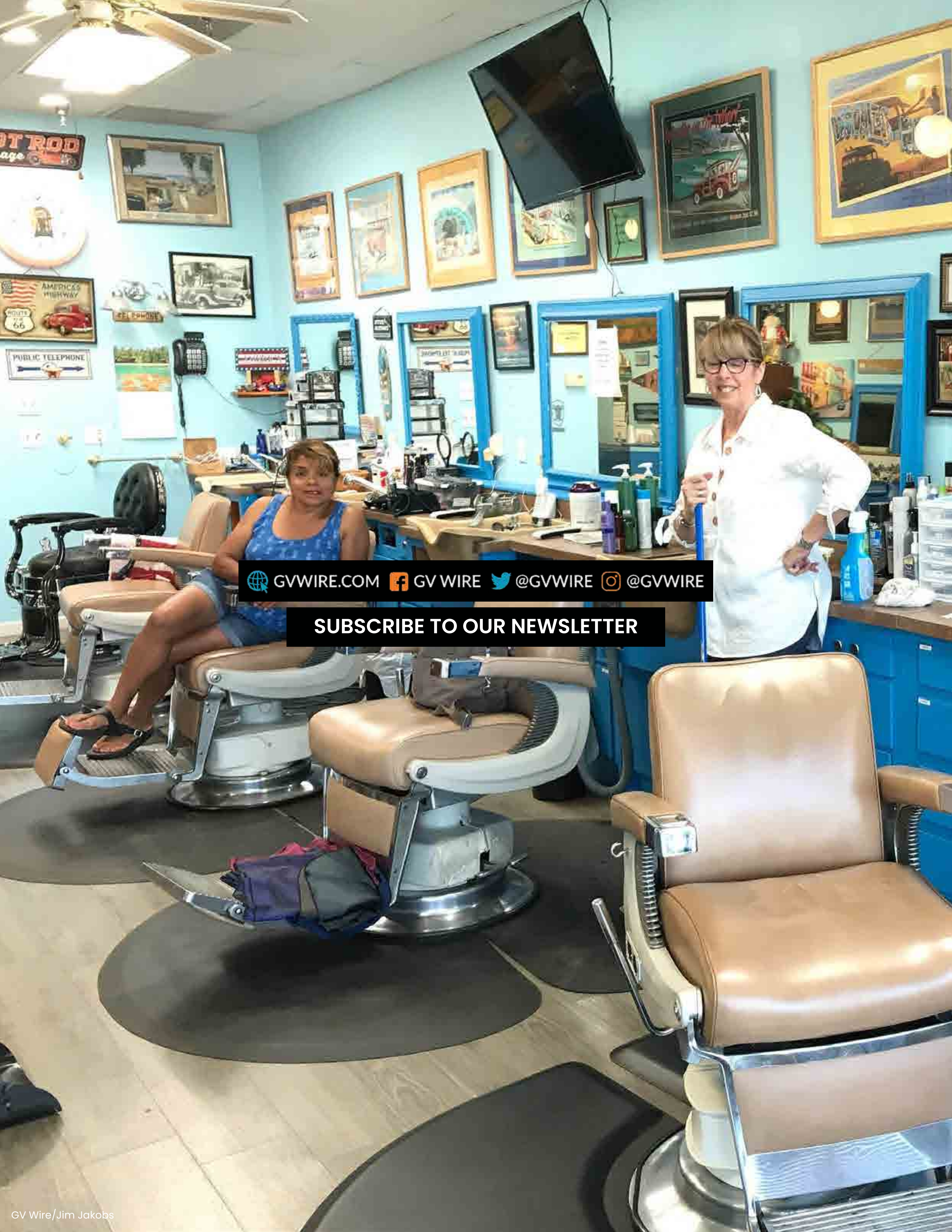
“I was proud to reintroduce this bipartisan bill that strengthens our nation’s strategic security alliance with Israel, a vibrant democracy that faces growing and unprecedented threats to its security and stability,” said Republican Sen. Marco Rubio of Florida, the bill’s co-sponsor. “I hope my...

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