

WE DEFEND YOUR RIGHT  
TO DEFEND YOURSELF.

COMPLIMENTARY. TAKE ONE.

# GUNNews



SECOND AMENDMENT NEWS AND MORE

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AFFILIATED WITH ILLINOIS GUN RIGHTS ALLIANCE, JPFO, NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION, ILLINOIS FEDERATION FOR OUTDOOR RESOURCES AND OTHERS



## Hey Mr. Bad Guy: SURPRISE!

One of the students at April's GSL Defense Training class reacts to shooting an armed assailant, firing her gun from inside a purse. "That was fun! Can I do that again?" she asked. Why yes, you may.

*Illinois politicians persecute gun owners  
while protecting illegal aliens*

# 'SANCTUARY' CHICAGO FACES FED FUND CUT-OFF

Chicago (WGN) — President Donald Trump on Thursday morning said his administration is taking efforts to withhold federal funding from cities and states with policies that limit local law enforcement from cooperating with federal authorities on some immigration matters.

doesn't see the fight heading into a courtroom...

"No more Sanctuary Cities! They protect the Criminals, not the Victims. They are disgracing our Country, and are being mocked all over the World," Trump wrote on his social media platform. "Working on papers to withhold all Federal Funding for any City or State that allows these Death Traps to exist!!!"...



Pass the tissues...

But Ald. Ray Lopez (15th Ward) said he

Continued on page 3.

## IGOLD 2025

Illinois Gun Owners Lobby Day  
Wednesday, May 14th

Bank of Springfield Center... Doors open at 10am

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## May 2025

- **Quincy:** Last Wednesday: **May 28**, June 25, July 30  
Eagles Club, 3737 N. Fifth Street, Quincy
- **Chicagoland:** Last Sunday: **April 27**, May cancelled, June 29, July 27  
American Legion Post 1198, 1631 Western Ave. Chicago Heights  
Exhibits and conversation here at 4:30pm. Program at 5:30pm.
- **Sangamon County:** First Monday: **April 7**, May 5, June 2, July 7  
SCHEELS, 3801 S. MacArthur, Springfield
- **Pontiac:** First Tuesday: **May 6**, June 3, July 1  
Pontiac Sportsman's Club. 18663 4-H Park Road, Pontiac
- **Decatur:** First Wednesday: **May 7**, June 4, July 2  
Coz's Pizza, 1405 East Village Parkway, Mt Zion (Program at 6:45pm)
- **Peoria:** First Thursday: **May 1**, June 5, July 3  
Barrack's Banquet Center, 1224 Pioneer Parkway, Peoria  
Dinner and conversation here at 5:30pm. Program at 6:30ish.
- **Danville:** Second Monday **May 12**, June 9, July 14  
Ela's Restaurant, 1111 E. Voorhees St., Danville
- **Northwest Chicagoland:** Second Wed: **May 14**, June 11, July 9  
Prairie House Tavern, 2710 Main St., Buffalo Grove  
Dinner and conversation here at 5:30pm. Program at 6pm-ish.
- **Mattoon:** Second Thursday: **May 8**, June 12, July 10  
The American Legion Post 88, 1903 Maple Ave, Mattoon
- **LaSalle County:** Third Thursday: **May 15**, June 19, July 17  
Jamie's Outpost, 602 Clark St., Utica

Dinner, conversation, exhibits at 6 p.m. Program starts at 7 p.m.

Come on out and join us. Good food, good fun and good friends.

Dinner is optional but we encourage attendees to eat to support the venue.

Meetings are free and open to all.



Our meetings and our members...



TRUST TIMM.

David Timm, a retired Sangamon County Sheriff's Deputy, addressed the GSL audience in Springfield. Although he has not officially announced that he's running for the Republican nomination for the Sangamon County Sheriff, his strong pro-Second Amendment stance resonated with most. As a training junkie and former field training officer, he would like to add enhanced training to help avoid tragedies. In contrast, the current appointed sheriff said she would enforce the PICA gun ban against law-abiding gun owners, a position that has drawn criticism from gun owners. We don't have a lot of love for oath breakers at GSL.



Expert gunsmiths are increasingly hard to find, but one of the good ones, Kevin Neblock, joined us in Peoria. He's holding his "concealed carry" gun, suitable for large predators.



Rosie won the S&W Bodyguard 2 in Pontiac. Congrats. She's pictured with GSL's John Boch.



You may or may not know Jack, but he's a good guy and he won a Ruger RXM in Peoria. He's pictured with our Regional Director, Mr. Richard Parks.



Clyde Caceres, one of the founding partners of the original Crimson Trace, talks about plate armor in Mattoon. He strongly recommends polyethylene armor plates because they are buoyant (you won't sink like a boat anchor) and offer better performance than ceramic plates. They're about \$500 each but super light. They will typically soak up five rounds of .308. He's not a fan of the spalling issues associated with steel plates.



Kent won a very nice Rossi lever action in .45 Long Colt in... you guessed it: Decatur.



'Bring a lever gun' they said. 'Here's my first!'

Gary Larson brought a couple of lever actions to Decatur... This was his first from the 1960s era, a Red Rider BB gun. Why it even had a canteen, target and more...



Mattoon. Mr. Green and Mr. Gun.



Bill won a Taurus Judge at SCHEELS. Congrats sir!



State Rep. Regan Deering joined us in Decatur.

# GSL DEFENSE TRAINING

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## HUNTER SAFETY CLASS

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April 26 & 27, 2025  
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# DEAR READER:

Thank you for picking up this issue of *GunNews Magazine*. We're proud of our monthly journal and hope it helps you to become a better-informed citizen and gun owner. If you like the content and want to get more each month, please join! We'll mail you a copy each month and you can enjoy other benefits of membership!

Our content can help you steer clear of violent criminals. It can help you avoid jail in post-use-of-force interactions with police, prosecutors, judges and jurors. Other content will help you weather adversity and emergencies to help keep your family safe and prepared.

**Come out and join us at our meetings, too.** You'll meet some great people, potentially make some new, high-quality friends and learn new things. We'll leave you educated, entertained and energized for our never-ending fight in this state to defend your right to defend yourself. Plus we have monthly gun drawings at our meetings.

In this issue we've detailed some of the great presentations from outstanding featured speakers sharing valuable information. Some are inspirational, others educational, and some are

both. But they happen regularly at our events. Come join us. You'll be glad you did if you're a first-time visitor or someone rejoining us. The meetings are only getting better and better.

Join our family using the application on the back page of *GunNews*, online at our [GunsSaveLife.com](http://GunsSaveLife.com) website, or drop off your membership check at a meeting (where you'll get two free gun drawing tickets for each year you join or renew!). We need you in this fight alongside the rest of our family.

Membership in GSL is just \$30 annually at the moment. It's going up to \$40 on May 1st, but for now you can save \$10 and sign up today. Your membership allows us to continue our work at the local and state level defending your right to defend yourself in addition to bringing you and thousands of others *GunNews* each month.

Freedom isn't a spectator sport. Come join our family. Help us continue to get proven results defending your right to defend yourself.

Sincerely,

*Guns Save Life*

## Chicago faces federal funding cut-off over 'sanctuary' status

*Continued from page 1.*

"You are going to see law enforcement take a hit because we rely on hundreds of millions of dollars to support our police," he said. "Public health will take a huge hit. That is almost an entirely federal grant-funded department."

Lopez argues the city should again consider amending its Welcoming City ordinance. The city council earlier this year struck down a proposal that reportedly would have granted exceptions when undocumented residents are arrested or convicted of selling and buying drugs, prostitution, human trafficking and "sexual crimes involving minors."



Mayor Brandon Johnson.



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Live Free USA presents:

## IMPENDING TERRORIST ATTACKS



**Saturday, May 3 1-3p.m.**  
**Cabela's in Hammond, IN**

Al-Qaeda 2.0 is ready to launch the most wide-spread and sophisticated terrorist operations since 9/11. Intelligence briefings from the Transatlantic Intelligence Consortium (TIC) indicate that there will be a series of coordinated attacks across the United States and Europe starting in 2025. These attacks will be aimed at killing civilians, damaging infrastructure and creating general chaos and terror. No location or community will be immune to the effects of these attacks. Special survival and preparedness actions will be necessary to protect your family. Awareness is the key to preparedness!

Presented as a free public service.

**AmericanSurvivor.org**



Live Free USA presents:

## KILLER DRONES



**Saturday, June 14 1-3p.m.**  
**Cabela's in Hammond, IN**

The rise of human and AI controlled drones represents the greatest threat to civilian survival and freedom in the Twenty-First Century. Drones can fly, hover, walk, and swim. Drones can be as small as insects or large enough to carry bombs, chemical weapons, or biological agents. These new weapons can easily be deployed by foreign powers, terrorist, and criminal organizations. Some drones are programmed to use deadly force without human control. Be able to protect your life, privacy, and liberty in the age of drones.

Presented as a free public service.

**AmericanSurvivor.org**

## Can't make it to a meeting? Still want to win a gun? Tickets are available!

You can't make it to a meeting, but you want a chance to win a gun for as little as \$4? Here's your chance!  
And yes, we've had several mail-in ticket winners in the past few months.

Indicate how many tickets you want for the gun you want (and city of drawing). Tickets are \$5 or 5 for \$20. Or 25 (plus a bonus) for \$100.

GSL's Treasurer Joanne Chandler will electronically notify the Regional Directors of the mail-in tickets sold for their meetings so they can get them into the drawing. If you're late, we'll return your check.

**Attn: Drawings**  
**Guns Save Life**  
**PO Box 8**  
**Clinton, IL 61727**

### GSL Monthly Gun Lineup!

*Here are a few of the drawing guns!*

**Chicagoland Northwest May: Shield Plus with Optic 9mm**

**Pontiac May: Benelli NOVA 12GA**  
**Pontiac June: Tisas 1911A1 Tanker .45**

**Sangamon May: Springfield Armory Hellcat 9mm**  
**Sangamon June: S&W Model 659! 9mm**

**Decatur May: Sig P320C 9mm**  
**Decatur June: Charter Arms .44 SPL!**  
**Decatur July: Bond Arms DT47 President Trump .45/.410 derringers... a set!**

**Mattoon May: Rossi Brawler .410/.45LC**  
**Mattoon June: S&W M&P EZ 2.0 .380**

**Chicagoland June: Canik MC9 METE**  
**Chicagoland April: S&W Bodyguard 2.0 .380 (Awesome deep cover pistol!)**

## Executive Director's Report

### More winning, please

by John Boch

GSL Executive Director

As gun owners, we have a lot to be thankful for since last November. We have an ally of gun rights in the White House. President Trump's nominees to key posts are all pretty solid on guns. Perfect? No. But don't let perfection become the enemy of good.

AG Pam Bondi "demilitarized" ATF, sending its door kickers over to ICE and DHS to do immigration enforcement. Talk about a win - win for gun owners and Americans in general. What's more, that assignment may become permanent.

Before he left as ATF's Acting Director, Kash Patel reversed Biden's "Zero Tolerance" policy which revoked federal firearms licenses for dealers who made trivial clerical errors on paperwork. What's more, other "policies" and "rules" are now under scrutiny and likely to be revamped if not repealed.

At the Department of Justice, they've taken over firearm rights restoration from ATF. More importantly, AG Bondi set up the Second Amendment Task Force within the DOJ's Civil Rights Division.

If this isn't just "talk" - and plenty of embedding lawfare operatives have done their best to undermine Team Trump at every turn - then we may soon see legal action targeting some of these unconstitutional gun control schemes passed by the gun control jihadists in our state. Here's to purging the deep state actors at the DOJ. Because until they're gone, little substantive will change.

In other good news, ICE continues to round up the worst of the worst criminal illegals and send them home. Or to El Salvador's famous gang prison. With each violent predator swept up, our streets are safer for our families, friends and neighbors.

Yes, most of the good news is coming from the federal end of things.

In Illinois, all manner of gun control schemes are in play in the General Assembly. Sadly, we don't have the votes to stop them. As we've covered recently, we can't even keep the entire supposedly pro-gun Republican caucus from voting for gun control - and even gun confiscation schemes!

If it makes you feel better, make a trip down

to Springfield for IGOLD on May 14, 2025. For more information, visit ISRA.org. Right now though, at the present time, the courts are really our only hope for rolling back gun control in our state. And we know who owns the Illinois Supreme Court... While Trump 2.0 is reforming the federal judiciary one appointment at a time, we still have no shortage of insurrectionist jurists. Coupled with a US Supreme Court that seems unwilling to deal with the legal insurrection in progress, we're kind of stuck.

#### Trade policies.

If you're not aware of the tariffs enacted by Team Trump to help incentivize companies to bring production and manufacturing back to America, then you're probably not a GSL member. (You should join, we'll keep you informed.)

Why is that relevant to you? If you want to buy a foreign made firearm, or gun food, you might want to get that sooner rather than later. Imported guns and ammo are going up in price very soon.

Also, we're sold on the utility of having a backup form of communication as part of emergency preparations to help turn disasters and emergencies into mere inconveniences. Those inexpensive Baofeng two-way hand-held radios like the UV-5R are an exceptionally good value presently. With the 125% tariff in place on future Chinese imports (and still more duties on *de minimus* orders direct from China - think Temu), these radios aren't going to be available for \$20-30 much longer.

Buy them, along with the appropriate mobile/car radios, spare batteries, and better antennas. Get what you need while stuff is still dirt cheap. While like many I prefer "Made in America," I just can't afford Motorola products that cost 20x as much. Many of our readers are also likely in the same boat.

The bottom line: positive changes are happening. It's hard to keep up with them. So, like with other aspects of life, be thankful for what and who you have in your life. At GSL, we're working hard to make life better for gun owners, but Rome wasn't built in a day. Join with us to help us continue our mission getting proven results and change will come.



Congressman Darin LaHood.

### Congressman Darin LaHood pledges to work with Congressional members to increase civil rights legal fee reimbursements

(GSL) - At GSL, we've been in contact with Congressman Darin LaHood, a strong friend of gun owners. We've been lobbying him to file legislation to increase the legal fee reimbursements to private parties who successfully win civil rights legal actions against local, state and federal government units that violate our civil rights.

We suggested increasing the standard reimbursement for prevailing parties from straight up legal fees to double or triple the fees. That would have a two-fold impact: It would make legislating against the Constitution and black letter law more expensive for these government units, but it would also provide much needed resources for the legal firms handling the cases.

With that extra money, pro-gun attorneys could file additional court actions against other problematic rules, regulations and laws. And the cycle could continue. Heaven knows there is plenty of room for more lawsuits to knock down more ineffective gun control schemes, especially in Illinois.

In fairness, Rep. LaHood isn't promising us the moon on this, but he's working with key members of Congress to make this happen. What's more, if the proposal is written to include all successful civil rights actions, it would possibly gain support from Democrats to make it a truly bipartisan bill.



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### Guns Save Life's LIFE MEMBERSHIP!

Guns Save Life is proud to announce our "Life Membership" for those who wish to show an exemplary level of support towards Guns Save Life and our mission defending your right to defend yourself.

The new "Life Membership" is available for \$1000, and for those aged 65 and over, it's available at half-price, \$500.

Be among the third 100 individuals to step up and help us defend your right to defend yourself with a life membership to Guns Save Life.

To sign up for this new Life Membership option, fill out the form on the back page of this issue of *GunNews* and send it in today.



## ISRA asking AG Pam Bondi, Department of Justice to review gun control schemes in IL

a second-class right after investigating delays in gun permits being issued in California. She said the U.S. Department of Justice will not stand idly by while states and localities infringe on the Second Amendment rights of ordinary, law-abiding Americans.

"I think it's timely that Attorney General Bondi would want to come in and talk to us," Sullivan told The Center Square. "She should tackle kind of the most onerous states in the nation when it comes to anti-gun laws and so we certainly welcome anything that they want to do to kind of look at this process."

The seal of the Department of Justice is a circular emblem. It features an eagle with wings spread, perched on a shield with horizontal stripes. The eagle is flanked by olive branches and arrows. The words "DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE" are inscribed in a circle around the eagle. Below the eagle, the Latin motto "QUI PRO DOMINA JUSTITIA SEQUITUR" is written. Three stars are positioned at the bottom of the seal.

*Onerous requirements, gun owner liability for stolen guns and much more in this bill*

## IL Senate approves gun storage bill

unlawful entry onto those premises,” said bill sponsor state Sen. Laura Ellman, D-Naperville. “It amends the Criminal Code of 2012 similarly to provide that it is unlawful for any person to store or leave a firearm if the person knows or reasonably should know that a minor who does not have a [Firearm Owner’s ID] card is likely to gain access.”

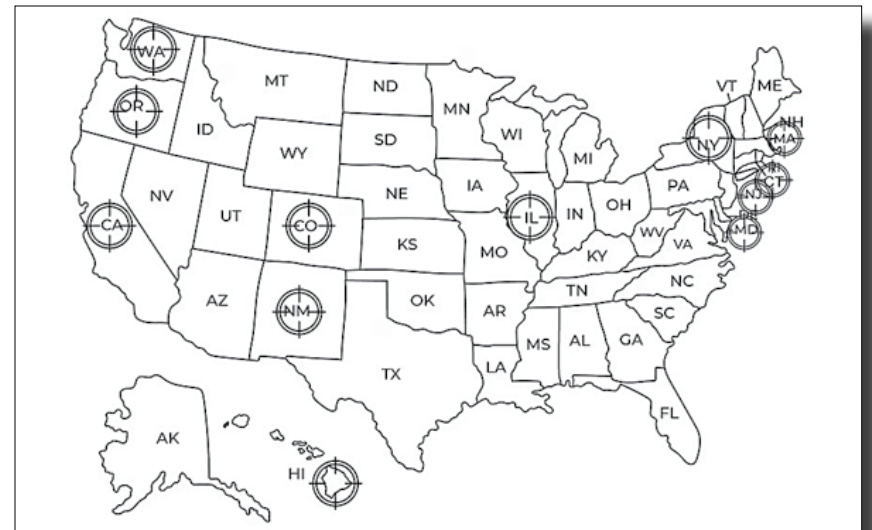
Minor is defined in the bill as anyone under 18.

Opposing the measure in

"So if a report is filed and it's a petty offense, you're now lowering the bar to losing a constitutional right based on a petty offense," Vandermyde told the committee. "I think that is some very intriguing new ground."

## Former CCW 'instructor' catches felony for corner-cutting classes

Illinois Attorney General Kwame Raoul's office reported 37-year-old Tayana Henderson pleaded guilty to one count of forgery (a Class 3 felony) and one count of violating the Firearm Concealed Carry Act (a Class A misdemeanor).



## AG Bondi's new 2A Task Force should target these 12 states' gun rights violations first

In his letter to Bondi, CCRKBA Chairman Alan Gottlieb writes, "I would like to suggest that among the Task Force's priorities might be to examine the patterns of egregious Second Amendment violations in the states of

California, Colorado, Connecticut, Hawaii, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Oregon and Washington. All of these states have adopted laws in recent years which have essentially relegated Second Amendment rights to the level of government-regulated privileges.”

# DeWitt County Sportsmans Club

An aerial photograph showing a campsite nestled within a dense forest. A central building with a light-colored roof is surrounded by a parking area filled with numerous vehicles. A dirt road or path runs through the site, and a body of water is visible in the upper left corner. The surrounding area is heavily wooded with tall trees.

## BUNNY BLAST April 26th 10-2

Come join a growing, ever-improving club, with three independent ranges and permissive rules which allow shooters to practice from holsters, double-taps, movement and so forth. Centrally located on Route 10, six miles east of Clinton, IL (15423 State Highway 10). Great people and a warm atmosphere. Facilities include *three* ranges, clubhouse, a **real publicly-accessible restroom** and more. **Dues are currently \$70/year plus two work days (\$45 each on deposit, prepayment required). Over 65 dues are \$55 and no workdays.**





## Purviance | Training to win

by John Boch (GSL) - Some of us are lucky enough to save lives with the work we do. John Purviance (purr-VY-ance) counts himself in that category as a long-time (now retired) ISP firearms and tactics instructor.



John Purviance.

How do they train their raw recruits at the ISP Academy on how to win a gunfight? After all, today's applicants are a lot like your average gun owner and some don't even have guns. First and foremost, the ISP trainers try to acclimate their cadets to high stress situations.

They do this through simulators and force-on-force training. They tailor their training to research done by the leading national experts, giving their cadets (and Troopers with continuing education) every possible edge and advantage to help them win. All things that the average concealed carry holder should try to avail themselves to in training.

Now obviously ISP trains for de-escalation and conflict resolution without going lethal (as we all should), but sometimes drug-addled, or desperate people do irrational, desperate things. Especially when they don't want to go to jail.

Mr. Purviance explained some common physical and psychological effects people feel during adrenaline dumps. While they vary wildly in specifics, but generally fine motor skills go out the window and very often there is a time distortion.

Accordingly, ISP trains their people to exploit both aspects by drilling on gross motor skills in using the gun and using the temporal distortion (time goes in slow motion) to think about tactics instead of how to manipulate their weapon, radio, etc.

The former trainer also talked about how people - cops, good guys, etc. - must all break out of the denial response - aka "this can't be happening" - and take action when things go sideways. Break the brain's denial response as quickly as possible in order to take life-saving action. He discussed tunnel vision and

the importance of breaking it, along with auditory exclusion (where your brain tunes out sounds to focus on the threat) and a host of other common psychological effects of that massive adrenaline dump that you'll feel.

It proved a very insightful discussion of mindset and how everyday people can train and condition themselves to better react to an unfolding deadly force incident.

He also tackled pre-decision making on when you'll get involved in a third-party self-defense situation. It might be never vs. early in a confrontation. It's something you have to decide for yourself. And it can vary depending on who's with you. It should be very different if you're flying solo vs. if you have your toddler kids or grandkids with you out in public. Decide what you can live with as opposed to what you can't.



That includes what you are willing to risk to stop a potentially lethal attack upon someone else.

For example you might duck out the back of a store if you discern a robbery at the cash register up front, but you might engage if you're on a playground and someone starts shooting kids. Or you might let the homeless bums duke it out with broken bottles, but take action if you see what appears to be some guy trying to abduct a small child.



*Holster up as soon as you can. Conceal the gun and have your hands up when police roll up.*

Purviance even discussed post-shooting interactions with responding and investigating cops. First and foremost, put the gun away after you've scanned for immediate threats. You not only have to worry about

other criminals, but also fellow concealed carry holders and off-duty cops. So break the tunnel vision (and auditory exclusion) and holster up. Ideally well before cops arrive.

You own non-threatening behavior goes a long way to ensuring your safety when police arrive. Expect to get cuffed up and treated like a criminal until officers figure out what happened.



He recommends telling the cops, "I acted in self-defense. I don't want to answer any questions without my attorney. My info on my driver's license in my wallet is current." And then shut up.

It was a priceless presentation, one you would be wise to hear in Peoria in May. Yes, Mr. Purviance will be our featured speaker there in May. Why you might even want to take some notes.



They're NOT having fun at gun control orgs!

## March for Our Lives crumbles: David Hogg's gun-grabbers reminded how Americans won't surrender their rights without a fight

(Bearing Arms) - The anti-gun crusade just took a well-deserved hit. March for Our Lives, David Hogg's darling of the left's war on the Second Amendment, has laid off most of its staff—15 out of 18 employees gone in a flash.



After years of preaching gun control to a nation that's rejected their nonsense at every turn, the group's finally facing reality: Americans love their freedom, and no amount of whining from Parkland activists can change that. This isn't a "pause"—it's a collapse, and it's proof the pro-liberty, America-First spirit is winning.

Founded after the 2018 Parkland shooting, March for Our Lives rode a wave of media hype, pushing radical ideas like banning "assault weapons" and turning law-abiding gun owners into villains. They raked in millions—\$5.8 million in 2022 alone—thanks to sob stories and Bloomberg's deep pockets.

But money can't buy relevance. Their big "restructuring" excuse? A "changing political landscape." Translation: Trump's back, Republicans are flexing, and the red wave in Congress has their agenda dead

in the water. Even their own data shows the truth—gun ownership's up, concealed carry's soaring, and their pet laws are stalling out nationwide.

Let's not kid ourselves—this group was never about "safety." It was about control. They wanted to disarm Americans while ignoring the real problems: mental health failures, soft-on-crime DAs, and a culture that coddles thugs. Their layoffs hit hardest in the "organizing" department—seven of nine gone—because grassroots support never materialized. Turns out, regular folks in flyover country don't take kindly to elitists telling them to give up their God-given rights. The NRA's still standing tall, and concealed-carry permits hit 23 million last year. That's the real America talking.

The left's melting down over this, of course. X is buzzing with their tears—some call it a "gut punch" to gun control. Good. Every patriot knows the Second Amendment isn't negotiable, and March for Our Lives's flop shows the tide's turning.

Trump's victory, paired with a GOP Congress ready to protect gun rights, has these activists scrambling. They're down to a skeleton crew of three, and their "new vision" sounds like a desperate Hail Mary. Maybe they'll pivot to something useful—like supporting armed school guards—but don't hold your breath.

This is what happens when you bet against freedom. Americans aren't sheep; we're armed, proud, and ready to defend our way of life. March for Our Lives thought they could guilt us into submission. Instead, they're broke, irrelevant, and a cautionary tale for every anti-gun busybody. The Constitution stands, and under Trump's watch, it's not going anywhere. Time to celebrate a win for the good guys—pass the ammo.

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*In regione caecorum rex est luscus*

In the land of the blind, the one-eyed man is King  
by Desiderius Erasmus, a GSL member

## It's FUN!

One disclaimer: I don't get paid to write this column. No firearms company comps me; no shooting range gives me a free pass. Pay for my own GSL annual membership.

One confession: I've experienced hundreds of firearms' training sessions – some good; some not so good. In the Army I got to fire tanks, howitzers, machine guns, light anti-tank weapons and the usual rifles and pistols – never paid for a single round. Thanks to all you tax-payers who did! So hopefully I know what bad training looks like as well as good.

The Illinois Concealed Carry License renewal class I took at The Bullet Trap could have been a boring affair – perhaps endless text slides so small you can't read them, accompanied by a droning voice that would cause even a 1960s hippie on a big dose of LSD to fall into a deep sleep. The class at Macon was none of that, and to my surprise consisted of much more than just a presentation, and then going to the range and trying to hit 21 shots out of 30 on that "Ray Charles" target, aptly nicknamed, because even "Hit the Road Jack" Ray would have hit it. The event did start in the classroom for maybe 45 minutes. Gary taught it. He kept my interest the whole time; he has a good voice; he's funny but doesn't waste time.

Then we went next door to the indoor range where Gary and Rick surprised the seven of us, issuing a SIRT (Shot Indicating Resetting Trigger) Laser Training Pistol to each, along with a composite training waist holster and showed us how to use both. Then we walked out to the middle of the range and after watching them, learned how to draw the weapon – while keeping your finger away from the trigger – bring it up, and initially take 3 aimed shots at the paper target in front of you. The green laser dot shows you where an actual bullet would have hit.

Then came a real highlight – learning how to point the weapon quickly and fire 3 rounds without using the sights. Why? Because it's faster. And we were about to find out how fast is fast. The range has a sophisticated system of spotlights for each lane. Rick would turn off the lights. Remember, this part is not live fire; there are no actual firearms anywhere near you.

With the lights off, it is not pitch black, but an old geezer like me wouldn't want to walk around. With no warning, a spotlight illuminates your Thompson Target Center-Fire Defender XL 19" x 25" yellow human upper silhouette target a few yards in front of you. You fire your three laser "shots" in the six seconds the target is illuminated before the spotlight goes off. You'll see where you hit, and do that several times. Then the engagement time gets compressed to 5, then 4, then 3 and finally 2 seconds. Draw, point and shoot, because you have no time to draw, aim and fire. The experience teaches you something no book or video could. There's no pass or fail here. Remember: someday there may be in real life.

Then back to the firing line, where you put away the SIRT and uncased your actual weapon, which you will later qualify with.

Rick explains it all. You make five piles, each of three rounds on the shelf in front of you in your lane. I put three rounds in my 9mm

magazine, loaded it into the weapon and chambered the first round. Everyone then fires five different point-and-shoot distances, each with three rounds. Your weapon is never holstered in this; it starts safely in your hands pointed just below your silhouette down range. This does two things. You get to practice firing quickly – something most ranges do not allow on most days. You also get rid of any anxiety about later qualifying, because these results are not part of that.



Then comes the ginormous, gargantuan, gigantic Thompson Target Center-Fire B27Q-RED XXL – 25" x 38" target that you mount on the target frame in your lane – and you KNOW you can do this! Everyone will be firing on their own lanes at once; no time limit. No one staring at you. Rick, using a microphone so you can hear him with your hearing protection, has you load three 10-round magazines (or one magazine three successive times). You'll fire the first magazine at a range of 15 feet, the second at 21 feet; the third at 30 feet. That's it. They'll score your target later and you can take it home. Some shooters had .22s; one a revolver; most had 9mm semis. Use what's comfortable and accurate for you.

Then back to the classroom, including several videos; one analyzing an actual church shooting; another showing how not to draw your pistol (SPOILER ALERT: the guy shoots himself in the leg). What concealed carry means in Illinois. What you can do; what you can't. Where you can carry; where not. What to say when you call 911 after a self-defense shooting. What to say if an officer pulls you over and you have a weapon. No legal mumbo-jumbo. It's all understandable. Stuff that will keep you out of jail. I learned things. Sure hope I never have to shoot anyone. But I am much more prepared if that situation arises, because of the time I spent at this course and what we practiced.

You can do this. Having a CCL doesn't mean you have to carry. It means that you can conceal carry if you need to. Having options is always good. Take a good Concealed Carry Course – like this one. Get, and keep up to date, a Concealed Carry License. Your life may depend on it.



650,000 illegal alien criminals, including 14000 murderers are illegally in America

## EXPERT: Sanctuary cities shielded over 20K violent criminals!

(PJ Media) - An expert testifying before Congress accused leftist sanctuary cities of protecting tens of thousands of illegal alien criminals from law enforcement during the second half of the Biden-Harris administration.

Leftist sanctuary states and cities have reportedly actively thwarted arrests of 25,000 criminals between October 2022, during the open borders Biden-Harris administration, and early February 2025, just after Donald Trump took office. Democratic mayors, sheriffs, governors, and

other officials from California to Illinois to Arizona have vowed to continue to protect dangerous migrant criminals, illustrating how truly sick and anti-American they are.

Democrats want to use floods of illegal aliens to rig the Electoral College and Congressional apportionment in their favor. They also, of course, want to create chaos in society because fearful people are easier to control, and Democrats want an excuse to enforce more tyranny. And so they invite in criminal foreigners, give them

taxpayer-funded freebies, and go to great lengths to protect them from law enforcement — even if they're murderers, rapists, and robbers. Especially if, by doing so, it undermines Donald Trump and his administration...

Last year, the revelation that 650,000 illegal alien criminals — including about 14,000 murderers — were living in the U.S. shocked the country. But Democrats decided to double down on protecting these vicious brutes. No wonder they lost the 2024 election.



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## John Bush | 'Proactive maintenance'

In Mattoon, John Bush spoke about what he called proactive maintenance. He had a bad experience duck hunting with an expensive shotgun, a gun that shouldn't have failed him in a duck blind. Turns out it was a part malfunction and he repaired it at home.

He says he now likes to clean and minimally oil his guns and run them to failure to get an idea of how long they will run with little to no cleaning, lubrication, etc. He calls it his torture test. He's had some nicer guns fail after a time, and some more affordable guns run just as long or longer before failing.

When he indicated that does for his defensive carry guns he immediately got some pushback from the audience. It left some folks scratching their heads. To each their own. Torture tests are fine, just not with something you're counting on to save your life. Guns, like engines in a car, run better with proper lubrication and maintenance.

Bush did have a point about having some spare parts. That goes double for

those pesky PICA-regulated guns we aren't supposed to have at the moment. Bush also mentioned, quite correctly, that there are people carrying guns defensively that they purchased but never even fired. That's never a good idea.

Our tech time speaker, Clyde Carceres, offered a suggestion for assessing how reliable some common guns are. Clyde suggested going to the gun rental counter at indoor ranges and asking how well certain rental guns are holding up in that role. Also ask them if there are any they would avoid. Or talk with the owner of the indoor range and see if they'll give you an honest answer.



## IFA column will return next month



The Illinois Freedom Alliance column will return next month. Nancy Hayes, IFA's Election Integrity Chair, would probably tell us the great news about the SAVE Act passing the House. Basically, the SAVE Act would force states to clean up their elections and require voter ID.

Through executive action, President Trump's administration is also pushing back against election "seasons" like we have in

Illinois, and also blanket mail-in voting. Both are rife with opportunities for fraud.

Better elections will bring us better government that will look out for our rights, including the Right to Keep and Bear Arms.

Until next month, visit the IFA's website for meetings and seminars online to learn how you can become more involved and ensure YOUR local elections are free and fair.

=====

At the Illinois Freedom Alliance, we help people get involved and make a difference in local government. We fight and work for free and fair elections. We help pro-freedom, pro-gun and pro-America

first groups and organizations network together and share resources. We also educate and empower people through our educational programs online and in person. And we host seminars with great speakers too. Visit our website for more information.

Contact the Illinois Freedom Alliance ([www.illinoisfreedomalliance.us](http://www.illinoisfreedomalliance.us) or call 309-377-1776).

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## John Drummond | The OODA Loop and Situational Awareness

One of GSL's famous YouTube personalities joined us in Decatur. John Drummond of Wayward Son Custom Guns - a nominee for the Breakout Creator of the Year at the National Gundie Awards, spoke of how people should use the OODA loop (Observe, Orient, Decide and Act) in their daily lives to maintain awareness.

**Observe** your surroundings. Use your intuition as well as all of your senses to look for these things that seem out of the ordinary.

**Orient** yourself to things outside of the baseline of normalcy. Someone acting or walking without a sense of purpose? Loitering? Impaired (mentally or by substance abuse)?

**Decide** on what to do if things continue to go sideways, including a plan for evading a potential perp. Identify exits, potential weapons, create a plan to escape or counter-attack.

Lastly, **Act** to execute your plan.

A couple of folks in the audience made some observations. A fellow instructor by the name of John Boch noted that bad guys use the OODA loop to identify potential victims and to execute their plan on how to victim-

ize them. "Use that against them," Boch said.

If folks interrupt that bad guy's OODA loop and the perpetrator decides to find a softer, easier target - that counts as a win. An even better win than if you pulled out your gun at the last possible moment and shot down a mope as they attacked with a weapon.



Another retired military officer and tactics professor from the US Army War College added that ordinarily, bad guys do "X" and expect their victims to do "Y" and the process continues until they are upon their victim, committing the attack. Instead of reacting, the old colonel said to do unexpected things - and not just one or two. Put the bad guy on the defensive, so again, they'll be motivated to pursue other targets of opportunity.

That might mean using a very loud and assertive command voice telling them to stay back, or it might involve ducking into a neighborhood

bar filled with people instead of going into that nearly desolate, marginally-lit parking garage after you notice one or more potential bad guys tailing you.

Boch added that it's not hard to spot potential wolves among the sheep if you're used to surveying your environment regularly. Bad guys too are watching the people - only they're looking mostly for easy victims. But they will notice a fellow predator - in this case a sheepdog. Unless they are desperate, the smart bad guys will steer clear of the situationally aware individual, especially one with a command presence in his or her body language. Otherwise the bad guy(s) know they might spring a leak or get arrested.

You don't have to look like a Navy SEAL to have bad guys look past you as a victim in their OODA loop looking for victims. You merely have to look more aware than the skinny-jeans and flip flop wearing guy with his face buried in his phone and earbuds in his ears.

Drummond also noted that it's hard to teach "mindset" among people. If you have the mindset of a victim, you're probably going to become a victim sooner or later.

## Why do I have guns? Because of people like Taylor Lorenz

by Tom Knighton  
(Townhall) - Former *New York Times* and *Washington Post* "journalist" Taylor Lorenz is not a very good person, but I want to start by making it very clear that the headline is not a threat against her. I wish her absolutely no physical or even psychological harm from any kind of violent encounter.

No, I carry a gun because of people like her, but not so much because I'm looking to hurt them.

I'm looking to make sure me and mine don't get hurt by the kind of people who want to impress people like her.

As you may have heard, Lorenz embarrassed herself by fawning over United-Healthcare CEO Brian Thompson's alleged killer. Luigi Mangione reportedly shot Thompson with a privately made firearm with a privately made suppressor on the streets of one of the most anti-gun cities in the country.

Mangione is someone that, apparently, many women find to be a good-looking guy. He doesn't do it for me, but then again, dudes never will.

Lorenz, however, celebrated the murder

from the start, and in her latest comments during an interview with CNN, she literally called Mangione "moral."

Yes, the guy accused of killing another, who Lorenz believes did it, was the moral one.

A lot of people agree with her.

This is sick and twisted, especially as this kind of celebratory attitude encourages others to kill people they disagree with or simply don't like because they did something "bad..."

And now we know what Lorenz wants to see happen to "bad people."

In this day and age, there are a ton of people who think like this. They're the people firebombing Tesla dealerships or plotting to kill President Donald Trump or Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro because they don't like what they believe these people represent.

People like Lorenz celebrate the murder of people they don't like, which feeds into the idea that the ends justify even the most violent means. It doesn't matter whether there are non-violent means available; they still support violence.





## Chicago PD de-authorizes Sig P320s

*Chicago (Crime File News)* - In a move that's rocking the rank and file, the Chicago Police Department has abruptly banned the use of the once-trusted Sig/Sauer P320 pistol as an authorized duty weapon. The order came down swiftly, leaving thousands of officers scrambling. The official reason? Alarming reports that the weapon can fire without the trigger being pulled.

For years now the gun-maker has brushed off horror stories about negligent discharges, usually blaming human error. After all, it's easier to blame the gun than admit to a deadly mistake...

The Sig Sauer P320 has a documented pattern of discharges—many occurring while holstered. Lawsuits are piling up, and the manufacturer continues to deny fault, but the incidents are too numerous, too consistent, and too dangerous to ignore.

In a city already struggling to staff its police force and control spiraling violence, CPD brass made the call: better to pull the plug than risk another injury or death. The P320 is now officially de-authorized.

*A new Cook Co. State's Attorney that actually wants to keep violent criminals off the streets?*

## Problem-plagued electronic monitoring program has become 'a serious threat to public safety' top Cook County prosecutor says

*Chicago (CWB Chicago)* —Cook County's electronic monitoring program has become "a serious threat to public safety" because the office of Chief Judge Timothy Evans, which recently assumed responsibility for its operation, is not equipped or prepared to handle it.



That's not us talking. That's Cook County State's Attorney Eileen O'Neill Burke (*pictured*), who instructed the county's prosecutors to publicly object anytime a judge places a defendant on an ankle monitor instead of granting the state's request to keep them in jail.

After years of effort, Cook County Sheriff Tom Dart successfully transferred responsibility for the electronic monitoring program on April 1. Dart has repeatedly

said the county is misusing the program by putting violent and dangerous offenders on ankle monitors when the system was designed for low-level offenses like drug possession.

Evans' office has operated a separate electronic monitoring program for many years, but it has generally been used for defendants who are given nighttime curfews, not for 24/7 monitoring.

In a memo to her staff, O'Neill Burke said Evans' electronic monitoring staff members are not law enforcement officers, and they cannot make arrests. If an electronic monitoring participant goes AWOL, the top prosecutor said, Evans' staff must "call 911 or seek assistance from law enforcement" and then take the matter to court.



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**No May Meeting!**

*Thank heavens CPD screens applicants!*

## Chicago PD applicants admit to major crimes in hiring process

*Chicago (CWB Chicago)* — Two brothers have been charged with the armed sexual assaults of two women in 2016 after one of the men recently applied to become a Chicago police officer and admitted to the crimes during a lie detector exam. Incredibly, the men are not the only people who've allegedly admitted to committing violent crimes during recent police application interviews.

Stephone Arnold, 30, his 35-year-old brother, Sherrow Harris, and their now-deceased cousin developed a scheme in which Arnold posed as a robber and "forced" the other two men to rape the women at gunpoint in September 2016, prosecutors say...

Second City Cop, a blog that covers the city's policing matters from a cop's perspective, recently reported that another applicant admitted to robbing a Dollar General near 67th and Western in 2017.



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*They knew the area well...*

## Teenage armed robbers arrested after fleeing to juvenile detention center

*Chicago (CWB Chicago)* — Two teenagers who robbed four men in Logan Square on Friday morning were arrested less than 20 minutes later at (wait for it!) the county's juvenile justice center.

*He probably had it coming...*

## Masked man found murdered on Far South Side; nobody called 911

*Chicago (CWB Chicago)* — An 18-year-old man was found murdered, shot multiple times and lying alone in a Far South Side alley early Saturday morning, even though nobody reported hearing gunfire in the area.

The victim, who remained unidentified, was wearing a ski mask when officers responding to a "person down" found him in the 13000 block of South Avenue M around 1:18 a.m.

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Membership application on back page of GunNews





## STOP BUYING MORE GUNS

by Nick Klementzos

(GSL) - Nobody wants to get killed by a criminal. Most of us who own or carry guns do so to defend ourselves and our families from violent criminal attack.

Too many new and long-time gun owners alike fall for advertising hype and wishful thinking that suggests if you just buy this new pistol/rifle/shotgun, you'll become a master class shooter without trying. In the end, too many folks just end up with a big collection of guns and a lack of skill sets needed to use any of them well for personal defense.

Stop falling for that hype. If you're essentially a collector seeking the Holy Grail of guns, stop. Quite honestly, buying another gun doesn't make you a better defensive shooter any more than buying another fire extinguisher makes you a better firefighter.

It takes a little bit of time, effort and yes, money to learn modern defensive pistolcraft. You can't get it for free by watching hip hop and Tik Tok videos, or buy pulling out the plastic to buy the latest, greatest new tactical wondergun.



Like learning to swim, defensive shooting skills can save your life. People spend crazy time and money on their golf game or other pricey hobbies like attending professional sports. Many of these same people won't spend a weekend or two learning how to avoid or survive a criminal attack. It's easier to tell themselves the threat of crime doesn't really exist or that it always happens to someone else, somewhere else.

They will buy that new gun and have no holster to keep their latest pistol securely on their body. A carry rig that allows safe drawing and reholstering without muzzling yourself or those around you. I recommend Safariland ALS retention holsters but many good kydex holsters will work if they'll keep the gun in the holster. Of course any carry rig that will allow your gun to slip out and fall into the blue water of a hot porta-potty when you drop your pants should be a no-go for you. And stay away from Blackhawk "Serpa" holsters.

Your "carry belt" should be at least 1.5" wide

and stiff enough to support the weight of your Roscoe and gear. It's gonna cost a few bucks too but it'll last until it shrinks in the dryer.

Buy a couple of magazine pouches to hold your extra magazines securely. Speaking of which, make sure you have a minimum of three magazines, and four is much better.

Other supplies needed? Buy electronic ear protection to help you hear your instructor(s) during range time. Shooting glasses with wrap-around protection offer the greatest eye protection, and buy an extra pair. One is none. Two is one. Three is one and a spare.

Now that you have your pistol and support gear, start looking to begin your education into the art of modern pistolcraft.

There are highly-skilled and experienced instructors out there. Sadly, the majority are neither. Look for highly respected, well-trained instructors - ones who can communicate well to those new to shooting. Research them. Do they have a website? Pictures will often tell the tale of how many people they're training and how they do it. Is poor muzzle control or other questionable safety issues shown in the pictures?

Read reviews from their students and talk with their past students.

Look for instructors who continue their education and who carry everyday, not those teaching theoreticals or who think they know everything already because they drove a tank or truck in the Army long ago.



Team teaching and plentiful instructors in a class are a huge good sign. As are courses that go well beyond mandated minimums.

Once you've learned the basics at some good classes, you can seek out more advanced instruction from nationally-known instructors to further refine your basic skills sets, eliminate wasted movement and advance your mastery of a life-skill that can save your life and that of your loved ones.

The bottom line: Do you want to be a more competent shooter or just a prolific accumulator of guns?



Stop chasing that new magical pistol that will make you look cooler, more tacticoool and most importantly, better looking to the opposite sex. Along with everything else those marketing departments try to make you believe.

Quality training from dedicated, skilled instructors costs some money and some time.

Get over it. Spend the money - after all, you can't take it with you if you die. That goes double if you die because some mope killed you after failed to notice their approach or you did something really stupid like trying to defend property with deadly force... or drew your own gun on a bad guy already pointing his gun at you.



You've probably heard that in a critical situation, you will never "rise to the occasion" but instead you will default to your level of training. It's so very true.

If you don't even know what you don't know, you may find yourself in the loss column against even a rookie punk adversary.

On a side note, by taking classes, you will meet other high-quality, like-minded individuals. These people might even become friends - good friends - the kind of friends who can save your life or help you move.

And who can't use more like-minded friends, particularly those with critical life skills and a willingness to help? Of course, you have to reciprocate, but it's time well spent with people you like.

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## Learning from the mistakes of others

by John Boch

(GSL) - For Spring Break, our family stayed in a rental house above the small town of Marshall, North Carolina. Relatives brought us to rural NC. We had no idea of the widespread storm damage remaining in places until we hiked down a steep, quarter-plus mile trail to one end of "Main Street".



Once there, we saw the devastation that Hurricane Helene inflicted on the town. How bad was it?



Bad. Catastrophic bad.



Marshall, NC Fire Department. Floodwaters came up over the top of the doors, completely destroying the first floor and contents.

Out front of the boarded up fire department we walked up to a couple of men who turned out to be volunteer firefighters. Ever curious, I asked about what happened.

In short, they had a lot of rain ahead of Helene. Then hurricane winds toppled trees into power and phone lines, snapped utility poles and tore up a lot of roofs. Flying debris broke a lot of windows too. Of course cell phone service stopped.

Along with the winds, Helene dumped about 20" to 30" of rain in the span of a day and a half. Floodwaters from the river running adjacent to the town flooded "Main Street" with 12 to 15 feet of water, rising at a rate of *an inch or two per minute*. Those who didn't leave early on found themselves stuck and their cars destroyed (see photo at top of story).

In the span of hours, the

region as a whole became blockaded. For two, three or sometimes four days stranded motorists found themselves forced to "camp out" in their vehicles. Roads and Interstates were blocked with trees, wrecks, wash-outs - and cars that ran out of gas. By the third day, those motorists without any provisions like extra water or snacks were very miserable, especially after they ran out of gas. Some drank contaminated water and became sick, others suffered issues from going without their prescription medications for days.

The local fire department on Main Street wisely moved their large apparatus to the hills overlooking the town ahead of Helene. They lost most everything else on the first floor.

Police and fire radio communications were degraded. Those without radios (Amateur, GMRS, CB or otherwise) were completely cut off from communicating with others.

It took about five days for the first fuel to arrive... for first responders. It took a few more days for fuels for commercial sale to arrive.

Adding to that, inept state officials limited access in and out in some regions to help promote "safety."

Biden/Harris' FEMA didn't ride to the rescue either. Instead, volunteers, veterans groups and local people came together and made all the difference in facilitating the recovery and looking out for those most impacted.

While many got power restored in a week or two, some of the more rural properties had to wait as long as 10 weeks. That was with utility linemen and their trucks coming from hundreds of miles around to help.

Once fuel trucks made it in to some places, people often waited for an hour or more for a ration. Sometimes people lined up for hours on a mere rumor that a gas truck was coming. And it didn't.

### Mistakes made.

One guy said he failed to fuel up his F250 pickup truck ahead of the impending storm. "Silly me. I had 40 miles of fuel when I set out looking a way out to get to my relatives' place in Virginia to get supplies and fuel." Silly him, indeed. In the end, given the plentiful road obstructions, he didn't need 40 miles of driving to figure out he wasn't leaving town.

The other guy? He had a generator for power outages. But he only had two gallons of fuel besides the generator's tank and he ended up using much of that in a chainsaw to clear trees on his property and on nearby roads. "I ran out three days into it. I had several gas cans, but they were all empty. They aren't empty today."

At least he learned from his mistakes. Speaking of learning: The few who didn't have a generator before the storm pretty much all have one now. Some have two. Most have ample spare fuel now and other storm cleanup gear including chainsaws.

One wonders if the stranded motorists learned to keep several bottles of water in their car along with some shelf-stable foods or snacks. Lifeboat rations will keep a person going for three days easy. Peanuts and trail mix are stable enough to store in your car. Or you can throw in an MRE or two if you're hard-core. Flashlights, batteries, work gloves, comfy boots or shoes and some dry clothes might also be good things to have in your car (or in your kids' car). A wool blanket would be a smart addition too. Medications might also come in very handy too, especially critical prescription meds.

Those with a modicum of emergency preparedness weathered the days following the torrential rain and hurricane winds much better as a whole, either in their storm-battered homes or in their cars. They could tend to self-care and disaster recovery instead of worrying about finding some food and water - along with fuel. The prepared could communicate with their friends and family, and coordinate their efforts. They could also listen to radio reports as well. The unprepared were miserable, cold, thirsty, hungry and in some cases sick.

Which subset of people do you wish to place yourself and your family? Team "Refugee" or Team Prepared? The choice is yours to make.

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Domestic terror, fascist violence, assassination games... it's escalating

# Note to the Left: Don't start anything you can't finish

by Tom Knighton (Townhall) - The idea of leftist violence isn't exactly new for any of us. We all remember the "Summer of Love" in 2020 after Saint George Floyd died during his final arrest, this time for forgery, and everyone on the left lost their bloody minds.

But then they settled down after the election because they were in charge again. They referred to themselves as the grown-ups, as if they didn't just have an epic temper tantrum that left almost every major city in flames.

Their side botched everything and alienated Elon Musk, a long-time supporter, who threw in with the Trump campaign.

We saw two assassination attempts against Trump during the presidential campaign, then domestic terrorism against Tesla dealerships and vandalism of privately owned Teslas without a concern even over the owner's personal politics.

What's more, Democratic leadership like Sen. Chuck Schumer won't denounce the violence, but he will denounce Musk for trying to stamp out waste, fraud, and abuse.

And it gets worse.

Townhall's own Sarah Arnold reported on Tuesday that a study found that 55 percent of Democrats think assassinating President Donald Trump is justifiable.

In other words, violence in service to the cause is righteous.

The problem is that they're on the road to starting something they're not going to be able to finish.

Their thirst for violence

comes only because they haven't really faced repercussions for it thus far. Sure, some people have been arrested, but a lot of people who are celebrating this don't seem to understand that. The media isn't really amplifying those arrests, so they're ignored.

And I suspect that, in time, they'll escalate it.



There will probably be more plans to assassinate the president. Hopefully, those plans get thwarted by law enforcement, but I won't be surprised if at least a few get close enough to be a real threat, though I suspect the Secret Service won't be as careless this time around and will do a better job of dealing with would-be assassins who do get that close.

Still, sooner or later, I suspect the left will step it up.

Should that happen, they'll regret every decision they've ever made in their lives.

President Donald Trump has built a team around him who, for the most part, have seemed to buy into his agenda and goals. That means the full power of the Department of Justice will descend upon domestic terror groups like the fiery hand of God. It means the Department of Defense getting involved the moment it crosses the line from "riot" to "insurrection."

And considering how the left acts about January 6, that

bar shouldn't take long to clear.

When that happens, they will have started something they can't finish. The moment leftist groups start acting like terrorist groups, they'll be treated as such and cease to exist as anything but a historical footnote of what not to do to advance your political goals.



It also means ordinary Americans getting even sicker of the leftist nonsense and making their voices heard in the voting booths across this country.

Democrats can walk it back, though. They can denounce the violence. They can tell people to stop defacing other people's cars simply because they don't like the guy running the company that made it. They can act in a responsible manner and knock off all the stupidity, including the lawfare, and act like the adults they pretend to be.

They won't, though, and then woe be unto them should things escalate.



## They're now upset about finger guns NBA fines player for 'gun' hand gesture

Miami (AP) — Ja Morant showed off an imaginary gun. The NBA hit back with a real fine.



## Hiding behind locked doors Colorado's gov signs sweeping gun control measure including semi-auto ban

From Senator Lisa Frizell on X: "Behind this locked door & away from the public eye, @GovofCO is signing SB25-003: Semiautomatic Firearms and Rapid-Fire Devices- a flagrant assault on our Second Amendment rights. Witnessing this radical attack was invite only & it wasn't listed on the Governor's public calendar."

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few companies that excels at working with people with disabilities.

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# Armed American

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## CCW holder shot car burglar in Chicago

**Chicago (CWB Chicago)** — A concealed carry license holder shot a man who was trying to break into his car on the Far South Side overnight, according to Chicago police.

The would-be burglar initially called 911 around 1:02 a.m., claiming that two men shot him in a drive-by in the 13400 block of South Green Bay. He even described the men who shot him and their getaway car.

But another 911 call, this one from the concealed carry holder, soon followed. He told police that he saw two men breaking into his car, and he ultimately shot one of them in both legs.

The injured burglar, 21, was taken to the University of Chicago Hospital in fair condition. CPD said he is now in custody for auto burglary.



*Does stupid hurt? It should.*

## Would-be burglar picked poorly

**Martinsville, IN (CBS4)** — A homeowner allegedly shot and killed a would-be burglar in Martinsville on Sunday.

According to a press release from the Martinsville Police Department, officers were called to the 500 block of West Pike Street around 1:30 p.m. to investigate an attempted burglary. When police arrived at the scene, they determined a homeowner shot and killed a would-be burglar.

## Intruder gets shot; cops arrest homeowner!

**Lansing, MI (WLN5)** — Jackson police arrested a 40-year-old homeowner after they say he shot and injured a man in his home who was not supposed to be there.

According to police, officers were called to the 300 block of North Gorham St at 5:44 Monday morning for a reported shooting...

Police tell 6 News they believe the man is a 47-year-old homeless person who had earlier broken into the home through a basement window.



*Nothing good happens after midnight*

## Masked car burglars approach wrong guy

**Shreveport, LA (KSLA)** — Authorities have identified the burglary suspect who was shot when a homeowner called 911 to report that two masked individuals were breaking into vehicles on the street and stealing a car parked at a nearby residence.

The other suspect left in the stolen vehicle, but abandoned it after traveling a short distance, then ran away. He is wanted by police...

"Fearing for his and his family's safety, the caller discharged his firearm twice, striking 18-year-old Jamelvin Lewis in the upper body," police Cpl. Chris Bordelon said.

## Victim selection fail

**Hardeeville, SC (WSAV)** — The deceased subject of a Monday night shooting incident is a suspected multiple offender, the Hardeeville Police Department (HPD) says.

According to the department, officers responded on March 24 to a report of a male subject attempting to remove a victim out of their car at gunpoint. Witnesses shared the subject's direction of travel by foot on Whyte Hardee Boulevard.

Soon thereafter, gunshots rang out around 20750 Whyte Hardee Blvd and two male subjects, with one found to have suffered gunshot wounds. After attempting to administer life-saving measures, the injured subject died on the scene.

## 'Protect yourself ladies'

Gun-haters freak out when woman talks about carrying her gun while running on Tik Tok: 'Open carrying in suburbia is insane'

(*NY Post*) - She's shooting down haters.

A female jogger is firing back after being criticized for carrying a gun while working out in public.

Mikaela Dieppa made her open carry admission in a TikTok clip posted earlier this week, which has clocked up more than 4.2 million views.

The mother-of-one, who lives in South Carolina, initially showed off her gun holster as she detailed what she wears while jogging.

"[This is my] run outfit of the day. I'm open carrying," Dieppa declared, flaunting her fashionable fit ahead of her workout. "My holster is from Amazon, my sports bra and shorts are from Lululemon... and my favorite running shoes, I'm wearing my HOKAs."

She defended her decision to be openly armed while exercising, saying: "For all the people who say I should be concealed carrying when I am on my run, you're probably not a female who has men slow down and stop to watch them running."

Dieppa claimed that leering men quickly leave her alone when they realize she's carrying a gun.

"Protect yourself ladies," the locked and loaded brunette captioned the clip.

Dieppa told The Post on Saturday: "It's not that I'm scared or paranoid, it's a fact that women get assaulted in broad daylight all the time, even when taking precautions."

As for the gun, the runner says: "I'd rather have it and not need it than need it and not have it."



Mikaela Dieppa.

*Democrat political operatives with bylines: Only 31% of Americans trust them*

## Big Media falls to a(nother) record low in public trust

(*ZeroHedge*) - We have previously discussed polling showing the media at record lows in public trust. Well, the latest survey from Gallup shows that the media hit another all-time low. What is most impressive is that plummeting readers, revenues, and layoffs have done little to convince the mainstream media that the problem is not the public but themselves... Some 69 percent of Americans now say that they have no or little trust in the media.

From Gallop: "About two-thirds of Americans in the 1970s trusted the "mass media — such as newspapers, TV and radio" either "a great deal" or "a fair amount" to "[report] the news fully, accurately and fairly." By the next measurement in 1997, confidence had fallen to 53%, and it has gradually trended downward since 2003. Americans are now divided into rough thirds, with 31% trusting the media a great deal or a fair amount, 33% saying they do "not [trust it] very much," and 36%, up from 6% in 1972, saying they have no trust at all in it."



### HERE'S A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE ON SCHOOL SHOOTINGS

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We defend our music festivals.....with guns.

We defend our children.....with a sign that reads:

**"THIS IS A GUN FREE ZONE"**

...and then call someone with a gun to come help in an emergency.

## When democracy turns to tyranny...



The armed citizen *still* gets to vote.



## Freedom's Forum

### AG Bondi's Second Amendment Task Force at DOJ has potential for big changes in IL

Thank heavens for the Trump administration. Not only has Team Trump shut down our border to illegal immigrants, he's working on making America great again.

Part of that is tackling state and local governments who think they can pick and choose which laws to enforce and which to ignore. They ignore the Constitution when it comes to the Second Amendment. And they ignore federal immigration law, passing laws to make Illinois a 'sanctuary' state.

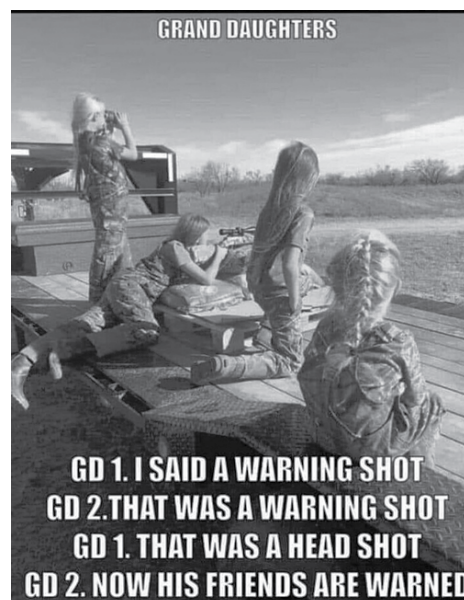
Now that these radicals running our state government in Springfield have "fooled around" on offering our state as a "sanctuary" for illegals, it may cost them dearly in lost federal monies. That's the "find out" part of the FAFO equation.

Basically our state's political leadership has chosen to put illegals over American citizens, spending billions upon them and sheltering even the worst of the worst criminals among them from apprehension by the feds and subsequent deportation. And now that poor public policy may cost them billions.

Moreover, AG Pam Bondi's Second Amendment Task Force may come after radical gun control schemes in Illinois. If that comes to pass - and at this point that's a big if - it could result in more pressure upon the state either via the courts or just as likely federal funding.

While common sense has long failed the radical Democrats running Illinois, holding their feet to the fire with federal funding on the line might bring them around in their thinking when it comes to both illegal aliens and respecting the 2nd Amendment. As a famous Land of Lincoln politician once said, "When they feel the heat, they see the light."

It can't happen soon enough.



## THE SECOND AMENDMENT



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*What is wrong with these people?*

### SURVEY: 55% of self-identified Leftists say killing Trump is justifiable

*(The Federalist)* - The unhinged left, fueled by Trump Derangement Syndrome and seething hatred for Elon Musk, is trending more violent, according to a new study that finds political violence targeting President Donald Trump and his billionaire adviser is "becoming increasingly normalized."

The report, produced by the Network of Contagion Research Institute (NCRI) in partnership with Rutgers University's Social Perception Lab, finds a broader "assassination culture" appears to be "emerging within segments of the U.S. public on the extreme left, with expanding targets now including figures such as Donald Trump."

Less than a year after assassination attempts on then-presidential candidate Trump and the literally explosive violence against Musk's Tesla electric vehicles, it's no secret that leftists are ratcheting up violent rhetoric and actions. The more troubling trend is that an "assassination culture" isn't just coming from the "fringe" left.

"These attitudes are not fringe — they reflect an emergent assassination culture, grounded in far-left authoritarianism and increasingly normalized in digital discourse," states the report, titled, "Assassination Culture: How Burning Teslas and Killing Billionaires Became a Meme Aesthetic for Political Violence."

"The findings signal a threat to political stability and public safety," the reports warns.

#### 'Widespread Justification for Lethal Violence'

NCRI, an independent institution working to "identify and forecast emerging threats in the era of information disorder," finds the pattern is building on a broader trend discussed in two reports in December that analyzed "how viral social media narratives were legitimizing political violence, particularly in the aftermath of the United Healthcare CEO's assassination."

"The reports found widespread justification for lethal violence — including assassi-

nation — among younger, highly online, and ideologically left-aligned users," the authors of the latest study write.



Here are some of the troubling numbers, according to the report:

**Murder Justification:** 31% and 38% of respondents stated it would be at least somewhat justified to murder Elon Musk and President Trump, respectively. (These effects were largely driven by respondents that self-identified as left of center, with 48% and 55% at least somewhat justifying murder for Elon Musk and President Trump, respectively, indicating significantly higher justification for violence against these figures.)

**Property Destruction:** Nearly 40% of respondents (39.8%) stated it is at least somewhat acceptable (or more) to destroy a Tesla dealership in protest.

**Psychological/Ideological Correlations with Assassination Culture:** These beliefs are highly correlated with one another, as well as with the justification of the murder of the UnitedHealthcare CEO and hyper-partisan left-wing ideology. (This suggests that support for violence is part of a broader assassination culture, underpinned by psychological and ideological factors.)

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Our thanks goes out to Oleg Volk for his continued permission to use his creative work to help us in our gun rights advocacy work. You can see more of them at his websites:

**a-human-right.com**  
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ACTUAL GUN SAFETY... Once again, Illinois is an outlier

## More and more states creating formal student firearm safety & education programs

(NRA-ILA) - Providing firearm safety training opportunities to school-aged children is not a novel concept, although utilizing legislative solutions is a newer approach to this old idea. Prior to the 1970s, it was quite standard nationwide for schools to provide variations of firearm or hunter-related safety courses as part of their curriculums. Unfortunately, a trend emerged of polarizing politics over educational merit, and most formalized firearm safety educational opportunities for our nation's youth had been extinguished in schools by the early 2000s.

As legislative sessions hit their crossover marks and begin to wind down in many states, it has been refreshing to see renewed trends and traction in legislative efforts to help reintroduce the concept of youth firearm safety in schools to address this critical knowledge gap. This year alone, there have been various renditions of bills introduced among the states ranging from mandatory to optional training with varied and scalable models utilizing firearm and hunter safety components. A few states to note:

Georgia's HB 451 would allow public schools to offer hunter safety education courses in grades six through twelve. In Kansas, HB 2104 aims to standardize firearm safety education programs in school districts, with the goal of promoting student safety and teaching appropriate responses when encountering firearms.

Michigan HB 4285 would mandate the development and availability of a model firearm safety instruction program for students in grades six through twelve with topics covered to include proper firearm usage, safe handling, different types of firearms, and safe hunting practices.

In Utah, Governor Cox signed a bill that would make gun safety lessons mandatory for students.

Also, last month Arkansas Governor Sarah Sanders signed Act 229 into law, which requires public and open enrollment public charter schools to provide age-appropriate firearm safety instruction beginning during the 2025-2026 school year.

The aim of these laws is to educate and protect children, clear and simple. Demonizing the ever-increasing community of lawful and safe gun owners by way of caricature in media does not help keep children safe. The very best defense against the weakening of our Second Amendment rights is instilling the next generation with the knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary in a culture where firearms are a normal and accepted part of life. These legislative efforts to bring back firearm safety education to schools are an important downpayment not just on safety but on restoring and reaffirming America's traditional values in education.

## MA gun club defeats the US Army in 'Landmark' range access lawsuit

(Shooting News Weekly) - A small civilian gun club located just 50 miles northwest of Boston has won a "landmark" lawsuit against nearby Fort Devens for violating their rights and federal law by denying them access to military rifle ranges at reasonable rates.

The Fort Devens Rifle & Pistol Club, Inc., filed suit in 2022 claiming that Fort officials were charging range fees in violation of federal law, according to club treasurer Jim Gettens, a retired attorney who assisted with the legal fight.

Gettens said Monday that his club's victory was a major "David vs. Goliath" event.

"They were running an illegal profiteering racket," he



said. "That's the best way to describe it. This was a landmark case." Gettens and other club members noticed that their problems with the range began only three days after Joe Biden took office in 2022, which they said would never have happened under President Donald Trump's administration.

At issue was a little-known section of U.S. code that requires the Army to make rifle and pistol ranges available for civilian use as long as it does not interfere with military training. The law prohibits officials from charging exorbitant fees for range access.



## AG Bondi approves gun rights restoration for Mel Gibson, others

(Breitbart) - [T]he New York Times reported that Attorney General Pam Bondi approved the restoration of gun rights to ten people, one of whom is actor Mel Gibson.

## PLCAA BE DAMNED: Illinois judge lets July 4 parade shooting lawsuit against S&W to move forward

(SAF) - The Second Amendment Foundation is calling a decision by Lake County, Ill., Judge Jorge L. Ortiz to allow a wrongful death lawsuit against Smith & Wesson to proceed "outrageous."

We'll see if it's just talk

## AG Pam Bondi creates 2A Task Force at DOJ

(Breitbart) - Attorney General Pam Bondi announced the creation of a Second Amendment Task Force on Tuesday, using a memo to tell DOJ employees the task force was created to prevent 2A rights from being treated like second class rights.

TIP: Always pay cash for guns & ammo

## NY approves ammo purchase tracking through credit cards

(Breitbart) - New York Gov. Kathy Hochul (D) signed new controls into law last week, including one that allows credit cards to track ammunition purchases.

She described the ammunition control as one that "[refines] how credit card companies track purchases at gun dealerships."

Hochul noted, "This gives law enforcement the opportunity to find out exactly who may be stockpiling ammunition. And this is an indicator that something untoward could be happening, so it's an important data point for us to have."



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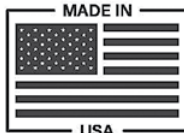
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Are you a man of fewer, standardized calibers?

## A man of few calibers

by Ken Frey

I have two good friends. We shoot and go hunting together sometimes. Each knows the other well and they are friends too. Both my friends have two very different ways of looking at firearms.

Joe has just about every caliber gun you could imagine from the diminutive .25 ACP up to the elephant-dropping .455 Lott. If Joe likes a firearm, he buys it. It doesn't matter what caliber or gauge it is. We often tease him because he doesn't have a punt gun yet!

Guns are working art by themselves and Joe has many beautiful works of art. One can never have too many guns but what about too many calibers?

Meanwhile Larry has just two calibers .45 Colt and .410. Over the years Larry's collection has grown very little. When Larry comes shooting he brings the same couple guns.

Larry has a snubbie 5-shot .45LC caliber revolver for his carry gun. A lever gun chambered in the same .45LC takes care of larger game. Moreover, he uses his .410 Remington 1100 for his small game hunting. The only newer gun he has is the Taurus Judge revolving carbine rifle and that's the extent of Larry's gun collection.

When we go shooting or hunting, Joe never brings the same caliber or gun. Sometimes he'll bring common caliber guns, other times he brings rarer specimens, like a Ruger in .204. Joe says, "Each caliber has a purpose and I like to change it up when we shoot".

We all hunt all manner of furry woodland critters and birds. Larry does just fine with his .410 despite squirrels, rabbits, pheasants, turkeys, ducks and geese with shotguns. Joe uses what he thinks is "an appropriate gauge for the game" while Larry hunts with his .410 shotgun and 45LC rifle. He uses his lever action rifle to hunt larger game like yotes and deer. Next season Larry wants to hunt with his new Judge. I think it would be cool to hunt with it!

I've asked Larry why he uses a .410 and not some other gauge like the ubiquitous 12ga.? He told me, "I like a low weight fast handling shotgun and the light recoil the .410 has". He takes just as much game as I do with my 16 gauge. Larry hammers ducks and on more than one occasion has outshot Joe with his 10 gauge!

Mr. "Man of Few Calibers" Larry reloads. Joe does not. Larry has boxes of his two favorite calibers always

loaded and ready to go. And his reloading table is so neat and orderly.

On the other hand, Joe does not reload. Joe's ammo collection is a mish mosh of brands, half filled boxes of this and that. Sometimes Joe has to stop shooting some of his firearms for lack of ammo.

Larry has resisted the temptation to acquire other caliber or gauges. He told me, "I'm very happy with the calibers I have chosen and don't see the need for anything else." Intimately knowing your firearm, what it can and can't do means your proficiency and accuracy will increase. Which is evident as Larry usually out scores us both when target shooting.

I can see both friends' points of view. After all, I have many different calibers and gauges but nowhere near what Joe has. I like getting something new every once in a while and don't mind having so many different calibers but I really like Larry's take in keeping it simple and using a caliber that you really enjoy. Sometimes I think about downsizing my calibers into a more manageable size like Joe.

What calibers do you have? Which camp do you fall into, are you a Larry, Joe or do you fall somewhere in between like me?



PICA moved self-defense back to the 19th Century in the Land of Lincoln

## Lever Actions: A PICA Alternative?

by Damon Williams

(GSL) - Over the last few years, there has been a niche market for "tactical" lever action rifles featuring M-lok rails, lights, red dots, and furniture mounted ammunition carriers. Before PICA, I dismissed this marketing technique as a novelty. In short, it was my opinion was that dressing up a lever action with "tacticoool" accessories was like wearing a tuxedo to a square dance.

Since the rise of the Illinois 2A iron curtain, I have had to take a second look at these modernized lever guns. The lever action is one of the fastest cycling manual actions available on the market today.

Looking at the lever gun market choices offered to oppressed Land of Lincoln residents, these are divided into two groups: rifle caliber lever guns, and Lever Action Pistol Caliber Carabines (LAPCC).

Rifle caliber offerings are a trade-off. You get exponentially more fire power at the sacrifice of ammunition capacity and an increased distance on the lever throw to accommodate the longer cartridge. These powerful rounds are not practical for home defense, because not only will it punch a hole through an intruder, it may punch a hole in your innocent neighbor two houses down as well.

LAPCC are better suited for personal defense. A LAPCC carries twice the magazine capacity in calibers that are less likely to unintentionally harm the neighbors. Their tubular magazines hold a capacity of 10-15 rounds. By comparison, PICA-legal semi-auto PCC options are supposed to be limited to ten anyway.

Not only that, but if revolvers are your thing, you can standardize your ammo. For example, a .357 Magnum lever gun hits like a truck and that .357 revolver on your hip is nothing to sneeze at either.

There are other offerings in the LAPCC market recently, mostly following the Model 92 design. Most of these have not been on the market long enough to prove their reliability nor are their warranty details made well known. So, let's just stick with the established manufacturers.

**Henry:** Henry has a variety of lever offerings in various calibers. Quality and customer service are superior. Take pride in buying American. Henry spends a lot of advertising dollars telling you about these features. With such a large advertising budget, you're going to pay premium prices for a run of the mill pistol caliber lever gun with better value options out there.

**Marlin:** Now owned by Ruger, Marlin quality has returned to their historical standards; American made. The action is smooth, fit

and finish are superior. I have competed with a Marlin in Cowboy Action Shooting. I've seen matches won with Marlins; I like Marlins. They are competitive out of the box. Average retail is around \$1000.

**Rossi:** Lifetime guaranteed by Taurus, the Rossi Model 92 has been around for decades. I started Cowboy Shooting with a Rossi. While my Rossi is semi-retired, I still love to carry it on my property for coyotes and protection from any two-legged predatory mammals. Its light weight balances beautifully. It has a compact receiver that I can wrap my hand around while carrying it. Budget priced around \$700. While quality has gotten better, to get peak performance from this model the action needs polished, and the springs need lightened. The running joke on the Cowboy range was to "Shoot it like you're mad at it." The last 3/8" of lever throw pops the lifter into place. If you fail to bump the end of the action - called short cycling - you fail to feed the next round. This results in a "click" instead of "bang".

**Uberti:** Italian made imports, replicas of the 1860 Henry, Winchester 1866 and 1873. Not cheap; retail starts around \$1200 before another \$600-\$700 in after-market modifications. These are preferred by Cowboy Action shooters for good reason, their toggle link design, dating back to the 19th century, are readily adapted to run fast. In the early 2000s Uberti dominated the Cowboy Action market, so when the modifications started to evolve, Ubertis were the predominant platform for which the after-market parts were designed to fit. This prevalence carries on today. The modified platform starts with a short-stroke kit. These kits shorten the lever throw by 30-35%. Performing the same amount of work with less leverage, other modifications must be made to keep the action smooth and effortless. This requires the replacement of several springs, the removal of mass from internal parts, and the tuning the whole package. In cases of drastic modifications, this forces competitors to reload using the softest of primers.

The result: a trained operator can affix his thumb to the side of the receiver and work the action by pivoting the wrist while flicking his middle ring and pinky fingers; setting the index finger to trip the trigger as the hand swings back. A trained shooter using this technique can run the action fast enough to confuse bystanders to believe that the shooter is using a semi-auto.

Rich in American history, the lever gun is an icon to firearms evolution. While PICA has set long gun options back to the 19th century, the modern market still allows these relics to be viable choices in self-defense options, including for playing cowboys and terrorists.

## State Line Rifle Association

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**111 E. Main Street**  
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Communication, coordination, calling for help and so much more...

## Create your own radio network

by John Boch

The best preparedness strategies leverage dual-purpose items for use in both good times and in emergencies. For instance, rain barrels virtue signal your "green" bonafides to nosy neighbors, while at the same time discretely storing 50 gallons of water suitable for filtration and drinking if the public water supply fails.

Modern hand-held radios share this dual-purpose role too. Family outings and events, vacation trips, hunting trips and group endeavors can all benefit from a common, easy-to-use radio network unifying the participants with instant communications. Sure, most adults and teens have a cell phone, but you can't instantly notify everyone with a cell phone, even if everyone had a decent cellular signal.

Today's hand-held radios are affordable, powerful, lightweight, compact and easy to use. Moreover, some frequencies don't even require any FCC licensing!

No, you're not going to communicate 30+ miles between hand-held radios without some fancy hardware between them. In the real world, those Walmart or Bass Pro FRS bubble-pack radios will get you a half-mile - 880 yards - *on a really good day*.

Instead, buy \$25ish Baofeng UV-5R radios with a better quality whip antennas. Unlock them then program them for the Multi-Use Radio System (MURS - no license required). With these you can communicate *reliably* for a mile plus, and under better conditions, twice that isn't unheard of.

If that's a family hike, tourist stop or a trip to the amusement park, or kids playing in the neighborhood, that's probably enough of coverage to keep everyone in the loop.

For more mobile applications, like a group road trip or a shopping trip when utilities are down and looters might be out, instant communication between vehicles will prove a big aid to safely and efficiently conducting your business.

To further expand your hand-held's reach when in a car, buy \$20-30 external, magnetic mount antenna for each vehicle. Screw that into your walkie-talkie antenna jack, plant the magnetic mount on the roof, and you're golden for two miles easy, and four on many flat Interstates in IL.

### Closer to home.

In your neighborhood, nearby residents with radios can help coordinate damage assessment and storm recovery - and security - especially if cell phones are down or swamped with people trying to call friends and family.

Moreover, depending on your local public safety radio frequencies and radio types, you may still be able to monitor your local police, fire, EMS and weather spotters with the UV-5R, thanks to its scanner function.

With a \$35 10-year General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS) radio license, you can legally use the GMRS frequencies. Even better, your entire household can use that license call sign. The application process is fairly easy and you'll have the license within a couple of business days.

With that license, you can access the GMRS band's public radio repeaters to greatly expand the range of your hand-helds.

Repeaters (aka "machines" in the radio world) are radios connected to tall antennas. They receive communication on one frequency and rebroadcast it on another frequency, blanketing an area 10-, 20- or even 60-plus miles around it, depending in large part on the antenna height. Yes, Virginia, your UV-5R can use repeaters!

Many of these machines are completely open to anyone with a license. The better ones are "private" (they aren't cheap to set up for the owners) but the owners will often grant permission if you request it. Visit MyGMRS.com for a list of repeaters, public and private and to request permissions.

There are some rules about transmitting (no profanity, you must use your radio call sign and you can't use "codes") but to reach your other friends if cell phones go down, these repeaters can make all the difference to share information, ask for assistance or to meet up with like-minded friends. Again, all for less than a hundred bucks and a minor learning curve.

**Help your friends, family and neighbors with the learning curve. Help them to purchase and program appropriate radios.** Establish a common frequency for recreational and/or emergency use, and just like that

you will be helping to build a network of friends for good times and bad.



A 10-pack of UV-5R radios is only \$169 at Amazon as of publication.

As the Red Cross or Ready.gov might suggest, during an emergency you can monitor the radio for others' well-being and check on them via the radio instead of knocking on their door. You can also summon assistance, especially if you're less-abled with age, infirmity, or injuries.

Contact your local emergency management people for advice and guidance from them. They might be willing to share some knowledge and resources. These include channels where weather spotters communicate for the latest during severe weather.

Feel overwhelmed? Not technologically skilled? You can teach old dogs new tricks. YouTube has great resources for learning how to use radios, including the basics and beyond. Learn at your own speed.



Scores of videos like this one on YouTube will coach you in using your radio.

Building your family's preparedness skill sets with knowledge and some affordable equipment not only can pay off in good times, but it can come in handy and then some for genuine emergencies. Ditto for including like-minded neighbors. The bigger your network of friends, the easier disaster recovery will become for all of you.

**Secure your radios NOW. Get on this now before tariffs double or triple the price of these radios! After all, they virtually all come from China and as of this writing, the tariffs stand at 125% - and even higher for de minimus orders.**



# What can radios do for you?

Remember what happened to General George Armstrong Custer? He went out one day and left his Gatling guns back at the fort. He didn't think he would need them. That fateful decision didn't work out well for him.

While Gatling Guns aren't regulated by Illinois' gun and magazine ban (don't give them any ideas), one thing that's a lot cheaper and more accessible is two-way radio communications.

We've covered this in the last couple of issues of *Gun-News*. And we've had some good conversations behind the scenes.



"What can a radio do for

me?" is a common question. Along with its close cousin, "Why go to the trouble?"

In a nutshell: knowledge is power during good times and bad. Especially during a local, regional or national emergency.

When cell phones go down for whatever reason, or access to cellular service is restricted to public safety workers, radios allow you to communicate with others without using smoke signals or drums.



Even in normal times, these radios can monitor local weather watchers and trained weather spotters when severe weather approaches. By listening to their reports, you will know real-time the latest on the exact location of the worst threats. That alone is worth buying these radios.

If things go sideways, you can learn where and what sort of help is needed. With comms, you can learn places to avoid because of criminal activity or first responder activity.

Moreover, you will have an opportunity to summon assistance too, in the form of physical assistance, additional information, or much needed supplies.

## Neighborhood use.

With a hand-held radio, you can reach select neighbors within a mile or so if you've set up a designated frequency amongst yourselves. If someone in your neighborhood area has erected a taller antenna (20' to 30', for instance), they will be able to reach people several miles away. Height is might when it comes to radio transmissions and reception.

Comms will help the prepared folks with damage assessment and/or recovery efforts at the neighborhood level.

They will also allow the

neighbors to talk back and forth as they venture out seeking needed stuff or helping others. And if travelling/evacuating as a group, the vehicles can communicate with one another so they can work together more effectively and safely.



Of course, there's the obvious use of the radios to report on looters or potential looters in the neighborhood.

MURS, or the Multi-Use Radio System, might be a good band for local comms. No license is required. Designate a channel for your network of friends and neighbors. The exact five frequencies can be found at online search engines. We recommend picking a standard sub-audible tone to vastly reduce annoying "interference." Put your google skills to work for how to program those tones with the radio(s) of your choice.



Neighbors can share information on availability of fuel, food, medications and disaster recovery supplies at various stores. That surely beats burning precious fuel driving around searching blindly.



Along those same lines if the power or credit card readers are down, knowing where to find stores are still open for business will save time and effort. Ditto for gas stations.



For really good friends in the neighborhood on your radio network, you might be able to finagle borrowing power tools or needed supplies to complete emergency repairs. Maybe even a generator.



## City/County use.

Using repeaters, you and your friends can trade information like above only over a *much* larger geographic area. This, however, will require a \$35 General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS) license from the FCC. This 10-year license covers your entire family!

With that license and a repeater you have permission to use, you can check on the well-being of your family members for peace of mind - if they have a radio and know which channels/repeater the family will use for comms.

These can also help moms and dads (and maybe grandparents) coordinate pickup of kiddos from school or elsewhere to help make sure they get home safe. Or to help younger kiddos find mom, dad or other trusted adults.

Imagine how valuable it would be to communicate with your preparedness friends across town or in the next suburb or maybe even in the next county to ask for assistance or to offer help.

Having a way to reach out to friendlies to come help you and/or your family with critical supplies might prove helpful.



For those evacuating larger cities (like Chicago), the repeaters can allow users to meet up in order to travel together as there's safety in numbers. Those retreating from urban chaos can share better routes or places to avoid for whatever reason, along with locations to fuel up and obtain food.

To get the full potential out of these repeater machines, you will need a mobile unit for your car. A walkie-talkie, even the UV-5R, simply doesn't have the horsepower (wattage) to reach out to the full range of the repeater.

Sure, you can hear most transmissions on an HT at a distance, but others may not be able to make out your

transmissions clearly beyond maybe ten or fifteen miles, depending on a number of factors.



Retevis has a nice mobile radio unit for \$125 (current).

A mobile unit, pushing out 25 watts on a better antenna (vs. 5-7 watts on a hand-held with a marginal antenna) will allow you to get the range you need. And in some cases, that might allow you to communicate sixty plus miles with some of the big repeaters connected to antennas mounted hundreds of feet in the air.

But again, these require a GMRS license to use legally.

*The legal disclaimer:* We hate to do this, but we've already received some comments about "some of this isn't exactly 100% legal." It's kinda like concealed means concealed, folks.

Using these Chinese radios for communications *may* run afoul of *some* FCC regs in *certain* circumstances. Operate responsibly and 99.9999944% of the time you'll be fine, particularly during emergencies.

Many of these rules are like speed limits. Only in this case the FCC may have only a dozen traffic cops for the whole nation. These enforcement people investigate prolific, malicious idiots interfering with public safety and business band radios. The FCC's not interested in Joe Sixpack using his UV-5R on an FRS channel "illegally" because he has a removable antenna on his HT.

Just don't act recklessly or maliciously by interfering with others' use of radio frequencies, use crude profanity or act like a jackwagon on air and you'll be unmolested by Mr. FCC.

**The bottom line:** Knowledge is power, especially during emergencies. Portable radios help keep you informed.

## Sullivan Gun Club

**2025 Events... Mark your Calendar! All open to public.**

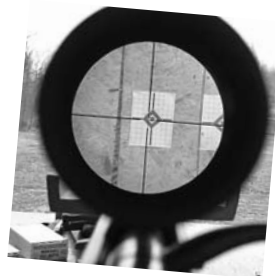


### Bowling Pin Shoots

Reminder: Kids shoot free!

**May 3, Jun 7, July 12, Aug 9, Sep 6, Oct 4, Nov 1**

\*subject to weather-related cancellations\*



### Rimfire Shoots

Reminder: Kids shoot free!

**May 17, Jun 21, July 26, Aug 23, Sep 20, Oct 18, Nov 15**

\*subject to weather-related cancellations\*

**Trap Shooting every Friday night**  
**Open 6pm - Derby at 7pm**

### Matches start at 9a.m.

**\$10 per firearm. Kids free.**

Sign-in and warm up starting at 8a.m. All dates are subject to the weather. Follow us on Facebook for updates.

### Sullivan Gun Club, LLC

**1458 State Hwy 121**  
**Sullivan IL 61951**

### Give the gift of membership!

Gift Certificates available year-round.

**\$35 for individual membership.**

**\$60 for family membership.**

Gift certificates available at Zancha's Guns & Ammo in Lovington. Or send a check to Sullivan Gun Club LLC c/o Tracy Bettinger PO Box 584 Lovington IL 61937.



Calendar



GUN SHOWS...

April
April 26: National Civil War & Collector Arms Show, DuPage Co. Fairgrounds, Wheaton IL.

May
May 17-18: Chillicothe Sportsman's Club, Chillicothe, IL.
May 17-18: Crown Point Gun Show, Lake County Fairgrounds, Crown Point, IN.

June
Jun 6-7: Pecatonica Gun Show, Pecatonica, IL.
June 28 & 29: Crown Point Gun Show, Lake County Fairgrounds, Crown Point, IN.

GUN CLUBS

Foosland Sportsman's Club
Shooting opportunities open to the public at the Foosland Sportsman's Club.
Second Tuesdays: 6p Tuesday night trap shoots
Fourth Saturday: Trapshoot starting at 10 AM.

DeWitt County Sportsman's Club
Breakfast, 1st & 3rd Sundays 8:30am. through the end of May.
Sullivan Gun Club LLC.
Every Friday night: Trap shooting under the lights.

Falling steel match First Mondays starting at 4:30pm.

Springfield Tactical Shooters Indoor Gun Range in Curran, IL.
Thursdays: Weekly tactical matches at 5pm. Open to all.

Crete Gun Club.
Monthly meetings at 7pm on the First Monday. 1962 W. Exchange, Crete, IL.

State Line Rifle.
Monthly meetings at 7pm on the Fourth Tuesday each month. American Legion, 111 E. Main Street, Round Lake Park, IL 60073

Prairie State Tactical.
All shoots 5-7:30p unless otherwise noted.
April 29: Prairie State Tactical - Pana (Locked and Loaded)
May 6: USPSA Night at Effingham Accuracy Firearms
May 13: Prairie State Tactical - Pana (Locked and Loaded)
May 20: USPSA Night at Effingham Accuracy Firearms
May 27: Prairie State Tactical - Pana (Locked and Loaded)
June 3: USPSA Night at Effingham Accuracy Firearms
For more info, visit prairiestatetactical.com.



FRIENDS OF NRA...
May 3: Bluff City at Alton Wood River Sportsman's Club in Godfrey, IL.
May 7: Northern IL at Plug & Pellet Sportsman's Club in Rockford
May 17: Fox Valley at Tom E. Hardung American Legion Post 1977 in New Lenox.
July 19: Illini Country at Arcola Best Western in Arcola.
August 2: Two Rivers at Rushville Fitness and Community Center in Rushville, IL.
August 9: South Central IL at Doubletree in Mt. Vernon.
For more info, visit FriendsOfNRA.org.
August 18: Tri-State at The Pink Tavern in Lomax.
August 30: East Central Illinois at Doubletree in Bloomington



Felony stupid... nuclear-grade idiocy
Florida 'woman' face charges after pointing gun, threatening to blow the brains out of teens fishing in backyard pond

Melbourne, FL (WESH) — A Melbourne woman has been arrested and charged after allegedly holding two teenagers at gunpoint for fishing near her backyard, according to police.
Donna Elkins, 59, called 911 to notify dispatch that two boys were in her backyard fishing, according to an arrest report. She told deputies she walked into the backyard with a pellet gun in an attempt to scare them, the report states.
We spoke with the 15-year-old, Brayden, by phone Tuesday.
'We turned around, and she was holding a rifle and telling us she was going to blow our heads off,' Brayden said. He took a video of the encounter with Elkins. 'She was making us get down on the ground and saying, 'What makes you think you can come on my property?' And she was saying that if we did come on her property, she could blow our brains out.'
[Elkins] was charged with two counts of aggravated assault and two counts of false imprisonment.
[Editor: You CANNOT legally shoot trespassers on your property, absent an imminent danger of death or great bodily harm to innocent life. You CAN-NOT legally point guns at trespassers absent a threat of death or great bodily injury to innocent life.
Too many people think their backyard is an extension of their living room. It is not. Neither is the enclosed garage, shed, barn or other structure.
Little Mrs. Donna Elkins is likely going to catch a felony for her ignorant stunt but hopefully she learns. Otherwise she might spend her golden years in prison.]

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PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY GUNS SAVE LIFE
VOLUME 22, NUMBER 8 AUGUST 2016

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Guaranteed full-color ad placement is twice the rate price with limited availability. Please inquire for availability. Submit ads in .pdf format, with at least 300dpi resolution. See your application for help / instructions.

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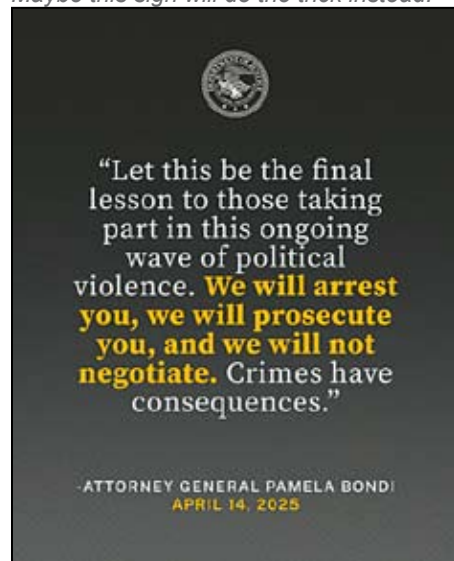


## Everytown: 'No guns' signs will stop politically-motivated Tesla violence

(Everytown) - Courthouses and government buildings are often targets for politically-motivated violence. For public safety and the health of democratic institutions, guns should be prohibited in these places.



Maybe this sign will do the trick instead:



Henry tells NJ to pound sand

## Henry's moved to WI

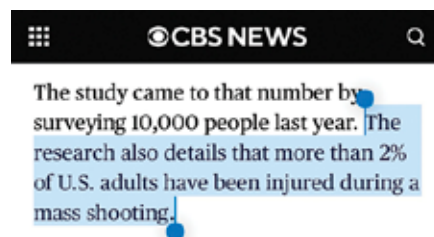
Rice Lake, WI (Henry) - Henry is announcing a firm commitment to establishing 100% of its manufacturing operations in the state of Wisconsin. The commitment includes transferring all of its Bayonne, New Jersey manufacturing operations to its newly expanded state-of-the-art headquarters in Rice Lake, Wisconsin, and two additional facilities in nearby Ladysmith, Wisconsin.



The party of gun control!

## Congressional Dems at 21% approval

(Straight Arrow News) - A Quinnipiac poll shows Democratic approval in Congress at a historic low, with only 21% of voters approving. Meanwhile, Republican approval has reached a record high at 40%.



You can't hate mainstream media enough

## WHOPPER!

CBS News touts a junk science "study" that claims 2% of Americans have been injured in a mass shooting.



Deranged doofus Ryan Routh.

## Would-be Trump assassin tried to buy rocket launcher from Ukraine

(ZeroHedge) - The second assassination attempt on Donald Trump was even more forgotten about and buried by the mainstream media than the first one. Presidential candidate Trump was playing golf at his West Palm Beach club on September 15, 2024 when 58-year old Ryan Routh was seen by the Secret Service pointing a rifle through the fence. An agent engaged him and Routh ran, and was later apprehended while fleeing in his car.

Now in prison facing multiple federal charges, including attempted assassination, Routh had pled not guilty to all charges, and could face life in prison. Already a 'Ukraine connection' was well-known, after early reporting established that he had trying to recruit for Ukraine's foreign legion.

But now something even more bombshell has been revealed in court documents. Prosecutors allege that Routh tried to buy a rocket launcher from Ukraine.

Other 'rules' facing scrutiny

## ATF 'Zero Tolerance' repealed!

(Breitbart) - FBI director and ATF acting director Kash Patel repealed the ATF's zero tolerance policy Monday and made clear other rules, including "engaged in the business," are now in the crosshairs.

Breitbart News noted the zero tolerance policy was instituted and weaponized during the Biden administration, used to shut down licensed gun dealers over simple clerical errors.



Rep. Eric Burlison (R) reacted to the repeal of the rule with an X post, writing, "Gun dealers and law-

abiding citizens alike can celebrate this move to roll back the oppressive overreach that's been suffocating Second Amendment rights for far too long."

While announcing the repeal of the zero tolerance policy, Kash Patel also noted the ATF's "engaged in the business" rule and stabilizer brace rule are under scrutiny.



Oh, how they miss that USAID lucre!

## March for our Lives lays off most of its staff

(19th News) - March for Our Lives, the youth-led gun violence prevention organization, announced Thursday that it is laying off 13 of 16 full-time staffers.

Next level Trump Derangement Syndrome

## Pimple-faced punk murders parents in plot to assassinate Trump

Waukesha, WI (Breitbart) - A 17-year-old Wisconsin teen allegedly killed his parents in pursuit of the "financial means and autonomy" to assassinate President Trump, the FBI revealed.

Court documents show the 17-year-old was part of a "satanic cult" which has "strong anti-Judaism anti-Christian and anti-western ideologies," WISN reported Friday.

## Tesla owners buying guns in record numbers

(Canada Free Press) - While the evidence is only anecdotal at this point, it appears that the Left has been making effective arguments for 2nd Amendment rights in their recent efforts to intimidate Tesla owners...

The result of such activities is that many Tesla owners are now purchasing guns for self defense. Many are also seeking concealed carry permits in places where such permits are required.



Imagine Tim Walz doing the same? LOL.

## VP JD Vance gets trigger time at Quantico

(Breitbart) - Vice President JD Vance served lunch to Marines Wednesday at Quantico's Dwyer Chow Hall and also took time to shoot a medium-range machine gun.

TimesNowNews reported that Vance told the Marines, "[President Trump] wanted me to tell you two things. First, that he loves you. And second, that he's proud of you."



## Texas bans sale of semi-auto rifles with less than 30-round capacity

Austin, TX (Babylon Bee) - In a landmark move for the state, the Texas legislature overwhelmingly passed a bill to ban the sale of assault rifles that have a capacity of less than 30 rounds.

Governor Greg Abbott was expected to sign the bill into law as soon as it hit his desk, limiting Texas gun owners to purchasing assault rifles with copious round capacities.





NYT reports on preparedness movement in a non-antagonistic manner? Impossible!

## New York Times: Americans preparing for when all hell breaks loose

(New York Times) - Ten men, some wearing camouflage, others in vests loaded with ammunition for their AR-15 rifles, gathered under the morning shade of oak trees in Central Florida last month. They were there to learn marksmanship tactics common among Special Operation forces and elite law enforcement units.

Their instructor, Christopher Eric Roscher, an Air Force veteran, introduced himself and then led the group in prayer...

The men gathered around him were not soldiers, police officers or right-wing militia members. They were mostly civilians, including two pilots, a nurse and a construction company executive. The class's title — Full Contender Minuteman — even referred to the civilians turned soldiers of the American Revolution.

In a world shaped by war, a pandemic and extreme weather, more Americans are getting ready for crisis — whether it's to fight a tyrannical government, repel an invading army or respond to a natural disaster.

They are known as prepared or professional citizens, part of a growing number of gun owners who are adapting their mind-set to uncertain and polarized times. And rather than being part of more fringe "prepper" culture, they are growing more mainstream, catered to by companies ready to offer them the tools and training to be ready.

The traditional aspects of gun ownership — such as simple target shooting — are

increasingly being shelved in favor of topics like radio and medical training, night-vision shooting, drone reconnaissance, home-steading and military tactics...

Mr. Roscher began teaching firearms classes after leaving active duty in the Air Force and started his own training company, Barrel & Hatchet Trade Group, with his business partner Tyler Burke in 2020. Barrel & Hatchet also has a YouTube channel, an Instagram account, a podcast and a gear store.

The drills were framed around how students might need to act "on the worst day of your life," Mr. Roscher said, so target shooting often took place after 25-yard sprints.

Thirty-five miles southeast of the minuteman course, Danielle L. Campbell, 43, picked up a pistol at the Orlando Gun Club and fired into a paper target a few yards away. Protect Peace, the community-focused group that she helped found in 2023, would not define themselves as prepared citizens in the same way as Mr. Roscher's cohort, but they share much of the same DNA.

"I started training after my assistant was killed by a stray bullet," Ms. Campbell said, sitting in a lounge chair at the shooting club. "Before that, I always had guns, but I never trained, I never took it seriously." Her colleague was killed during a robbery in 2017, and she started firearms training soon afterward...



## BE A GOOD FRIEND: Sign up a friend for only \$20 more

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Membership in GSL is just \$30 annually (\$40 starting May 1st) and that allows us to continue our work at the local and state level defending your right to defend yourself. Membership has its privileges as well!

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- **Learn strategies & tactics to keep your family safe**
- **Discounts with some legal coverage providers**
- **Pride of ownership in our famous highway signs**  
Yes, you may call them "your own" when telling friends about them.
- **Members-only Legal Defense Fund.**  
Access to legal support for those who are victims of subject to inappropriate or unjust firearm-related arrests, as well as arrests following justifiable use of force in self-defense incidents.

Sign up online at: **GunsSaveLife.com/join**

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We need your email to allow you access to Members' Only content on the GunsSaveLife.com website.

### Membership:

- o \$30 - Annual membership / Renewal
- o \$20 - Sign up a friend (with regular annual membership or renewal)
- o \$90 - Three-year membership / Renewal
- o \$60 - Sign up three friends (with a three-year membership/renewal)
- o \$50 - Family membership
- o \$150 - Family membership three-year
- o \$50 - Business membership
- o \$1000 - Life membership
- o \$500 - Life membership for over age 65

\$\_\_\_\_\_ Total enclosed. Is this a gift? From whom? \_\_\_\_\_

Mail this form and payment (checks payable to Guns Save Life) to:

**Guns Save Life  
PO Box 51  
Savoy, IL 61874**

Contributions or gifts to Guns Save Life are not deductible as charitable contributions for federal income tax purposes.