

WE DEFEND YOUR RIGHT
TO DEFEND YOURSELF.
COMPLIMENTARY. TAKE ONE.

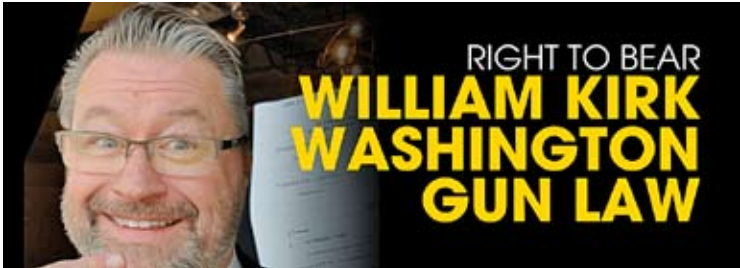
GUNNews



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



The photo that broke the internet in 2026.



Coming to Quincy's GSL meeting on Thursday, March 12th. See page 3.



Rioters tag ICE agent's vehicle: "ONLY GOOD AGENT IS A DEAD ONE"

'MOSTLY PEACEFUL' RETURNS

Minneapolis heats up, goes full kinetic

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February 2026

- **Quincy:** Last Wednesday: **February 25, March 12 SPECIAL EVENT!**
Eagles Club, 3737 N. Fifth Street, Quincy
- **Chicagoland:** Last Sunday: **February 22, March 29**
American Legion Post 1198, 1631 Western Ave. Chicago Heights
Exhibits and conversation here at 4:30pm. Program at 5:30pm.
- **Sangamon County:** First Monday: **February 2, March 2**
SCHEELS, 3801 S. MacArthur, Springfield
- **Pontiac:** First Tuesday: **February 3, March 3**
Pontiac Sportsman's Club. 18663 4-H Park Road, Pontiac
- **Decatur:** First Wednesday: **February 4, March 4**
Coz's Pizza, 1405 East Village Parkway, Mt Zion *(Program at 6:45pm)*
- **Peoria:** First Thursday: **February 5, Mar 5**
Barrack's Banquet Center, 1224 Pioneer Parkway, Peoria
Dinner and conversation here at 5:30pm. Program at 6:30ish.
- **Danville:** Second Monday **February 9, March 9**
Ela's Restaurant, 1111 E. Voorhees St., Danville
- **Northwest Chicagoland:** Second Wed: **February 11, March 11**
Prairie House Tavern, 2710 Main St., Buffalo Grove
Dinner and conversation here at 5:30pm. Program at 6pm-ish.
- **Mattoon:** Second Thursday: **February 12, March 12**
The American Legion Post 88, 1903 Maple Ave, Mattoon
- **LaSalle County:** Third Thursday: **February 19, March 19**
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.



John Drummond of the Wayward Son Custom Gun has a very nice custom gun on tap for GSL's next Great Gun giveaway. It's a G45 (G19 slide and a G17 frame) with a fancy slide, barrel and a Glock performance trigger and MUCH more. Stay tuned for all the details. Thank you, sir!



.22 target guns in Decatur.



Rick Martin brought a slew of Civil War memorabilia to our Pontiac meeting, including powder horn, Union Army discharge paperwork and more from his great grandfather Isiah George. Isiah enlisted at age 15 and fought for three years until his discharge in 1865.



"But I didn't buy a ticket!" Ron helped John Boch out at the Pontiac meeting. John bought some tickets and put Ron's name on a couple of the tickets and put them into the pot. Ron won!



@trusttimm: David Timm at SCHEELS.



John Mayhan started his life as a banker, and ended up in the Illinois State Police and eventually joined the ISP's elite SWAT team. He shared some work stories in Springfield.



IF KIDS YOUNGER THAN 18 YEARS ARE AROUND, MAKE SURE TO LOCK UP YOUR GUNS.

Make sure to lock up your guns if kids younger than 18 years, or anyone who is prohibited from having a firearm or is at-risk of harming themselves or others is around.



Updates to Illinois law require firearms to be placed in a securely locked box or container, and not just a location believed to be secure from kids, anyone prohibited from having a firearm, or a person at-risk of harming themselves or others. You could face fines, or worse, a tragedy, if you don't.

Practice legal self-defense from prosecutors **MUST DO ITEMS FOR ALL GUN OWNERS IN IL**

by John Boch

(GSL) - Last month, *GunNews* brought you information on the new so-called "Safe Storage" law which took effect January 1st (*Happy New Years, suckers!*). This is the new law that mandates you to chain your firearms in a safe. Why? So home intruders and thugs can enjoy a stress-free time robbing and raping your family while you fumble for keys like it's a very bad escape-room date.

As usual, *GunNews* remains on the cutting edge of news and information for our readers. Or, put another way, your front-row seat to the alcoholic clown show that is Springfield gun "policy."

The Illinois State Police have now unleashed a barrage of those heartwarming PSAs (see above)—complete with soft piano music and concerned actors—begging you to lock up your guns. Because clearly, the greatest danger in Illinois isn't the armed felon with priors longer than a CVS receipt; it's that you might be able to access your Glock and shoot a bad guy graveyard dead in the middle of the night. Yes, Virginia, every career criminal from Cairo to Waukegan is probably framing these ads on their wall: "Illinois is keeping us safe! Thanks, Pritzker!"

Fail to turn your house into a literal gun prison? Congratulations, you're now on the hook for fines, civil lawsuits from the very criminals (or their ambulance-chasing attorneys), and maybe even criminal negligence if your stolen gun ends up in the "wrong" hands doing bad things. The state calls it accountability. We call it legalized extortion with extra steps.

Want to sidestep this glorious government gotcha and actually be able to defend your family when seconds count? Get every warm body in your household a FOID card. Yes, even the ones who still need help tying their shoes.

Spouse/significant other? FOID them yesterday.

Teenagers rolling their eyes at you before they can drive? FOID application + birth certificate = instant Second Amendment junior membership.

Little Timmy who just turned one? Photocopy that birth certificate, include a baby photo, get your signature as the non-prohibited parent/guardian, and watch Springfield hand him official permission to exercise a right they pretend doesn't exist for kids.

"Oh but I only have antiques/black powder/replica wall-hangers/BB guns!" Cute. Illinois law laughs in your face and classifies anything from a functional flintlock to your kid's high-powered air rifle (over .177 cal or 700 fps) as a "firearm" under the safe-storage rules. So that rusty musket over the fireplace? Still counts. That Red Ryder that could put an eye out? It might count - let us chrono it. Your "non-functional" display piece that Grandpa swore was deactivated? Better hope the prosecutor agrees, or enjoy the lawsuit lottery. Double penalties if it has the bayonet attached. Drive-by bayonetings might be a thing in some neighborhoods.

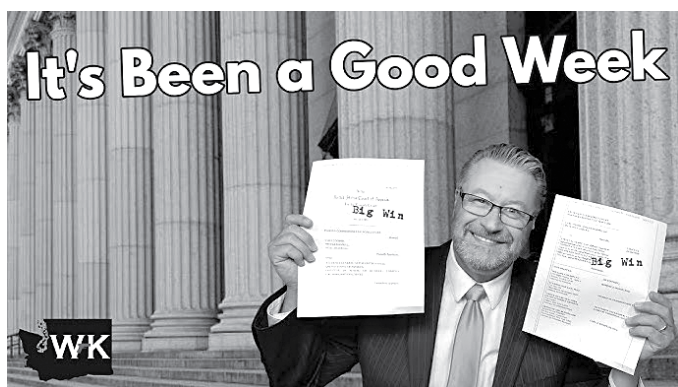
In the People's Republic of Pritzker, the only thing more predictable than rising taxes is the anti-gun state's political leaders salivating over your misfortune.

So go nuclear: FOID-card the whole bloodline. Grandkids, nieces, nephews, that weird cousin who shows up unannounced with a sob story—get 'em all carded. When the family Thanksgiving turns into a home-invasion horror movie, at least nobody's getting prosecuted for "unauthorized access" while they're dialing 911 with one hand and popping caps into home invaders with the other. "You picked the wrong house, pal!"

You might save a life. You might save your bank account from activist lawyers. At minimum, you'll rob the gun-grabbers of their favorite "See? See? Negligent gun owner!" headline.

Stay frosty, get FOIDed-up, and keep laughing at the absurdity—because if you don't, you run the risk of an anxiety attack and they'll think they're winning.

GunNews: Still telling it like it is, while the state tells you to shut up and lock it up.



Washington Gun Law's WILLIAM KIRK Coming to GSL Quincy Thursday, March 12th

William Kirk, President of Washington Gun Law, is one of the nation's leading Second Amendment advocates and has been educating citizens nationwide about their rights and obligations related to the inalienable right of self-preservation.

The host of the popular YouTube channel Washington Gun Law, Mr. Kirk is a 20 time recipient of Washington State's Super Lawyer award, only given to the top 1% of attorneys in the state. Mr. Kirk has tried hundreds of cases to verdict and has successfully defended many cases involving claims of self defense or the lawful use of a firearm.

Bill is a graduate of Washington State University and the Gonzaga University School of Law, he has taught attorneys in trial practice in 26 states and routinely travels the country to lecture on Second Amendment issues. A former Spokane County and King County Prosecuting Attorney, Mr. Kirk has been in private practice, defending the rights of the accused, since 2000.

We are rescheduling our March 2026 Quincy meeting to Thursday, March 12th in Quincy. We're not sure if it's going to be at the Eagles Club, or if we're going to secure a larger venue. Watch the Guns Save Life website for more information (or next month's issue of *GunNews*!).

DEAR READER: Doers wanted!

Thank you for grabbing this issue of *GunNews Magazine*—we pour our hearts (and a fair bit of gunpowder) into it every month.

We hope it arms you with the smarts to be a sharper, safer gun owner and citizen. Loving what you see? Join the crew! We'll ship this bad boy straight to your mailbox monthly, plus unlock a bunch of other perks that make membership feel like winning the Second Amendment lottery.

Our pages help you dodge the bad guys, stay out of legal quicksand after a justified use of force (because nobody wants to trade one bad day for years of courtroom drama), and tough out whatever chaos life throws at your family so you can keep them safe and ready.

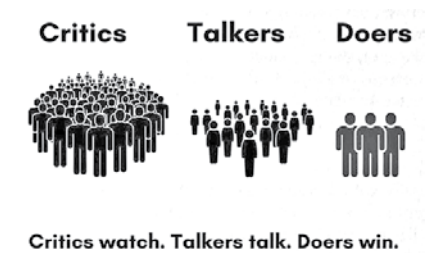
Swing by one of our meetings too—you'll rub elbows with some seriously solid folks, maybe score a few new friends who actually will show up when the SHTF, and walk out smarter, fired up, and laughing. We're in this endless brawl to **defend your right to defend yourself** here in Illinois, and we do it with education, entertainment, and monthly gun drawings that make showing up feel like playing the world's safest slots.

This issue packs killer recaps from our recent star speakers—some that'll inspire you to stand taller, others that'll school you on staying alive, and a few that do both like a one-two punch. These gems drop regularly at our events. First-timer? Returning after a hiatus? Come on in—the

meetings just keep leveling up.

Join the Guns Save Life family right now: Grab the app on the back page of *GunNews*, hop online to GunsSaveLife.com, or just hand your check to a friendly face at a meeting (and snag two free gun-drawing tickets per year you join or renew—because who doesn't love bonus entries?).

Dues are a steal at \$40 a year. That keeps us in the fight locally and statewide defending your right to defend yourself, while delivering *GunNews* to you and thousands of fellow patriots every month.



Freedom isn't a couch-potato, spectator sport. Come join the family. Be a doer, not a talker or a griper. Help us rack up more wins defending your God-given right to stay dangerous when it counts. Let's do this—together.

Sincerely,
Guns Save Life

Sauk Trail

GUN SHOW

Fairgrounds - Princeton, Illinois
Open to the Public! FREE PARKING. Lunch available.
Buy - Sell - Trade / Modern & Antique

2025-2026 Show Dates

March 28 & 29, 2026

Open to the public
8:30 - 4p Saturday, 8:30 - 3p Sunday

Dealers: 8' tables \$30 for up to two days, payable in advance.
Tables must contain 90% arms & related items
Dealer times: Friday unloading and set up starting at 1pm, Sat. & Sun. open at 7:30a.m.
Overnight accommodations, Free Parking, Lunch available on premises
NEW DEALER SPECIALS.
Contact: Marla P. 815-252-4842

Sauk Trail Gun Collectors, Inc.

PO Box 543, Chillicothe, IL 61543 PH. 309 689-1934

GunNews distribution hubs

Would you be able to distribute bundles or partial bundles of *GunNews* to sporting goods shops, local gun shops or other interested venues as part of your regular travels? If so, stop by these locations to grab some to share with others to continue to help GSL's public education mission.

Chicagoland: Nick Klementzos in Lockport. Text or call: 708 476-0276.

Rantoul: Corky's Storage on south end of Rantoul. Unit #67. Call or text John Boch (217 649-3702) or Warren Drake (217 898-9602) for the lock combination.

Decatur: Rat's Whole Place motorcycle repair in Decatur.

Bloomington: John Boch. 2208 Patriot's Pointe, Bloomington. Call or text first. 217 649-3702.

Dwight: Rick's Automotive in Dwight.

Join Guns Save Life today.

Membership application on back page of *GunNews*

Executive Director's Report

The Clowns in Springfield are back **Buckle up, Illinois**

by John Boch
GSL Executive Director

Folks, the circus never sleeps in the Land of Pritzker. Our to-do list is exploding, and the hits just keep coming.

Legislative shenanigans

The General Assembly is back in session, turning the Capitol into a happy hour for day-drinking lobbyists and career politicians.

Word on the street? The infamous RIFL Act (that's "Responsibility in Firearm Legislation" for the uninitiated) might crawl out of its grave this spring. Last year, it got buried alive in the Rules Committee—where bills go to die.



GSL's John Boch.

My money says if it resurfaces, it'll likely be tucked into some shell bill with a fresh coat of lipstick, it'll try to slap an (part of an \$866 million?) annual "licensing fee" upon firearm manufacturers just to sell guns here. No license? No sales—new or used.

That's right: a backdoor ban dressed up as "public health accountability." Our saving grace ain't gonna be found in lobbyists. Anti-gun Dems, thanks to their supermajority, can pass whatever they want relating to guns no matter if we had a thousand lobbyists in Springfield. No, even the Springfield barflies know this RIFL thing is radioactive.

Pass this flying pig with or without lipstick and President Trump's DOJ would parachute in, drop the hammer, and turn Illinois politicians into national laughingstocks. Game over with a generous helping of humiliation. JB and crew don't want that. Go figure.



Litigation limbo

We're still holding our breath for the Seventh Circuit's ruling in our blockbuster challenge to PICA—the "assault weapon" and magazine ban that's been strangling law-abiding gun owners. If it doesn't drop by month's end, brace for a slog into summer 2027. Yeah, it sucks. But we're in this fight for the long haul, and the Constitution doesn't have an expiration date.

Chicago Chaos— Finally getting a reality check

Big news: Homicides are down roughly 30% in Murder City USA thanks to rounding up violent criminal illegals and a prosecutor who

actually prosecutes now and then instead of playing patty-cake with perps.

ICE is shipping out the worst offenders with extreme prejudice, and surprise—the streets are safer. Of course, does the mainstream media credit deportations? Crickets.

Meanwhile, the Trump admin is gearing up to yank funding from "sanctuary" holdouts who refuse to cooperate. Illinois politicians love their "sanctuary" virtue signals—get ready for massive budget holes and "making do with less."

And don't get me started on Illinois refusing to hold its own monsters. Remember the thug who beat a 40-year-old female cardiologist half to death in a Northwestern Medical School campus garage elevator? Security and local cops dealt with him daily for 18 months before this attack. Feel safer yet? No wonder "No Guns" signs get ignored—people aren't stupid.

Then there's the downtown slasher who carved up three victims and walked with misdemeanors. Echoes of the CTA throat-slubber under Kim Foxx: where the female perp got a misdemeanor, then moved to Florida. She tried the stabby thing again. Florida gave her 20 years hard time. Florida doesn't play. That's why they don't have Chicago-style violent crime!

Carry at home—Because why not?

I carry at home not because I'm paranoid about Rob Reiner's kid showing up to go full slasher. I carry because stripping off a comfy rig is too much effort after a long day. Plus, that New Year's Eve story from North Carolina? Pure gold.

An 18-year-old Burger King genius named Christian (yes, really) converts to Islam, pledges to ISIS, and plots a mass murder spree with... a hammer. No gun? No problem—he'll bludgeon door-answers to death for Allah. FBI swoops in, thwarts this genius' fantasy before it starts.

Tip for the day: It's a lot more fun to play "Cowboys and Jihadists" when you've got a gun.

Play stupid games...

We skipped the Minneapolis "Karen" saga, but it's peak 2026 absurdity - so far. This mom refuses lawful ICE commands, guns her Honda and strikes a federal agent. Mr. Fed doesn't offer to call her therapist — he shoots her in the face.

Protesters nearby lose their minds: "Murderer!" Turns out federal agents carry real bullets, not participation trophies.

Play stupid games with law enforcement, win stupid prizes. Shocking.

It's a wild ride, Illinois—a full-on circus of bad ideas, slow courts, and finally some common-sense pushback. But hang tight. Good things are brewing. The tide's turning, and we're just getting warmed up.

Stay vigilant. Stay armed. Stay loud. And live life to its fullest.



NRA sues itself? What? *Report from GSL's own Dick Fairburn who's now serving on the NRA Board*

by Dick Fairburn

(GSL) - You might have heard that on January 5th the National Rifle Association of America filed a lawsuit against the NRA Foundation, Inc. I have seen some accounts in gun-related postings to the effect — "The NRA is suing itself?"

A bit of history ... The NRA Foundation was organized in 1990 in the District of Columbia. It is a 501c3 non-profit organization under the Internal Revenue Code, so can receive donations which qualify for tax deductions.

From the official NRA release concerning the lawsuit: "Contributions to the foundation are tax deductible and support NRA programs for a variety of American constituencies, including youth, women, hunters, competitive shooters, gun collectors, law enforcement officers, and persons with physical disabilities."

Here are two key allegations made in the NRA filing:

- Although the Foundation had previously had no employees of its own, it's Old Guard-dominated Board hired a disgruntled former NRA employee as the Foundation's executive director, and he began in late 2025 making onerous demands upon, harassing, and seeking to control NRA employees engaged in activities supported by the Foundation.

- The Foundation's executive director has stated that the Foundation intends to cut off or substantially reduce its financial support of the NRA, to sue the NRA, to take control of certain NRA programs, and to undermine the NRA's finances and financial stability.

At the recent NRA Board of Directors meeting a new 501c3 organization was founded, the **NRA Patriot Fund. Funds raised at future Friends of the NRA banquets will be directed to the NRA Patriot Fund**, severing the flow of such funds to the NRA Foundation.

THIS IS MY PERSONAL OPINION – NOT THE OFFICIAL OPINION OF THE NRA OFFICERS OR BOARD OF DIRECTORS: This legal action was undertaken reluctantly to prevent what amounted to a "hostile takeover" of the NRA by former "Old Guard" board members who had lost their majority influence. Many of the "Old Guard" board members recently resigned from the NRA Board of Directors to become members of the NRA Foundation board of trustees and will likely be replaced by even more reformers in the upcoming election – giving the reformers a super majority there as well.

A rumor has been circulated that the NRA is on

the verge of bankruptcy and will "go under" very soon. This is a lie, spread as a part of the effort to undermine the NRA. We finished the 2025 budget in the black, the first time no red ink appeared in several years. The 2026 budget is also balanced, despite funding being cut by the NRA Foundation. Our financial situation is far from ideal, but the NRA is no danger of bankruptcy.

I encourage you to attend future Friends of the NRA banquets and help to raise the funds we use for important charitable activities.

The creation of the NRA Patriot Fund will ensure those funds go where you intend.

If you are a voting member of the NRA (life member or 5-consecutive years of annual membership) you will receive a ballot in the February issue of your NRA magazine. This is the annual election of members to the NRA Board of Directors. The ballot will be surrounded by a two-page ad listing the reform candidates supported by the group "Elect a New NRA." I am one of the candidates in the "Elect a New NRA" group and ask for your vote to remain on the Board of Directors.

Please visit the website – www.electanewnra.com to see profiles of these candidates and VOTE!



NRA



Illinois AG Kwame Raoul: Marijuana users are simply too dangerous to own firearms

(GSL/SNW) - Marijuana users must have been ingesting some good stuff if they thought that states like Illinois that have legalized recreational weed usage would support their gun rights, too. After all, those who consume the devil's lettuce deserve the right of self-defense, just like everyone else...though the federal government disagrees. That's because a gun in the hand beats a cop halfway across town when the bad guys make an appearance.

While politicians in the Land of Pritzker have paid lip service to racial "equity" and "social justice," those of us who have abstained

from weed knew good and well that everyone from the Governor on down wouldn't stand up for everyday pot smokers' gun rights. We knew hoplophobic pols would throw pot-smoking gun owners under the bus at the first opportunity.

Sure enough, the Prairie State's Attorney General, Kwame Raoul, co-wrote an amicus brief to the US Supreme Court arguing against pot users owning or using firearms. In the brief, Raoul wrote that "habitual" users should be blocked from gun ownership altogether, citing the "dangerous choices that [marijuana] users may

make."

Raoul summed up his argument by claiming that, "Allowing habitual drug users to carry or use firearms significantly increases danger to our communities."

Left unstated is Raoul's belief that *none* of the little people like you and me should be allowed to carry or use firearms. He sees the very concept of average citizens packing heat as a "danger to our communities." If only the "progressive" AG spent half as much energy protecting everyday citizens by jailing criminals as he does working to disarm law-abiding Illinoisans.

Honey, they don't want to work in IL anyway...

Congressional candidate panders to radical left with proposed ICE hiring ban

(The Center Square) - A newly introduced bill that would bar former Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents from working in state and local law enforcement in Illinois is sparking intense debate, with supporters calling it a necessary accountability measure and critics warning it could worsen police shortages and undermine public safety.

State Sen. Laura Fine, D-Glenview, who is also running for Congress, announced the legislation in a social media video this week, saying it was prompted by recent immigration enforcement actions she described as violent and intimidating.

"I'm headed to Springfield, and I am going to talk to my colleagues about my new legislation that bars ICE agents from

working for law enforcement at both the local and state level here in Illinois," Fine said. "After what happened in Minneapolis, it was a glass break moment. Enough is enough."



Man arrested for shooting Tannerite; video of arrest goes viral nationwide

Decatur, IL (GSL) - Thanks to a viral video with upwards of three million views, the Macon County (IL) Sheriff's Department has achieved internet fame. They arrested a landowner near Decatur, Roger Major, for shooting Tannerite on his rural property.

"How can that be?" you ask. "Tannerite is legal!"



Neighbors have called the police in the past when Mr. Major's Tannerite explosions rattle their windows and generally create a sense of unease with them. Deputies typically come out and ask nicely for Mr. Major to stop.

This time the cops came out and they weren't quite so amenable. Why?

Mr. Major reportedly mixed up a batch of about 40 pounds of the exploding targets and touched it off. Clearly that made a pretty big boom. Big enough to knock photos off the walls of neighbor houses.

Mr. Major made matters worse telling the deputies that he planned to continue with his "disorderly" behavior, so they arrested him. Then as they cuffed him up, he yelled "rape." Yes, I saw the video and it was mildly amusing.



Did Major really think the deputies were going to leave and let him mix up an even bigger batch of exploding targets?

The bottom line: just because you legally *can* do something doesn't really mean you *should* do something. That and treating the police decently can go a long ways to keeping you out of bracelets.



LOOKING FOR A PLACE TO SHOOT?

DeWitt County Sportsman's Club

Clinton, IL



BREAKFASTS OPEN TO ALL!

1st & 3rd Sundays 8:30am

Free memberships to active duty LEOs

>>>> Memberships Available. <<<<

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.**

Download an application at dewittcountysc.com or by mailing a request to DCSC, PO Box 322, Clinton, IL 61727.





SUPREME COURT RULES: House Republican *can* challenge Vote-By-Mail deadline!

by Nancy Hayes
(GSL) - Finally, a BIG WIN towards something akin to election integrity in Illinois! This Supreme Court smack-down could unleash a wave of lawsuits — it's about time we level the playing field!

You see, federal law is crystal clear: Election Day should be the sacred cutoff for legal ballots to be received and counted. But in Illinois? Pfft, we don't do "days" here; we've got a full-blown election "season," complete with extended deadlines that make holiday shopping look punctual. For years, Illinois state law has been playing footsie with federal mandates. And why not? They control all of the levers of power in the Land of Pritzker.

Enter Congressman Mike Bost, our heroic challenger of the "ridiculous" (read: utterly bonkers) practice of counting ballots postmarked by Election Day but received up to two weeks later. Because why rush perfection? Last week, the Supreme Court graciously confirmed that candidates can, in fact, challenge unlawful election procedures in their own races. Hallelujah! This is the vital first step toward dismantling this absurd, fraud-riddled charade that's been Illinois's not-so-secret shame.

Flashback to May 2022: Bost, teamed up with two of Trump's presidential electors for Illinois—Laura Pollastrini and Susan Sweeney—sued the state, with Judicial Watch providing the legal muscle.

Bost's beef? A classic "pocketbook injury" from shelling out cash for poll watchers to babysit the ballot-counting circus post-Election Day. He argued candidates deserve standing to sue over laws messing with their races—after all, the state's rules forced him to keep staff on payroll for an extra two weeks, at his own "considerable" expense.

The Supreme Court justices even questioned the legality of Illinois's mail-in ballot shenanigans, especially after lower courts dismissed Bost for lacking standing, claiming the votes "likely" wouldn't swing his race much. (Because nothing

says justice like guessing games.) But Chief Justice Roberts swooped in with wisdom: Unlawful election rules can injure candidates in oh-so-many ways—not just lost elections, drained bank accounts, shrinking vote shares, or tarnished reps, but also that warm, fuzzy interest in "fair" processes.

Roberts quipped (paraphrased for flair): "Win or lose, candidates get the short end when the process ignores the law. So yeah, the long-shot and the shoo-in both suffer if a state decides to run elections by, say, flipping a coin." Touché! And like Roberts, I think we can all sarcastically agree: When unlawful votes sneak in or lawful ones get tossed, public confidence in elections doesn't just erode—it plummets off a cliff into a pit of conspiracy memes.

Oh, and Roberts tossed in a cheeky footnote: This ruling only covers candidates' standing to challenge vote-counting rules in their own elections. No sweeping reforms here, folks—just a tiny crack in the door.

We all know—especially us election integrity warriors—that the 2020 presidential elections were absolutely rife with "misinformation" (wink wink) and, yes, outright fraud. Take Georgia: Biden squeaked by with just over 11,000 votes, but oops, over 315,000 ballots were "just found." How convenient! This Supreme Court smackdown on post-Election Day counting in Illinois? It's a MAJOR win—not just for Bost, but for every future candidate in Illinois desperate to "restore" public confidence and drag us back to those mythical "free, fair, and honest" elections we're supposed to have.

The Illinois Freedom Alliance is fist-pumping alongside Bost, who calls this the "initial battle" won, but oh boy, the "fight for election integrity continues." It's about time.

God Bless Mike Bost (may his poll watchers get hazard pay) and God Bless America (may our coins always land heads up)!

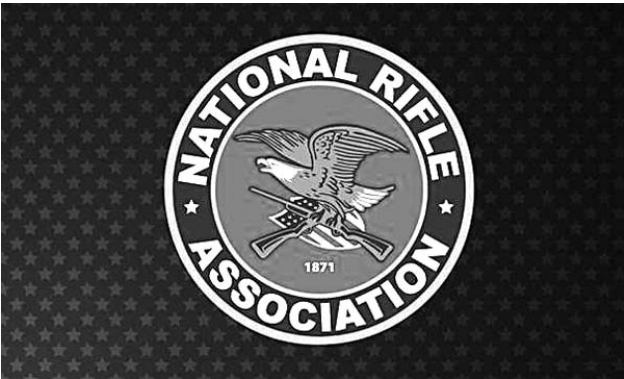
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If you are NOT engaged, then you don't have any right to complain! Get involved! Stay inspired! Stay educated!

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 or call 309-377-1776).

IllinoisFreedomAlliance.us



Including Fairburn, Vandermyde from IL

GSL endorsed NRA Board candidates

Guns Save Life can't make endorsements in local, state and federal elections for public office, but we surely can for the NRA Board of Directors. We're VERY supportive of the NRA 2.0 reformers and like-minded individuals.

Ballots will be mailed soon to NRA members eligible to vote. We encourage folks to vote for the reformers.

- William Bailey** from Milledgeville, Georgia — Committee recommended, NRA 2.0
- Robert Beckmann** from Cincinnati, Ohio — Committee recommended and petition, NRA 2.0
- Kenneth Bowra** from Smithfield, Virginia — Committee recommended, NRA 2.0
- Charles Brown** from Dayton, Ohio — Committee recommended, NRA 2.0
- Alex Carroll** from Connersville, Indiana — Committee recommended, NRA 2.0
- James D'Cruz** from Oakland, Florida — Committee recommended, NRA 2.0
- Richard Fairburn from Canton, Illinois — Committee recommended incumbent director, NRA 2.0**
- Richard Todd Figard** from Wadsworth, Ohio — Committee recommended, NRA 2.0
- Charles T. Hiltunen, III** from Indianapolis, Indiana — Committee recommended incumbent director, NRA 2.0
- Kyle Hupfer** from Pendleton, Indiana — Committee recommended, NRA 2.0
- Jerry Kraus** from Craig, Colorado — Committee recommended, NRA 2.0
- Randy Luth** from Becker, Minnesota — Committee recommended, NRA 2.0
- Robert Mansell** from Bullhead City, Arizona — Committee recommended incumbent director, NRA 2.0
- Eric Metteauer** from Beaumont, Texas — Committee recommended, NRA 2.0
- James W. Porter II** from Birmingham, Alabama — Committee recommended incumbent director, NRA 2.0
- Mark Robinson** from Colfax, North Carolina — Committee recommended incumbent director
- Amanda Suffecool** from Wayland, Ohio — Committee recommended and petition incumbent director, NRA 2.0
- Todd Vandermyde from Yorkville, Illinois — Petition candidate**
- Linda Walker** from Newark, Ohio — Committee recommended incumbent director, NRA 2.0
- Bruce Widner** from Anderson, South Carolina — Committee recommended incumbent director, NRA 2.0

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

The Ubiquitous .22

Ubiquitous: Existing or being everywhere, or in all places, at the same time. Like the .22 Long Rifle (LR) firearm. It isn't the best caliber for self-defense. It's probably the least effective. It won't disable a charging Grizzly Bear. In fact, it won't even phase a smiling teddy bear. Being a rimfire cartridge, the weapon requires cleaning; not just once a year on your birthday.



Having said all that, every person interested in firearms needs at least one (pistol, carbine, or rifle) .22LR in their gun safe for a variety of significant reasons. Firing a .22 will make you a better shooter in every caliber because the mechanics and fundamentals of shooting – target, defense, hunting – are very similar regardless of caliber. In target shooting, you can practice controlled breathing, firing position, trigger pull, sight picture with a .22 that will help when you are firing larger calibers. Point and fire is the same with a .22 pistol as it is with a 9mm.

If you are a beginner shooter, a .22 is a Godsend. Recoil is minimal; and remember, the older you get, the less recoil-tolerant you will be. That's true with a pistol, carbine or rifle. I often shoot a .22 Mauser MS350B target rifle, produced 90 years ago. At nine pounds; it's the most accurate firearm I have ever shot (we're talking one ragged hole for five rounds), in part because the weapon, for me, doesn't have any felt recoil. Firing .22s, the noise level is lower than for other calibers. Now, you should NEVER fire any firearm without using hearing protection. I spend whatever it takes for that, and firing a .22, sounds like a "pop," while a big centerfire cartridge still sounds like a "boom".

With little recoil, and less noise – combined with low ammunition cost – the .22 is fun to practice with. Which means you'll practice more often and whatever firearm you have, you must practice, practice, practice – to go from "good" to "better" to "best." Specialty self-defense pistol ammunition can cost a dollar a round give or take. Practice ammunition for your 9mm can run \$0.20 to \$0.25 a round. But if you buy .22 in bulk, you can get it at a nickel a shot. And having enough on hand, let's you wait for discounts, especially whenever ammunition seems in short supply on the shelves.

So who benefits from a .22? First off, young shooters, probably with a .22 carbine or rifle. You want to teach them gun safety, such as treating all firearms as if they are loaded, never pointing a firearm at someone else (except in extreme self-defense when your life is threatened). You want a new shooter to achieve success early on so they stay interested. Success means hitting the target again and again in an experience that cannot be replicated by a video game. Most shooters are more accurate with a rifle; my advice is to start with iron sights, because almost every firearm

begins life with those, rather than a fancy scope or other optic. Plus, while some .22 semi-auto rifles in Illinois remain legal, why worry what might change, and just go with a single-shot bolt-action or lever-action. A Henry is excellent. Their .22s come in different weights, the lightest being 4.5 pounds in the Youth model. They are rugged; not only can your children learn with one, but their children can too down the line. An interesting bolt action looks like a Savage Rascal, weighing only 2.75 pounds – but I've never fired one.



I think a .22 pistol should also be on your "must have" list. Because accuracy is key, an adjustable rear sight is a must. And since it isn't your primary concealed-carry weapon, small-size and short barrel-length are not truly critical. Because you "might" have to use it in a defense situation, from a rabid animal in the woods, killer-type dogs such as pitbulls, or a human trying to kill you, you can only partially get around the anemic .22 caliber by hitting the attacker with multiple rounds; six isn't a large enough capacity – you want a capability of 8-10 rounds for anything larger than a rabid chipmunk. Despite all the big talk about hopped up meth-heads, banzai warriors, most animals and humans dislike bullet wounds – that dislike gets stronger with each successive strike – even if none by itself is immediately fatal – and at some very rapid point, "fight" gives way to "flight."

OK, revolver or semi-auto? You can have way more than 8-10 in a semi-auto, while ten seems to be the max in a revolver. However, the .22LR is rimfire, which gets dirty quickly and is also known to have rounds that fail to feed (such as from rimlock, where the next round is impeded by the round below it) or fail to fire. For me, in a high stress situation I'd rather not have to clear and rechamber another round, required in a semi-auto, and instead have a revolver. Yes, a catastrophic failure, where the cylinder will not rotate, is possible in a revolver, but it is far more unlikely than a failure to feed or fire in a rimfire semi. Plus, for me, thoroughly cleaning a revolver is far easier with my old hands than is a semi-auto.

One economically-priced option is a Diamondback Sidekick, a 9-shot revolver that also comes with an additional .22 Magnum cylinder. Ruger and Colt make excellent .22 revolvers that fit the bill. They are not inexpensive. But given that they'll likely be great handguns for you, your children, and even your grandchildren, that's several lifetimes of having a quality firearm for the home, farm, vehicle, camping, target shooting, and maybe even one day, something you – or them – truly need.



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POLICE OFFICERS! DCSC offers FREE range memberships to active duty LEOs

The DeWitt County Sportsman's Club offers free memberships to active duty law-enforcement officers. Not only can you go shoot when you want (during daylight hours), you can bring a guest with you. It's a permissive range in terms of rules: double-taps and rapid fire are okay so long as you stay on target. Movement and holster work are welcome. Just no .50s, no steel targets or Tannerite, and no aerial shotgun targets.



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DewittCountySC.com





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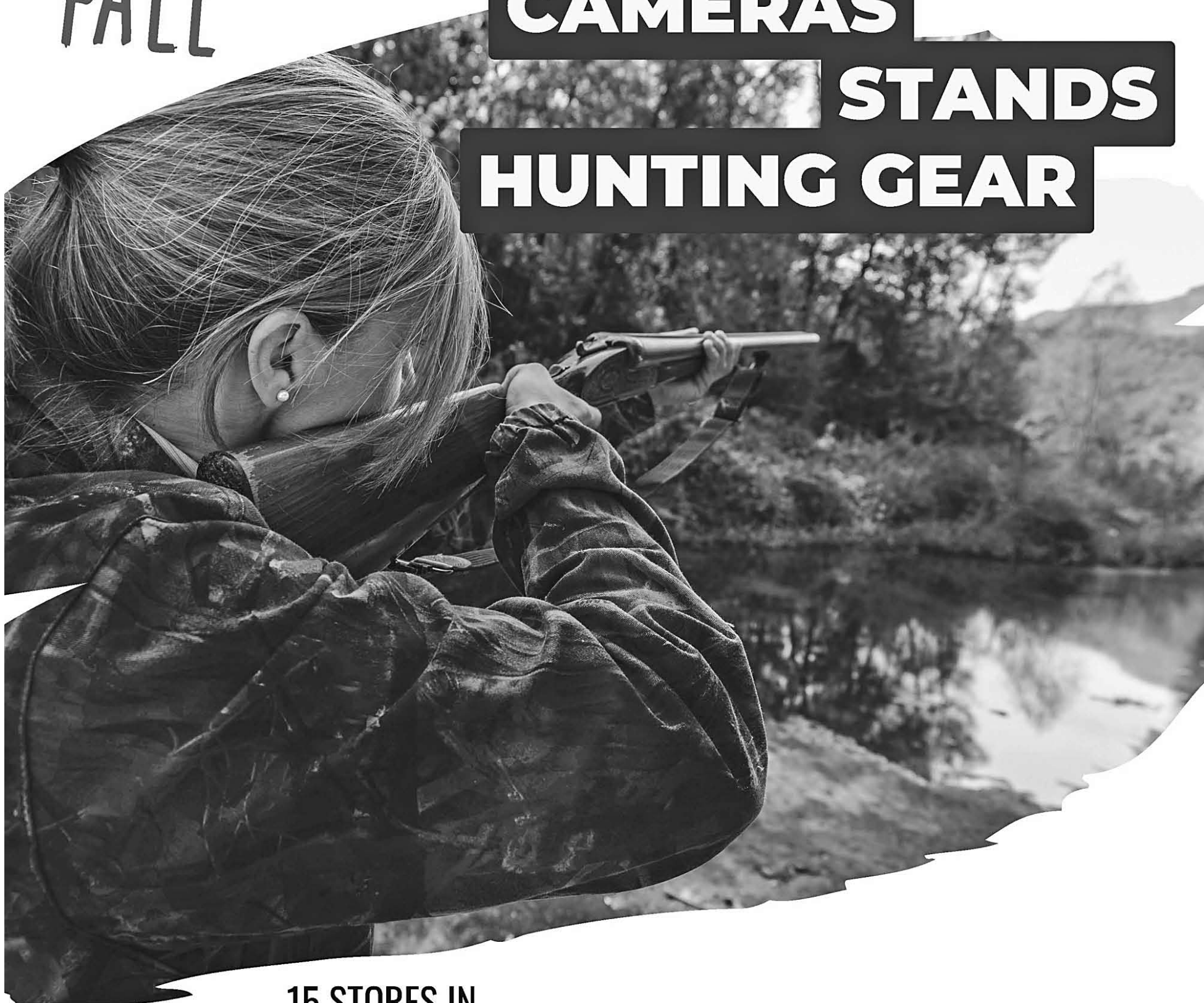
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DOJ to cease prosecuting people for shipping handguns and ammo via US Mail

(The Hill) - A nearly 100-year-old federal ban on mailing handguns through the U.S. Postal Service is unconstitutional and cannot be enforced, according to an opinion released Thursday by the Department of Justice (DOJ).

The 15-page opinion concluded that a 1927 law, which made it illegal to use the Postal Service to mail concealable firearms, such as pistols and revolvers, infringes on the Second

Amendment.

"Section 1715 makes it difficult to travel with arms for lawful purposes, including self-defense, target shooting, and hunting," wrote T. Elliot Gaiser, the assistant attorney general for the Office of Legal Counsel.

"The statute also imposes significant barriers to shipping constitutionally protected firearms as articles of commerce, which interferes with citizens' inci-

dental rights to acquire and maintain arms," the opinion continued...

"Consequently, so long as Congress chooses to run a parcel service, the Second Amendment precludes it from refusing to ship constitutionally protected firearms to and from law-abiding citizens, even if they are not licensed manufacturers or dealers," the opinion stated.



Trump reclassified marijuana from Schedule I to Schedule III under the Controlled Substances Act... Now what for gun owners?

(Shooting News Weekly) - You may have heard that President Trump recently did what presidents have been threatening to do for the last decade or so. He reclassified marijuana from a Schedule I controlled substance to a Schedule III controlled substance. In short, Schedule I drugs are deemed by the federal government as having no accepted medical use with a high likelihood of abuse. Schedule III drugs have some medical uses and "moderate to low potential for physical and psychological dependence."

under federal law, it's still illegal to purchase or possess a firearm if an individual is "an unlawful user of or addicted to any controlled substance (as defined in section 102 of the Controlled Substances Act)."

Marijuana is still very much a controlled substance under the CSA...it's just been moved from one classification to another. And there's nothing about that reclassification that would result in a change to ATF's 4473 Firearms Transaction Record form.

We asked SNW contributor and attorney LKB what his opinion of the move is as far as gun owners and their rights might be. His analysis of any change that will result as a result of Trump's order: not much.

Marijuana is still illegal under federal law unless you have the right permission slips. Just as possession/consumption of, say, Xanax without a prescription is illegal, but possession/consumption with a prescription is legal. Reclassification allows for the possibility of medical use of marijuana products.

While reclassification might make some medical uses of marijuana legal (and thus not disqualifying), it won't apply to the vast majority of recreational users.

As the White House's announcement says, the reclassification will allow for more research into the benefits of wacky tabacky use, but again, the change doesn't legalize or decriminalize it at the federal level. And

Completing the 4473 still requires you to attest that you're not an unlawful user of or addicted to marijuana, among other controlled substances. The form also clearly warns you that weed is illegal under federal law, no matter what the laws in your state may be.

If you're a marijuana user and respond 'Yes' to the question, your purchase will be denied. If you're a user and respond 'No,' lying on a 4473 form is a felony (ask Hunter Biden about that), which is also a threat to your gun rights.

So, without a change to the law at the federal level — something that's about as likely as me perfecting cold fusion — current and prospective gun owners are still in the same situation as they were before Trump's executive order. Using cannabis puts your gun rights at risk now as much as it ever has.

Act accordingly.

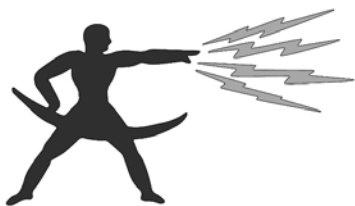
Who's minding the ammo fort when you're gone?

Guest speaker: GEORGE ALARM

by John Boch

Look, fellow GunNews readers: Most of us have the gear, the training, and the "FAFO" attitude to turn any home invasion into someone's very bad life decision. But what happens when you're out restocking ammo, going to church, or just living your best armed life somewhere else? Who's minding your ammo fort at home?

Enter Mike George, the OG boss of George Alarm out of Springfield (and a solid GSL member and advertiser), who rolled up with his manager Zach to drop some real-talk wisdom. Mike's mostly kicked back in semi-retirement mode these days, so Zach handled the heavy lifting—like a good wingman should.



Bottom line: George Alarm is that rare local outfit that's been around since dinosaurs roamed (okay, 1957), sticking with American-made gear to keep your castle secure. No offshore call-center nonsense here—their high-tech dispatch center is right in Central Illinois, staffed by actual English-speaking Americans who spring into action faster than you can say "Go Bears!" We're talking response times under 10 seconds when an alarm pops. Boom—help's on the way.

They'll follow your playbook: They'll start with the police then call your neighbor, your cousin Vinnie, your favorite GSL buddy down the street, or whoever you trust. And let the fun begin for the bad actors about to become stars with their booking photos.

And forget just "burglar" alarms—these guys cover the full apocalypse checklist: fire/smoke, flood, crazy temperature swings, medical pendants (in case Grandma takes a

tumble), you name it. They even can hook into your existing video surveillance system and have AI monitor for uninvited guests.

Best part? Modern redundancy laughs at old-school B&E tricks. Snip the phone line outside like it's 1985 to suppress a call for help? Cute. These systems run dual internet + cellular backup. You'd need nation-state hackers or a really determined squirrel with wire cutters to take both down. Good luck, bad guys.

Pricing keeps it real: Systems kick off around \$200 installed, plus about \$40/month for monitoring. That's less than your insurance deductible, and way cheaper than replacing everything some [bleep]bag walks off with.

One big buzzkill they flagged: Decatur's got this quirky local policy where cops won't roll out on a straight burglar alarm unless a keyholder shows up first and waves them in. Great if you're home chilling with your AR non-PICA regulated firearm. Not so great if you're halfway to Springfield... or vacationing in El Salvador. Your alarm screams, but the cavalry waits for your "friend" Sidney Sweeney to show up from the nearest American Eagle store with the spare key. Yikes.

On a brighter note, one sharp attendee noted that those Knox Boxes are available locally for residential users for well under \$100. You know, the little key safes that give firefighters quick, non-destructive access to your casa if you're incapacitated or just not answering the door during a legit emergency - just like most businesses have. Smart insurance against "destructive" entry tactics those firemen love to employ because you woke them up at oh-dark-hundred to respond.

So yeah—while you're out perfecting your draw stroke, George Alarm's got your six with local muscle, fast response, and tech that actually works in 2026. Worth a call if you want peace of mind without cheap Chinese sensors and outsourced support to Bangalore. Stay vigilant, folks. And maybe stock up on ammo and an alarm while you're at it.

US Supreme Court revives Mike Bost's lawsuit on Illinois' late ballot counting

(The Hill) - The Supreme Court on Wednesday revived an Illinois Congress member's lawsuit over a state mail-in ballot law, paving the way for political candidates nationwide to challenge election laws more easily in their states.

The justices ruled 7-2 that Rep. Mike Bost (R-Ill.) has the legal right to sue Illinois over its ability to count mail-in ballots received after Election Day, a practice targeted by President Trump and his allies.

Chief Justice John Roberts wrote the majority opinion over the dissents of two of the court's liberals: Justices Sonia Sotomayor and Ketanji Brown Jackson.



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Demonstrating what can happen when laws are enforced and illegals are deported

Homicides down 29%

Chicago (GSL) - Under the Trump administration's aggressive enforcement of the nation's immigration laws, crime plummeted across America in 2025.

Homicides nationwide showed a historic decline last year. Even America's murder capital, Chicago, saw 29% fewer homicides compared to 2024's totals and 32% fewer people shot and killed, both declines courtesy of HeyJackass.com.

Isn't it amazing what can happen when you round up criminal illegals and ship them out?

Homicides are a good measure of overall crime trends as they can't easily be buried or "misreported" by local police and politicians as less serious crimes. And this comes despite dire predictions of rampant violence by the gun control industry after the *Bruen* decision was handed down in 2022.

Imagine if we controlled criminals instead of guns...

Parolee among three accused of firing guns before expressway rollover crash

Chicago (CWB Chicago) - Three men, including a recent parolee, are charged with firing guns down a West Side street Sunday afternoon before attempting to flee police in a chase that ended with a violent rollover crash on the Eisenhower Expressway, according to Chicago police reports.

Officers monitoring a Chicago Police Department surveillance camera saw a silver Infiniti Q50 stop in the 3700 block of West Lexington Avenue shortly before 4:30 p.m., police said. Three men got out of the vehicle and began firing guns in multiple directions, including toward passing

cars and an apartment building. Investigators later recovered handgun and rifle casings at the scene...

Near the Independence Boulevard overpass, the driver tried to pass another vehicle, lost control, and crashed. The Infiniti rolled over, ejecting the driver, who was taken to Stroger Hospital. Police said he was issued traffic citations, but is not charged in the shooting investigation...

Calvin Jackson, a 33-year-old, six-time convicted felon, was found in the back passenger seat with a firearm underneath his body, according to a CPD

report. Jackson, who was most recently paroled on November 26, was listed in critical condition at Stroger Hospital.

Police also arrested Terrence Calhoun, 43... Court records show Calhoun was found not guilty of Class X armed habitual criminal charges following a bench trial before Judge Peggy Chiampas in October. His criminal history includes a 2023 conviction for being a felon in possession of a firearm and nine other felony convictions dating back to 2001, records show.

Man with 57 arrests pleads guilty in gruesome Loop pipe attack, will not go to prison

Chicago (CWB Chicago) - A man with a long history of randomly attacking people in the Loop has pleaded guilty to viciously, randomly attacking a man with a pipe in the heart of downtown, but despite that history, the resolution of the case will not require him to spend any time in prison.

Around 9:45 a.m. on December 8, 2022, a 53-year-old man was walking in the 100 block of West Madison Street when Pierre Thorne attacked him from behind with a metal object, according to prosecutors.

pipe, from the ground, walked behind the victim, whom he did not know, and struck him in the back of the head. The victim immediately fell to the sidewalk and began bleeding heavily from the back of his head. Prosecutors said he suffered additional injuries to his face when he struck the ground.

In a court filing, prosecutors said his injuries included the loss of several teeth, multiple fractures to his face and jaw, an injury to his nose, lacerations to his chin and exterior scalp, and an abrasion to his left eye. The victim required multiple reconstructive surgeries, and his face has been permanently disfigured, according to prosecutors.

57 Arrests

Court records state that Thorne, 32, grabbed the object, possibly a metal



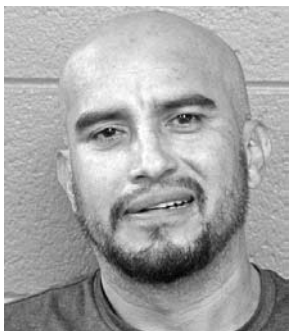
Violent felon and illegal in custody after shooting near ICE agents in Chicago

(CWB Chicago) - A Mexican national illegally living in the United States possessed a handgun that was fired near U.S. Customs and Border Protection agents during a large-scale enforcement operation in Little Village in November, federal prosecutors said Thursday.

prohibited from owning a gun in the U.S., and laughed while pointing a loaded pistol at a woman, the same weapon that was used to fire shots near federal agents earlier in the day, according to the allegations...

Gomez remains detained in federal custody and is scheduled to be arraigned on January 12.

Hector Gomez has crossed the border illegally dozens of times, admitted he was



Hector Gomez.

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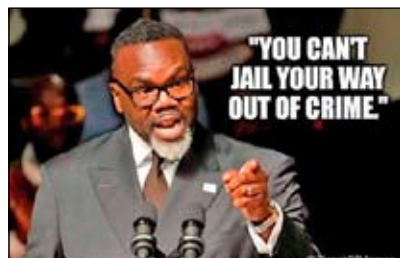
ABC News can't figure out why overdose deaths plummeted

GOOD NEWS: Opioid overdose deaths are down sharply

New York (ABC News) -- U.S. overdose deaths fell through most of last year, suggesting a lasting improvement in an epidemic that had been worsening for decades...

Researchers cannot yet say with confidence why deaths have gone down. Experts have offered multiple possible explanations: increased availability of the overdose-reversing drug naloxone, expanded addiction treatment, shifts in how people use drugs, and the growing impact of billions of dollars in opioid lawsuit settlement money.

[Editor's Note: Could it be the Trump Administration shutting down the southern border? And drug boats and submarines suffering from rapid unplanned disassembly courtesy of the US military?]



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NRA 2.0 - REBUILDING TRUST

America brought more than our A-game to grab Maduro

(GSL) - Any time a conflict is a fair fight, your tactics probably suck. Moreover, if you thought Donald Trump wouldn't send the very best with our best fighters in the raid to capture Venezuelan narco-dictator Nicolas Maduro, then you're as foolish as Maduro's security team.

Not only did our pipe-hitters bring their A-game in terms of marksmanship and gun handling, we also apparently brought much more which made it a very lopsided fight. We reportedly used some sort of sonic weapon to debilitate Maduro's palace guards. Something that makes people bleed from the nose and vomit blood. Something that effectively took the fight right out of them.

This account from a Venezuelan security guard loyal to Nicolás Maduro is absolutely chilling—and it explains a lot about why the tone across Latin America suddenly changed. Thank you Michael Netter for the story:

Security Guard: On the day of the operation, we didn't hear anything coming. We were on guard, but suddenly all our radar systems shut down without any explanation. The next thing we saw were drones, a lot of drones, flying over our positions. We didn't know how to react.

Interviewer: So what happened next? How was the main attack?

Security Guard: After those drones appeared, some helicopters arrived, but there were very few. I think barely eight helicopters. From those helicopters, soldiers came down, but a very small number. Maybe twenty men. But those men were technologically very advanced. They didn't look like anything we've fought against before.

Interviewer: And then the battle began?

Security Guard: Yes, but it was a massacre. We were hundreds, but we had no chance. They were shooting with such precision and speed... it seemed like each soldier was firing 300 rounds per minute. We couldn't do anything.

Interviewer: And your own weapons? Didn't they help?

Security Guard: No help at all. Because it wasn't just the weapons. At one point, they launched something—I don't know how to describe it... it was like a very intense sound wave. Suddenly I felt like my head was exploding from the inside. We all started bleeding from the nose. Some were vomiting blood. We fell to the ground, unable to move.

Interviewer: And your comrades? Did they manage to resist?



Security Guard: No, not at all. Those twenty men, without a single casualty, killed hundreds of us. We had no way to compete with their technology, with their weapons. I swear, I've never seen anything like it. We couldn't even stand up after that sonic weapon or whatever it was.

Interviewer: So do you think the rest of the region should think twice before confronting the Americans?

Security Guard: Without a doubt. I'm sending a warning to anyone who thinks they can fight the United States. They have no idea what they're capable of. After what I saw, I never want to be on the other side of that again. They're not to be messed with.

Interviewer: And now that Trump has said Mexico is on the list, do you think the situation will change in Latin America?

Security Guard: Definitely. Everyone is already talking about this. No one wants to go through what we went through. Now everyone thinks twice. What happened here is going to change a lot of things, not just in Venezuela but throughout the region.

Don't carry to protect your family from criminals! Carry because of irrational fears!

Liberal gun owner: With ICE in my town and a brown wife, should I carry a gun?

(Reddit's LiberalGunOwner forum) - I'm in NJ, I have my CCW. ICE is now in my town and my wife is brown. Natural born second generation citizen, but it doesn't seem like that matters to these f***tards.

I'm torn between carrying to protect my family and not carrying to protect my family. Confidence in my ability to restrain myself if they tried to take her is low. However, escalating that situation would most certainly lead to even worse outcomes. So there lies the rub.

There have been several posts on this

similar topic and I have read them all. Where are you all landing?



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Review: Rocky 'Ultra Ops' Public Service Boots

Who doesn't want to be 2" taller in a pair of sturdy boots?

by John Boch

The fine folks at Rocky sent me a new set of boots for me to evaluate last October. I've worn the "Ultra Ops" Public Service Boots now for almost three months through snow, sleet, rain, ice and mud.

Not only do they look great after my "torture" testing, but the other thing I really like about them is that they don't look like "uniform boots" - aka "I've got a gun" boots.



After all, some areas aren't permissive and/or welcoming of firearms in the hands of good guys in the Land of Pritzker. Nothing screams "I've got a gun" to knowing eyes like a pair of polished (or could be polished) black leather boots.

Here's the primary claim to fame on this new line of Rocky boots, per the company: "... agility meets durability - a lightweight, high-performance tactical boot engineered for those who demand speed without sacrificing support. This 6-inch boot features full-grain leather and a breathable mesh upper, offering structure and flexibility. The dual-density EVA/rubber outsole keeps the boots lightweight without sacrificing traction, making it ideal for extended wear and use across unpredictable terrain. The Terra Suspension footbed provides cushion while absorbing shock and the molded TPU and heel guards add protection to high-wear zones."

Translating that industry and market-speak into English: They are affordable, lightweight, quasi-duty boots, well-suited for first responders on- and off-duty that will hold up to hard use. As hard as I tried to find something I criticize about these boots, I failed. They seem like a very good value for the \$100 street price.

These are warm when it's quite cold outside and dry when it's wet outside. They feel very comfortable and they offer a great deal of support, something my personal trainer girlfriend sometimes nags me about. And

they're holding up very nicely, better than similarly-priced products from competitors I've worn in past years.

First impressions.

And my very first impression trying these on? "Holy cow! I'm 2" taller!" I didn't take a ruler to it but it might be even more.

Who doesn't want to be 2" taller in a pair of sturdy boots? You'll have to ask your circle of friends if they make you look more handsome, too. No guarantees there.

Yes, there's a lot of material between your heels and the ground. And unlike "inexpensive" boots with lousy support, where you can feel every big rock and stick under your foot, these have a rigid and supportive sole. My only gripe, if you can call it that, is that the laces anchor the boot to your foot maybe a little too securely, slowing me down taking them off and putting them on. On the flip side, if you tie them properly, they'll *never* "loosen up" as you wear them nor will you get blisters from your footies slipping inside the boot. Not in a month of Sundays.

As with my last pair of Rocky boots, these offer slip resistance and sure-footed stability no matter the terrain or condition.

Now admittedly I'm not a professional footwear reviewer. I much prefer guns and shooting gear. While I may not be an expert in good boots, I got a PhD in bad footwear when extra money wasn't available for quality, name-brand products when I was younger. Most of us have made plenty of mistakes in our lives buying shoes that don't fit well, don't wear well and/or fall apart prematurely. These Rockies, however, are nice, not naughty. Heck, Santa might even have a pair of these for everyday wear.

After almost three months of daily wear, these look almost brand new save a couple of scuffs. I'm not sure what sort of dirt-repelling magic they've imbued the shell material with, but I like it a lot and would be remiss if I didn't mention it.

The bottom line: If you're looking for a pair of nice, comfortable boots that wear well, protect your feet and won't break the bank - or tell the world you're carrying a Glock - take a look at these. I'm pretty sure you'll like them and your feet will too. Yeah, they would make a helluva birthday gift. Or Father's Day gift too, one he'll appreciate WAY more than another tie.

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COMING MAY 23-24 TO DEWITT CO. SPORTSMAN'S CLUB: John Murphy's 'JUST GET HOME'

by John Boch

We originally ran a version of this after-action report on John Murphy's "Street Encounter Skills and Tactics" class in June 2024. John Murphy is bringing the class back, rebranded as "Just Get Home" to Central Illinois at the DeWitt Co. Sportsman's Club on May 23 & 24. I highly recommend the class for those who have not had training in pre-violence indicators, conflict avoidance and de-escalation.

GSL - Chicago has an armed robbery and carjacking problem. We all know that.

"But I don't live in that urban hellscape known as Chicago, so I don't have to worry about that so much," most readers might say.

That mental denial response has no survival value. Bigger cities see more bad guys, but perps work in every locale. And why not? Many see little worry of arrest, prosecution or incarceration in the Land of Pritzker for committing serious crimes. Why even if they get caught, word is out that they don't even have to post bail now to get released following arrest thanks to Illinois' "No Cash Bail" law!

Enter John Murphy's Street Encounter Skills and Tactics (now known as "Just Get Home") from FPF Training (now Citizen Defender). Murphy cut his teeth as an analyst with one of those alphabet intelligence agencies in Washington. He brings that same analytical process to his other love: helping good guys and gals mentally prepare for a potential attack, and to identify bad guy behaviors and avoid potential threats.



Several of our GSL Defense Training team signed up for this course held at the Illinois State Rifle Association range in Bonfield, IL near Kankakee (back in the Spring of 2024).

We held Mr. Murphy in high esteem after having seen him in action at the annual "Polite Society" Tactical Conference. Instructors from across the nation attend this event each year.

In the Street Encounter two-day class, Murphy supplements the classroom content with hours of required videos. Using those videos, he emphasizes conflict avoidance and de-escalation, stopping bleeding, interacting with law enforcement, pepper spray deployment along with street encounter skills.

To reinforce those points, he incorporates real-life instances of what happens when people let their egos and/or mouths buy themselves a ticket to a very bad outcome. Crime videos also illustrated pre-violence indicators that bad

guys "leak" before attacking, including the big one: the straight-line approach immediately before the attack.



John Murphy.

Basically, it's mostly a class on how to recognize and avoid trouble and potential conflict before it happens. If that fails, he teaches de-escalation. And if that fails as well, he teaches how to end an attack decisively.

Frankly, more of us could use avoidance/de-escalation training like this. The best way to win a gunfight is to avoid it/not be there.

It differs from most classes in that there's no auditory cue to engage. Instead, you "read" the target's actions and engage as appropriate. And your targets actions can and do change, just like in real life, some of it based upon your actions. You'll find that your reaction times to draw and fire slow when you need to visually process cues as opposed to someone yelling, "Fire" or "Bust 'em!"

The course tuition is \$495. Expect to shoot about 350-400 rounds.

Is it worth the coin? If you have not had any formal training in situational awareness, conflict avoidance and de-escalation, then absolutely this course belongs on your bucket list sooner rather than later. How high on the bucket list of must-have training beyond the basics? Pretty darn high - probably in the top five alongside Mas Ayoob's MAG-40 and a force-on-force class or two. The medical component and the pepper spray stuff in Street Skills is all just gravy.

I have attended classes from nearly three dozen schools / instructors over the years, both local along with many nationally known. John Murphy might not have the most widely known name but he has a good reputation for solid coursework. I didn't go away disappointed and you shouldn't either. Better yet, in today's urban and not-so-urban environments, the topics he covers may help you avoid conflict or a gunfight before it kicks off. Those are solid wins even if you don't realize it at the time. He'll also help you decisively win the fight if attackers decide to press the issue.

From a practical standpoint, if you use what you learn in this class to avoid or mitigate a single use-of-force incident, the class has paid for itself many times over - and you made it home safely.

For more information on classes or to enroll, visit Murphy's website at Citizen-Defender.com or call 703 609-6350.



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Knives

by John Boch

(GSL) - Knives aren't toys—they're silent, cheap, and brutally efficient killers. In the hands of someone who knows what they're doing, a blade can slash your throat or sever an artery before you even register the glint of steel. Worse? Even a complete amateur waving a \$2 steak knife from the kitchen drawer can end your life in seconds.

Retired cop and longtime knife-fighting enthusiast Joe Tharp laid it all out plain and raw during his eye-opening presentation at the Danville GSL meeting. He kicked things off by lining up a gallery of blades on the table: everything from a \$500 custom blade that's too nice to carry everyday to the humble restaurant steak knife you'd use on a ribeye. His point? Price tag doesn't matter. Any one of them, in the wrong hands, spells disaster for you.

Joe quoted Jesus telling his disciples to sell their cloak and buy a sword. Today's version? Get a gun if you can. But if a firearm isn't an option (or isn't handy), a knife plus some training beats relying on harsh language or "hope."

What makes knives so nasty in real-world attacks? They're stealthy—no loud bang to give you away—quiet as a whisper, dirt-cheap, and ridiculously easy to conceal.

Spend a fortune, pocket change or steal a restaurant steak knife; the result can be the same: graveyard dead.



Joe, drawing from years on the job, put it bluntly: "I've seen more stabbings than I care to count as a cop. Almost every single one involved either a steak knife or a butcher knife."

He broke down the ugly reality of knife work: slashing at major arteries (neck, inner arms, thighs), thrusting for the heart, ripping through flesh to hit vitals. Knife fights aren't choreographed Hollywood duels—they're messy, often over in moments, and drenched in blood.

One of his strongest pieces of advice? If you spot a genuine lethal threat, keep that threat away from you with distance and obstacles. (Distance & obstacles give you time. Time gives you options and options mean safety.) If they get closer and you can clearly articulate why a reasonable person would fear for their life, strike first—preemptively. Easier said than done, though. Hesitate or misjudge, and the legal fallout can be as bad as the physical one. Be damn sure, and be

ready to explain it crystal clear to investigating officers with the help of your attorney, as well as a judge and jury.

Joe also stressed the smart move: Get concealed-carry-level legal protection (self-defense insurance) if you ever plan to carry a blade for protection. He's been through three defensive shootings himself—the aftermath is a nightmare of stress, second-guessing, and legal bills that can bankrupt you. Having someone in your corner who handles the lawyers and paperwork? Priceless. You won't be writing endless checks while your life unravels.

And the golden rule if it ever goes down? Same as with a gun: Get police en route immediately. When they arrive, keep it short and sweet: "I was attacked, I feared for my life, and I want to speak with my attorney before answering any questions."



Bad day for the home team: don't let bad guys get in close!

Bottom line from Joe: Respect the blade. Train seriously. Prepare legally. Because in the split-second chaos of a real attack, hope and prayer aren't weapons—steel and preparation are. Stay safe out there.

On the flip side, when using a knife aggressively against a potential attacker, don't play nicely. If you have a chance to slash open their neck or femoral artery on the inside of their thigh, take it. Do your best to castrate them. You might not succeed at neutering them, it will retard their combat effectiveness. You don't play nicely and there are no rules.

If you can't sever arteries, chop tendons in the wrist, or back of the knee or just above the heel in the back. That will prevent them from moving effectively.

Joe also recommends fixed-blades over folders for defensive purposes. Why? Have you ever tried to deploy a folder when someone's on you, raining down punches? It's nary impossible. Get a fixed blade, an automatic knife that will deploy at the touch of a button or a pocket Karambit that will automatically deploy when you pluck it out of your pocket.

Are you in a non-permissive environment? Order a steak. The servers will often bring you a defensive implement.

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Pass the tissues...

Masked armed robber gets shot instead of cash

Memphis (FoxNews) - Police released footage showing the moment a store clerk fired a shot at a man, striking him, during an attempted robbery Monday morning in the Alcy-Ball neighborhood.



According to the Memphis Police Department (MPD), it happened around 10 a.m. at the Quick Check Store on Alcy Road near Perry Road.

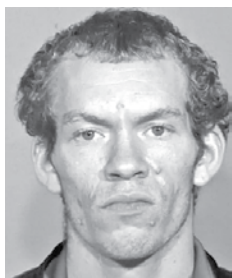
Meanwhile, in NYC

NYC senior who fatally shot would-be mugger, begins prison sentence

NYC (NY Post) - The Queens senior citizen who killed a would-be mugger during an early morning shooting reported to prison Wednesday to serve a four-year sentence for criminal weapons possession.

Former Kew Gardens resident Charles Foehner was locked up at the Eric M. Taylor Center in the Bronx for his felony gun charges stemming from the May 31, 2023, shooting, Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz announced on Wednesday.

The then-65-year-old was returning to his Queens Avenue apartment around 2 a.m. after buying a pack of cigarettes when he was confronted by a menacing Cody Gonzalez.



Dead perp Gonzalez.



The perp's family posted this photo of Keilyn Parker in a Go Fund Me after he was shot dead trying to murder two people.

Perp's family claim he's just an angel Trigger-happy intruder gets shot dead

Clovis, NM (Albuquerque Journal) - A 20-year-old was killed in a shootout with a homeowner during an apparent burglary in Clovis just after midnight Thursday.

Clovis police were dispatched to a house in the 2500 block of East 7th Street, near Hillcrest Park, around 12:30 a.m. Friday after a 911 caller said he had been shot by a burglar, according to a news release shared on the department's Facebook page later in the day.

The man told police he had shot back at the intruder—identified as Keilyn Parker—and that he and a woman were hiding inside a closet in the home, the release states.

Guard shoots attacker

Southfield, MI (WDIV) - A security guard who shot and killed a woman outside a Southfield bar will not face charges...

Officials said the armed security guard was trying to provide aid to a woman who was injured in the fight when Fields approached with a wrench and then a gun.

"According to witnesses, she then raised the handgun toward her chest, and she was approximately one to two feet away from the security guard," Barren said. "The security guard discharged his firearm, firing multiple rounds and striking the decedent six times."

26 million NICS checks in 2025 equals many millions of new guns sold

Despite all evidence to the contrary, America's Gun Control Industry still claims 'Guns don't make us safer'



Kris Brown | @KrisBrown.BradyUnited.org
@KrisB_Brown



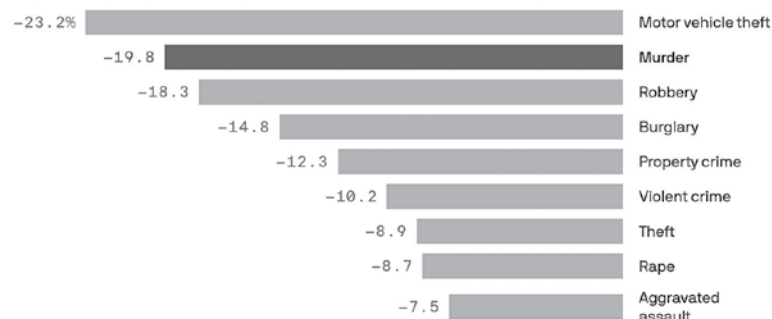
We don't know the details behind the shootings of 2 people by a Border Patrol agent in Portland.

But I know one thing for certain: whether in the hands of federal officers or everyday Americans, guns do not make us safer.

Yet Trump is reshaping our country based on this lie.

Percentage change in select types of crime, 2024-2025

Compares January through October of each year, 2024 and 2025; Across 570 U.S. law enforcement agencies



Data: Real Time Crime Index; Chart: Axios Visuals

Should have been a defensive gun use...

NC teacher beaten to death by home intruder while on the phone to 911

Raleigh, NC (Breitbart) - Zoe Welsh, a teacher at Raleigh, North Carolina's Ravenscroft School, was attacked and fatally beaten while on the phone with 911 Saturday morning in her home.

6ABC reported that police went to Welsh's home just after 6:30 a.m. and discovered she had been "critically injured." CBS 17 noted that Welsh had "severe injuries to her head."

Officers immediately rendered aid and Welsh was rushed to the hospital, where she died.

Thirty-six-year-old Ryan Camacho was located in the area by police, arrested, and charged with murder and felony breaking and entering.



Zoe Welsh.



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America humiliated our adversaries with guns, guts and tech in Maduro snatch

(GSL) - The operation unfolded in the dead of night on January 3, 2026, but in about two hours, U.S. forces executed one of the most audacious raids in modern history: snatching Venezuelan dictator Nicolás Maduro and his wife Cilia Flores straight from their fortified "residence" in Caracas inside a military compound.

America's pipe-hitters brought their A-game in terms of marksmanship and tactics. What's more, we also brought a little surprise, too. We brought some sort of sonic weapon that took the fight right out of Maduro's palace guard. Our fighters shattered their equilibrium and drained the fight out of them before the bad guys could even raise their weapons. It's hard to fight when you're on your knees barfing blood with a splitting headache.

Washington had given Maduro repeated chances to step down peacefully and exile himself to a friendly country. He refused. So the U.S. came for him—and his family. His son, Nicolás Maduro Guerra, implicated in the same narco-trafficking web, was also targeted in the broader strikes. The family now faces federal charges in Manhattan for drug trafficking, weapons, and ties to designated terrorist groups like Tren de Aragua.



This wasn't just about one man. It was a thunderclap message to every one of America's adversaries... you're no match for America. As for tin-pot dictators in the Western Hemisphere? Loyal bodyguards don't matter either. Your bunkers won't save you. If America decides it wants you, you're ours.

From Havana to Managua to Tehran, sleepless nights are the new normal. And for good reason. The era of untouchable strongmen just ended.

GunNews Magazine

The monthly journal of
Guns Save Life

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Letters, including complaints or commendations, to the Editor are welcome. Please, limit your letter to 200 words. We reserve the right to edit or refuse publication of any submission. Anonymous letters are discouraged. Guest columns of 400 words are also welcome on timely issues, particularly those related to firearms, self-defense or similar topics. Letters and guest columns may be sent electronically to: jboch@gunssavelife.com.

Or you can mail your letter to: Guns Save Life, PO Box 51, Savoy, Illinois 61874



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
blog.olegvolk.net



Déjà vu in Minneapolis: The sequel nobody asked for is here

by Name Withheld
Suburban Chicago
(GSL) - Oh wow, look—another round of Minnesotan-flavored street theater. How utterly original. I'm positively shocked.

I mean, who could've possibly seen this coming?

Certainly not anyone who's been alive longer than a TikTok trend.

Let me dust off the memory banks for the youngsters in the back...

- America's radical left in the 1960s–70s: bombing buildings, kidnapping heiresses, convinced they were just one more pipe bomb away from utopia. Adorable.
- China's Cultural Revolution: teenagers with red books beating their own teachers to death for being "counter-revolutionary." Peak compassion.
- Cuba: traded beaches, a booming economy and cigars for bread lines, secret police and third-world nationhood. Chef's kiss.
- Rodney King riots: because nothing says "justice" like burning down your own neighborhood.
- George Floyd summer: nationwide "mostly peaceful" rioting and arson tour in honor of a drug-addled criminal. Let's loot then burn it all down!

Fast-forward to now and—surprise, surprise—the same script, new costumes and new facemasks.

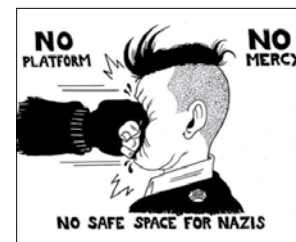


Today's cast of courageous cultural crusaders (spelled "losers" and "misfits" for short) has returned:

- Leaping in front of moving vehicles like it's an Olym-

pic sport

- Blowing whistles so shrilly even dogs complain
- Beating drums like they're auditioning for a bad tribal cosplay
- Pelting cops with whatever garbage is closest because "punch a Nazi" apparently now includes "punch anyone wearing a badge"



They scream like toddlers denied a second juice box, then clutch their pearls when someone suggests maybe—just maybe—they're the problem.

Their self-awarded moral superiority complex is truly a sight to behold. These are the same deep thinkers who can't define "woman," yet they're 100% certain they've cracked the code to perfect justice and social utopia.

Their grand plan? Dismantle every Judeo-Christian value, every tradition, every habit that made America worth living in... and replace it with an Orwellian theme park where everyone's equal except the people handing out the rations. "Some animals are more equal than others"—and they're auditioning hard for the Inner Party of More Equal.

These social justice warriors block police from doing their jobs, dox officers' families, send death threats, then act shocked—*shocked*—when someone calls them domestic terrorists instead of "peaceful protesters." Or when a federal agent shoots one of them in the face when she recklessly runs into him with her car fleeing arrest. "I can't believe they carried real bullets!" "MURDERER!"

And the pièce de résistance: they'll leave their first grader unrestrained in a car so Mommy can go scream at

ICE while those same agents arrest a child rapist who shouldn't even be on U.S. soil. Heroism level: expert.

They tell us it's all for "diversity, equity, inclusion" and "protecting the vulnerable." Translation: they're acting as unwitting human shields for violent criminal illegal aliens because it makes these wokesters feel tingly and morally pure.

At the same time, when an innocent 12-year-old girl gets raped and murdered by two Venezuelans who crossed illegally, there's radio silence.

When a young nursing student is hunted down and killed on a jogging trail, the sisterhood doesn't say a peep.

When a mom of five is raped and beaten to death, Antifa is nowhere to be found.

When National Guard members get ambushed and shot by an illegal, these champions of justice actually blame the victims, not the illegal alien who shot them in an ambush.

There's no uprising from America's woke kingdom of affluent, white liberal women, Antifa misfits or other social misfits for victims who don't fit the approved, America-bashing narrative. No viral hashtags, no blue check outrage, and no corporate solidarity posts for you!

Nope, nothing but crickets from the same people who'll riot over a criminal having a fentanyl overdose if the optics are right.

The media and blue-check politicians keep handing these clowns megaphones and Molotov cocktails, all while pretending this is "democracy in action."

It's not activism.

It's performance art for society's losers, corroding our nation's values and traditions.

Encore? Let's not.



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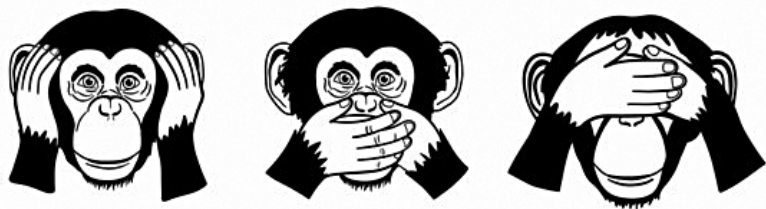
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Authorities' inaction on threats of violence against Trump supporters is alarming

by J. Christian Adams and Hans von Spakovsky
(The Hill) - In America, threatening a voter with death is both unacceptable and a felony. In 2024, Pennsylvanians with Trump signs in their yards received anonymous, chilling death threat letters, a crime the Department of Justice, the FBI, the Pennsylvania State Police and the U.S. Postal Inspection Service are doing nothing about.

"We know where you live," the menacing letters said. "You are in the database. In the dead of a cold winter's night, this year or next and beyond, there is no knowing what may happen. Your property, your family may be impacted, your cat may get shot. And more."

Why has no one been arrested, going on 15 months after these threats were made?

An orchestrated effort to threaten to kill Trump supporters unfortunately hasn't seemed to matter to our appointed and elected guardians of American values. But it does matter to Americans who value our precious civil society.

History proves that threats of political violence are too often followed by actual political violence. Unfortunately, the institutions responsible for protecting civil society from political threats of violence in Pennsylvania have failed.

Topping the list of failures is the Pennsylvania State Police, which admitted — in writing no less — that it never even opened an investigation.

Meanwhile, Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro (D), at an event moderated by NBC's Savannah Guthrie, said that "all leaders must condemn all political violence, not cherry-pick which violence to condemn and which violence to accept."

We agree. Perhaps Shapiro could tell the Pennsylvania State Police to stop cherry-picking which violence they will accept and get busy finding out who threatened his constituents.

Also, where is the FBI? The FBI zealously investigated, charged and arrested Douglass Mackey for tweeting in 2016 a joke that Hillary Clinton supporters could vote by text. The Second Circuit Court of Appeals recently held Mackey's prosecution to be invalid.

Perhaps the FBI, and particularly its Philadelphia field office, should focus on this real violation of federal civil rights laws. We assume FBI Director Kash Patel is unaware of its failure to do so.

The Public Interest Legal Foundation, an organization with which we are both affiliated, has filed a federal lawsuit on behalf of two Pennsylvania voters who received the death threats. The problem, of course, is that we don't know who sent them, so a federal court has allowed some discovery to try to identify the perpetrators. The Foundation is offering a \$5,000 reward for information leading to the perpetrators.

But we obviously don't have the resources to find the culprits that the FBI has.

Astonishingly, our courtroom efforts to expose the perpetrators are being vigorously opposed by both Justice Department lawyers and the U.S. Postal Inspection Service.

You read that right — they are resisting efforts to prosecute criminals who threatened Trump voters.

We're not surprised, the Justice Department is massive and Attorney General Pam Bondi is probably unaware that David Metcalf,

the U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania and long-term Department of Justice careerist lawyer who clerked for an Obama-appointed federal judge, has been fighting us in court to avoid revealing any information about this matter.



The U.S. Postal Inspection Service, which received the physical letters in 2024, is also opposing court efforts to identify the perpetrators. Playing the role of Inspector Clouseau is Gary R. Barksdale, its head.

The deep state is very, very deep.

No one should get away with threatening to kill voters and their loved ones for displaying political yard signs.

Failing to investigate and prosecute these villains sends a dangerous message. It is time for both federal and state law enforcement to do their jobs, and most importantly to stop standing in the way of justice.

J. Christian Adams is a commissioner on the United States Commission on Civil Rights and Hans von Spakovsky is a former commissioner on the Federal Elections Commission.



Is Maine the next Minnesota?

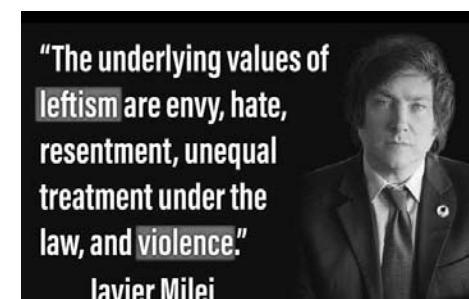
(Legal Insurrection) - Maine is now exhibiting the same early-stage warning signs that preceded Minnesota's rapid descent into open conflict with federal immigration enforcement. What began in Minnesota as rhetoric and "resistance" language from elected officials quickly escalated into coordinated obstruction, organized street confrontations, lawsuits against the federal government, and ultimately violence against Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents. Maine's trajectory, driven by policy decisions and internal directives from the Secretary of State's office, closely mirrors that same path.

Virginia's new governor ends ICE collaboration

(WWBT) - On her first day as Governor, Abigail Spanberger made a decisive move: she vetoed Executive Order 47, ending Virginia's participation in the federal 287(g) program that allowed local law enforcement to act as ICE agents.

Antifa takes protesting to doxxed ICE agent's home

(DCNF)—A prominent anarchist blog is calling for a "disruptive" gathering at an Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agent's home in Portland, Oregon, on Friday night.



Tom Homan says ICE agent who acted in self defense now in hiding

(MXM News) - Under mounting threats and online harassment, the Immigration and Customs Enforcement agent who fatally shot Renee Nicole Good is now in hiding, according to President Trump's border czar Tom Homan, who confirmed Tuesday that the situation has deteriorated to the point where the agent's safety — and that of his family — is at risk.

Speaking on Will Cain Country, Homan said ICE agent Jonathan Ross has been forced out of public view as activists circulate his photograph, personal information, and even "wanted for murder" posters online, accompanied by what Homan described as explicit death threats.

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Firearms safety instruction for the whole family: Safety and age considerations

by Damon Williams
GSL Member
(GSL) - My brother-in-law recently gifted a 22 revolver to my niece's husband, who I refer to as my nephew. As a family now new to firearms, they wisely asked for some firearm safety training for the whole family. I got the nomination based upon my experience and reputation. Challenge eagerly accepted.

My nephew, Eric, requested the use of the property of a coworker. With the greetings and pleasantries behind us, I requested to examine our makeshift range. Karli showed me to a brush pile. About 100 yards beyond the brush was a green belt, beyond which were miles of tilled ground extending beyond the range of a 22 or 9mm. Far from optimal, but safe enough.

We gathered together at the truck where I started my safety briefing. We talked of the safety rules and why they are important. "By the time that your brain has comprehended the sensation that the trigger has been tripped, the bullet has impacted and possibly passed through the target. This is why we must follow safety protocols before we attempt to launch a bullet."

Kids today, raised in the information age, do not respond like generations before who blindly conformed to authority figures who uttered the then gospel of "Because I said so."

I do not disagree with the four rules of firearm safety, but the strictest adherence to these rules is impossible to implement in the real world. When children see the relaxation of strict rules, without reference as to when they apply and when they can be temporarily dismissed, it degrades the credibility of the instructor and causes confusion in the binary thinking of young minds, still developing a sense of reasoning. Please allow me to explain by sharing an example of this.

I began with, "Treat every firearm as if it is loaded." My helpful brother-in-law piped in, "At all times."

"I respectfully disagree, Dan. If that rule applies at all times, then a gunsmith can never do his job, and an owner can never clean his gun. Treat every firearm as if it is loaded until you have personally verified that it is in a safe condition, even if you witnessed someone else make the verification. If that firearm leaves your hands, the rule applies again, until you have verified it as unloaded - again."

Kids respond to humor, so to help them remember rule number two by repeating a modified version. "Keep your finger off the trigger until you are ready to shoot. Kids, this means: Keep your booger hook off the bang switch until you are ready to destroy something."

"Do not point a firearm at anything you do not intend to destroy. A sound rule, in theory, and easy to practice on the range by keeping

muzzles pointed down range, but what if I am in a gun store or a home? I am surrounded by objects that I do not intend to destroy. How do we check the sights, how do we check for fit?"

"We follow rules one and two and point the gun at the object with the least consequence for damage like the floor, the ceiling, or a wall. This is less dangerous than a human, a pet, or Mom's china cabinet."

"Know your target and what is beyond it. The first question that I asked of Karli, another of the day's charges and the property owner, was to verify what is beyond our targets. I am satisfied that this makeshift range is safe."

"Did you know that a 9-millimeter bullet will pass through both sides of a raccoon's skull and the rear wall of a chicken coop?" I recently learned this the hard way. But I also knew what was beyond that wall, and nothing else was damaged.

We then proceeded to the eye dominance test.

"Everyone, hold your palms toward me, touch your index fingers together, overlap your thumbs, create a triangle and look at me through it."

By implementing this practice, you will be looked upon with the student's dominant eye. It was here that I discovered that my right-handed niece is left-eye dominant.

"Sascha, you will either have to close your right eye or learn to shoot left-handed." She chose the latter.

[You can also make them laugh by telling them if your hands go to your forehead instead of one of your eyes, it means your family tree doesn't branch...]

From here we worked on posture, sight picture, and the specifics of each firearm's operation as well as its features.

Lead went downrange safely, several soda cans were purposely destroyed, and fun was had, safely, by the entire family. Memories were made for all, including myself.

Due to the constraints of time, all of our ammunition was not used. As a token of appreciation, I left a box of 9mm for Karli and Jordan for their hospitality and compensation for the brass in the grass that we just couldn't find.

In saying our goodbyes the following day, I asked the 6-year-old, "Hey Ezekiel, what did Uncle Damon teach you about shooting?"

"Um...Oh yeah, Keep your booger hooker off the bang switch!"

That little guy makes me so proud...

Here's why you treat panhandlers as potential attackers: mental instability plus an entitlement complex may equal violence

Man sues McDonalds following drive-thru attack

(The Western Journal) - The world's most ubiquitous fast food chain is facing a lawsuit after an unimaginable tragedy took place in an apparently dangerous drive-thru.

According to People magazine, a 76-year-old widower is suing a California McDonald's nearly two years after his wife, 58-year-old Luna Rangel, was killed in a random drive-thru attack.



The complaint said that in March 2024, Jose Juan Rangel and his wife were in their car at a Los Angeles McDonald's when a "known vagrant with a history of frequenting" that fast food joint was approaching various cars and soliciting.

The aforementioned "vagrant," Charles Cornelius Green Jr., was doing this for "at least" 10 minutes and was getting very close to the cars in the line. Rangel alleges that employees clearly saw what Green was doing through security cameras.

"Employees chose not to intervene, direct [Green] to leave, warn customers, or contact law enforcement," the complaint alleged. "Defendants also failed to assign any security personnel to prevent [Green] from harassing paying customers."

After approaching several other vehicles first, Green eventually reached the Rangels' vehicle.

At this point, and without warning, Green lunged and attacked Rangel through the driver's side window.

Green repeatedly struck Rangel in the face before attempting to attack his wife on the

passenger's side.

In a bid to protect his partially blind wife, Rangel exited the vehicle and began wrestling with Green.

When it appeared that Green was getting the upper hand in the scuffle, Rangel's wife exited the car to attempt to help her husband.

Green then "pushed her to the ground, and her head struck the asphalt."

The impact caused "severe head trauma, triggered a cardiac event, and caused permanent brain damage."



The victims: Luna Rangel and Jose Rangel.

Rangel's wife was ultimately taken to a local hospital and placed on life support for several months before succumbing to her injuries.

The complaint alleged that the McDonald's employees "had the means and responsibility to prevent this tragedy, but this business location is notorious in the community for ignoring the safety of its paying customers."

Indeed, the complaint cited that this truly is a dangerous and "notorious" McDonald's location, as there had been 90 criminal or violent incidents at the location from January 2020 to March 2024.

The complaint cited the following claims: wrongful death; survival action; negligence; premises liability; negligent hiring, training, supervision, and retention; negligent infliction of emotional distress; and loss of consortium.

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Risk for thee, Safety for me: CELEBRITY ACTIVISM

(ZeroHedge) - Hollywood has mastered the art of moral performance. Award shows have become political stages where actors speak with the confidence of prophets and the certainty of philosophers. But beneath the applause lines and emotional crescendos lies a contradiction that becomes impossible to ignore: **the courage they demand from others is courage they themselves will never have to summon.**

This contradiction was unmistakable at the recent Golden Globe Awards. The ceremony quickly transformed into a coordinated tribute to Renee Nicole Goode, who was shot and killed by an ICE agent. **Mark Ruffalo dedicated his award by saying, "This is for Renee Nicole Goode, who was murdered,"** adding, "I don't know how I can be quiet." Wanda Sykes echoed the sentiment on the red carpet, declaring, "Of course, this is for the mother who was murdered by an ICE agent, and it's really sad." She went further, urging confrontation: "We need to be out there and shut this rogue government down, because it's just awful what they're doing to people."



Celebrities were coordinated pins reading "BE GOOD" and "ICE OUT," signaling solidarity and moral urgency. The messaging was unified, emotional, and unmistakably political. The narrative was clear: this was a moment to resist, to rise up, to confront injustice.

But what was equally clear — and far more revealing — was what they chose not to say.

While the Golden Globes stage was filled with speeches about ICE, **not a single celebrity mentioned the mass slaughter, imprisonment, and torture taking place in Iran at that very moment** - Hundreds of protesters have been killed by the Iranian regime. Thousands have been dragged into prisons. Torture, rape, and forced confessions have been documented by human rights groups. The government has imposed sweeping internet blackouts to hide the brutality from the world. [ZH: regardless of whether this is yet more 'regime change paint by numbers' - it was completely ignored].

And yet, on one of the most visible cultural platforms in America, the silence was absolute.

- No speeches.
- No pins.
- No hashtags.
- No calls to "shut down" the Iranian government.
- Nothing.

The contrast is staggering. When the villain is a U.S. agency, outrage is immediate, coordinated, and emotionally charged. When the villain is a foreign authoritarian regime slaughtering its own people, the outrage evaporates. The issue is not the moral weight of the cause. The issue is whether the cause is useful to the narrative they want to tell.

But the hypocrisy runs even deeper. It extends to the way Hollywood reacts to domestic events that do not fit its preferred storyline. **When Ashli Babbitt was shot and killed inside the Capitol, there were no celebrity tributes.** No emotional speeches. No coordinated pins. No calls for accountability. Instead, the officer who shot her was widely described as a hero. The shooting was framed as necessary, justified, even praiseworthy.

Whether one agrees with either shooting is not the point. **The difference in reaction reveals the deeper truth: Hollywood's activism is not driven by universal moral principles. It is driven by selective outrage, selective empathy, and selective courage.**

This brings us to the heart of the matter: the asymmetry of risk. Celebrities routinely encourage ordinary people to "stand up," "fight back," or "put your body on the line." Sykes's call to "shut this rogue government down" is a perfect example. These are not metaphorical suggestions. They imply confrontation, danger, and the possibility of violence.

Yet the people delivering these messages do so from behind layers of insulation that ordinary Americans do not have. They live in gated communities. They travel with private security. Their homes are protected by surveillance systems, controlled access, and armed guards. They are not wrong for wanting safety — everyone wants safety — but they are wrong for preaching danger for others while choosing safety for themselves.

A working-class person who confronts ICE or police in the street faces real, immediate, physical danger. A celebrity who posts a hashtag or makes a speech faces none. Their activism is symbolic, not sacrificial. It costs them nothing. And yet they speak as though they are shoulder-to-shoulder with the people they are urging into the streets.

This is where the phrase "We're in it together" collapses. When celebrities use it, they rarely mean shared sacrifice. They mean shared sentiment. They mean shared optics. **But they do not mean shared risk.** Their version of solidarity is digital, not physical.



Reality check: You don't live in a 'safe' neighborhood Stop talking yourself out of carrying

by Paul Markel

(Shooting News Weekly) - It pains me to relate a news report that I saw yesterday. The headline read: **'Beloved' North Carolina teacher Zoe Welsh killed by intruder while on phone with 911; suspect charged.**



Zoe Welsh.

Like clockwork, the neighbors appeared on the street to tell the TV cameras how *shocked* they were and how they couldn't believe that such a crime would happen in *their* neighborhood. Note the time. It wasn't late at night in a bad part of town. It was dawn in a place described by residents as a "good" or "safe" neighborhood.

Are there areas that have lower crime rates than others? Of course there are. Bear attacks are relatively rare, but such a statistic is cold comfort while a bear is tearing your face off. Mountain lion attacks are "rare" but a Colorado woman died last week after being killed by one. Her family isn't going to be comforted by statistics.

As a person who has been encouraging his fellow citizens to become armed for decades, I've heard all the excuses.

- "I don't want to seem paranoid."
- "I live in a good neighborhood."
- "I don't go places that I shouldn't go."
- "I carried for a while, but I never needed a gun so I stopped."

Most of those rationalizations can be chalked up to the weakness of the human psyche. It makes humans psychologically uncomfortable to think about bad people doing bad things. Carrying a gun is a constant reminder, at least initially, that there are bad people out there. Weak minds can't handle that reality. It's easier not to think about it and just whistle past the graveyard.

As a small arms and tactics instructor, I have listened to other trainers pontificate about how responsible gun owners don't go to stupid places with stupid people and do stupid things. That much is true.

You know what? Who cares? Was the "beloved" dead woman in the story in a stupid place?

Several years ago, at 10:30 am on a

Wednesday morning, a deranged ex-husband walked into a Biloxi, Mississippi grocery store looking for his ex-wife. He was armed with a rifle and a couple of handguns. If you were standing at checkout #3 paying for your grapes when he guy walked in, were you wrong because you were doing stupid things?



The point is that it's hard enough to convince otherwise responsible people to become armed citizens and do the mature, responsible thing and be armed all the time. What the stupid places, people, and things comment does is give the those who are hesitant a mental out. An excuse not to carry. They tell themselves they don't do any of those things, so they don't need a gun. That statement makes them believe that needing a defensive firearm or not is dependent on their behavior.

What we attempt to remind citizens as often as possible is that you can't control the behavior of others. You can't stop a killer from walking into a church, a mall, a school, or a grocery store. You can't stop a thug from trying to break into your home or assault you on the street. However, what you CAN DO is make a determined effort to be prepared to deal with those things if they happen. I can't stop a moron from running a red light and smashing into my car. I can carry a traumatic medical kit and have the training to stop-gap a life-threatening injury.

When I wore a badge, I did so in a rural community with small towns. Yes, the crime rate was low, but it wasn't non-existent. While I was there we had murders, robberies, and rapes. It didn't happen every day and it was rare. Nonetheless, the statistical rarity didn't do much to help the victims.

What if you carry your gun faithfully your whole life and never need to use it? Great, you win! What if you decide that you don't need a gun, but find yourself in a situation in which you need one? You lose.

Get realistic and practical training. Carry your gun and stop letting other people talk you — or talk yourself — out of being an armed citizen.

Threats so severe that Riley Gaines says she armors her infant daughter

(PJ Media) - Conservative activist Riley Gaines recently appeared on the Fox News program Outnumbered, where she shared a heartbreaking truth. Because she received numerous death threats while attending the Supreme Court to hear arguments in a case that could ban transgender athletes from competing in women's sports, she wrapped her 3-month-old daughter in a bulletproof blanket.

Instead, they want to murder their opponents or commit some other horrific act of violence.

Why? Simple. Intimidation. Since facts and data shake out against progressive ideology, they try to force people to get on board with their beliefs through threats of violence. Sound familiar?



This is now the kind of world we're living in, especially after the assassination of Turning Point USA founder Charlie Kirk last September. Leftists have grown so mentally unstable and enslaved to their emotions, thanks to the constant propaganda pushed by liberal media, that they can no longer hold civil protests or conversations with those who differ from them.



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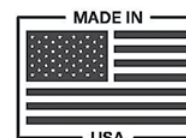
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Calendar



GUN SHOWS...

February 2026

January 24-25: Belleville Gun & Knife Show, Belle-Clair Fairgrounds, Belleville, IL. Pope Creek Shows. Mark Craft 309 582-6268.
Jan 24 & 25: Sauk Trail Gun Show, Bureau County Fairgrounds, Princeton, IL. Dan Fritz 309 689-1934.

February

February 7 & 8: Bloomington Gun & Knife Show, Interstate Center, Bloomington, IL. Pope Creek Shows. Mark Craft 309 582-6268.
February 14 & 15: Central IL Gun Collectors New Berlin, Sangamon County Fairgrounds, New Berlin, IL. Patrick Keen oldcarbines@gmail.com.

March

March 7 & 8: Kankakee Gun Show, Kankakee County Fairgrounds Kankakee, IL. Mike (630) 363-3131.
March 28 & 29: Belleville Gun & Knife Show, Belle-Clair Fairgrounds, Belleville, IL. Pope Creek Shows. Mark Craft 309 582-6268.
March 28 & 29: Sauk Trail Gun Show, Bureau County Fairgrounds, Princeton, IL. Dan Fritz 309 689-1934.

April

April 18: National Civil War & Collector Arms Show, DuPage Co. Fairgrounds, Wheaton IL. Irene Zurko (715) 526-9769.

GUN CLUBS

Foosland Sportsman's Club
Second Tuesdays: 6p Tuesday night trap shoots
Fourth Saturday: Trapshoot starting at 10 AM. All open to the public.
Second Sunday: Annie Shoot/.22 steel plate shoot.

DeWitt County Sportsman's Club Breakfast, 1st & 3rd Sundays 8:30am.

Sullivan Gun Club LLC.
Every Friday night: Trap shooting under the lights. Open at 6p, Derby starts at 7pm.

Oak Park Sportsmen's Club.
Falling steel match **First Mondays** starting at 4:30pm.

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

Crete Gun Club.
Monthly meetings at 7pm on the **First Monday**. 1962 W. Exchange, Crete, IL. Open to all. Contact Howard Kaye at fxt1984@gmail.com or 708 921-6768.

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.
February 10: USPSA Night at Effingham Accuracy Firearms
February 17: Prairie State Tactical - Pana (Locked and Loaded)
February 24: USPSA Night at Effingham Accuracy Firearms
March 3: Prairie State Tactical - Pana (Locked and Loaded)
March 10: USPSA Night at Effingham Accuracy Firearms
March 17: Prairie State Tactical - Pana (Locked and Loaded)
March 24: USPSA Night at Effingham Accuracy Firearms
March 31: Prairie State Tactical - Pana (Locked and Loaded)
For more info, visit praiestatetactical.com.



Jan 31: Land of Lincoln, East Peoria
Feb 7: Carroll County, Thomson
Feb 21: Illinois Valley, Mendota
Feb 26: Salt Kettle, Westville
Mar 7: Madison County, Collinsville
Mar 12: South Eastern IL, Olney
Mar 14: Shoal Creek, Greenville
Mar 14: Northwestern IL, Freeport
Mar 21: Macoupin Co. Patriots, Stanton
Mar 26: Little Egypt, Marion
Mar 28: Perry Randolph, Steeleville
Mar 28: Kishwaukee Valley, DeKalb

For more info, visit FriendsofNRA.org.

Seattle cops leaving after radical mayor's new 'hands off' drug policy

Seattle, WA (ZeroHedge) - A policy shift inside the Seattle Police Department is already generating unintended consequences — and they're not the ones city leaders were hoping for, Jason Rantz of Seattle 770AM said in a new op-ed this week.

After Seattle Police Chief Shon Barnes told officers that most drug possession and use cases will once again be diverted away from prosecution and into the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEED) program, surrounding law-enforcement agencies moved quickly to capitalize on growing frustration inside SPD's ranks. Pierce County Sheriff Keith Swank and the Marysville Police Department publicly began recruiting Seattle officers, using social media to pitch what they described as a more supportive environment for policing.

Scores of Minneapolis cops seeking 20 weeks of paid leave

(WND News Center)—With Minneapolis, Minnesota, remaining Ground Zero for anti-ICE attacks in the wake of the killing of leftist activist Renee Good by an ICE officer last week, there are now reports that up to 70 city police officers are now seeking paid leave as morale is said to be at an "all-time low."

"We're hearing from multiple sources that dozens of Minneapolis police officers (60-70 so far) have turned in paperwork for Minnesota's new paid leave program," reports Liz Collin of Alpha News.

"It allows up to 20 weeks of paid leave for personal or family reasons and comes at a time when morale is said to be at an 'all-time low.'"



Tissues, please.

Website doxxing ICE agents down

(UK Independent) - A website dedicated to leaking personal information about Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers and Border Patrol agents was reportedly subject to a cyber attack that its founder believes may have originated in Russia.

Dominick Skinner, a Netherlands-based immigration activist, told The Daily Beast that his website, ICE List, came under cyberattack Tuesday evening after the publication reported Skinner planned to release personal information, obtained through a whistleblower, about thousands of employees.

When's it coming to Illinois?

Washington State Dems want ban on LEOs wearing mask

(Post Millennial) - A proposal by Washington state Democrats to ban most law enforcement officers from wearing face-concealing masks during public operations is drawing sharp criticism from federal officials, who warn the measure could endanger officers at a time when violence and threats against Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents are rising dramatically nationwide.

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Portland's crybaby PD chief weeps for illegal alien gang bangers shot trying to murder cops

Portland, OR (ZeroHedge) — In Portland, Mayor Keith Wilson and Oregon Gov. Tina Kotek, expressed outrage over ICE being in the city after a shooting. It did not seem to matter that the wounded were two suspected Tren de Aragua gang associates who were shot after allegedly trying to run over ICE officers.

Portland Police Chief Bob Day finally confirmed that Luis David Nico Moncada and Yorlenys Betzabeth Zambrano-Contreras are Venezuelan criminal illegal aliens with ties to TdA. He admitted that the Portland Police Department hesitated to disclose the suspected gang connection because it did not want to be accused of "historic injustice of victim blaming" by law enforcement.



ICE responds: "Try that. See what happens."

Phil. Sheriff: 'You don't want this smoke.'

(ZeroHedge) - Philadelphia Sheriff Rochelle Bilal... called ICE officers "fake, wannabe" law enforcement and claimed that they were violating both "legal law" and "moral law."

Bilal pandered to the mob, warning the federal government that "You don't want this smoke. Cuz we will bring it to you." She added that "the criminal in the White House would not be able to keep" ICE agents from heading to jail.



Meet Jennifer Cruz

(Florida Attorney General) - This is Jennifer Cruz of Jacksonville, FL. Jennifer disagrees with immigration enforcement and decided to commit a few felonies by getting out of her car and punching a Trooper in the face.

But unlike Minnesota, we don't put up with this nonsense. Not today, Jennifer.

When the Mainstream Media encourages violence against their competition

(Breitbart) - The top legal reporter for Politico.com apparently suggested Tuesday a person can be legally shot for asking questions at the doorsteps of businesses.

"At some point, the amateur effort to knock on doors of home daycares intersects with robust stand-your-ground laws," said a X message from Josh Gerstein, Politico's "Senior Legal Affairs Reporter."

The threat was likely aimed at independent journalist Nick Shirley, who has precipitated a storm in the mainstream media about large-scale fraud and corruption by ethnic Somali business owners in Minnesota. Many establishment sites, including Politico, have ignored or downplayed the report, which has been widely reported on mainstream media sites and has reached more than 100 million views on X.

[Editor's Note: Minnesota isn't a Stand Your Ground state. It's a duty to retreat state. Either way, you can't legally shoot someone knocking on your door.]



NY Gov. Kathy Hochul.

NY Governor wants new 3D gun restrictions

(GSL/NRA-ILA) - Kathy Hochul, the rabidly anti-gun governor of New York State has a wish list to stop the signal when it comes to 3D printed guns...

How precisely these efforts will work to stop criminals is unmentioned.



Remember: Punches can be deadly

Road raging thug slugs senior citizen, leaving man in critical condition; gets out on \$3500 bail

(The Right Scoop) - A 75-year-old man is fighting for his life in a Michigan hospital, while the thug who put him there is out on a \$3,500 bail.

40-year-old Ryan Turner was driving for Door Dash when the victim told him to slow down. Turner got out of the car, an argument ensued and then he punched the older man and left him lying in the street.



"The country is calm because the monopoly on arms in Venezuela is held by the State"

Venezuela's top thug unwittingly writes an NRA ad for the 2A

(American Thinker) - If you haven't heard of Diosdado Cabello, Venezuela's de-tested interior minister who commands an army of motorcycle goons, and who has a \$25 million reward on his head, second only to former dictator Nicolás Maduro, now's a good time to get a whiff of what he's about.

He actually said this on Venezuelan state television, with his motorcycle goons all around him...

BREAKING NEWS | Diosdado Cabello: "The country is calm because the monopoly on arms in Venezuela is held by the State". "Holding the position of arms has allowed us the control so that no group or anyone can claim acts of violence"

Except for him, of course. His violent goon squads and death squads hunt down and kill anyone who dissents with the regime. They also deal drugs as the country's biggest drug lords, closely affiliated with Colombia's FARC and ELN

Marxist narcoterrorists. The United Nations has put out entire reports about his death squad regime. And no surprise, in 2017, he sent out hit squads to take out then-Sen. Marco Rubio.



He's an ogre who lives by his state gun monopoly, borne of a disarmed population.

Prosecute the leaders and those who fund them...

As Tim Walz promotes 'Resistance,' 'ICE Watch' encouraging escalation 'by any means necessary'

(Real Clear Policy) - The "ICE Watch" group at the center of the unruly demonstrations gripping Minneapolis urged supporters to "embrace militancy" and escalate their demands "by any means necessary." Hours later, Minnesota governor Tim Walz (D.) also encouraged residents to resist ICE, accusing the agency of carrying out a "campaign of organized brutality."

"We within the belly of this imperial beast face a turning point," the post read. "After seven full months during which our protests have utterly failed to slow the gears of the war machine, there is nothing left to do but escalate" (emphasis theirs). "The time is ripe to embrace militancy on the ground, both to keep ourselves safer, and as a demonstration of our commitment to the words 'by any means necessary.'"



MN ICE Watch, which describes itself as an "autonomous collective documenting & resisting against ICE, police, & all colonial militarized regimes," shared an Instagram post on Wednesday teaching agitators how to relay "information on police and/or fascist" activity at demonstrations.



America's grid is vulnerable against both domestic lunatics and foreign terrorists

Left-wing terror group attacks Berlin's power grid during sub-zero cold air blast

(Center for Eastern Studies) - On 3 January, there was an attack on the power grid in Steglitz-Zehlendorf, one of Berlin's southern districts. Following the arson of a cable bridge, around 45,000 households – approximately 100,000 people – and over 2,200 businesses lost power, including 74 care homes for the elderly and the ill.

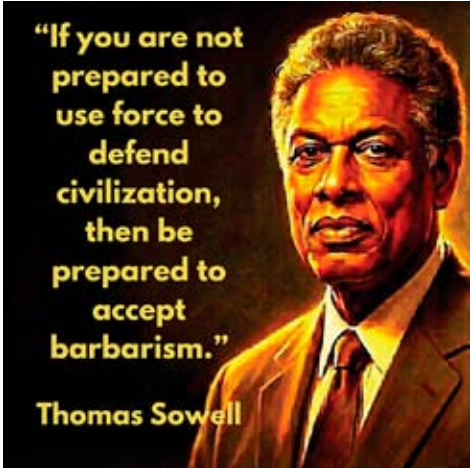
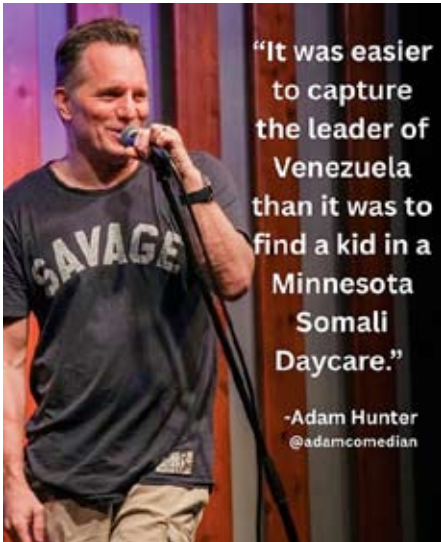


The power outage, which lasted several days, was the longest in the city since 1945. A so-called major state of emergency was

declared. Numerous NGOs and around 40 Bundeswehr soldiers took part in the relief effort. Berlin's Economy Minister, Franziska Giffey (SPD), who is also responsible for energy matters, announced that the city would cover hotel accommodation costs for those who made use of them. A temporary repair was only completed on 7 January.

The far-left extremist group Vulkangruppe claimed responsibility for the attack, and the authorities have confirmed the authenticity of the group's statement. The group cited its motivation as a desire to strike at capitalism and reduce environmental pollution. The Federal Prosecutor has launched an investigation into sabotage targeting the constitutional order, arson, disruption of public utilities, and membership in a terrorist organisation.

Attacks on critical infrastructure in Germany are becoming increasingly frequent. Authorities blame both external actors – including Russia, China, and Iran – and the far-left.



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