

**WE DEFEND YOUR RIGHT
TO DEFEND YOURSELF.**

COMPLIMENTARY. TAKE ONE.

GUNNEWS



SECOND AMENDMENT NEWS AND MORE

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY GUNS SAVE LIFE, INC. AFFILIATED WITH ILLINOIS GUN RIGHTS ALLIANCE, JPFO, NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION, ILLINOIS FEDERATION FOR OUTDOOR RESOURCES AND OTHERS

VOLUME 33, NUMBER 3

MARCH 2026



STILL WAITING...

Still no word from the US Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals on PICA gun ban challenge

(GSL) - We at Guns Save Life, one of the proud organizational plaintiffs in the fight against Illinois' so-called "Protect Illinois Communities Act" continue to wait in exasperation for the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals to deliver its ruling.

Months have dragged on since oral arguments challenging this unconstitutional gun and magazine ban, and still, silence from the bench. This interminable delay is not mere bureaucratic sluggishness; it's a glaring dereliction that leaves law-abiding citizens in limbo, their Second Amendment rights hanging by a thread while politicians and anti-gun activists exploit the vacuum.

The court has taken its sweet time—far too long—allowing an infringement on fundamental freedoms to fester under a stay that shields a law that is a direct assault on the Constitution. Every passing day without a decision emboldens those who would disarm honest people, while ordinary Illinoisans who rely on these arms for self-defense, sport, and heritage are denied

clarity and justice. The Seventh Circuit's foot-dragging mocks the urgency *Bruen* demands and betrays the promise of swift appellate review in cases of constitutional magnitude.

Enough is enough. The time for excuses is over. Issue the ruling—now—and affirm what history and the text of the Second Amendment make clear: these common arms and magazines are protected, not prohibited. We will not stand idly by while justice is delayed, and rights are denied.

At this point, even if the Seventh rules against our lawsuit, it's uncertain bordering on unlikely that the US Supreme Court could put it on this year's docket assuming they grant *certiorari*. More likely it would go on the calendar for next year, meaning we won't have a final decision until as late as Summer 2027.

Don't shoot the messenger. It's just the facts of life.



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

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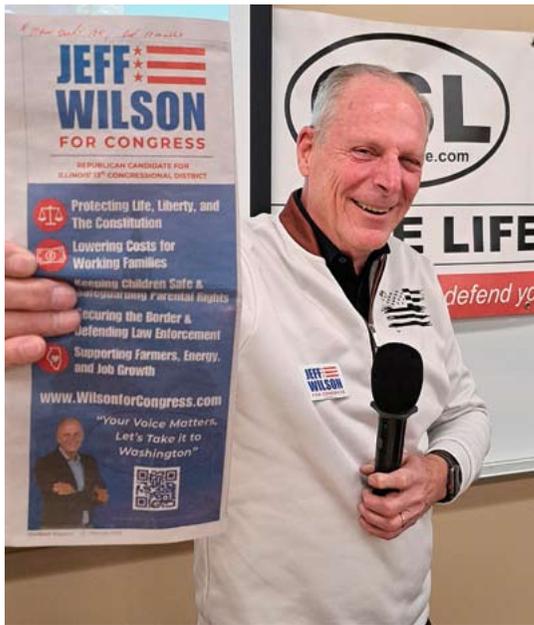
March 2026

- **Quincy:** Last Wednesday: **March 12 SPECIAL EVENT!** See page 3., April 29
Normally at the Eagles Club, 3737 N. Fifth Street, Quincy
- **Chicagoland:** Last Sunday: **NEW LOCATION! February 22**, March 29, Apr. 26
*Main Street Exchange Pizza Bar, 25346 S. Dixie Highway, Crete
Exhibits and conversation here at 4:30pm. Program at 5:30pm.*
- **Sangamon County:** First Monday: **March 2**, April 6, May 4
SCHEELS, 3801 S. MacArthur, Springfield
- **Pontiac:** First Tuesday: **March 3**, April 7, May 5
Pontiac Sportsman's Club, 18663 4-H Park Road, Pontiac
- **Decatur:** First Wednesday: **March 4**, April 1, May 6
Coz's Pizza, 1405 East Village Parkway, Mt Zion (Program at 6:45pm)
- **Peoria:** First Thursday: **March 5**, April 2, May 7
*Barrack's Banquet Center, 1224 Pioneer Parkway, Peoria
Dinner and conversation here at 5:30pm. Program at 6:30ish.*
- **Danville:** Second Monday **March 9**, April 13, May 11
Ela's Restaurant, 1111 E. Voorhees St., Danville
- **Northwest Chicagoland:** Second Wed: **March 11**, April 8, May 13
*Prairie House Tavern, 2710 Main St., Buffalo Grove
Dinner and conversation here at 5:30pm. Program at 6pm-ish.*
- **Mattoon:** Second Thursday: **March 12**, April 9, May 14
The American Legion Post 88, 1903 Maple Ave, Mattoon
- **LaSalle County:** Third Thursday: **March 19**, April 16, May 21
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.



Jeff Wilson is running for the Republican nomination for Congress. He was at the Sangamon County GSL meeting at SCHEELS. He's showing off his ad in GunNews.



Jack Land talks "really big revolvers" at the Danville GSL meeting.



Gary Larson with a remarkable old rifle.



Dan with a .338 Lapua. A reach out there and touch someone kinda tool. Just what you expect to see at a GSL meeting!



Ted Dabrowski, candidate for the Republican nomination for Governor, speaks in Pontiac.



Don Tracy is running for the US Senate. He talked up his pro-2A bona fides at the Sangamon County GSL meeting.



Some of the hunter safety "non-functional" firearms.



Jeanne Ives joined us in Pontiac with Ted Dabrowski.



Happiness is a new lever-action Henry rifle! Richard Parks, left, with the winner of our Peoria monthly drawing gun. Congrats. (No, we don't publish winners' names any longer...)



Greg came out to help talk about Hunter Safety classes and ended up winning the monthly gun in Springfield!



The Supreme Court's decade of dithering on gun cases comes at a high cost to gun owners

by Kostas Moros (Shooting News Weekly) - The Supreme Court's ongoing "percolation" regarding the constitutionality of assault weapons bans isn't free. While the Court awaits more rulings that won't provide it any more insight, more states pass unconstitutional laws. Virginia and New Mexico are likely to become the latest. The delays also change the status quo and allows antigun states to claim any eventual ruling striking down AWBs would be "too disruptive."

This nonsense has been going on for over a decade. So many more people have had their right to bear arms stripped from them since the Supreme Court denied cert in the first wave of "assault weapon" cases back in 2015 over the dissent of Justices Scalia and Thomas. A lot more states have since passed various bans.



People don't live forever while the Court dilly dallies. Waiting more than a decade to decide these issues has a real cost to people's liberties. People like Sam Paredes spent decades fighting for their rights in antigun states like California, only to pass away before the Court could be bothered to take up their case. It's enraging just how much their neglect has hurt us.

Maybe there was nothing SCOTUS could do back in 2015 with a 5-4 court with a squish like Justice Kennedy who didn't want to go any further than Heller did. But now, since 2020, the votes are either there or it's time we find out if Roberts and Barrett are going to stab (shoot?) us in the back.

It's great that the Third Circuit will probably give us a circuit split at last. But that was always a lame excuse for delay, and it never should have taken this long. Until now, only anti-

gun circuits have heard AWB cases, and even then, they upheld them over angry dissents.

Those dissents essentially are what the majority of any pro-gun circuit would say. So SCOTUS never needed to wait for a circuit split. It's not like they don't know what the counterarguments are. Further, Dobbs proved that this Court isn't scared to issue controversial rulings.

So that tells me it isn't that the Roberts Court isn't willing to stick its neck out for the Constitution. They just aren't that willing to do it for the Second Amendment, which despite what they may say, they've treated as a second-class right. So cert now. Hell, per curiams now. Most of the major issues are simple and shouldn't even need full arguments.

Finally, the delays are outrageously expensive.



When the Court denied Snopce last year, Kavanaugh said they'll probably resolve these issues in a year or two. You know what that means for the Snopce plaintiffs? They're out all of their attorneys fees (which can only be recovered if you win).

Being vindicated two years later — when SCOTUS hopefully decides a basically identical case — doesn't count. The Second Amendment Foundation was one of those plaintiffs in Snopce, as it has been in other cases denied cert. Those member dollars are lost forever because John Roberts didn't feel like taking a hardware case yet.

Kostas Moros is Director of Legal Research and Education for the Second Amendment Foundation. This post was adapted by SNW from an article posted at X.



GSL CHICAGOLAND HAS MOVED

BIG NEWS, FREEDOM FIGHTERS!
Guns Save Life Chicagoland is LEVEL-ING UP!

Buckle up, because we're charging into an epic new home that's way cooler, way more fun, and—best part—comes without soul-crushing rental fees! No more budget drama; just pure, unfiltered Second Amendment awesomeness!

We're rolling up to the **Main Street Exchange Pizza Bar at 25346 S. Dixie**

Highway in Crete, IL — think killer pizza, ice-cold drinks, great vibes, and the perfect spot to talk guns, rights, and real-life hero stories!

Our next meeting will take place Sunday, February 22nd. Dinner & conversation at 4:30. Program at 5:30.

**Main St. Exchange Pizza Bar
25346 S. Dixie Highway
Crete, IL**



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.**

It will take place at the **Town & Country Inn and Suites in Quincy, IL** from 5p-8p. Tickets are \$19 (we didn't have a say in that matter...) and available at the door or on Eventbrite.

IGOLD 2026: Coming April 15th

We have received a couple of messages asking us to mention the upcoming IGOLD 2026 event in Springfield. It's slated for Tax Day, Wednesday, April 15th.

As usual, the rally at the Prairie Capital Convention Center (aka Bank of Springfield Center) kicks off around 10 or so. Dave McDermott will be the keynote speaker. Like last year's David Grossman, do yourself a favor and go to see Mr. McDermott if nothing else. March to the Capitol complex will kick off around 1pm.

IGOLD
ILLINOIS GUN OWNER LOBBY DAY

APRIL 15, 2026
STARTING AT THE BANK OF
SPRINGFIELD AND MARCHING TO
THE CAPITOL

ILLINOIS GUN OWNER LOBBY DAY (IGOLD) HAS BECOME THE NUMBER ONE DEMONSTRATION OF CITIZENS PROMOTING GUN OWNERS' RIGHTS IN THE UNITED STATES

SPECIAL GUEST
DAVE McDERMOTT
"NOT YOUR TYPICAL ATTORNEYS"

EVENT, SPONSORSHIP, AND RAFFLE INFORMATION

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HOSTED BY ILLINOIS STATE RIFLE ASSOCIATION

Sauk Trail



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.

Springfield (New Address!): Glisson Heating and Air, 1531 W. Jefferson in Springfield. There may be limited availability to get them. Call Dave Walbaum at 217 341-6297 or Joel Gain at 217 632-3267.

Dwight: Rick's Automotive in Dwight.

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.

Join Guns Save Life today.



Membership application on back page of *GunNews*

Roundup

by John Boch

Guns Save Life Executive Director

Here I am pounding this out while still shaking off fever and chills of Influenza A & B, battling lice with kiddos (bald is beautiful for me in more ways than one...), and herding cats for GSL. At least the thermometer's finally flirting with 60° and spring vibes are creeping in as I'm sipping hot tea. With the fluff out of the way, let's cut to the chase with real talk on Illinois gun news, served straight-up with a side of sarcasm and hold the woke.

Springfield Shenanigans: The RIFL Bill Circus

Oh, the drama around the so-called RIFL bill (HB 3320, the "Responsibility in Firearm Legislation" nonsense). Everyone's losing their minds, fundraising like it's the end times, and click-baiting for views.

Reality check: that RIFL bill got sent to the Rules Committee *last* March—that's the legislative equivalent of the graveyard.

If the anti-gun radicals in Springfield really want it, they'll Frankenstein it into some unrelated shell bill on the last frantic night of session and ram it through. That's their playbook. Save your wallet—**don't feed the unethical fundraising trolls** preying on panic.

Other "brilliant" ideas floating around Springfield: Banning sales of older Glocks that can be illegally modded with a "switch" to go full-auto. Yeah, switches are already super-illegal federally and statewide. But logic? Nah. The Springfield day-drinkers figure making it double-plus-illegal will magically stop criminals and win votes from folks operating on half a tank of IQ. Public education in the Land of Pritzker being what it is... maybe they're onto something.

Brain trust idea #2: Forcing gun owners to carry liability insurance. Cue the latest flavor: HB 43 creates a "task force" to "study" it. We all know what "study" means in Springfield-speak—paving the way for "you must buy this or lose your rights down the road." Watch this one; it's sneaky.



GSL's John Boch.

IGOLD: Your annual field trip to Springfield

Mark your calendar: Illinois Gun Owners Lobby Day hits **Wednesday, April 15, 2026** (tax day—easy to remember, right?). Worth going? If it pumps you up and reminds you you're not alone, absolutely. You betcha. Bonus: you'll catch Dave McDermott dropping knowledge bombs at the Prairie Capital Convention Center / Bank of Springfield Center. Guy's a beast of a speaker—learn how to survive the legal gauntlet after you've already survived the bad guy. Knowledge that could literally save your freedom.

I'll likely be there, maybe with a pair of seven-year-olds to introduce them to the bad idea factory of the General Assembly.

Rumors

Confiscation/buyback of registered PICA guns? Total ghost story. Grok and I hunted high and low—nothing. Zip. Nada.

Guns Save Life is "broke"? Nah, we're not bankrupt, but we went all-in on the legal war to smash the PICA ban. Five-figure checks, redirecting every dime we could to lawyers instead of our own lights-on fund. We gave until it bled, then kept giving. No other Illinois gun-rights group has ponied up like GSL. Meanwhile, *at least* one outfit raised piles for "PICA legal expenses" and... crickets on actual spending.

Bottom line: We're critically low right now. At the end of January, we didn't have the cash to print and mail this issue of *GunNews*.

Things are stabilizing—we'll bounce back hard by summer—but we're in austerity mode for now. All-volunteer, slashing every non-essential expense and grant. Instead of drama-queen fundraising mailers we're focused on public education and proven results.

If you believe in the mission, donations would be a godsend. Checks to: Guns Save Life, PO Box 51, Savoy, IL 61874. Or grab extra tickets for the gun drawings—same fight, more fun.

Chicago: Mayor's Fist-Thumping vs. Reality

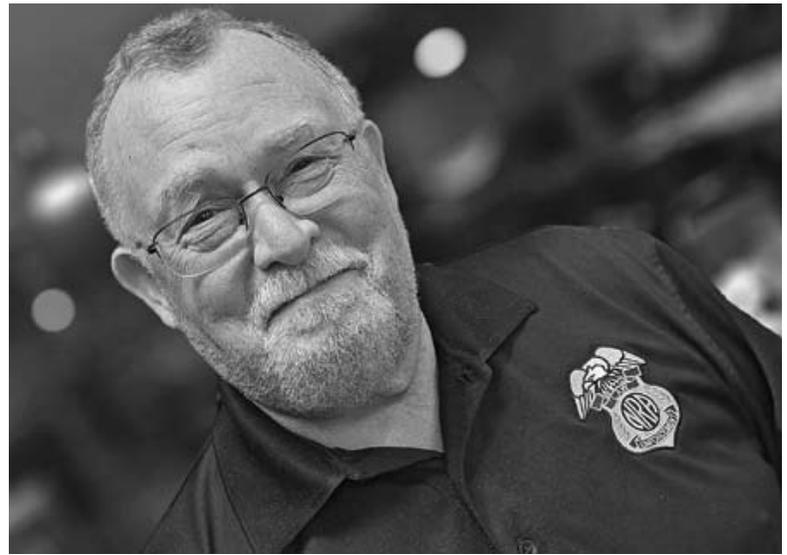
While the mayor pounds the podium and screams "ICE is bad" and "Trump's a fascist!" at every presser, gang hits are happening in broad daylight, and downtown/Mag Mile/Gold Coast visitors are getting brutally and savagely beaten and robbed in broad daylight. And that's if they're lucky. Crime's not impressed by Mayor Moron's press conferences and virtue signalling.

Primary Day: March 17, 2026 (St. Patrick's Day)

We can't endorse, but we can spotlight. Pro-gun candidates tend to show up at GSL meetings—multiple times. Shoutouts to Sheriff Mendrick and Ted Dabrowski (and honorable mention to Darren Bailey, a GSL Life Member!), Jeff Wilson (Congress, and he's got an ad in here), and locals like David Timm gunning for the Sangamon County Sheriff Republican nod.

Speaking of Sangamon County GOP: They're meddling hard in that sheriff primary, putting their thumb on the scale with a scurrilous mailer instead of letting voters decide. Local parties should *not* be involved in primary battles. Let the people decide. Then they wonder why their coffers are empty? Shameful stunts like this.

Illinois is gonna Illinois, but we're still in the fight. Stay on top of our website for the latest urgent news and information, with plenty of entertaining stories as well. After all, who doesn't love stories with happy endings?



Vote in NRA Elections

Report from GSL's own Dick Fairburn who's now serving on the NRA Board

by Dick Fairburn

(GSL) - This election for the NRA Board of Directors is still underway. If you haven't yet filled out and mailed the ballot in your February magazine, please "git 'er done."

The large number of recent resignations from the board, most of them supporters of discredited former Executive VP Wayne LaPierre, means the reform movement will likely become a super majority. Many positive changes have already been made by the "NRA 2.0" group.

The ad surrounding the ballot – Elect a New NRA – is a listing of candidates pledged to finishing the job of restoring the NRA to its former position as the lead group for training marksmanship and gun safety and the equally important mission of protecting and restoring our

2nd Amendment rights.

I encourage you to go to the **ElectANewNRA.com** website and read the profiles of the candidates, including mine. I personally ask you to vote for me and those candidates you feel will best represent positive change for the NRA. You do not need to vote for the maximum number listed on the ballot. Select those candidates you like and cast those votes. In fact, voting for a smaller number of candidates actually improves their likelihood of getting elected since their numbers will go up while the tally for other candidates will not increase.

In past articles I discussed the lawsuit filed by the NRA of America to stop the activities of the NRA Foundation, which was taken over by those who do not support the best interests of the

NRA. In January a NEW foundation was created, the NRA Patriot Fund, so it is important for you to continue supporting Friends of NRA banquets. Funds raised at the banquets will flow into the new foundation and continue to support both local and national training programs like 4H firearms training, JROTC programs and Eddie Eagle, which trains firearms safety to grade school children.

If you dropped your NRA membership because of corruption and mismanagement, I understand. Please consider rejoining us to help re-grow NRA membership and fund the future of gun rights in the US.

If you have any questions or need help with NRA issues, feel free to contact me at bhkid@yahoo.com.

THE SECOND AMENDMENT



MAKING MORE WOMEN EQUAL THAN THE ENTIRE FEMINIST MOVEMENT

‘Not making any payments’: Trump declares he’s cutting off funds to ‘Sanctuary Cities’

(Daily Caller) - President Donald Trump declared that he will be cutting off federal funds to sanctuary jurisdictions across the country beginning in February.

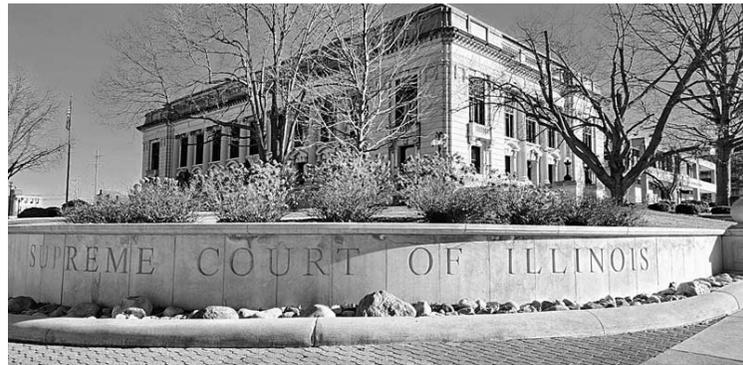


The White House will cease all federal payments to city and state governments that restrict cooperation between local law enforcement and federal immigration

authorities, Trump said Tuesday while addressing the Detroit Economic Club. The declaration follows intense national focus on immigration policy, with multiple lawsuits against enforcement surges racking up and Democrats demanding the Department of Homeland Security scale back activities.

“Starting Feb. 1, we’re not making any payments to sanctuary cities or states having sanctuary cities because they do everything possible to protect criminals at the expense of American citizens,” Trump said.

“It brings fraud and crime and all of the other problems that come,” the president continued. “So we’re not making any payment to anybody that supports [sanctuary policies].”



Smith & Wesson wins appeal chance in Highland Park lawsuits

(The Center Square) - Gunmaker Smith & Wesson will get a chance to appeal a Lake County judge’s decision clearing the way for the families of victims of the 2022 Highland Park parade massacre to sue the company over the mass murders, after the Illinois Supreme Court indicated a state appeals court was wrong to deny out of hand the company’s appeal petition, seeking a higher review of complex legal and constitutional matters.

On Jan. 28, the Illinois Supreme Court ordered the Illinois Second District Appellate Court to grant Smith & Wesson’s petition and take up the appeal.

The state high court did not explain its unsigned order, beyond saying it was exercising its supervisory authority. The order reversed the Second District’s decision to deny Smith & Wesson its opportunity to appeal the ruling from Lake County Circuit Judge Jorge L. Ortiz.

In April 2025, Ortiz had rejected attempts by Smith & Wesson to dismiss 25 consolidated

lawsuits.

All of the actions seek to use a law enacted by Illinois Democrats in 2023 which would allow plaintiffs to essentially use lawsuits to punish the firearms maker for the actions of the accused murderer, because, they argue, the company allegedly illegally marketed its products to allegedly entice the accused shooter to use a Smith & Wesson rifle to carry out the mass shooting.

The lawsuits have been pending in court since 2022, when a collection of families from Highland Park filed them in Lake County Circuit Court against Smith & Wesson, the world’s largest maker of handguns and rifles.

The lawsuits all asserted Smith & Wesson should be made to pay for allegedly marketing its semi-automatic weapons to young men to make it more likely they would commit a mass shooting. In these cases, the lawsuits focus on the mass shooting that killed seven people at the Highland Park Independence Day Parade in 2022.



ICE in Chicago facing bounties, AirTags on vehicles

(Independent Sentinel) - Nick Shirley interviewed an ICE agent in Chicago who told him that there are bounties of \$2,000 to \$10,000 to kidnap or kill federal officers. Agents are finding Apple AirTags on their vehicles.

AirTags are usually used to find your keys, and now the gangs, anarchists, communists, and dupes are using them to track agents. He said the danger is worse in Chicago than LA. That could be because of the governor and mayor.



*Their violence is ‘free speech’
Our free speech is ‘violence’*

LAKE ZURICH: New Leftist hero for taking a swing at classmate holding a Pro-ICE sign

(Twitchy) - Antifa, which is just an idea, proposed that everyone should punch a Nazi. The Left is making a hero out of a school kid who threatened to throw a punch at another kid carrying a pro-ICE sign. And then he did. Behold, progressives’ new hero...



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.



GROSS' BURGERS
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A STORM COMING?

Here's what you should get in addition to bread & milk

(GSL) - Ah, the great American winter storm ritual: the mad dash for bread and milk, turning grocery stores into post-apocalyptic battlegrounds faster than you can say "French toast apocalypse."

Picture this: Snowflakes start swirling in the forecast, and suddenly every cart in a 50-mile radius is loaded like it's the last chopper out of Afghanistan under the botched Biden withdrawal — but instead of people, that cart's loaded with Wonder Bread and gallons of whole milk. Shelves? Stripped bare.



Why these two items, you ask? Milk spoils without power (unless you're smart enough to put it outside, duh!). As for bread? It isn't exactly a survival superfood — outside of its use to make PB&J. Yet here we are, every winter storm, reenacting the same comedy.

Blame the Great Blizzard of 1978. That beast slammed New England, trapping folks indoors for days (or a week or more). No bread, no milk, total despair among the unprepared. Yes, that doesn't happen to most GSL members, but plenty of our less-prepped friends read *GunNews* too.

Ever since that storm of '78, it's become almost tradition: Classic herd mentality meets "better safe than sorry" on steroids.

As University of Georgia psychology professor Dr. Janet Frick hilariously nailed it back in the day: "We're not sweating lightning strikes, but heaven forbid we have to whip up dinner from pantry scraps without bread

and milk. The horror! It's less about logic and more about feeling in control when Mother Nature's throwing a tantrum."

So, let's level up your storm prep game. In addition to the milk and bread, stock plenty of smarter stuff that won't turn into science experiments if the power blinks out for a few days (or longer).

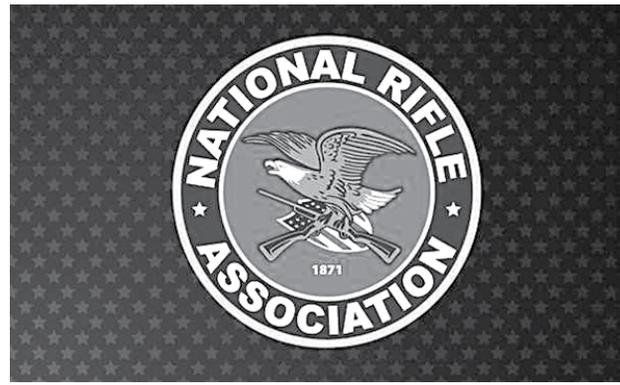
Ready.gov has the real MVPs to get at your local grocery store to avoid "hangry" in addition to the milk and bread circus:

- Canned meats, fruits, veggies (plus a manual can opener)
- Hot chocolate mix for morale.
- Protein or fruit bars (quick energy hits)
- Instant oatmeal and Pop Tarts (or granola bars for those seeking intestinal "regularity")
- Peanut butter & Jelly. Because Peanut butter and bread sucks.
- Canned juices (carbs keep you warm and give you energy for work)
- Powdered milk
- High-energy foods (think nuts, trail mix)
- Canned beef stews / soups
- Canned baked beans, etc.
- Baby/infant food as appropriate
- Comfort/stress foods (chocolate, cookies—because morale matters)
- Tons of water (the real MVP)

Pro tip: If the lights do go out, keep that fridge and freezer door shut. It'll stay cold way longer than you think. Obviously if it's sub-freezing outside, you can store perishable foods in a cooler outdoors.

What else? Gas up your car(s) ahead of the storm. Make sure you have your prescriptions filled. Got empty gas cans in the garage? Fill them up to feed your generator, chainsaw or car. Ditto for kerosene for your portable heater if you have one.

Bottom line: Plan ahead and use some common sense. Beat the rush where possible.



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 Indianapo-

lis, 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

The Illinois Freedom Alliance column will return next month!

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.

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

The Next Revolution in Home Defense

Ever since humans crawled out of a cave and encountered big, mean animals that could eat them, our ancestors determined they needed tools for self-defense. Those that couldn't, or wouldn't, come to this conclusion went extinct for obvious reasons.

Probably first was a pointed stick. That sort of worked, but old Gramps figured if the stick was a little bit longer, it would save wear and tear on his forearms. Those kind of tweaks fell under the category of an evolution in self defense.

Later, Gramps' son, who missed the old boy after his longer spear didn't quite cut it against a sabertooth tiger, figured out if he could throw a hard rock and hit the cat wanting to make him a meal, that would be great. And projectiles were born.

Those types of significant leaps forward fall under the rubric of a revolution in self-defense. Figuring out how to ride a horse was another revolution, because now you could skedaddle away from anything you couldn't outfight. No shame in that. It even works today in self-defense.

Evolutions in self-defense continued for thousands of years. And then came gunpowder. The kiddies back then all loved that because they could make fireworks. And who doesn't love lighting a firecracker right next to your sleeping uncle and scaring the heck out of him on a quiet summer afternoon?

But soon gunpowder led to guns (duh!) And that may have been the most significant self-defense tool ever made and clearly the most revolutionary. Going from rifles to pistols, single shot to revolvers and carbines, to machine guns were clearly significant.

Today in the self-defense world, we argue about Glocks versus Sigs. 9mms versus 10mms (who would have thought that a single, tiny millimeter could cause such an uproar?) and also other calibers and their pros and cons.

But now we stand on the threshold of the next great Revolution in self-defense. And if we don't jump on board, we may well end up just like the old Neanderthals!

The fusion of drone technology and Artificial Intelligence. It's already being done in the Ukraine-Russia War, and I'm certain by many militaries around the world. But I'm talking about personal self-defense -- at your home or when you're out and about.



Here's what I see. You have a drone that circles above your house if your video sur-

veillance system detects a potential threat. It has a communications link to AI and can fly autonomously. Onboard, it sports a camera and a thermal heat sensor. Maybe a microphone that can pick up even whispers on the ground below over the whirling sounds of the spinning propellers thanks to noise cancelling tech.

It's 2:00AM. Cameras detect a car outside your front door that drove up with its lights off. AI views that as suspicious and launches the drone. Moments later, its AI link reads the license plate and sends the info to the DMV/police and gets a quick reply that the car is stolen. That report sounds an alarm at your local PD and also your bedroom cellphone with details. Three guys get out, all armed with pistols. They hear the angry buzzing of the drone overhead. Whether or not they realize they are the prey at this point not the predators, you don't know.

You do know they will have to come through a narrow hall inside the front door so you choose the 12-gauge next to your bed. You're now fully awake, ready to give them a proper welcome if necessary. The police are en route, eager to make some arrests. Thanks to AI, cops know it's no false alarm.

You now have options. Shoot if they come in. Or, if the police show up in time, let the local PD make the arrest. Yes, AI is great at facial recognition but with masked bad guys it's not that good, yet.

Maybe you activate the siren on your alarm system or maybe you don't. Either way, the three masked bad guys aren't getting the drop on you, your wife and your teenage daughters while you sleep.

So how does this affect you? If you're young and tech savvy, think through this. What piece of this synergistic pairing could you improve on? What needs to be invented? The future depends on you. Not old geezers like me.

Invent a better mousetrap and the world will beat a path to your doorway. Just not at 2:00AM.



[Editor's note: These aren't science fiction. While researching more about these, I found Sunflower Labs and also a story from UAV Coach about security drones. Both are stories well worth reading if you want to be cutting edge on security drone systems.]

Ted Dabrowski rocks the house in Pontiac

(GSL) - Ted Dabrowski stormed into the February Guns Save Life meeting in Pontiac and lit up the packed house at the Pontiac Sportsmen's Club! This wasn't some dry political speech—Ted delivered fire, heartfelt stories, and a clear plan to rescue Illinois. As Illinois' top gun rights advocate, GSL members loved hearing from a candidate who truly understands freedom and gun rights, forged in his family's real fight against tyranny.

Ted's dad was a Polish WWII hero—a messenger in the Warsaw Uprising, wounded three times battling Nazis. He survived, escaped communist Poland in 1952 by jumping ship in Sweden, and reached America for liberty. Ted's mom arrived from Ecuador around the same time, chasing the same dream. Growing up on those stories, Ted's passion is unmistakable: "I value freedom!"

Today, as a conservative policy expert (ex-president of Wirepoints, Illinois Policy Institute leader), Ted's running for governor because Illinois is in freefall. We should rank in the top 5

states for opportunity and growth—but we're near the bottom in most categories, thanks to crushing taxes. Highest property taxes? Check. Sky-high gas and cell phone taxes? Check. Residents are fleeing, and Ted's blunt: We can fix this.



Ted Dabrowski.

He drew a powerful parallel: If Poland could rebuild after communism into a freer, thriving nation, Illinois can be fixed too—no excuses. Ted's pushing real solutions: deep tax cuts (income tax relief, a 1% property tax cap like Indiana's), ending sanctuary state policies, repealing the disastrous Safe-T Act, scrapping DEI mandates, and restoring common-sense laws that protect taxpayers and law-abiding gun owners.

What sets Ted apart? He's got the full package to win: a compelling message that resonates (especially with freedom-loving crowds like GSL), relentless energy, and serious fundraising muscle to challenge the entrenched machine. He sees himself as the conservative who can unite the party, win over suburbs, and give Illinois a real shot at revival.

The room left buzzing: Ted's no career politician—he's an outsider with immigrant roots, a deep aversion to socialism, and genuine drive to make Illinois affordable, safe, and free again. We can't make endorsements, but Dabrowski made a strong case for his candidacy for the Republican nomination for Governor.

And as a bonus, Jeanne Ives joined us with Ted and talked about some of her investigative research into NGO non-profits in Illinois.

Those NGOs, numbering hundreds, are collecting hundreds of millions in Illinois taxpayer money and spending it with little oversight or transparency to taxpayers.



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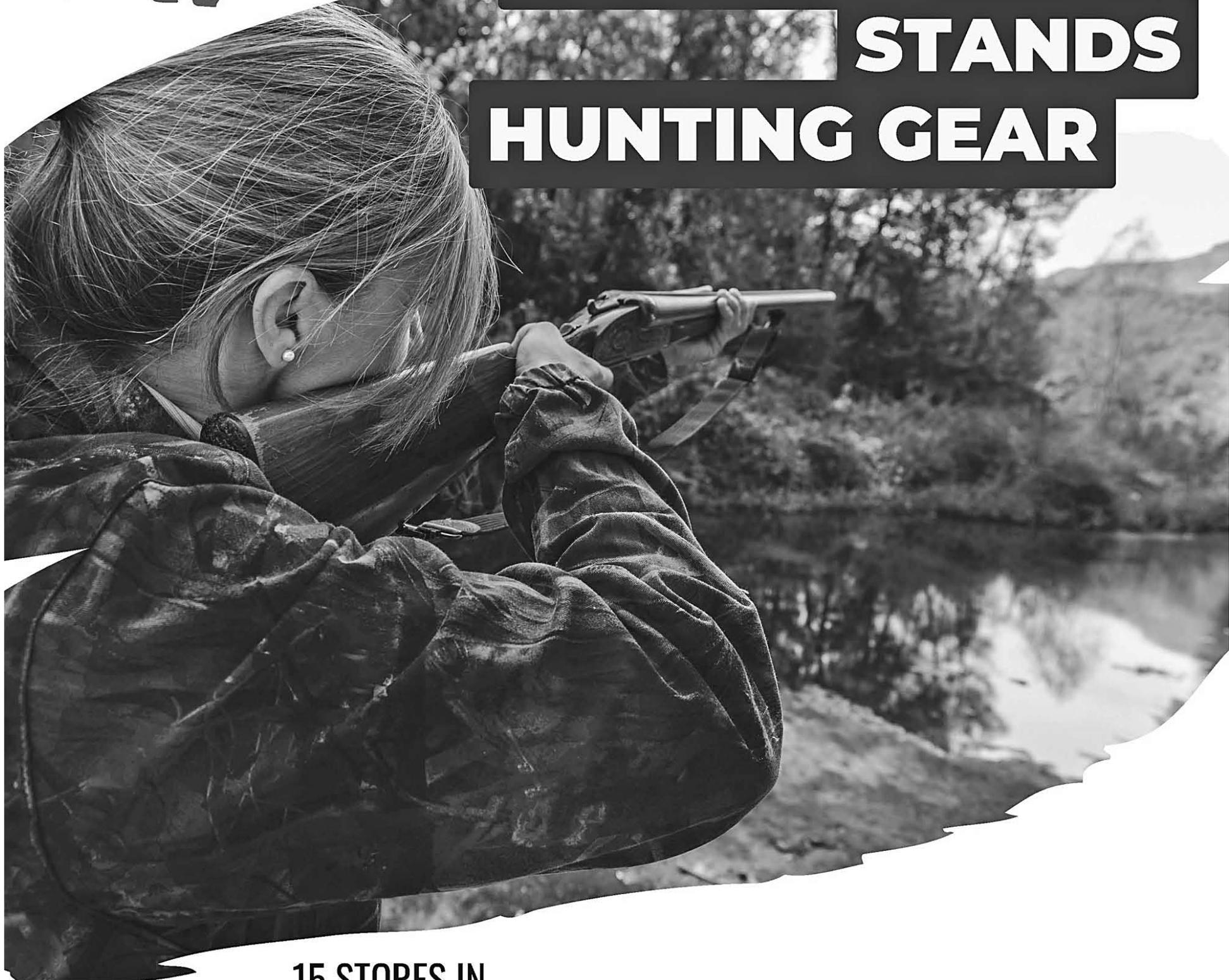
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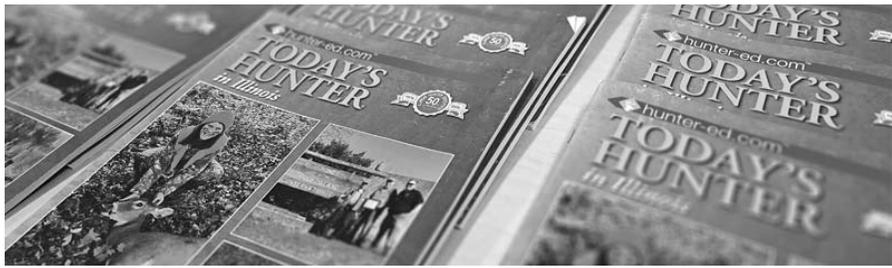


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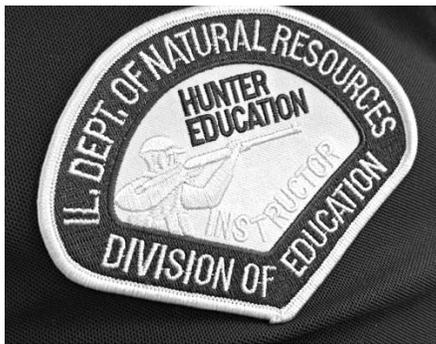
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Illinois Hunter Safety Crisis: We're running out of heroes (and scarce class availability)

(GSL) - Listen up, Illinois hunters — we have a problem. A big one.

Jeremy Wells of Wells Firearms in Lincoln dropped into our Sangamon County meeting with Greg Henrichsmeyer, another IDNR Hunter Safety Instructor, to talk about the shortage of instructors and classes across our state.



There are nowhere near enough volunteer instructors to meet the crushing demand for Hunter Safety courses. These 10-hour, DNR-mandated classes are the only way anyone born on or after January 1, 1980 can legally buy a hunting license in Illinois. Classes post online and are gone in days — sometimes faster. Parents are stalking the registration page like it's Taylor Swift tickets.

Why the shortage? Because these instructors get paid exactly zero dollars. No stipends, no gas money, no "thank you" pizza — nothing. They do it purely because they're obsessed with keeping people alive in the woods. That's it. That's the whole business model. Sure, the more experienced instructors find local sponsors to provide snacks or lunches, along with water and other stuff that makes the event a better experience for all.

Classes are way more than "Don't shoot your buddy like Dick Cheney did":

- The unbreakable rules of firearm safety drilled into your skull until you dream about them
- How to load/unload - including hands-on with dummy rounds and training guns, cross a fence (don't blow your hand off), carry over terrain, and zone-of-fire without looking like a YouTube fail compilation
- Bow & muzzleloader basics (yes, even if you're a compound snob)
- Tree-stand safety (spoiler: 70 % of Illinois hunting incidents in 2024 were tree-stand related — that's not "oops," that's a really bad day, including the potential for paralysis or worse)
- Ethical hunting, wildlife ID, basic wilderness medicine, hypothermia recognition, survival priorities
- Bonus life skill: not setting your jacket on fire while trying to stay warm 20 feet up (true story, it happens)

Pro tip from their presentation: Someone asked about safely getting out of a tree stand. Someone deadpanned, "Take a

nap."

Dozing off is a top way to eat dirt from 20 feet. Wear a full-body harness. Every single time. No exceptions.



Jeremy Wells.

Want to Take a Class?

Go to → <https://www.register-ed.com/programs/illinois>
Create an account (it's free). Refresh obsessively when new classes drop — they vanish fast. Many are Friday night + all-day Saturday. Show up on time or lose your spot.

Want to become part of the solution and help save lives?

We desperately need more instructors — especially if you're the kind of person who geeks out over safe hunting.

Here's the deal: Fill out the forms at → <https://dnr.illinois.gov/safety/volunteers.html>
Once you complete the background check (as an 18+ person), they will pair you with a master instructor to shadow a few classes. Soon enough you'll be certified to teach and keep the next generation from becoming statistics.

Along the way, you'll meet some of the best people in the Illinois outdoors community, and you'll know — without question — that you're the reason some kid didn't shoot his cousin or plummet out of a tall tree.



Despite the hysteria, Florida's first managed Black Bear hunt in a decade went smoothly

(GSL) - Florida's first permitted black bear hunt in a decade concluded on December 28, 2025, delivering a resounding success that proves regulated hunting is smart, science-based wildlife conservation—not the blood-sport small-minded radicals love to screech about.

Florida's black bear population has roared back from a few hundred in the 1970s to over 4,000 today, thanks to habitat restoration, profes-

sional management, and yes, the willingness to use hunting as a tool when needed. As bear numbers grew and human conflicts rose, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) wisely reinstated a tightly controlled, limited season—the kind dozens of other states use routinely to keep populations balanced with habitat and reduce risks to people.

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The 2025 hunt was deliberately conservative: just 172 permits issued by random draw from over 163,000 applications (mostly from Florida residents), spread across four Bear Harvest Zones based on zone-specific population data. Strict rules included mandatory biological checks, size minimums



and heavy emphasis on education and compliance. The results? A textbook triumph. Hunters harvested only 52 bears over the 23-day season—a modest 30.2% success rate (likely to tick up with final surveys), well below any risky threshold. Bears came from all zones in a balanced spread: 28 in the East Panhandle, 4 in the North, 5 in Central, and 15 in the South. No lactating

Compliance was flawless: zero citations for bear-hunting violations, just one minor trespass warning. Hunters followed the rules, the harvest stayed controlled, and critical biological information flowed in—exactly what science-driven conservation demands.

Of course, the usual anti-hunting crowd tried to sabotage it all. Small-minded radicals filed lawsuits (denied

by the court), flooded the permit lottery to block real hunters, and even dangled thousands of dollars to buy out permit holders. Their desperate antics flopped spectacularly. The hunt proceeded on schedule, delivered its goals, and the FWC noted any interference would simply be offset by adjusting future quotas. As always, the anti-science protesters were proven wrong—again.



This is conservation in action: regulated hunting as one tool among many, funding habitat work through license revenue and excise taxes (via Pittman-Robertson), and backed by Florida voters who enshrined hunting and fishing as a public right in the 2024 constitutional amendment.

The 2025 season shows what works: data over drama, science over slogans. Bear populations stay healthy, habitat isn't overrun, public safety improves, and future generations inherit thriving wildlife. The radicals can keep howling—they're irrelevant as usual. The hunt succeeded, conservation won.

Oregon radicals seek outright ban on hunting...

Portland, OR (KOIN) — A petition to ban hunting in Oregon is picking up steam. Animal rights advocates are fighting to change the law in Oregon, including banning most hunting, fishing and animal research.

One of the people leading the charge of getting this petition out there says they have been trying to get this on the ballot for years, getting more and more signatures each time, though he knows it won't likely pass.



David Michelson is the chief petitioner of a proposed ballot measure that would ban hunting in Oregon.



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GANG VIOLENCE, NOT GUN VIOLENCE

While Mayor Brandon attacks ICE agents, Chicago gangs shoot up their rivals in broad daylight

Chicago (GSL) - While Mayor Brandon Johnson continues to rail against ICE agents rounding up criminal illegals in his dystopian city, four gang members opened up on a rival's car shortly after noon just across town from hizzoner.



They lit up the car like it owed them money—one even rocking full-auto vibes—hitting the 27-year-old target in the butt and arm (he's fine), but tragically killing his girlfriend who was driving, 26-year-old Gabryel Ayers. Her 14-month-old in the back seat miraculously survived unharmed.

The Oscar-worthy getaway: They pile into their red ride (a Jaguar, naturally) to drive off, then—because why not?—they stop, hop out again, and empty more rounds into the wrecked car like it's open season. Clearly they had zero fear of cops or witnesses. They knew they weren't going to get caught. Chicago crime: zero consequences edition.

Politicians called it "gun violence." Everyone else with an IQ greater than Forrest Gump calls it what it is: gang violence, same old story.

RIP Gabryel Ayers. Prayers the killers get caught—and maybe one day the city admits the problem ain't the hardware, it's the clowns gleefully pulling triggers.

But sure, blame the guns. That always works.

Retired Police: Protecting Your IROCC in 2026

(Retired Chicago Police Association) - In the evolving landscape of Illinois law enforcement, the transition into retirement no longer means a complete separation from state oversight. While the Illinois Retired Officer Concealed Carry (IROCC) program has long provided a pathway for retirees to exercise their carry rights under the federal Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act (LEOSA), the Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board (ILETSB) has taken on an increasingly dominant role in 2026. This state board now acts as the ultimate gatekeeper, possessing the authority to effectively "de-certify" a retiree's eligibility before they even step onto the range for their annual qualification.

evidence of excessive use of force, perjury, or other unprofessional behavior, they can move to decertify the individual. Because IROCC eligibility is strictly reserved for "qualified law enforcement officers" who separated in good standing, a decertification action by the Board instantly terminates that status, making it legally impossible for the retiree to receive or renew their IROCC card.

Furthermore, the administrative hurdles managed by ILETSB have become more stringent with the implementation of the SAFE-T Act. The Board now mandates certification verification cycles that require active and recently retired officers to remain free from reportable misconduct. If an officer resigns or retires while under investigation, or if their former agency files a professional conduct report detailing willful policy violations, ILETSB can flag the file. This administrative "red flag" can stall or block an IROCC application indefinitely, as the Board ensures that only those who truly

maintained "good standing" throughout their careers continue to carry the state's endorsement in retirement.

Beyond professional conduct, ILETSB also enforces strict legal barriers through its list of de-certifiable misdemeanors. Convictions for offenses such as domestic battery, aggravated assault, or deceptive practices now trigger an automatic revocation of certification as a matter of law. For the retired officer, this means that any post-retirement legal trouble—even at the misdemeanor level—can be reported to the Board and lead to the immediate loss of IROCC privileges. As the regulatory framework grows more integrated, the IROCC card has moved from being a simple permit and earned benefit reflecting an officer's career-long to a political issue to continue to punish Police Officers even in retirement. FOP lodge 7 is currently trying to introduce legislation in Springfield to reverse the condition on our retired members.

The primary mechanism for this control lies in the Board's power of discretionary decertification. Under current standards, ILETSB can review an officer's entire service history for conduct that undermines the integrity of the profession. If the Board finds clear

Downtown Chicago isn't safe, either...

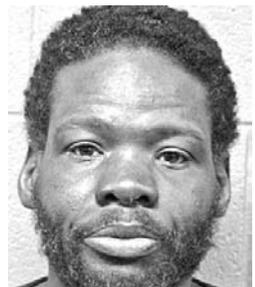
(GSL) - Far too many Chicagoans cling to the delusional fantasy that if they just stick to the "nice" neighborhoods—the glittering Magnificent Mile, the posh Gold Coast, the downtown bubble—they're somehow immune to savage violence. Wake the hell up. Denial isn't a shield; it's a death wish. These self-deluded sheep are grazing peacefully while predators circle, waiting for the perfect moment to strike.

Even in the heart of the supposedly "safe" zones—the tourist-packed streets, luxury high-rises, and high-end shopping—you're not protected. Violent attacks, robberies, shootings, and brazen chaos still erupt there regularly. High-profile incidents keep proving it: innocent people gunned down near holiday events, brutal assaults in broad daylight, random victims chosen for convenience.

It feels like "someone else's problem" until the knife is at *your* throat, the gun in *your* face, or the bullet tears through *your* body. Complacency kills. The predators don't respect zip codes or income brackets—they exploit vulnerability. Stop pretending your address is armor. Face reality before reality finds you. Denial has no survival value.

Reporter attacked at high noon in downtown

Chicago (GSL) - In broad daylight on January 2, 2026, at 12:46 p.m., a veteran television news reporter sat defenseless in her luxury SUV on North State Street in Chicago's Loop—just south of Wacker Drive, blocks from the Magnificent Mile's crowds and luxury storefronts—when 43-year-old Noah Johnson, a 7-time convicted felon, yanked open her driver's door.



Noah Johnson. How many other victims has he attacked?

Without a word, he unleashed a savage beating: punching her face repeatedly as she desperately honked for help. He growled and mumbled to himself while trying to drag her out, the assault so ferocious it dislodged her salivary gland, prosecutors say.

Only when outraged bystanders finally intervened, hauling the monster off her bloodied body, did the nightmare end.

Fortunately the judge ordered her attacker held pending trial. Yes, miracles never cease... or maybe it's because the victim has clout and notoriety.



Even Oreo HQ can't escape the Wild West gunpoint beatdowns

Chicago (GSL) - Chicago's "safe" West Loop just got a brutal reality check. Thursday at 4:23 p.m., right outside Mondelēz International's global headquarters—the people who make your Chips Ahoy!, Halls, and Philly cream cheese—a 49-year-old man was pistol-whipped and slapped silly on the sidewalk in the 200 block of North Peoria.

Video shows him curled in the fetal position while two robbers rifle his pockets at gunpoint. One thug in a gray tracksuit and red winter gloves waves the handgun; the other rocks ripped black jeans and a hooded jacket. They hop into a gray/silver Range Rover—likely with backup in the back seat—and vanish. Victim refused medical help. This is just the latest in a rapid spike of armed street muggings in the heart of Chicago.

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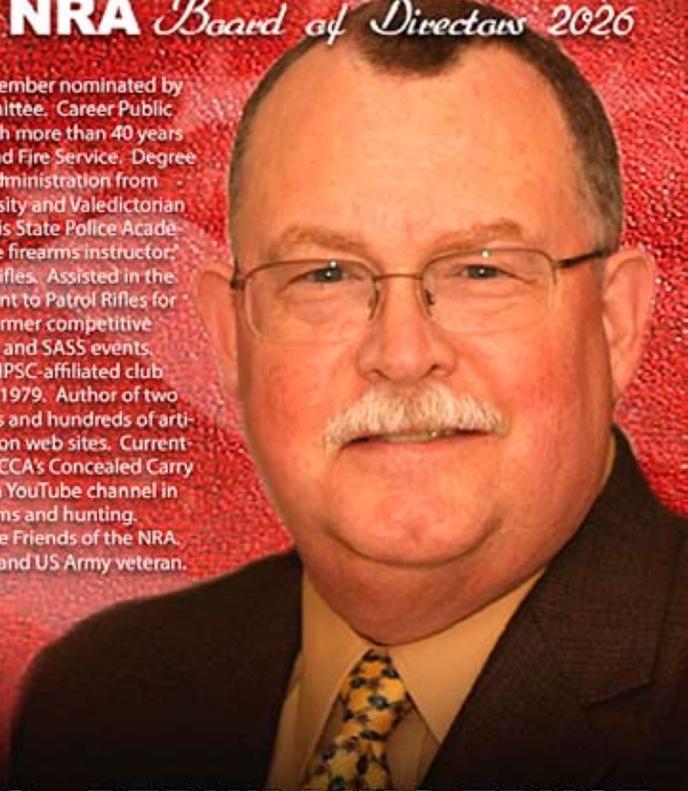
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Pros and cons of pump-action shotguns for home / personal defense

by Nick Klementzos

(GSL) - Welcome to the Land of Pritzker... where the government pats you on the head and says, "Here, have a pump shotgun, peasant. We trust you with this (for now), just not anything fun or scary."

Since the day drunks in Springfield's have kindly permitted us to keep pump-action shotguns for personal defense, let's break down why this old-school boomstick remains the king of home defense in the Land of Lincoln.



The Good (Why your pump-action shotgun still rocks):

- Dirt-cheap, stupid-reliable, and brain-dead easy. Mossberg 500, Maverick 88, Remington 870—these are the AKs of shotguns: ugly as sin, affordable, and they'll chug along on bargain-bin shells forever. Rack it hard, pull the trigger. No gas pistons to gum up, no fancy electronics to fail.
- Did we mention dirt cheap? Decent Turkish pumps are available for well under \$200. Used Mossbergs and Remingtons will run a little more but often have butter-smooth actions.
- PICA-proof. No "scary gun" label, no registration headaches. It's basically a "humble farmer's tool." Wink.
- Ammo everywhere: birdshot, buckshot, slugs, low-recoil specials for the recoil-sensitive. Find your gun food at Walmart, Rural King or local gun shop.
- One-and-done reputation (mostly deserved). Buckshot at room-length distances (and on out to 20 yards) ends arguments fast. Shotguns don't make neat holes—they carve off hunks of flesh and chuck them across the room. Pistols poke holes in people; rifles poke holes through people; and shotguns make a mess.
- The cha-chunk sound effect. Pure psychological warfare taught by Hollywood for generations. Everyone knows it. Most want nothing to do with it. If they don't care, that's a clue.

The Bad (Where physics and reality gang up on you):

- Recoil. Newton's middle finger. 12-gauge magnum buckshot kicks like a donkey on bath salts. Remedy: So don't use them! Tiny folks, seniors,

or anyone who dislikes pain? Find "Reduced Recoil" buckshot or slugs and use those instead. No bad guy ever said, "Boy, I sure am glad you shot me with reduced recoil ammo."

- Magazine capacity: Not a lot, unless you've got a social/riot shotgun that holds 7-8. Most Remingtons and Mossbergs will hold 3-5 in the tube (remove the plug! Search YouTube for instructions). That's your lot. No 30-round happy sticks here—the good news is a single, solid hit puts bad guys out of the fight. Potential partial solution: You can mount a "side saddle" on the stock or butt to hold 4-6 additional rounds at the ready. Just in case you need a couple more rounds to help a couple of extra bad guys meet Jesus.
- Stocks built for big kids. 13.5–14" length of pull feels great if you're 6'4", but for anyone under 5'6", it's like wrestling an angry broom. Fix: youth/Bantam models, a gunsmith's chop, or Hogue's short 12" rubber stock.
- It's not a room-sweeper as Hollywood might make you think. Patterns are tight (roughly an inch of spread on buckshot per yard for the first 20-some yards). You *must* aim.
- Consider 20-gauge for the less physically strong. The gun is lighter and the recoil will be punishing, but it'll be easier to raise the gun hold it to fire. Sure, 12-gauge wins the energy contest, but buckshot out of a 20-gauge still sends mopes to the morgue, not the ER. (P.S. Take a defensive shotgun class.)

Bottom line: In the People's Republic of Illinois, where "scary" guns are verboten, the pump shotgun is the reliable, no-BS option we can still own without begging permission.

It's not flawless—the recoil kind of bites, capacity's limited, and marksmanship matters. But load it with #4 or 00 buck, fit it properly to your shoulder, train a little, and it'll deliver a very convincing "Not today, Mother..." to even the biggest, baddest anti-social misfit in the neighborhood.

Until the courts finally smack down these PICA restrictions (fingers crossed), grab what you can, practice like your life depends on it (spoiler: it might), and stay safe.



Even a plain-Jane Mossberg 500 will protect your home and family far better than harsh words and sharp sticks.

JEFF WILSON FOR CONGRESS

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Was it perfect? No. But the law doesn't demand perfection, just what's reasonable...

The Alex Pretti shooting: The 'No BS' Analysis

(The Center Square) – In a video circulating on social media, Illinois state Rep. Bob Morgan seized on comments from the National Rifle Association regarding the controversial shooting of Alex Pretti...

Pretti, a Minnesota resident, was fatally shot by federal immigration enforcement agents in Minneapolis on Jan. 24. The incident, captured on multiple videos, has sparked a national debate over civil liberties, law enforcement conduct and gun rights.

However, critics like John Boch, executive director of Guns Save Life, argue that Morgan and others on the left are selectively using the NRA's statement while ignoring the facts.



Pretti resisting arrest and drawing a pistol before he was shot.

"I don't know any gun owners that are saying this was a bad shoot, at least not ones who can look at something dispassionately and analyze whether it was a righteous shooting or not," Boch told TCS.

Boch also disputed claims that Pretti was targeted simply for carrying a firearm. He noted that Trump's comments about protesters not carrying guns, which the NRA publicly rebuked, have contributed to confusion over the incident.



Alex Pretti scuffling with a federal agent 11 days before he was shot dead.

"Whether carrying a firearm is legal depends on the state laws and whether it's part of an organized protest," Boch said.

Unlike Minnesota, Illinois generally prohibits carrying firearms at organized demonstrations, even for licensed gun owners.

Boch advised that anyone carrying firearms should use common sense and avoid dangerous situations.

"Don't put yourself in stupid places with stupid people, or you might win stupid prizes if they do stupid things," he said.

He explained that Pretti was shot because he attempted to resist arrest and threatened federal agents, not simply because he possessed a gun.



"This incident is a litmus test of people's attitudes toward the rule of law and law enforcement," Boch said. "If you support the rule of law, you look at this case dispassionately and ask whether it meets the legal standard for self-defense."

Boch said attempts by lawmakers to frame the incident as political violence ignore the legal standard officers must follow in real time.

"The law doesn't demand perfection," he said. "It demands reasonableness. And under that standard, this was a very reasonable use of force to end an imminent threat."



Alex Pretti during COVID times.

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

by John Boch

We sat down for an interview with John Murphy, the nationally known tactics and firearms instructor and asked him some questions.

His company was FPF Training, now Citizen Defender. At one time he spent the year travelling in his motor home, teaching across the nation. Now he's traveling less, but he's coming to Illinois in May to offer a very unique class called "Just Get Home."

Here's more about him and the class.



John Murphy.

GSL: The GSL Defense Training Team has a lot of good things to say about you. For everyone else, who is John Murphy?

I'm just a small-town boy that found himself in the big city of the intelligence community after serving ten years in the Marines. Several of those years were overseas in various garden spots, but I am NOT a combat veteran. I'm a student of military history and current events that also enjoys an occasional cigar and snort of Scotch. Oh, and I like to shoot, too!

GSL: Why should someone pay good money to hear what you have to say about personal safety/defense?

I've been working on that topic as a student and instructor for over thirty years. Along the way I learned that I am able to communicate concepts and practices via a broad spectrum of methods and really connect with students. This isn't just a job for me; it's a passion and my life's purpose.

GSL: How is "Just Get Home" different from pretty much every other defensive handgun class?

In a word, "context." The defensive ap-

plication of lethal force entails much more than a blazing fast draw stroke and straight shooting. There is a "before" and "after" to these events that goes largely unaddressed by much of the training industry. Can you recognize pre-assault behavior? Can you negotiate a conflict towards a successful and safe departure? Can you apply intermediate (pepper spray) force? Do you have a plan for dealing with law enforcement after an incident? These are huge gaps in most people's preparation... but they sure are proud of their Bill Drill performance.

[Editor: Okay, I'll admit I didn't know what the Bill Drill was... so for those like me the "Bill Drill is a foundational firearms exercise where a shooter draws from a holster and fires six rounds into the A-zone of an IPSC/IDPA target at 7 yards, typically in under 3 seconds.]

GSL: What can I expect at this class should I enroll?

An extensive 8-hour video "view ahead" followed by a building block approach to skill acquisition. These skills are then integrated into pre-assembled sets and students are cycled through these via a nifty visual system I have devised. I guarantee a challenging, relevant and very good time!

GSL: What other classes do you offer?

I specialize in context-oriented classes. "Car Problems" for situations revolving around the vehicle environment. "Sanctuary Security Team Member" for defending houses of worship and "Concealed Carry Tactics", which is a highly abbreviated version of "Just Get Home" for people that can't spare a full weekend.

GSL: Why in the holy heck are you coming to the Land of Pritzker gun control to teach? Are there a lack of freer, lower-crime states in which to teach?

I am returning to Illinois because, well frankly, people need me more there than most other places.

GSL: Anything else you would like to add?

"Just Get Home" encapsulates the mission statement for the armed citizen. This is a rare opportunity to learn and exercise the skills you need to accomplish that mission.

For more information, or to register for the class, visit Citizen-Defender.com or call John at 703 609-6350.



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Italy's versatile Vetterli: The rifle that refused to die

by Gary Larson

(GSL) - The second half of the 19th century was firearms chaos. As metallic cartridges had proven deadly in real fights, and muzzleloaders suddenly became obsolete. Most armies went cheap: cut open the breech of existing rifles, add a trapdoor or similar single-shot mechanism, tweak the hammer if needed, and call it "modern." The Swiss took a bolder path. In 1869 they adopted the Vetterli—a bolt-action repeater with rear locking lugs and a tubular magazine borrowed from Winchester lever-actions. Switzerland became the first nation to issue a true magazine-fed rifle to its troops.

Italy, still lugging black powder guns, tested the Swiss design. They loved the bolt but panicked at the repeater. "Troops will waste ammunition!" the generals cried. "Supply trains will collapse under cartridge weight!"



So the 1870 Italian Vetterli went single-shot only. It fired a snappier 10.35mm centerfire round (better than the Swiss rimfire), sported a 34-inch barrel, and carried a 20-inch sword bayonet mounted on the right—perfect for the era's obsession with bayonet charges as the "manly" way to finish fights. Meanwhile the cavalry folks got an 18-inch carbine with a socket bayonet that reversed and stowed safely under the barrel.

By 1887, reality bit - hard. Germany, France, Austria-Hungary, and others had magazine repeaters in frontline service. Italy finally relented and let Captain Giuseppe Vitali retrofit existing single-shots. His fix: a fixed four-round box magazine milled into the action and stock. Load from the top with a charger clip, then yank the empty clip out with... an attached string. (Military history's weirdest detail—and yes, that string-pull concept later inspired modern tampon applicators.)

The resulting M1870/87 Vetterli-Vitali repeater stuck with black-powder cartridges in 10.35mm while the world chased smaller, smokeless calibers. It served until the 1891 Carcano arrived, but the story wasn't over.

World War I brought rifle shortages everywhere. Old black-powder cartridge Vetterlis were yanked from storage for second-line troops—and often the front. They belched thick smoke clouds that pinpointed shooters and hid enemies, a nightmare against clean-burning, high-velocity repeaters.

The desperate fix: convert surviving 1870/87s to Italy's standard 6.5x52mm Carcano cartridge. Barrels got bored out and lined, Vitali magazines swapped for Carcano boxes, sights updated. The new M1870/87/15 used the same en-bloc clips as frontline Carcanos, easing ammo logistics. Bayonets were chopped from 20-inch swords to 9-inch practical blades; leftover steel became fighting knives that troops actually preferred.



The Vetterli family endured over seventy years: single-shot in 1870, repeater retrofit by 1887, wartime cartridge conversion by 1915, then surplus sales after the war. In the 1960s, ads offered them for \$9.95 in America — often plugged for decoration or thanks to restrictive gun laws.

Today collectors and shooters still love them. Original 10.35mm versions shoot safely with modified .348 Winchester brass. The 6.5mm conversions? Stick to mild, black-powder-style loads with cast bullets—those old rear-lug actions weren't built for full-power smokeless pressures.

From Swiss innovation to Italian penny-pinching, battlefield desperation, and long surplus life, the Vetterli is the rifle that just kept coming back. For the full tale and rare variants, Robert Wilsey's *The Italian Vetterli Rifle* remains the essential English-language reference.

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KY homeowner thwarts a not-so-neighborly home invasion

Harrodsburg, KY (SNW/GSL) - In the quiet pre-dawn hours last Friday in Harrodsburg, Kentucky, Danny Hyatt decided to pull off what he probably figured was just another quick score. At 36-years-old, you'd think he'd know better than to storm into occupied dwellings, but he probably figured it beats working for a living. Unfortunately for Danny Boy, the homeowner wasn't a helpless waif who subscribed to the Moms Demand Action "guns are icky and dangerous" way of thinking. Far from it.

Hyatt's neighbor, however, kept their safety rescue tool close by (not locked in a safe with ammunition stored separately), and used it to educate Danny on neighborly ethics.

Hyatt absorbed some hot lead. And despite the best efforts of first responders, he died on scene. As for the rest of the neighborhood, the local police chief made it clear this was an isolated incident, unlikely to happen again given the lack of vital signs displayed by Danny Hyatt.

Arizona is bad state for home invaders

Buckeye, AZ (Buckeye AZ) - An intruder is dead after confronting an armed homeowner Sunday night in a neighborhood near Yuma Rd and 237th Ln.

Bungling burglary suspect found shot

Lake Forest Park, WA (KOMO) — The man who was wounded in a shooting on Sunday in Lake Forest Park after a reported burglary at a townhouse complex near a home that caught fire hours earlier has been identified, according to a police update Wednesday.

A 40-year-old resident of the home on Ballinger Way NE, which caught fire in the early morning hours, is the man whom police say was shot by the homeowner.

Masked, armor-clad home invader learns he's not entirely bulletproof

Athens, AL (GSL) - A would-be home invader picked the wrong house in Athens, Alabama.

Armed with a rifle and pistol, wearing a ski mask and bulletproof vest, Tanner Stewart Phillips allegedly broke into a car, then pointed his rifle at the homeowner and chased him inside.

Big mistake.

The resident fought back, firing multiple shots and hitting Phillips several times. Mr. Intruder - aka Tanner Phillips - fled, only to show up wounded at a hospital.

After treatment for non-life-threatening injuries, Phillips was arrested and now sits in Limestone County Jail, charged with first-degree burglary, first-degree robbery, and unlawful breaking and entering a vehicle—no bond set.

Homeowner safe, bad guy behind bars. Justice is served and life is better in Athens, AL!

OH CANADA: At Canada's Tumbler Ridge school massacre, when seconds counted, good guys were just up to two hours away

by John Boch (GSL) - Evil never sleeps and denying that evil exists has no survival value. Along those lines, a mass murder spree took place in a rural school in Tumbler Ridge, British Columbia. The killer struck Tumbler Ridge Secondary School with about 150 grade 7 to 12 students and it was one of the deadliest school massacres in Canadian history.

A shortage of good guys with guns allowed the killer to continue the rampage for quite a while before the

lunatic finally put himself down. Authorities reported seven dead, not counting the 18-year-old lunatic killer who wore a dress and shared his "she/her" pronouns with the world. Police later found two more bodies at an attached residence. Over 25 others were injured including at least two in critical condition.

It all began at 1:20pm. Authorities issued a shelter-in-place alert after forty minutes. Police finally secured the scene of the massacre a little over four hours later. Media sources say the "ac-

tive" phase of the incident went on for more than 40 minutes. When the average school massacre results in a wounded or killed victim every few seconds, 40 minutes is an eternity. That goes double for those who survive their initial wounds, but are left bleeding out while police clear the scene so EMTs can begin to provide care.

The New York Times reports that people in parts of the school waited more than two hours for police to rescue them.

An Armed Canadian story

Saskatchewan man battles starving moose with fists, shovel and a .22 to save his mom

Bienfait, Saskatchewan (GSL) - In the brutal pre-dawn freeze of January 22nd near Bienfait, Saskatchewan, wind chills hammered -40°C. Seventy-year-old Angie Tuffnell stepped out to start her son's car—just another morning ritual. But a starving young bull moose, gaunt and desperate, had glued itself to the house's dryer vent, borrowing precious heat from the exhaust.

The older woman startled the beast. It charged like a freight train on hooves, slamming her to the ice. Towering over her and serious pissed, with ears flat, stomped relentlessly, ripping a deep gash in her calf. Her screams shattered the quiet.

Inside, 37-year-old Shawn Tuffnell came running. "I heard her yelling," he said later. He sprinted downstairs to find the massive moose standing over his pinned mom, ready to crush her.

Shawn didn't hesitate - he charged! He threw a wild fist that split the moose's lip. The animal barely blinked. Shawn snatched a shovel and hammered it three times—clang! clang! clang!—but the bull kept coming, ramming its shoulders through the doorway.

In a frantic grapple, Shawn grabbed the moose by its ears and nostrils, wrenching it into a savage headlock. He pinned its jaw against his gut to block bites, using the doorframe to trap flailing hooves. "I didn't care what it was doing to me," he growled. "Just had to blind him so he couldn't see her."

Then salvation: Angie's boyfriend yanked a .22 rifle from the closet. Shawn fired once into the eye—stunning it—then unloaded 15 more rounds until the beast collapsed in a heap.



Necropsy revealed pure starvation, no disease—just a desperate animal in survival mode. Angie got stitches but is recovering. Shawn? Cracked rib, huge lump on his head—battle scars he only felt after the adrenaline faded.



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Virginia is what happens when gun owners don't vote in elections

by *Texas Gun Rights (Shooting News Weekly)* - Radical gun ban legislation is sailing through the Virginia legislature, offering a crystal-clear preview of what gun owners across the country can expect after the mid-term elections if they stay home and let the gun-confiscation cartel take power.

With little resistance, the anti-gun radical Democrats in the Virginia House of Delegates advanced a sweeping package of anti-gun bills to the Senate, including bans on commonly owned firearms, magazine restrictions, and new criminal penalties for peaceful gun owners. The measures target law-abiding citizens — not criminals — and they are moving fast. This isn't an accident. It's a coordinated agenda.

Virginia's radical Democrats aren't testing the waters. They're running full speed, confident they have the

votes, the media cover, and the activist infrastructure to push gun confiscation without consequence.

Virginia Is the Blueprint

What's happening in Virginia today is exactly what national gun-ban groups have planned for years... take control of state legislatures, flood them with model legislation, and ram through bans before voters can react.

This Is What Losing Looks Like

Virginia didn't lose its gun rights overnight. It lost them one election at a time. Low turnout. Complacency. Assumptions that the other side wouldn't really go that far.

Now the bills are moving, the bans are coming, and lawful gun owners are being treated like criminals, all because the wrong people were allowed to take power.

Impulse control? Teen shot 'friend' in head over french fry...

'Requestor' harassed his friend to hand over a french fry, then shot him in the head when he didn't comply

(*American Thinker*) - Here's the new euphemism for someone who kills another person while demanding what the victim has: "requestor."

According to a news report from the Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Jarvis Davis was hanging out in an apartment unit, eating a fast food order, when his friend, who had just finished his own meal but was still hungry, "requested" a french fry from young Jarvis. Jarvis declined to hand over his food, and the "requesting" friend then pulled out a gun and shot Jarvis in the head:

Davis, who was 19, declined to share his

fries and did not take seriously the requestor's resulting anger. Soon after, Davis' friend fired a bullet into Davis' head...

I can only assume that since Jarvis was black, living in a complex with a bunch of other blacks, his "friend" was black too, which leads me to my next point: Where else but in the black community do we so frequently see such a callous and diabolical disregard for human life? Shooting your own "friend" in the head because you're hungry and want him to share his food and he won't? Killing someone over a french fry?! Where is the impulse control? Where is the reason? Where is the governor on emotions?

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The monthly journal of
Guns Save Life

John Naese, Editor Emeritus
johnnaese1@comcast.net
John Boch, Editor Emeritus
jboch@gunssavelife.com

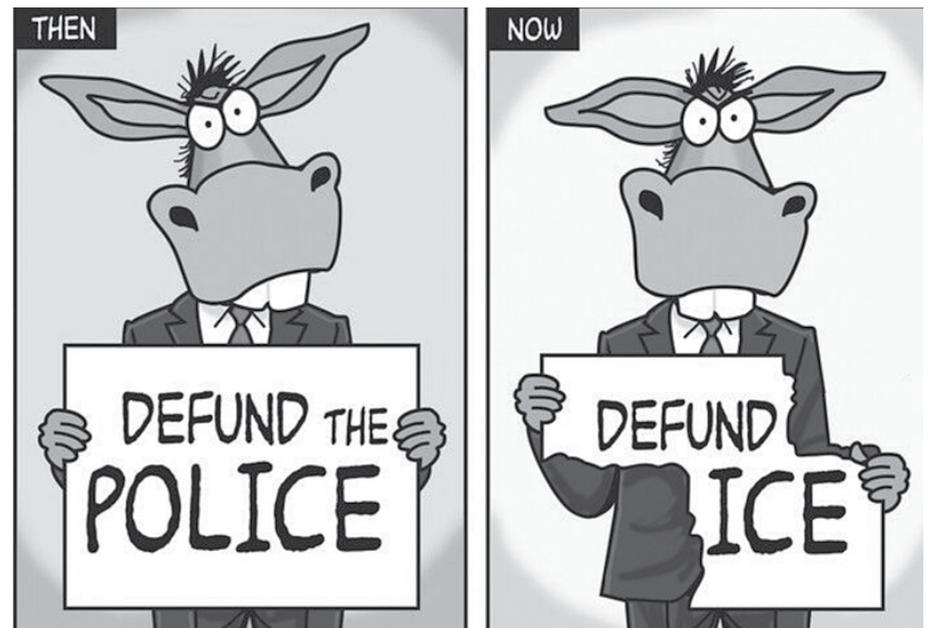
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Our thanks goes out to Oleg Volk for his continued permission to use his creative work to help us in our gun rights advocacy work. You can see more of them at his websites:

a-human-right.com
blog.olegvolk.net



MAIL CALL



Letter to the Editor

'Gunperson in dress': Making sense out of nonsense

To the Editor:
A half-crazed Canadian dude in a dress recently murdered 8 people and wounded two dozen more in Tumbler Ridge, BC, a quiet town of nearly 2,400 people, before turning a gun on himself. The shooter is believed to be 18-year-old Jesse Van Rootselaar (aka Jesse Strang), who, at the time of the shooting, was 6 years into his quest to become the homeliest woman West of Alberta.

This mass shooting comes on the high heels of numerous killings by members of the Trans Community. When asked if Rootselaar's transgenderism played a role in motivating the mass murder, the RCMP Deputy Commissioner Dwayne McDonald hopped on his whistle and blew his horse, claiming that it is "too early to say."

No, it isn't, and anyone with half a brain knows better. Jesse's now-dead mother, an outspoken trans activist, wrote on her Instagram account: "Do you have any idea how many kids are killing themselves over this kind of hate. Protect Trans Kids."

The RCMP's McDonald confessed, "Police had been to the family home on multiple occasions over the past several

years, dealing with concerns of mental health with respect to our suspect." Jesse had dropped out of school four years earlier to play with his guns, work on his girlie figure, and his five o'clock shadow.



Everything that went wrong here with young Jesse was foreseeable; however, with just a little due diligence and a scrap of God-given common sense by the authorities, this disaster was likely preventable.

Gary Hetherington
Springfield, Illinois

When democracy turns to tyranny...



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Congress sends sternly written letter to ATF over de facto national gun registry

Federal law has prohibited the federal government from creating a national firearms registry since 1986, under the Firearms Owners' Protection Act (18 U.S.C. § 926(a)(3)). This bans any system for registering firearms, owners, or transactions.

Despite this, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF) has built what critics call a de facto registry through its collection and digitization of ATF Form 4473 records. These forms document every firearm sale by licensed dealers (FFLs).

When an FFL goes out of business, federal law

requires transferring its records to the ATF. For decades, dealers could destroy older records after 20 years, sending only recent ones upon closure. A Biden-era policy change in 2022 required FFLs to retain records indefinitely instead, accelerating the flow of records to the ATF when dealers close—often due to strict enforcement policies.

The ATF digitizes these "out-of-business" records in its Out-of-Business Records Imaging System (OBRIS), creating a searchable database. A 2021 leak showed the agency processing over 50 million records annually, with nearly 921 million already held (mostly

digitized).

On February 3, 2026, Rep. Michael Cloud (R-Texas) and 26 colleagues sent a follow-up letter to the ATF, demanding answers to an ignored 2025 inquiry. They warned that continued digitization at historical rates could mean up to 1.1 billion records—violating the registry ban.

The ATF has stonewalled Congress so far, providing no update on the database's size or status. Lawmakers argue this backdoor registry threatens gun owners' privacy and liberty, defying explicit statutory prohibitions.

SCDNR officers make arrest trying to boost their careers SC poaching arrest gets conservation officers sued

Taylors, SC (GSL) - In wildlife conservation, law enforcement officers safeguard ecosystems and ethical hunting by targeting poachers through sting operations, like those using deer decoys by the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR). These efforts deter illegal night hunting, but high-pressure situations can lead to errors.

On November 15, 2024, under a bright full moon in Taylors, South Carolina, Shane Huffman stopped on rural Cox Mill Road after spotting a whitetail deer through binoculars. The "deer" was an SCDNR decoy in a sting targeting spotlight poachers. Body camera footage from Officers Robert Thomas and Zach Tatum showed Huffman's headlights aimed down the road, not at the decoy off to the side. Officers admitted no artificial light illuminated the target, and Huffman—rifle in truck but untouched—never fired or approached it.

Still, deeming it a potential "career case," officers arrested him for night hunting, seized his truck, firearm, and gear, and booked him into Greenville County Detention Center. Huffman paid \$2,500 to SCDNR plus impound fees to retrieve his vehicle.

Charges were dismissed in March 2025 for insufficient evidence. South Carolina law requires artificial light to aid spotting or taking game; body cam proved none occurred.

In October 2025, Huffman, represented by attorneys Lori Murray and Patrick McLaughlin, sued SCDNR in Richland

County Common Pleas Court for wrongful arrest, imprisonment, malicious prosecution, and defamation, alleging officers ignored their own evidence. SCDNR denied allegations in November 2025, defending officers' actions.



Shane Huffman.

Discovery disputes continued into late 2025, with motions to compel. As of early 2026, the case remains pending, potentially heading to trial, amid public scrutiny from released footage highlighting possible overreach.

Officers face tough challenges—remote patrols, armed encounters, real poaching threats harming deer and trust in hunting. Yet this case cautions that zeal for big wins must align with evidence and law to avoid straining agency-hunter relations. Sting operations remain vital against violators, but Huffman's ordeal urges balanced enforcement that protects both wildlife and law-abiding sportsmen.

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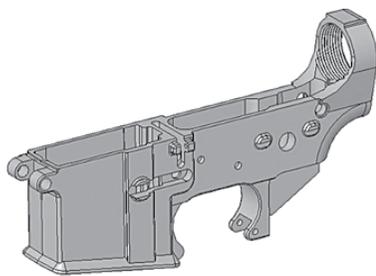


Washington House Bill 2320: Outlaws 3D printers without approved censoring software; Outlaws possession of firearm-related files

by Damon Williams
GSL Member

(GSL) - Washington's House Bill 2320 is the latest masterpiece in the art of legislative overreach—because nothing says “public safety” like turning your basement 3D printer into a felonious contraband machine. Sponsored by folks who probably think CAD stands for “Criminals Against Democracy,” this bill aims to slam the brakes on anyone daring to manufacture certain firearm parts using 3D printers, CNC mills, or basically any tool sharper than a crayon.

Oh, and it throws in a bonus felony for merely possessing digital files related to firearm components. Because who needs free speech when you can have state-approved blueprints?



Let's be real: if you're in Illinois like me, you might shrug and think, “Washington? That's basically Canada with better coffee.” Wrong. Our friends in Springfield have a PhD in copy-paste legislation. Whenever some blue state dreams up a shiny new infringement, Governor Pritzker's team apparently hits Ctrl+C, Ctrl+V, and adds extra spice just to show they can out-regulate the originals. It's like watching toddlers compete in a “who can stomp on the Constitution harder” contest.

Remember the Federal Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals' smackdown in *Defense Distributed v. State Department*? The courts (and even SCOTUS nodding along) basically said computer files for gun designs are protected speech under the First Amendment. Cute, right? But why let pesky federal rulings ruin a good power grab? Politicians just pass the law anyway, enforce it enthusiastically, and dare the courts to stop them.

The strategy is genius in its cynicism: tie everything up in endless appeals, pray for a sympathetic judge, and if you lose, seek one injunction after another while screaming about “public safety.” If the law eventually gets struck down? No problem—they parade the defeat like a badge of honor, fundraise off it, and blame those pesky constitutional defenders for hating children. And then do it again.

HB 2320 doesn't stop at fancy additive manufacturing. It ropes in any “other means” of making prohibited parts—including that dusty lathe in your garage or the drill press you used to make a custom firing pin from a random bolt back in the day (you know, the one involving motor oil and sheer spite). Want to keep your machine for legit stuff like wheelchair parts? Better get yourself an FFL, because Big Brother now wants to babysit every CNC path and G-code snippet. And possession? Forget downloading a file for a vertical grip—that's a felony. Thanks to the ATF's magical “rebuttable intent” doctrine (where owning precursor info proves you're up to no good), your old email with an attached STL from 2021 could land you in prison. Compliance? Impossible. Deletion? Selective.

The real kicker: this isn't just Washington's problem. File-sharing sites will panic-scrub anything gun-adjacent to avoid lawsuits, imposing the restrictions nationwide. Your offline, air-gapped 2015 printer? Safe... until your cloud-based CAD software (looking at you, Tinkercad) decides to rat you out or lock your old files because “shape detection algorithms” don't care about state lines or VPNs. Disney might love it—finally, a way to force royalties on that Groot-in-a-tutu figurine Joe Nerd printed in his man cave.



But here's the hilarious part: 3D printing was born from hackers scavenging printer guts and writing their own code. Ban the fancy stuff, and hobbyists just revert to bottle-recycled filament, nylon weed-whacker line, and distributed servers playing whack-a-mole with censors. Sites like Deterrence Dispensed laugh at jurisdiction. You can't stop the signal, folks.

So yeah, I don't own a 3D printer (yet), and I'm hundreds of miles from Olympia. But when politicians who can't tell a slicer from a salad tosser start regulating tech they barely understand, it sets the stage for everyone else's freedoms to get nibbled away. Next time someone says “it's just about ghost guns,” remember: today's overreach is tomorrow's “common-sense” template. Stay frosty, makers. The file lives on.

Minnesota's ongoing insurgency needs to be addressed and quashed

by Katya Sedgwick
(Legal Insurrection) - Donald Trump successfully delivered on his promise to halt illegal border crossings without going to Congress. However, when deporting illegals already in the country, the president ran into something very different, something that should take priority over all other issues, namely a violent insurgency.

The insurgency's most publicized battlefield is in Minneapolis, where ICE agents shot and killed two individuals they apparently judged to be directing deadly force at immigration cops. These two incidents grabbed the headlines, but violence against ICE usually goes unnoticed. Yet it is routine in blue cities—and it's meticulously organized, connected to the state and local seats of power, flush with dark money and supported from abroad.

Minnesota officials, including the mayor, Jacob Frey, and the governor and former vice presidential candidate, Tim Walz, talk of Minneapolis being “under siege” by the Trump Administration, which, they insist, grabs “neighbors” off the street and assassinates “protestors”...

Again, these are not protests. They are tactical operations meant to normalize insurgent behavior on the left. In Minneapolis, city leaders and police have tolerated masked activists establishing checkpoints, forcing drivers to slow or stop while license plates are logged into their databases.

The logical question to ask is: “What comes next?” Surely, this is not the last time the insurgency will fine-tune its tactics.

An average American needs

to start taking domestic terror groups seriously. While officers of the law absorb most of the blows, political violence threatens everyone. Recall that Donald Trump survived two assassination attempts during the 2024 campaign, and Charlie Kirk was murdered by a trans ally—who was once a nice Utah boy. Anti-Zionist Elias Rodriguez shot two Israeli embassy staffers execution-style, and Luigi Mangione did the same to a corporate executive.

While those events are almost certainly not coordinated by any domestic terror group, we know who the violent Left despises. Should domestic disturbances escalate, the logic of revolution suggests they will come for “enemies of the people”.

For decades, conservatives laughed off the Left's revolutionary fantasies: “If there will be a civil war, it will be the fastest civil war ever!” What can the gun abolitionists who probably don't know how to spell the word “gym” do to us?

Let's reconsider. Signal Gate revealed—if it wasn't clear already—that we are dealing with disciplined jackboots. They have friends in high places, and at least some of them are armed.

Shideler argued that even if the self-styled revolutionaries themselves are under the impression that they are participating in a LARP, their bosses know what they are doing:

There's always an element of play-acting at the beginning of every insurgency. Whether it's an ignorant campesino given a red bandana or a soccer mom given a whistle, for that

hapless foot soldier it may all seem like a bit of a lark, a quaint diversion from their humdrum day-to-day lives.

But though every revolution begins as a LARP, they usually end in bloodshed.

It was evident in 2020 that Antifa-BLM doesn't have the numbers for a revolution. Today's Melt ICE protests are also numerically unimpressive. Just a thousand people, many from outside Minneapolis, signed up with the Signal chat. Here, in the San Francisco Bay Area, rallies in support of Minneapolis are weak.

Still, the Bolsheviks were an extreme minority party, but they overthrew Russia's liberal Provisional Government. The Democratic Socialists of America, the depository of revolutionary sentiment in the U.S., is a rapidly growing organization that now boasts 100,000 members. The insurgents are well-financed and have friends in strategic positions.

Since bumping into problems in Minneapolis, Trump appears to have scaled back. Citing “unprecedented collaboration,” border czar Tom Homan announced the withdrawal of 700 agents from the Midwestern state. Even assuming that he isn't saving face, the administration needs to shift priorities.

As important as it is to fight the invasion, most illegals are male—they are demographic dead ends. We can pass them like a kidney stone within a few decades. Yet, the insurgency is endemic to the U.S., and it threatens the very existence of our republic. Squishing it should take priority, and it will make deportations easier.



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It is right and proper to laugh at the suffering of 'journalists'

by Kurt Schlichter
(Townhall) - If it's wrong to spend a week celebrating the misery of your opponents, like that of the scores of just-fired *Washington Post* hacks who are crying like teenage girls learning there are no more "Twilight" movies coming, then I'm incredibly, totally, enthusiastically wrong. The former journo/current drive-thru operators still have not shut up about the *WaPo's* mass layoffs, and I am taking unmitigated delight in their pain. Their suffering energizes me. Their tears nourish me. Their humiliation fuels my joy. Hey, maybe democracy dies in darkness, but as long as the *WaPo* dies, I'm good.

I would tell them to learn to code, but that's old and cliché. Instead, I've been on X, inviting them to earn a little money for their kombucha and rent by buffing out my sweet luxury ride, which I paid for with my writing jobs. I'm a professional writer, and they're not.



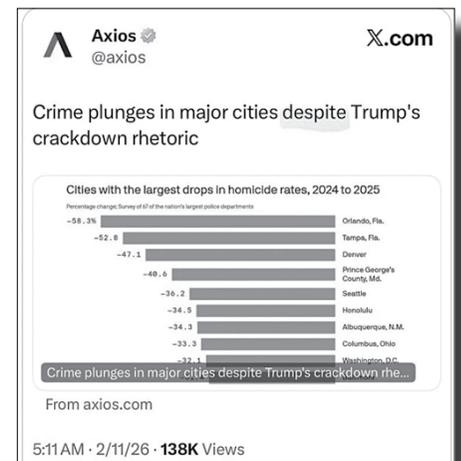
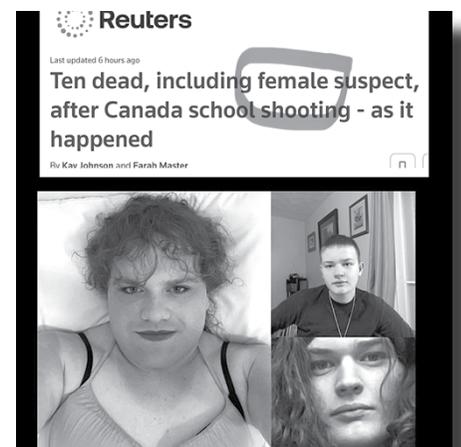
But hey, I'm sure that journalism degree from the University/College is going to get them another gig soon. Say it with me – "Would you like to supersize that, sir?"

They haven't taken their involuntary career tangent particularly well. They are all over X moaning about it and about us being giddy about it. Some people have told me that, because of my hysterical laughter at their situation, I'm going to be the victim of karma, but I think I'm actually karma's enforcer. After all, these are the people who have done nothing but lie to us and about us for decades. From Russian collusion to Hunter's laptop to J6 pogrom cheerleading to every other fraud and scam, they've obediently held to the Democrat line and done everything they could to screw with us patriots. Now that they're being laid off en masse, we owe it to ourselves to take a moment and laugh at their pain.

Look, how about if I agree to care about them as much as they've cared about me for the last few decades? Agreed? Great. Now, back to reveling in their agony...

Some people on the Right were kinder than I about the layoffs, cautioning that we shouldn't take pleasure in our enemies' suffering. This is so very wrong. I've never been a fan of the idea of conservatism without the concept of retribution. Too often, we are told that to be good people, we must forgo just consequences. But failing to pay back our enemies is only going to get us more reason to need vengeance. Our enemies aren't going to take our weakness for anything but weakness. Time to give pain a chance. Time to laugh our tails off at the suffering of the fired Democrat transcriptionists of the *Washington Post*.

Mainstream media lying about more than guns!



Get woker, go broker

WaPo dies in darkness

(Washington Free Beacon) - The embattled *Washington Post* is laying off more than 300 employees—about a third of its already shrunken staff—as it guts sports, local news, and international coverage to cut costs and, its executives hope, boost readership.

CNN lost 2/3rds of viewers

(UK Daily Mail) - CNN has lost nearly two-thirds of its primetime viewers over the past decade, figures show.

The decrease, from roughly 1.3 million in 2016 to 553,000 now, is fueling rumors of a possible network sale – something CNN's up-for-grabs parent company has vehemently denied.

It's a couple of months away. Hint: He doesn't want Old Spice.

FATHER'S DAY GIFT IDEAS

(GSL) - Ah, Father's Day – that annual day when dads get some recognition for their hard work and dedication to raising their kids. It's also a headache for you where you're desperately trying to find a worthy Father's Day gift - better than a tie he'll seldom wear or another bottle of "Old Spice" as a gift.

You want something that'll make Dad thank you every time he uses your gift to make his life better or more fun. Getting him something better than your sibling (or his girlfriend or wife) finds is a bonus. Be the hero. Here's how.



And hey, no shady sponsorships here – these aren't paid plugs from some corporate overlord. Nope, these are straight from the battle-tested reviews in *GunNews* over the past couple years. Yes, we've got options for a dad who's basically a walking action movie hero and/or has "everything."

No particular order, because life's too short for that. Let's dive in and help make this Dad's day (or his birthday) legendary!

Dash Cam: The Rove R2-4K (\$89-109) – Your Dad's personal Road Warrior shield. Turn off the mic for privacy and ditch the speed stamp on the recordings for him (don't incriminate yourself!). This bad boy is like having a silent witness against road-rage psychos, fibbing fender-benders, and cops who swear that light was red (when it was clearly "amber-adjacent"). Bonus: It could save him from jail time, lawsuits, and that awkward family dinner where everyone whispers about "the incident." Total game-changer for a hundred bucks!

Cool Shirts: Eagle Six Gear's Armed Flamingos and Hibiscus AR-15 Golf Polos (\$50ish Eagle Six Gear) - Picture Dad strutting in a polo that's part flamingo frenzy (or Hibiscus flowers), part AR-15 awesomeness – it'll rack up compliments faster than likes on a viral cat video. Seriously. Best shirt ever for gun culture peeps like us.



Cool Jeans: LA Police Gear's Core Flex Tactical Jeans (\$35ish) These aren't your grandpa's baggy britches – they're stylish jeans and stealth-mode CCW heaven with pockets galore for knives, flashlights, pens, phones, and whatever else Dad hoards like a squirrel prepping for Armageddon. They look normal (no "operator" vibes to attract unwanted attention), fit like a dream, and might even score points with the ladies for that flattering cut. Low-profile, high-utility – because who wants to look like they're strapped in those "gun free" zones?

Father's Day Dinner: Whiskey Bill's Saloon and Liquor Emporium in Pana, IL Drop \$100 and treat Dad to good booze and steaks so juicy they'll make his taste buds do a happy dance. That's adult drinks to sip, massive meat slabs and dressed-up sides to inhale and more. Sure, Pana's not exactly Chicago, but the drive's worth it if you're within a hundred twenty miles and you (and he) won't have to dodge gunfire and gang violence for the epic steaks and saloon swag. Fire up Google Maps, channel your inner road tripper, and make it a memory that'll have him bragging for months. Pro tip: Swing by Locked and Loaded a half-mile away to see mountains of ammo. In fact, there are several gun shops in the area you might want to stop to visit on the way.

NRA Membership: Because the LaPierre bad guys are out, and the Good Guys are in (\$45/year) - If Dad bailed on the NRA thanks to Wayne LaPierre's circus act, tell him the clown car's left the building! The heroes are steering the ship now. Join at NRA.org and watch Dad reclaim his Second Amendment superpowers. It's like giving him a membership to the "Cool Kids Who Protect Rights" club – minus the drama.

GSL Membership: Guns Save Life – your monthly dose of awesome (\$40/year) - For pocket change, Dad gets *GunNews* plopped in his mailbox (whenever the USPS feels like delivering it). Plus, sweet discounts on legal defense coverage that could pay for the whole shebang and then some! Join at GunsSaveLife.com or snail-mail the app from the back page of *GunNews*. It's like Netflix for gun enthusiasts, but with real-world savings, zero buffering and none of the woke BS.

Home Surveillance System: Weilailife Wi-Fi Setup (About \$200 for 4 HD Cameras + 1TB Storage) -Ditch the wi-fi bandwidth-hogging doorbell cams – this one's got its own dedicated Wi-Fi lane between cameras and recorder, so no slowing down the family's streaming binges. Hard-wire if you're feeling fancy, and it hooks up to your router for phone app access like a boss. Installation? Easier than assembling IKEA furniture (without the swearing). Pro hack: Tape up those power wall warts with electrical tape for rain-proof outdoor applications.



TRT Consultation: Turn Dad into a buff, happy beast (\$300ish at Life Plus MD in Bloomington/Peoria) - Is Dad battling the belly bulge, muscle meltdown, foggy brain, grumpiness, zero energy, weak libido and an upper body shape that's more pear than powerhouse? Hook him up with a Testosterone Replacement Therapy check-up! With TRT, gym time and smarter eats, he'll shed pounds, pack on muscle, and strut like that grinning Enzyte Bob dude from the old ads. Perks? Longer life, mega happiness. (Psst: Buy a similar consult for mom Mother's Day – teamwork makes the dream work!)

Legal Defense Coverage: Safeguard Dad's assets (and your inheritance) (\$200-400/year) - This one's a splurge, but it's insurance against prosecutors who don't like self-defense. \$200ish gets him CCW Safe; \$300ish for US Law Shield; \$400ish for USCCA. Pick your poison – they're all solid shields against post-self-defense legal nightmares. We heartily endorse all of them. Save Dad from blowing six figures on lawyers after dropping a thug the DA should've locked up last time Mr. Perp appeared in court. It's the gift that says, "I love you..."

Good Ear Pro: Hear the good, block the boom If Dad's still rocking old-school muffs, upgrade him to electronic wizardry! GSL's Dr. David Pike digs the 3M units (26dB NRR, ~\$80) for amplifying chit-chat while suppressing gunfire noise. Walker's Razor (~\$50) is compact for shotgun fans or home defense heroes. Budget baller? For kids using their piggy bank or for a dad who uses plugs, Harbor Freight's "Ranger" muffs (26dB, under \$10) are steals. Unlike some Chinese stuff, they actually work.

Lead Wipes: Because lead poisoning sucks (100-pack ~\$25 on Amazon) Dad skeptical? Hit him with the facts: High lead levels = depression and... uh, "performance issues" downstairs. Boom – attention grabbed! Stash these in his range bag, gun cases, and toss extras for buddies. It's the hygienic hero gift that keeps his blood clean and his mojo strong. Who knew gun fun could come with a side of health hack?

Tactical Flashlights: Fenix TK20 or TK21 (\$125ish). Boch loves these because they

work, they output an obscene amount of light. Oh yeah, and the strobe function makes some people barf. The best part? The lights have two buttons on the tailcap. The big one makes lots of light to see things in the dark (and blind bad guys). The little one is the barf button that gets drivers' attention in a big way, disorients a-holes and signals "here I am" to aircraft high overhead. Pro-tip: We're not responsible if he misuses it during football or basketball games to distract players. It will wreck their concentration and probably get dad thrown out. It does the same for bad guys though.

Firearm training classes (\$125-\$1000). Help dear old dad level up his firearm handling skills. Classes range from entry-level NRA offerings to high-speed, low-drag classes like May Ayooob's MAG-40 to John Murphy's "Just Get Home" (*coming in May to the DeWitt Co. Sportsman's Club*). His "man card" has little survival value. Get him training. The life he saves with new skills might be his, yours (or your kid's).

Rocky Boots. We've all had boots that didn't fit well, didn't wear well or fell apart in short order. Get dad something that he'll thank you every time he puts them on: Rocky Boots. Their Ultra Ops entry level boots (\$100ish) are better than most other company's best products. Their Mountain Combat Waterproof Military Boot (\$180) is even lighter and doesn't look like an armed good guy boot (but it should be), and the S2V Tactical Military Boot (\$275) is to boots what Maserati is to cars. Not only are they light, super comfortable and protective, but they will dry themselves within a couple of miles of walking after going for a submerged swim. How neat is that?

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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**



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.

Voter ID & 2nd Amendment

by *Second City Cop*

So democrats are claiming requiring a valid government ID is the new "Jim Crow voter suppression" and they're telling lie after lie about "If you don't have a passport, you can't vote" or "If you got married and changed your name, you can't vote" or "If you're poor, you can't afford the passport fee so you can't vote."

These are all lies, made to trick the uneducated and misinformed into panicking.

But let's take it to it's logical extreme then (from our e-mail):

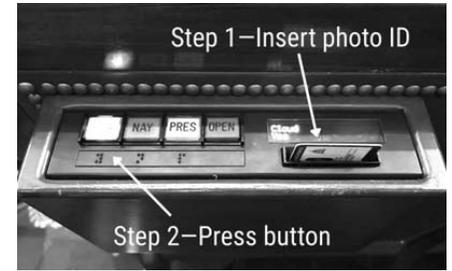
Since you've made it crystal clear that requiring an ID to exercise a CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT is "disenfranchisement" and "the new Jim Crow," I have a proposal.

The Second Amendment is a constitutional right. Voting is a constitutional right. You claim requiring ID to vote suppresses people from exercising their right. Okay. Then requiring ID to purchase a firearm suppresses people from exercising THEIR right. Same logic. Same constitution. Same argument.

So here's my challenge to every Republican in Congress: introduce a bill TOMORROW that eliminates ALL identi-

fication requirements for purchasing firearms. No background checks. No ID. No waiting periods. Nothing. If Democrats truly believe that ID requirements prevent citizens from exercising constitutional rights, they'll HAVE to support it. Right?

The savings alone in disbanding the ATF would be amazing.



You need ID to buy liquor, enter assorted government buildings, travel on an airplane, get treatment at a hospital, conduct business at a bank, and any of a million other daily tasks. [Editor: Including to vote in Congress - see above photo.] Remember how they were pushing "COVID passports" to go outside, eat at restaurants, even visit dying relatives in nursing homes?

But an ID to vote, arguably the most important duty as a LEGAL CITIZEN, is suddenly "Jim Crow 2.0"?

GSL LEADERSHIP DIRECTORY

MEMBERSHIP SERVICES: Andy McLaughlin Mclaughlin.iii.1776@gmail.com

John Boch
Executive Director
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OFFICERS
Rich Goodall
President
casbrisco@yahoo.com
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217 254-1772
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lockdale1953@gmail.com
217-670-9786

DIRECTORS
Chad Berck
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Joel Gain
joelgain37@yahoo.com
217 632-3267

Don Jensen
djensen@ivnet.com

Howard Kaye
FXRT1984@gmail.com
708 921-6768

Kristen Garrett
kristengarrett17@gmail.com
217 779-2675

Keith Pippin
keith.pippin@yahoo.com

Glenn Pratt
pratman1776@yahoo.com
708 822-4735

Dave Randolph
bowfisher5@hotmail.com

Ken Rishel
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Alfreda Keith Keller
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LaSalle County
Glenn Pratt
pratman1776@yahoo.com
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Northwest Chicagoland
Eric North
ericnorth283@gmail.com
708 932-1636

Sangamon County Director
Tim Wier
timothywier@yahoo.com

Decatur
Bill Hutton
billhutton2000@gmail.com

Danville
John "Jack" Land
johnfland1962@gmail.com
217 497-1866

Quincy
Kristen Garrett
kristengarrett17@gmail.com
217 779-2675

TEAM LEADERS
GunNews Distribution
Warren Drake
217 898-9602

GunNews Editor
John Boch
JBoch@gunssavelife.com
217 649-3702

Gun & Trade Shows
Carlin Anderson
canderson@uslawshield.com
217-371-4025

Membership Services
Andy McLaughlin
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DHS: New Orleans PD gave this criminal illegal a badge and a gun

(DHS) - This illegal alien from Cameroon, Larry Temah, is not only breaking the law with every step he takes in this country illegally, but the New Orleans Police Department hired him and issued him a firearm - what kind of law enforcement department gives criminal illegal aliens guns and badges? It's a FELONY for illegal aliens to even possess a firearm. Sanctuary cities like New Orleans ignore ICE detainees and are protecting illegal aliens at the expense of American citizens.



Coming to Illinois soon?

Black bears in Iowa

(GSL) - Iowa's black bears are finally getting some legal street cred in the Corn State—because right now, they're basically ghosts in the law books.

For years, bruins have been wandering back from Minnesota and Wisconsin, with sightings ticking up (around 5–8 per year lately, plus a few overwintering in the northeast woods). No cubs or full breeding crews yet, but they're not just passing through anymore.

Problem? Zero regulations. No seasons, no licenses, no penalties—technically open season on any bear that wanders in.

Enter House File 2099, dropped in January 2026 by Rep. Brian Lohse (R-Bondurant). It's likely to pass with overwhelming bipartisan support. This bill slaps black bears onto Iowa's "furbearer" list (think beavers, raccoons, mink... now with added bear swagger). No hunts yet, but maybe soon if their population grows.



'Use my M14 automatic gun'

Another social misfit loser busted threatening assassination

Toledo, OH (WTVG) - A Toledo man was indicted by a federal grand jury earlier this week for threatening to kill the vice president, authorities said..

According to a press release from the Department of Justice (DOJ), Shannon Mathre, 33, is accused of threatening to kill Vice President JD Vance.



According to the indictment, Mathre said, "I am going to find out where he (the vice president) is going to be and use my M14 automatic gun and kill him."



Rep. Jerry Nadler: Americans 'justified' to shoot ICE agents

(Yahoo) - Rep. Jerry Nadler (D-NY) argued Americans would be "justified" shooting ICE agents if they believed they were "masked hoodlums" attacking them — and not one of the government's "goons," as he put it.



'Call your kids and tell them you're trading your guns for a flute. They might visit.'

Late Show ratings collapse

(The Park Place) - The Stephen Colbert ratings freefall has reached an undeniable breaking point... According to Nielsen data reported this week, Colbert's show is averaging roughly 285,000 viewers in the crucial 25--54 demographic, putting it on track for its worst January performance ever in the category that advertisers actually care about.

Trump officials like Jeanine Pirro alienating a critical core constituency: Gun Owners

(GSL) - Republicans, wake up: You need gun owners to show up in force for the midterms, or the House and Senate flip blue faster than a stolen election narrative. The Trump border crackdown is winning, but you're sabotaging yourselves with dumb Second Amendment fumbles from your own appointees.

we say so."



Jeanine Pirro.

Backlash was instant and brutal. Steube called BS. Gun Owners of America and NAGR torched her. Kyle Rittenhouse: "Fire her. Blatantly unconstitutional." He's right—gun owners are furious.

This isn't isolated. Noem, Patel, now Pirro—same pattern: Republicans casually treating armed citizens like threats, handing the left their best talking points.

Reality check: Gun owners win close races. They powered 2024's red wave. Demoralize them with friendly fire? They stay home. See Texas SD-9: 45-year Republican stronghold flipped to a gun-grabber because turnout tanked.

Stop the self-own rhetoric. No caveats, no "buts." Defend the damn Amendment cleanly, or watch Schumer ram through filibuster nukes, national bans, court-packing, and Second Amendment erasure.

Your move, GOP. Piss off the base again, and enjoy minority status while your guns get banned. Get it right, rally the carriers, and keep the majority. Simple as that.

After Bruen torched strict carry bans, this reeks of "you only have rights when

Remember: 97+% of Minnesota residents aren't involved in anti-ICE activities

Minnesota CCW applications nearly double in January

(Breitbart) - Minnesota concealed carry permit applications for January 2026 were "nearly double" what they were in January 2025, according to CBS News.

There were 4,734 permit applications in January 2025 and 8,240 in January 2026.

The rush for carry permits is coinciding with a surge in gun sales in and around Minnesota's Twin Cities. Employees at one gun store told CBS News their sales were up 30 percent.

MRC Newsbusters pointed to a report published by the Minnesota Star Tribune which indicated that "Twin Cities gun sales have seen their largest year-over-year leap since the pandemic, with some cities experiencing double or even triple the demand compared to the same time last year."



The Star Tribune observed, "The data, as well as interviews with gun store owners and gun safety instructors, indicate the increase is largely being driven by first-time buyers."

The gun sales appear to be driven by fears arising from unrest in the streets, concerns about ICE raids, and anti-Second Amendment political rhetoric.



JEFF WILSON FOR CONGRESS

REPUBLICAN CANDIDATE FOR ILLINOIS' 13TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Jeff Wilson is a strong defender of the Second Amendment and supports the right of law-abiding citizens to own firearms. He is committed to putting Illinois—and downstate communities—first.



A two-term, elected Champaign County Board member, Jeff has worked to protect veterans from homelessness and ensure they have access to safe, stable housing. His public service reflects a deep respect for those who have served our country and for the communities he represents.

Jeff served in the US Navy before starting his nuclear engineering career working at multiple nuclear power plants in Illinois and across the nation. He understands the importance of affordable, reliable energy—including LP gas, coal, fossil fuels, and nuclear—in keeping families working, businesses operating, and the economy strong



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