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TO DEFEND YOURSELF.**

COMPLIMENTARY. TAKE ONE.

GUN NEWS



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

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY GUNS SAVE LIFE, INC.

VOLUME 33, NUMBER 6

JUNE 2026



Congrats to Avery on one of her turkeys.

DOJ SUES

(GSL) - The Department of Justice is making waves again—this time suing the City of Denver and the State of Colorado over their unconstitutional gun bans, while expanding its existing lawsuit against Washington, D.C., to hit both the city's semi-automatic firearm ban and its outright suppressor prohibition.

gun owners tired of watching blue jurisdictions chip away at their rights, it feels like vindication.

But let's be brutally honest about what happens when the cameras stop flashing and the rubber meets the road in federal court.



It's the kind of bold move that generates perfect press releases and viral headlines. On May 5, 2026, DOJ filed against Denver's 37-year-old gun ban ordinance. The very next day, it targeted Colorado's 2013 magazine ban. And just this week, it amended its December 2025 suit against D.C. to add the District's suppressor ban to the chopping block.

These cases are headed straight for the appellate grind. Denver and Colorado suits will land in the 10th Circuit. D.C.'s will stay in the D.C. Circuit. From there, expect years of briefing, hearings, possible *en banc* reviews, and—eventually—a petition to the Supreme Court. District judges might issue quick injunctions, but appellate courts are notorious for slow-walking politically charged Second Amendment cases. We've seen it before.

On paper, it looks like the federal government is finally stepping up to defend the Second Amendment after years of local politicians treating it like a suggestion. For

Continued on page 3.

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Join GSL. Application here.

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June 2026

- **Quincy:** Last Wednesday: **May 27**, June 24, July 29
Eagles Club, 3737 N. Fifth Street, Quincy
- **Chicagoland:** Last Sunday: **NEW LOCATION! May 31**, June 28, July 25
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: **June 1**, July 6, August 3
SCHEELS, 3801 S. MacArthur, Springfield
- **Pontiac:** First Tuesday: **June 2**, July 7, August 4
Pontiac Sportsman's Club, 18663 4-H Park Road, Pontiac
- **Decatur:** First Wednesday: **June 3**, July 1, August 5
Coz's Pizza, 1405 East Village Parkway, Mt Zion (*Program at 6:45pm*)
- **Peoria:** First Thursday: **June 4**, July 2, August 6
Barrack's Banquet Center, 1224 Pioneer Parkway, Peoria
Dinner and conversation here at 5:30pm. Program at 6:30ish.
- **Danville:** Second Monday **June 8**, July 13, August 10
Ela's Restaurant, 1111 E. Voorhees St., Danville
- **Northwest Chicagoland:** Second Wed: **June 10**, July 8, August 12
Prairie House Tavern, 2710 Main St., Buffalo Grove
Dinner and conversation here at 5:30pm. Program at 6pm-ish.
- **Mattoon:** Second Thursday: **June 8**, July 9, August 13
The American Legion Post 88, 1903 Maple Ave, Mattoon
- **LaSalle County:** Third Thursday: **June 18**, July 16, August 20
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 venues.

Meetings are free and open to all.



Fritz Fitzgerald, NRA-ILA Grassroots Field Coordinator, at Pontiac's GSL meeting. See page 9.



A pin-fire defensive pistol from Decatur.



Tammy Schneider, the Macon County Emergency Management Agency Director stopped out to talk about weather and emergency preparedness in Decatur. She also donated a couple of weather radios!



Congressman Darin LaHood

Darin LaHood got pretty passionate during his visit to the GSL Peoria meeting. We appreciate everything he's doing and he's quite a fan of GSL.



Congressman Darin LaHood and GSL's John Boch in Peoria. Darin's pretty tall!



Still a firearm under IL law! A PICA-regulated gun at that!

This pin-gun fires a 2mm pin-fired projectile. It also has a threaded muzzle, making it verboten! under Pritzker's PICA gun and mag ban law. The penny is for scale.



Brent Harney with a "shoebox gun" at SCHEELS. See p. 19.



An RWS 12ga. pin-fire shotgun shell. Advertising their award from the 1862 (or was it 1852?) World's Fair.



Steve won the Cimmarron Pistolero in .22LR.



Here's a tiny flare gun kit from our Decatur meeting. It's tailor to ski aficionados skiing with friends. If you get in trouble, you can pop a flare and it'll go 40 to 50 meters in the air to signal you need help. If you don't return at the appointed time, then no flare means you probably dropped it in the snow and can't find it - or you're dead.



Rod Wolf pulled a double win this month. He won a revolver in Springfield and a Mossberg Shockwave in Pontiac. Yes, you need not be present to win!



Mike won his own "shoebox gun" at the Peoria GSL meeting. He's pictured with Richard Parks, the Peoria Regional Director.



Look who won! Bob won a .380 "baby .45" in Decatur!



Remember the fallen



173 House Dem vote against resolution honoring police amid rising attacks

GOP Rep Zach Nunn said he expected unanimous backing, but only 29 Democrats voted for the measure during National Police Week

(FoxNews) - House Democrats split over a resolution backing law enforcement as assaults on officers surged last year.

However, several vulnerable Democrats, including Rep. Gabe Vasquez, D-N.M., voted against the measure.

Just 29 House Democrats on Wednesday voted for a GOP-authored measure paying tribute to the "extraordinary sacrifice" law enforcement officers make and criticizing the defund the police movement for jeopardizing public safety.

A spokesperson for Vasquez did not immediately respond to Fox News Digital's request for comment.

Meanwhile, 173 Democrats voted with House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries, D-N.Y., against the resolution, while every GOP lawmaker present supported it.

The vote came during National Police Week, which honors the service and sacrifice of fallen law enforcement officers across the country.

"We want to take that best practice of respecting law enforcement in Iowa to the nation's capital, and I was thrilled that we got bipartisan support," Rep. Zach Nunn, R-Iowa, who introduced the measure, said in an interview with Fox News Digital.

But the Iowa Republican said he expected his resolution to receive unanimous backing.

"I think it unfortunately puts a real spotlight on a chasm we have between those who support law and order and those who are supporting those who undermine it," Nunn said.

The vote comes as assaults against law enforcement officers climbed to a 10-year high last year, according to an FBI report released Monday. The number of officers killed saw a slight decrease between 2024 and 2025...

The majority of Democrats who supported the resolution are facing competitive re-election contests in November.

LIST OF IL REPS OPPOSING:

- Johnathon Jackson (IL-1)
- Robin Kelly (IL-2)
- Delia Ramirez (IL-3)
- Chuy Garcia (IL-4)
- Mike Quigley (IL-5)
- Sean Casten (IL-6)
- Danny Davis (IL-7)
- Raja Krishnamoorthi (IL-8)
- Jan Schakowski (IL-9)
- Brad Schneider (IL-10)
- Bill Foster (IL-11)
- Nikki Budzinski (IL-13)
- Lauren Underwood (IL-14)
- Eric Sorensen (IL-17)

GSL T-shirts available!

Yes, ladies and gents: Guns Save Life has branded T-shirts for sale. For this first round, we're accepting paid pre-orders. You can submit your order and pay for them at GSL chapter meetings. For most locations, we can bring them to the June or July meetings (depending when they have been completed). If you want to get your faster, add \$11.10 for a flat-rate USPS envelope.

Colors available: Black, Navy Blue, Forest Green, Purple, Red
Sizes: S, M, L \$18ea. XL \$20, 2XL \$22, 3XL \$24, 4XL Tactical \$26, 5XL Super Tactical \$28. The GSL logo will appear in white print on the front of the shirts.

Payment by cash, check or card. Order forms can be mailed to Tracy Bettinger, PO Box 584, Lovington, IL 61937 (or dropped off at GSL meetings). Please submit your order by the end of May.

It will look similar (but not exactly) like this shirt (with GSL's logo, not the one Grok substituted...)



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.

DOJ Sues

Continued from cover.

Just look at our own fight with Illinois' PICA ban—the Protect Illinois Communities Act that outlawed the most popular semi-auto long guns and standard-capacity magazines. Guns Save Life has been in the thick of multiple challenges. We won at the district court level with a strong factual record. Twice. Yet the Seventh Circuit has been sitting on the appeal for months (oral arguments were last year), and the ban remains fully in effect while law-abiding Illinois gun owners wait.

That's not an outlier. It's the pattern.

The 2022 *Bruen* decision was supposed to change everything. It told courts to stop inventing "interest-balancing" tests and start applying the text, history, and tradition of the Second Amendment. Instead, too many lower courts have treated *Bruen* like a polite suggestion rather than binding law. SCOTUS has granted cert in a handful of cases, but it has yet to deliver the sweeping, repeated smack-downs needed to force real compliance from

defiant circuits and anti-gun jurisdictions.

So yes—the DOJ lawsuits are a welcome offensive. They signal that the federal government under this administration isn't going to sit idly by while cities and states treat constitutional rights as optional. But headlines today don't equal rifles back in Denver gun stores or 30-round magazines legal in Colorado tomorrow.

Real, lasting relief is still a year or two away at best—and that's only if the Supreme Court finally decides to enforce its own *Bruen* ruling with the consistency and force the Second Amendment deserves.

In the meantime, keep training, keep carrying where legal, and keep supporting the groups actually fighting these battles on the ground. Press releases are nice. Courtroom victories that stick are better. And those still take time—sometimes far too much of it.

Illinois is NOT a 'Duty to Retreat' state

by John Boch

(GSL) — Last month we ran this as our cover story. We're bringing it back because it's that important — and far too many Illinois gun owners are still clueless on the basics.

At the recent IGOLD event in Springfield, the majority of the gun-loving crowd raised their hands when asked if Illinois is a "Duty to Retreat" state. Think about that. A ballroom packed with people who love guns and carry them for protection got the most fundamental self-defense law in Illinois completely backwards. If armed citizens are this confused, imagine the fantasy world the average Chicago alderman, progressive prosecutor, and activist judge live in. To say nothing of the people in an average jury pool.

When I talked about this at a couple of our GSL meetings this past month, more than one person sheepishly raised their hand and told me their CCW instructor told them that there is a duty to retreat in Illinois.

Bunk. 100% wrong.

Top criminal defense attorney Dave McDermott dropped the truth like a 230-grain hollow point: Illinois is NOT a Duty to Retreat state. Full stop. No asterisks.

If you're lawfully where you have a right to be and facing an imminent deadly threat, you can stand your ground and use deadly force when reasonably necessary. No running away like a scared rabbit. No turning your back on a violent predator.

"Stand Your Ground" isn't in the statutes, but the law is rock-solid thanks to the 1902 Illinois Supreme Court ruling in *Hammond v. The People*. The Court rejected the ridiculous old "retreat to the wall" common-law garbage. If you didn't start the fight and you're not trespassing, you have zero duty to retreat. Meet force with force — even if the bad guy ends up wearing a toe tag.

The same strong protections apply at home, in your hotel room, or RV under Castle Doctrine. Violent forced entry? The law presumes the scumbag intends to kill or commit a forcible felony. You can stop the threat immediately. No apologies required.

Here's the infuriating part: too many cops, prosecutors, judges, and jurors still operate under the delusion that you must flee first. That ignorance has destroyed innocent lives.

And then there's the No Cash Bail clown show — the crown jewel of Springfield's soft-on-crime politicians. These geniuses in the Capitol passed the SAFE-T Act and eliminated cash bond, all while pretending it was "justice reform." In reality, it's a get-out-of-jail-free card for the worst criminals and a ball-and-chain for law-abiding citizens.

After a justified self-defense shooting, you're almost guaranteed to be charged with murder or aggravated battery with a firearm. Soft-on-crime prosecutors — especially in places like Cook County — rush to petition for pretrial detention. The judges? They often grant it faster than they release actual cop killers and repeat violent offenders.

The criminal you stopped? Back on the street in no time thanks to the same "progressive" system. You? You sit in county jail for months or years while your job, savings, marriage, and reputation circle the drain.

It's hilarious in a dark, dystopian way: the law sold as protecting "non-violent" people now punishes the good guys who had no choice but to defend themselves. Springfield politicians and activist judges love criminals more than they love the Constitution — or your right to survive.

Bottom line: After any defensive shooting, shut your mouth. Let someone else call 911 if possible. Get your attorney immediately. Nothing you say helps you. Everything can and will be twisted while you rot behind bars.

Know the law cold. Train like your freedom depends on it — because in Illinois, it absolutely does. The people who want you defenseless never sleep. Neither should you.

Your life and liberty aren't guaranteed. They're earned through preparation and hard knowledge.



WE DEFEND YOUR RIGHT TO DEFEND YOURSELF.

Guns Save Life's LIFE MEMBERSHIP!

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

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

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

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

The usual suspects

by John Boch

Litigation Update: Still Twisting in the Wind

I hate to sound like a broken record, but the 7th Circuit remains radio silent on our challenge to Illinois' ridiculous gun and magazine ban. Every week that drags by without a ruling makes me more convinced they've already decided to screw us — they're just waiting for the perfect political moment to drop the hammer.



Meanwhile, five solid Second Amendment cases are piled up at the U.S. Supreme Court begging for *certiorari*. Some have been "relisted" for conference as many as *eleven* times. Translation? Chief Justice John Roberts and company still aren't in any hurry to enforce their own *Bruen* decision from 2022.

This foot-dragging has triggered a full-blown legal insurrection in the lower courts. Rogue appellate judges are tying themselves in pretzels to uphold blatantly unconstitutional gun control while pretending they're respecting the Constitution. It's judicial malpractice without consequences... so far.

This Supreme Court term ends in late June. We'll see if they grow a spine or keep punting.



Mail update: Thanks, USPS

We proudly print and send *GunNews* to thousands of members every month. What we can't promise is *when* — or *if* — the U.S. Postal Service will actually deliver it.

In the first week of May, my phone lit up with texts and emails from members who had just received their March issue (printed February 17th). Oy vey.

We stay on the Peoria Post Office like flies on honey, but as a backup, we post the full digital version on the website near the end of the month, or about a week after printing. If the postal service "misplaces" your copy because it offends someone's delicate sensitivities, you can download and read it instantly at GunsSaveLife.com. Not ideal, but it's the best we've got for now.

SB3336: eBikes to face title & registration requirements

(*The Center Square*) — Illinoisans may soon be required to register their e-bikes, motorized scooters and other various modes of transport with the DMV if a popular piece of legislation in Springfield passes.

Having bipartisan support, the Illinois Secretary of State said there would also be new regulations, age requirements, and fees associated with using the devices.

Senate Bill 3336, an initiative backed by Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulias, would

Teen 'Takeovers': Summer crime season is here

Spring has brought the return of "teen takeovers" — packs of opportunistic young scholars turning public spaces into crime scenes.



What started with brazen street takeovers in Chicago has metastasized into mobs fighting, looting and shooting at one another in shopping areas. The mayhem has spread to other bigger cities, including downstate Springfield along with Chicago suburbs.



You want to wade through that mob to get to Navy Pier?

Thanks to Illinois' no-cash-bail lunacy and a criminal justice system that treats repeat offenders like misunderstood honor students, participants face almost zero chance of consequences. For them it's just a fun night of lawbreaking. For the rest of us, it's a legitimate safety threat.

If you see one of these forming, treat it like the danger it is. Give them a wide berth. Walmart can wait. Downtown adventures can wait. If you're in your car, turn around. Avoidance beats confrontation every single time.

Teach your kids and grandkids the same. These aren't "kids being kids" — they're potential predators enabled by soft-on-crime policies.



Chicago isn't safe - even downtown
And yes — avoid Chicago if you can. Even with cops crawling all over the tourist areas, a man was shot in broad daylight this past week, not even 100 yards from a Chicago police officer. Gangs run large parts of the city. You don't want to become an accidental backstop to their gunfire.

Stay vigilant. Stay armed. Stay involved. Guns Save Life — because freedom isn't free, and neither is the endless stream of nonsense pouring out of Springfield.

God bless our troops, and God bless America.

require a person to be at least 16 years old, licensed to drive, and to register certain electric micromobility devices with the state before they can legally be operated. The bill excludes toy vehicles and mobility assistance devices...

Giannoulias said DMV fees on the vehicles would essentially be the same cost as motorcycles and other motorized vehicles. The cost of a new title and registration for a motorcycle is currently \$206, with an annual registration renewal fee of \$41.

Legislative update: Gun grabbers continue their jihad as Spring Session closes

by John Boch

The Illinois General Assembly remains in session, folks — but don't worry, the real circus won't start until after this issue of *GunNews* goes to press. That's right: the last couple desperate days of May, when the anti-gun jihadists pull their favorite trick — sneaking liberty-killing bills through while normal people are at home asleep in the dead of night.



Rep. Kam Buckner in one of his DUIs. Note the liquor cup under his hand.

First up: a bill to ban sales of those scary "old" Glocks that can accept a switch. They've kindly softened it from criminal to civil penalties, because nothing says "we're reasonable" like still trying to outlaw America's favorite pistol while pretending it's compassionate. These geniuses are out here treating Glocks like they're Excalibur with a hair-trigger personality. Peak performance from the state's day drinking professionals.

Even better (or worse, depending on how masochistic you are), they're shopping a gut-and-replace zombie version of the infamous RIFL Act — the original one killed back in March 2025. They've watered it down so many times it's still

GSL Update: Officially back from the abyss

Four months ago, GSL stared into the abyss. We were dangerously close to flat broke.

After pouring our all (and urging our members to do the same) into the legal battle against Illinois' PICA gun and magazine ban, our bank account looked like it had been mugged in a dark alley.

We hit a genuine crisis point: either fire off a dramatic "please don't let us die" fundraising letter, or take the next couple of weeks of anticipated revenue and print and mail the next issue of *GunNews*.

We chose *GunNews*.

We also went full Spartan on expenses—cutting every ounce of fat and, honestly, a fair bit of meat too. It wasn't glamorous. It was survival mode with a side of nervous laughter.

And you know what? It was the right call.

Our members showed up like the cavalry. Scores—maybe hundreds—of you stepped forward in a hundred different ways. Some sent checks. Some renewed early. Some volunteered time, bought extra drawing tickets, found a new meeting venue, took on new responsibilities, or flat out made donations. Others simply refused to let us quit. Each of you turned a near-death experience into proof that this organization matters - in part because we get results. Crisis averted. No pity-party fundraising letters required.

horrific but not batpoo insane. The latest version we heard about had it "only" adding about \$500 to the cost of every firearm sale.

Originally DOA. Now? It's picking up votes like Chicago politicians pick up indictments. Odds of passage? Flip a coin in Springfield and pray it lands on "not completely insane." If it moves, you already know the drill: dead-of-night vote on the last day, backroom deals, and our side's lobbyists standing outside locked doors wondering why they even bothered showing up. Classic.

Bullet serialization? Dead in the water for now. But the rumor mill says they yanked that idiotic tracking scheme and kept the bullet tax: five cents per round on centerfire ammo. That's \$50 per standard case, folks. Because nothing stops gang-bangers like a government sin tax. Local gun shops? Just more collateral damage in the holy war against your right to own ammunition that actually goes bang.

These gun control jihadists aren't interested in crime — they're on a righteous crusade to make exercising the Second Amendment so expensive and annoying that you'll just give up and take up knitting. "Common sense," they call it, while Illinois sets new records for shootings in gun-free zones. Brilliant strategy, folks. Truly Nobel-level thinking.

Stay armed, stay sarcastic, and stay dangerous to bad ideas. You'll have a chance to breathe easier at 12:01a.m. on June 1st.

For the latest, follow *Washington Gun Law* and *Freedom's Steel* on YouTube.

Today, thanks to some truly outstanding member friends who offered exceptional support at exactly the right moment, we're standing on relatively stable ground. We're not flush but we're breathing. We're publishing. We're very much still in the fight.

That's a victory worth savoring.



To every single one of you who refused to let the lights go out—thank you. From the bottom of our stubborn, freedom-loving hearts, thank you. Your generosity, loyalty, and grit humbled us and inspired us at the same time.

We're still here because you decided we should be. And we're more determined than ever to make that decision worth it.

Onward.

And thank you.

- GSL Leadership Team

Guns Save Life is back on Facebook

Chicken Little alert!

Multiple SWAT teams conduct raid at Mundelein home, arrest 19-year-old with rifle ammo

Mundelein, IL (GSL) - In the leafy suburbs of Mundelein, Illinois, on a quiet April morning in 2026, the brain trust at the Mundelein Police Department decided it was time to cosplay as a Tier One unit hitting a Sinaloa stash house. Multiple SWAT teams—yes, plural—including the Northern Illinois Police Alarm System's Emergency Services Team—rolled up to a home in the 1000 block of Wrens Gate like they were breaching Pablo Escobar's compound.



Tactical gear, rifles up, the whole tactical mall-ninja spectacle. Neighbors probably clutched their pumpkin spice lattes and wondered if World War III had started in the cul-de-sac. The target? Nineteen-year-old Julian Lazar, who allegedly had the audacity to possess some rifle ammunition without a valid Firearm Owner's Identification (FOID) card. A Class A misdemeanor. That's it. In the grand hierarchy of Illinois criminal offenses, it sits somewhere between "peeping in windows" and "jaywalking aggressively."

They hauled the kid out without incident. He surrendered immediately. And then came the big reveal: after tearing through the house like it was a high-value target in Fallujah, the heroic raiders found... some rifle ammo. No guns. No drugs. No cartel ledgers, no tunnels, no kilos of fentanyl, no nothing. Just ammo in the home of a teenager who, shockingly, didn't have the state's permission slip to own pointy bits of lead.

This wasn't some "ongoing criminal investigation" into organized crime. It was a fishing expedition that netted a guppy. Taxpayers funded body armor, overtime, specialized ve-

hicles, and enough tactical theater to make a Navy SEAL blush—all for a paperwork violation that wouldn't even get you jail time in most sane jurisdictions. Illinois, of course, treats the Second Amendment like a suggestion written in disappearing ink, requiring serfs to beg the state for a FOID card just to exercise a right the Constitution already guarantees.

THE SKY IS FALLING!
THE SKY IS FALLING!



The brass at Mundelein PD must've been high-fiving each other back at the station: "Great work, boys! We saved the suburb from... a box of bullets!" Meanwhile, real criminals—actual cartel affiliates, gang shooters, and fentanyl dealers—operate with near-impunity in the region because the system's too busy flexing on grandmas who forget to renew their cards or kids who didn't get the memo.

This is peak clown-world policing: zero threat, maximum optics. Resources squandered, trust eroded, and a 19-year-old's life disrupted over nothing. The only thing they successfully raided was common sense. If Mundelein's leadership wants to play big-boy SWAT games, maybe next time they try it on an actual cartel house instead of LARPing on suburbia's mildest offender. Until then, the real criminals are laughing—all the way to the next body count.

Image courtesy Lake & McHenry County Scanner.

Don't be 'that guy'!

School resource cop forgets gun on toilet, school loses its mind

Arlington Heights, IL (GSL) — Because nothing says "highly trained professional" like taking a deuce and leaving your loaded service weapon on the back of a toilet like a forgotten ChapStick.

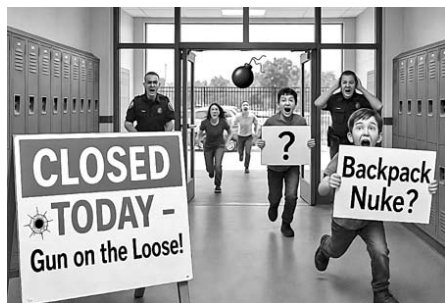
A school resource officer at Forest View Educational Center decided Monday that his Glock needed a little alone time while he handled business. He waddled out, realized his sidearm had gone AWOL, and suddenly the entire building turned into a lost-and-found episode of *Cops*.

Surveillance showed only a handful of people hit that restroom after him. K-9 units sniffed every tile. Nada. Zip. The gun is still somewhere out there, probably chilling in a backpack or a glovebox right now, living its best anonymous life.

But here's the best part: a "person of interest" is in custody. For what, exactly? Grand theft toilet paper? First-degree finders-keepers? The "finder" probably thought "Score, free heat!"

Out of an abundance of "caution" (read: pants-wetting hysteria), they canceled school Tuesday. Because apparently one missing handgun is basically a backpack nuke. God forbid little Timmy learns algebra within a 500-foot radius of wherever that gun ended up. Better to keep the kids home where it's *totally* safe.

School reopens Wednesday. Presumably after they install metal detectors in every stall.



Helping to drive a stake into the heart of the microstamping bill

Gun rights advocate questions Illinois ballistic imaging plan

(The Center Square) – A newly introduced measure in the Illinois General Assembly aimed at expanding ballistic imaging technology is drawing criticism from gun rights advocates who question both its effectiveness and intent.



House Bill 5750, sponsored by State Rep. Rita Mayfield, D-Waukegan, would create a grant program to expand ballistic detection and imaging systems through a partnership between the Illinois State Police and the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police. Filed April 22, the measure is currently in the House Rules Committee.

Supporters say it could help link shell casings to firearms, while critics question its cost and effectiveness. Guns Save Life Executive Director John Boch argued the proposal is driven more by financial motives than public safety.

"This bill is an effort by a half-assed BS artist to get his patented bullet engraving system mandated into law so he can become a multimillionaire or a billionaire," Boch said. "There's no way this is feasible to come into existence, and this is a joke. The whole bill is a joke."

Boch claimed similar proposals have been introduced repeatedly over the

past decade and a half, tied to patented ammunition-marking technology that would imprint serial numbers onto bullets and casings.

"He owns the patent on the technology, and he stands to make out like Elon Musk if it were to be adopted into law," Boch said. "He would get a payment, a portion of every round that's created with his technology."

Boch raised concerns about how ballistic evidence is used, pointing to limitations in forensic analysis.

"Bullets deform and fragment when they hit tissue," Boch said. "There's no guarantee that his ballistics information will be readable on slugs that are found in bad guys or innocent victims alike..."

"Criminals don't give a flying you-know-what about the laws," he said. "You think somebody's willing to kill somebody and give a damn about another stupid gun law?"

Boch said he believes the bill has little chance of advancing.

"This is just a perennial thing," he said. "They're talking about it, but it has zero likelihood of passage into law. Zero likelihood."

Mayfield did not immediately respond to a request for comment from *The Center Square*.

[Editor: The ammo microstamping aspect of the bill is likely dead. The ammo tax component may be resurrected.]

LOOKING FOR A PLACE TO SHOOT?

DeWitt County Sportsman's Club

Clinton, IL



HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!

Free memberships to active duty LEOs

>>>> Memberships Available. <<<<

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





Secure Elections, Secure Rights: Pass the SAVE Act Now

A March poll by McLaughlin & Associates exposed overwhelming bipartisan support for the SAVE Act (H.R. 22): 77% of Americans — 92% of Republicans, 64% of Democrats, and 75% of Independents — agree that proof of U.S. citizenship must be required to register to vote. Sixty-five percent demand the Senate debate and pass it. Sixty percent call it urgent. And 98.44% of us already carry valid photo ID.

Yet here we are in May 2026, still waiting. The House delivered — passing the original SAVE Act in April 2025 and the stronger **SAVE America Act** in February 2026. President Trump has aggressively pushed citizenship verification through executive action and federal databases. The Senate? Crickets and excuses.

This isn't just about clean voter rolls. Free and fair elections are the firewall protecting every constitutional right — **especially the right to keep and bear arms.**

Native-born Americans overwhelmingly cherish the Second Amendment as a fundamental safeguard of liberty. Immigrants and non-citizens, however, often bring different views shaped by their home countries' strict gun controls. Polls consistently show foreign-born respondents favor stricter gun restrictions at higher rates than U.S.-born citizens. If non-citizens are allowed onto voter rolls — even in small numbers — their ballots can tip the scales toward politicians who prioritize gun confiscation over constitutional rights. Diluting citizen voices directly endangers our ability to defend our homes, families, and freedoms.

What the SAVE Act actually does is straightforward and essential: It demands real proof of citizenship — birth certificates, passports, naturalization papers, or equivalent federal documents — before registering for federal elections. The SAVE America version adds the no-brainer requirement to present government-issued photo ID when casting a ballot.

Critics scream "voter suppression." Give me a break. You need ID to buy beer, fly on a plane, get allergy medicine, or purchase drain cleaner. Yet somehow verifying who's voting for the leaders who control your gun rights is suddenly impossible? Close to 99% of Americans already have photo ID. Free IDs are available for the rest. This isn't a barrier — it's basic integrity.

The companion MEGA Act (Make Elections Great Again), championed by House Administration Chairman Bryan Steil, rounds out the reforms: no more unsolicited mass mail ballots, ballots must arrive by Election Day, mandatory voter roll cleanup, a ban on ballot harvesting, and paper ballots. As Steil said: "Easy to vote, hard to cheat."

Rep. Mary Miller and other fighters deserve credit for standing firm. Election integrity should be common sense, not a partisan battlefield.

Senate delays are reckless. Non-citizen voting may not swing every race, but in tight contests it absolutely can — and every illegal vote erodes trust. With midterms looming, half-measures are unacceptable.

We need full citizenship verification, photo ID to vote, mail ballots restricted to legitimate absentee and overseas cases, voter-verifiable paper ballots, and real audits. These safeguards aren't extreme; they're standard in most secure democracies.

Passing the SAVE Act, SAVE America Act, and MEGA reforms will boost turnout among citizens who trust the system. It will deliver better representation for We the People — and safeguard the Second Amendment from being outvoted by those who never embraced it.

Congress: Finish the job. Pass these bills. Secure our elections and protect our rights. Americans are watching, and the polls prove they're on the side of integrity.

At the Illinois Freedom Alliance, we help pro-freedom, pro-gun and pro-America first groups and organizations network together and share resources. We also educate and empower people through our educational programs online and in person. And we host seminars with great speakers too. Visit our website for more information.

Contact the Illinois Freedom Alliance (www.illinoisfreedomalliance.us or call 309-377-1776).



IllinoisFreedomAlliance.us



Powerful excerpts from Pastor Corey Brooks' opinion piece

Chicago's South Side is drowning in excuses, dependency and decay

by Pastor Corey Brooks (FoxNews) - As I recover from foot surgery in Chicago, my break from the Walk Across America has given me time to do more than reflect. I've seen so many things on my walk so far through small towns, big cities, ghettos, suburbs, open-air drug markets, posh farmers markets and even the occasional country market. Throughout it all, I've seen Americans of so many stripes, and they're all moving forward, moving with a sense of purpose in their work and in their belief in God.

And when I returned home to the South Side of Chicago, I was struck by the stillness I felt here.

It pains me to say this, but it was as if I had never left. The same problems remained... Although my team has greatly reduced violence in our immediate community, it remains high on the surrounding blocks. Herds of teens continue to raid the Loop, wreaking havoc and destroying what others have built.

The pattern is obvious and undeniable. On my Walk Across America, I saw people moving toward something better, no matter if it was one step a day or 20,000. They moved forward in the faith of a good life and an eternal reward.

Here on the South Side, while many do struggle toward something better, the current moves overwhelmingly in the wrong direction.

The current moves toward dysfunction, not potential. Toward dependency on government, not self-reliance. Toward violence, not two-parent households. Toward the instant gratification of the drug trade, not the inner strength that comes from lasting education. And

anyone who dares to swim against this current gets mocked as an Uncle Tom.



Pastor Corey Brooks.

My time away revealed something I had grown too close to see clearly, and that is how fiercely we protect the dysfunction around us. It has become our identity, our internal compass, our security blanket. It is almost as if we would not know who we were without it.

I have had many supporters in my efforts to build a transformative Leadership and Economic Opportunity Center on the South Side. But I have faced far more criticism — and I want to sit with that for a moment, because it breaks my heart. Criticism for trying to get kids off the streets and into a safe environment where they can simply be children. Criticism for bringing trades — construction, electrical work, skilled work — so young Americans can reverse the fortunes of their lives. Criticism for believing that the young people on my block deserve opportunity, not just sympathy. For these things, I am called a black conservative, as if that were an insult rather than a description of a man who believes his community deserves better than what it is being offered.

These attacks have produced exactly the opposite of progress.

I want to be honest about

something that no politician in this city will say out loud. Unlike Mayor Brandon Johnson's belief, white supremacy does not run these streets. I saw the KKK march in the streets of Kenton, Tennessee, when I was a boy, but I've never seen them march since then, and never in Chicago.

There is no external force orchestrating our destruction from the shadows. If there is any racism holding us back today, it is the soft bigotry of low expectations, the quiet condescension of voices that tell us we are permanent victims who need government programs instead of God, family and hard work. They peddle a lie that feels like comfort: It's not your fault, the system is rigged, just vote the right way and everything will change. And while they are saying it, another generation slips away.

We have squandered so much by prizing dysfunction over progress. We have valued victimhood over merit, a strange fate, since none of us suffered slavery and most of us never lived under legal segregation. Yet we reach backward to the past for our identity instead of forward to a future where our talents and our character write our own story.

If we are to join the rest of America on the path forward, we must kill every excuse available to us. We must kill the excuse of systemic racism as an all-purpose answer to self-inflicted wounds. We must kill the excuse that past oppression permanently defines present potential. We must kill the excuse that this country is irredeemably hostile to us and wants us back in bondage. Not because our history is not real — it is — but because these excuses are anchors, not life preservers. They do not protect us. They drown us.

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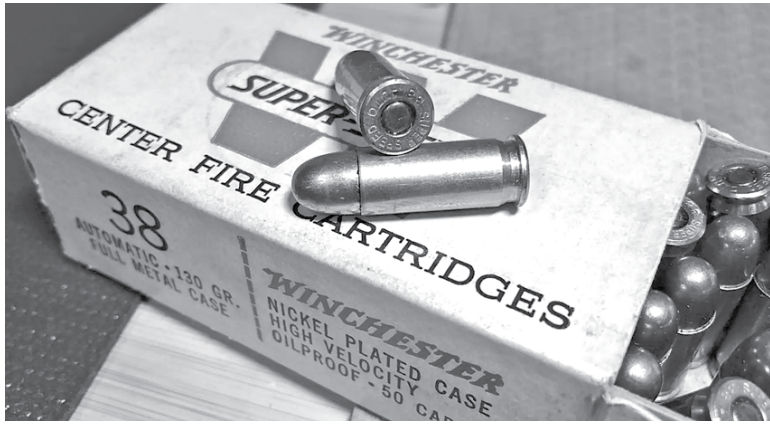
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In regione caecorum rex est luscus

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



The .38 Super has been around a long time.

The assassin's handgun

It's not often that your GSL discovers and reveals a very important story before even the national print, radio, television or internet media do, but we just did. When this column was written, the most-recent assassination attempt against our President was just five days in the rearview mirror. The likely would-be assassin had been apprehended, his weapons identified, the motive became clear in his "manifesto" (although the usual vacuous public chit-chatters had a difficult time ascertaining that), and a few hundred jokes in extremely poor taste had rolled off the sleazy tongues of even sleazier late night "comics."

But everyone missed one small detail. It was in plain sight, as explained by court documents released on April 29 which included: "The defendant was in possession of a Mossberg 12-gauge pump-action shotgun with one spent cartridge in the barrel and eight unfired cartridges in the magazine tube. An additional six unfired cartridges were attached with Velcro to the shotgun in a detachable ammunition carrier, and the defendant possessed another ten unfired cartridges in a small leather bag. The defendant was also in possession of a Rock Island Armory 1911 .38 caliber pistol loaded with ten rounds of ammunition. He also had two additional handgun magazines, each containing nine rounds of ammunition."



And nobody made a peep. Except us. The description ".38 caliber pistol" is about half accurate – if determining the diameter of the bullet is your only interest.

However, it appears that the handgun is actually chambered in .38 Super, and that, partner, is a whole different kettle of fish. As Underwood boldly emphasizes in its catalog: .38 Super is not compatible with .38 Special. Back in the 1920s, a major criminal threat was developing: the motorized bank robber. Law enforcement found that there were significant problems when they encountered these motor-powered desperadoes: having a handgun whose ammunition could penetrate the mostly metal, frequently steel, bodies and thick window/windshield glass of the automobiles in which these criminals rode. Because actual .38 Special revolver ammo just wouldn't "cut it." As to the vaunted .45 ACP, in 1945, engineers at the Springfield Armory fired .45 ACP rounds at standard M1 steel helmets – and discovered that perhaps the most celebrated pistol cartridge in American history failed to penetrate even basic head protection beyond just 35 yards.

The situation was so dire that many police

departments from sea to shining sea began acquiring .30-06 Browning Automatic Rifles. In fact, you already know that law enforcement was equipped with at least one BAR when they encountered bank robbers Bonnie and Clyde on a dirt road in rural Louisiana in 1934. What you may not know is that the leader of that posse, Texas Ranger Frank Hamer, is reported to have been carrying a Colt 1911 .38 Super (introduced in 1929) and a Colt Single Action Army in .45 Colt that he called "Old Lucky" when Bonnie and Clyde met their end in a 1934 Model 40B Deluxe Ford sedan.

It all has to do with ballistics. Speed and energy kill. Some .38 Super cartridges propel a bullet with a velocity of around 1,300 to 1,450 feet per second, depending on the bullet weight and the specific load. This translates to substantial muzzle energy, often exceeding 500 foot-pounds.

In comparison, the .45 ACP often has muzzle energy in the high 300s, and 9mm at 350 to 450 foot-pounds. But not all .38 Super rounds are the same. Some are designed for competition – just putting holes in paper. We need to know the exact type he was carrying. Weight? Hollow point? FMJ?

Let's assume the assassin – with an engineering background – may have also believed that the .38 Super had an excellent chance of penetrating the ballistic protective vests worn by many Secret Service agents. Maybe he knew that during World War II, the Office of Strategic Service (which became the Central Intelligence Agency after the war,) used M1911 pistols in .38 Super. Maybe he thought the .38 Super would be a good "cop killer" of those brave men and women defending the President. But maybe instead of boring ballistics charts to peruse, during his flights of fancy as a new Lee Harvey Oswald, he just grabbed some fiction books to read up on his new "little friends."

Go no further than Stephen Hunter's dozen Bob Lee Swagger books, one of which maybe the most-interesting novel I've ever read, The Third Bullet. The .38 Super figures significantly in each one, defending Bob Lee, who the author said was loosely based on Carlos Hathcock, the legendary U.S. Marine Corps Scout Sniper. Hunter also wrote on the caliber for "American Rifleman," posted online in July 2010.

As Hunter once wrote: "Noting an M1911 Government Model in the tough guy's shoulder holster, he said, 'Say, is that a .45? I carried one of those in the war.' It was the perfect entree for him to alert the old man he'd been a combat trooper himself. But the old guy wasn't having any of it. He didn't even bother with eye contact. 'Nah,' he said, 'it's a Super .38. Ten shots instead of seven. Goes through a car door, and I figured if I had to shoot it might be around cars. One of our undercover officers used it to good effect last year.'"

I don't believe this assassin was interested in shooting through car doors or windows, although it's possible he envisioned firing at the Presidential limousine. I think the shooter wanted a cop-killer bullet with those 28 rounds out of his .38 Super. So charge him with attempted murder of twenty-eight Secret Service agents. He had the weapon for it.



One loser nearly did it. What if four pros show up?

by John Boch
(GSL) - What if the next attack on America's leadership wasn't some basement-dwelling Call of Duty veteran with a Mossberg pump shotgun and a single-stack .38 Super?

What if it was a three- or four-man team of foreign-trained combat veterans – cold, disciplined, and built for the kill?

This is no hypothetical. President Trump has already discussed rescheduling the White House Correspondents' Dinner. Picture the same glittering D.C. ballroom, same black-tie media elites and administration heavyweights, same velvet-rope security at the Dinner, version 2.0.

This time, the ending changes dramatically.

Last time, the amateur was stopped cold. But four trained pros?

They'd hit the checkpoint with suppressed rifles, plate carriers, and comms. Quiet thwip-thwip-thwip – a half-dozen agents drop in seconds. The line collapses with almost no warning bangs. The team storms the doors before most inside even know shots were fired.

The President. Vice President. Cabinet officials. All trapped with champagne flutes and zero escape.

It would be a bloodbath. We won't shed tears for the media egos lost in the crossfire – the same ones who push gun control while hiding behind armed guards. But losing America's elected leadership to a competent foreign hit squad in the heart of D.C.?

That should terrify every citizen.

One disorganized loser already exposed the cracks. America's enemies noticed. Real operators wouldn't probe – they'd punch through and finish the job.

Security has surely tightened. It better have.

You'd think that lessons would have been learned after the Butler shooting. It's hard not to think that the Secret Service was incredibly lucky this latest attempt went the way it did. But betting the security of our top government officials on luck isn't much of a plan. If the dinner is, in fact, rescheduled, it will be interesting to see what adjustments are made.

Next time if the "what if" becomes real, the body count will be too.

America's security is too important to sugarcoat.

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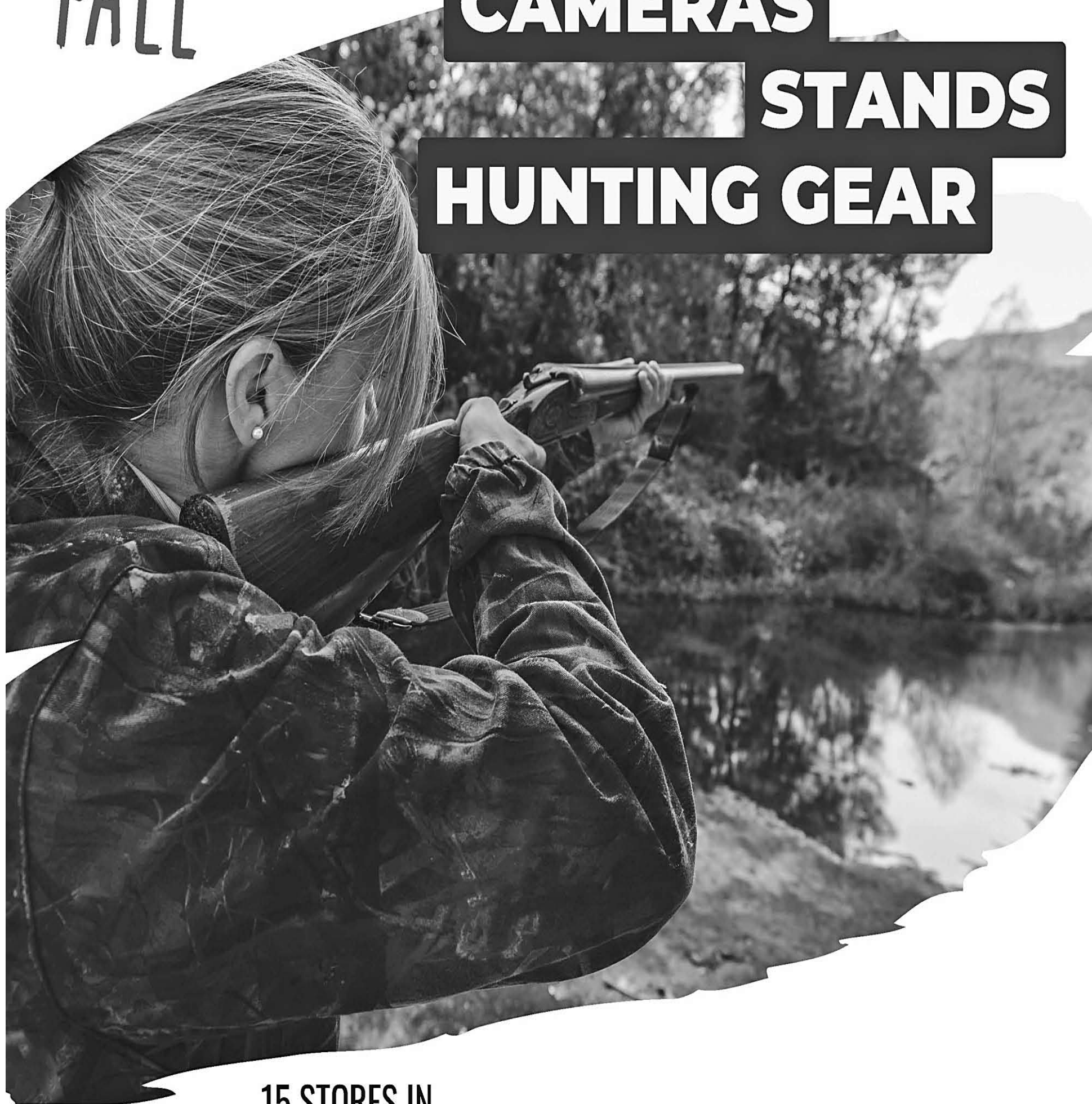
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Fritz Fitzgerald brings good news (and a few grim realities) to Pontiac

by John Boch

(GSL) - The Pontiac Sportsmen's Club is where you want to visit every first Tuesday, where home-cooked meals are a point of pride and members compete in an unofficial but fierce dessert arms race. Pun intended. If you left hungry, that was on you.

The star of the evening was Fritz Fitzgerald, NRA-ILA Field Activist for Illinois, who rolled in and immediately put the crowd at ease. Fresh off the road and full of updates, Fritz didn't waste any time delivering the message gun owners in the Land of Lincoln needed to hear.



"The NRA is under new leadership," he said, "and these folks are making real, honest-to-God improvements and getting the NRA back to the mission."

He leaned in with a grin: "And don't be afraid that Illinois is uncovered." Turns out we share an NRA-ILA lobbyist with Virginia. The bad news? Virginia's sliding hard into radical gun control—like a freight train with no brakes. The good news? That same lobbyist is covering both states, so Illinois is still very much in the fight and John Weber is getting a lot of experience dealing with radical gun snatchers.

Fritz didn't sugarcoat the past. Wayne LaPierre is gone. Most of his inner circle on the Board is gone. The handful still hanging around are few and far between, and the LaPierre-era loyalists at headquarters have largely left. What's more, the organization is packing up and heading to more gun-friendly territory—Dallas/Fort Worth, Texas—leaving the Empire State in the rearview mirror.

Bottom line? The NRA 2.0 is alive, well, and reloaded.

Fritz put it plainly to the crowd: If you let your membership lapse because you were fed up with the old regime and LaPierre's shenanigans, now's the time to come back. "NRA 2.0 is here," he said. "We need patriots more than ever, and your return will help make this organization stronger than it's ever been."

The Latest from Springfield

On the legislative front, Fritz had a rare bit of decent news about the infamous microstamping bill. The gun-grabbers had to water it down—they completely deleted the microstamping language. What's left is now just a straight-up ammo tax bill.

Chicago Crime Stats: Believe It... or Don't During Q&A, Fritz dropped a story that perfectly illustrates why you shouldn't trust the numbers coming out of Chicago. Back when he worked as a Chicago Housing Authority cop, he caught a call: woman stabbed 34 times—including five times in the throat. Spoiler: she didn't survive. When Chicago PD showed up, they classified it as a suicide. Let that sink in.

(For context, New York City recently fired three high-ranking officers for cooking the books on crime stats. Same game, different city.)

Time to Get Loud

Fritz wrapped up by hammering home what actually works: showing up. He encouraged everyone to fill out witness slips before committee hearings and to get on the NRA-ILA Illinois email list so you're not caught flat-footed when the next bad bill starts rolling.

The message from Pontiac was clear: the fight isn't over, the NRA is getting its act together, and Illinois gun owners who sit on the sidelines are only helping the other side.

See you at the next meeting—bring an appetite. The desserts alone are worth the drive.

James Meister: Gun control & Bill of Rights

James Meister joined us at our Sangamon County meeting at SCHEELS with serious reinforcements — a wall of posters featuring the entire Bill of Rights standing guard behind him like constitutional backup.

In a fast-paced, eye-opening presentation, Meister made one thing crystal clear: modern gun control isn't just an attack on the Second Amendment. It's a full-frontal assault on the whole Bill of Rights. When politicians chip away at your right to keep and bear arms, they almost always shred a few other sacred protections in the process.



Take so-called "Red Flag" laws. These beauties let the government snatch your guns and ammunition based on little more than an accusation — no trial, no conviction, no due process. Meister nailed it: that's not just a Second Amendment violation. It's a blatant kick in the teeth to your Fifth and Fourteenth Amendment due process rights and the Fifth Amendment's Takings Clause. Your property doesn't suddenly become fair game just because someone fills out a form.

Meister zeroed in on the two biggest culprits still haunting gun owners today: the National Firearms Act of 1934 and the

Gun Control Act of 1968. According to him, if we repealed both of these dinosaurs, law-abiding gun owners would enjoy far stronger constitutional protections — and America would be no less safe. Bold? Maybe. But Meister backed it up with history and logic.

He also tackled the third rail of gun rights: restoring firearms rights to reformed felons. Yes, there are processes in both Illinois and at the federal level, but they're slow, obscure, ridiculously bureaucratic, and chronically underfunded. In Illinois, Governor Pritzker has effectively killed restoration efforts by simply refusing to appoint enough members to the Illinois State Police Firearm Owner's Identification Card Review Board. No quorum? No hearings. No restored rights. Problem solved — for the politicians, anyway.

Meister closed by warning that bad court precedents are continuing to tie our hands and hamstring the restoration of our God-given rights. Until we start challenging those precedents aggressively, we'll keep fighting with one arm tied behind our backs.

A big thank you to James Meister for delivering a thought-provoking, rights-centered presentation that reminded everyone in the room why we do what we do. The Bill of Rights isn't a buffet — you don't get to pick and choose which amendments matter.

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The real cost of the 'SAFE-T' Act **SORROW**

'It Was His Calling': Mourners gather to say goodbye at funeral for Chicago Police Officer John Bartholomew

Chicago (WTTW) - Chicago police Commander Alison Christian, who spent years working with Officer John Bartholomew in the city's 24th District, reflected Friday on the "passion he felt for life" and the way he was able to make people feel appreciated on the job.

Hundreds of mourners and members of the Chicago Police Department gathered at St. Andrew's Greek Orthodox Church to remember Bartholomew, a 10-year veteran who was killed last month in a shooting inside Endeavor Health Swedish Hospital.

"He would go into jobs and he would worry about everybody's feelings," she said. "He would worry about the victim, the offender, the police officer. At the end of a job that he was on, he made sure that everybody felt good. He just had this overwhelming ability and it was his calling."

Bartholomew's family and colleagues remembered him as a family man and a "cop's cop" whose humility, gentleness and humor shone throughout his life.

8% AWOL 244 violent perps 'missing' from electronic monitoring

Chicago (CWB Chicago) - Cook County court officials now say that 8% of the people on the chief judge's electronic monitoring program are missing, marking the first major disclosure in what Chief Judge Charles Beach described as a renewed transparency effort following the killing of an on-duty Chicago police officer and the critical wounding of his partner last month, allegedly by a seven-time felon who had escaped the ankle monitor program.

Officer John Bartholomew and the life-altering wounding of his partner, as they guarded a prisoner at Swedish Hospital. Beach's office never responded to either request. It also failed to answer questions about what charges the program's escapees are facing in court, a question that went unanswered in Tuesday's press release as well...

With 3,048 participants currently on electronic monitoring, an 8% AWOL rate means 244 people with pending criminal cases, most likely felony charges, are unaccounted for.

As of April 3, the court's electronic monitoring program included 21 people with pending murder cases, 13 facing attempted murder charges, 103 charged with criminal sexual assault, 78 charged with robbery, and 16 with pending carjacking cases. How many of those, if any, were missing is unknown.

"Transparency is not optional. It is a core obligation of this office," Beach said in a statement released Tuesday afternoon...

Prosecutors allege that Alphonso Talley, a seven-time felon and parole absconder with four pending felony cases who escaped electronic monitoring in April, is responsible for shooting the officers with a handgun he concealed while being arrested earlier that morning on a robbery charge.

Tuesday's disclosure came after CWB Chicago twice requested electronic monitoring escape data from Beach's office in the days following the April 25 fatal shooting of Of-

Crime has consequences, folks.

Walgreens flees Chatham store: crime wins, locals lose

Chicago (GSL) - Walgreens is shutting down its longtime Chatham store at 8628 S. Cottage Grove Avenue on June 4, 2026, after more than two decades serving the South Side neighborhood. The company reported over \$1 million in losses last year, with theft devouring 16 percent of sales—four times the national average—and a staggering 187 percent spike in shoplifting incidents. Despite pouring \$400,000 a year into security guards and installing lock boxes, thieves routinely smashed through them and brazenly vaulted counters to grab liquor, cigarettes, and merchandise in broad daylight.

reading "Senior Lives Matter" and "No More Corporate Abandonment," while branding the closure "first-degree corporate abandonment" and demanding Walgreens face criminal charges. Other leaders echoed the calls, framing a business decision forced by rampant crime as some invented corporate "crime" against the neighborhood.



Store manager Lonnie Fuqua detailed the unrelenting chaos: employees endured repeated assaults, threats, and violent raids as criminals treated the pharmacy like an open buffet. Walgreens executives described "significantly higher levels of theft and violent incidents" at this location than anywhere else in the chain, making it impossible to keep staff and customers safe no matter the added costs.

These empty threats and grandstanding ring hollow. Walgreens can close its doors and relocate operations to safer areas. The residents of Chatham cannot. They remain trapped in the same streets where brazen theft and violence drove the store out, now facing longer trips for prescriptions and a deeper pharmacy desert. Businesses don't owe loyalty to neighborhoods that can't—or won't—curb the chaos making daily operations impossible. The criminals who looted it, and the agitators deflecting blame, do.

This pattern isn't new. Chicago's South Side pharmacies have faced years of organized retail theft rings and smash-and-grab crews operating with impunity. Staff have been punched, threatened, and terrorized daily.

Local "community activists" and aldermen quickly turned outrage toward Walgreens instead. Ald. William Hall (6th Ward) led protests outside the store, waving signs

Chicago 'justice' isn't about protecting innocent people in Cook County...

Releasing suspected cop killer on an ankle monitor wasn't a mistake, top judge says

Chicago (CWB Chicago) - The decision to release a five-time felon with four pending felony cases, including two violent robberies, on electronic monitoring was not a mistake, Cook County's chief judge says, even though that man is now accused of going on to murder a Chicago police officer and gravely wounding the fallen officer's partner.



Cook County Chief Judge Charles Beach.

"I wouldn't call it a mistake," Judge Charles Beach told WGN's Ben Bradley in an interview on Wednesday. "The judge made the best decision with what was in front of them at the time, right? Unfortunately, you know, we'll go back to that concept: How do you predict what another human being is going to do?"

Retired Riverside Police Chief Tom Weitzel had a response to Beach's rhetorical question: "How do you predict another person's actions? Start with the obvious—his criminal history. When a violent offender begs to be held in custody, do it."

Court records show Judge John Lyke released Alphonso Talley in December just eight months after Talley — while on electronic monitoring for two other cases — allegedly got a gun, used it to carjack a woman, and then used it again to rob a man minutes later.

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Brits outraged that any American can still own a flintlock or a cannon!

(UK Independent) - A .75-calibre Brown Bess flintlock musket, capable of firing a lead ball at 1,000 feet per second, carries the power to kill. Yet, despite this, weapons like those used by redcoats in 1776 are largely exempt from gun regulations across the United States.



This legal loophole stems from federal and most state laws, which do not technically classify many antique or replica guns as "firearms..."

"I suspect the average judge would be surprised to find that out," remarked Dave Hardy, a Second Amendment scholar and gun-rights attorney, who proudly owns two Civil War-era long guns himself.

You can even own and fire a cannon...

And then the AP ran the exact same story! From *Breitbart*:

On May 14, 2026, just months before we celebrate the 250th anniversary of the USA, the Associated Press floated the idea of gun control for the exact type black powder muskets that were used in the American Revolution.

JINGLE BELLS & AIR HORNS: California's bear defense plan

(GSL) - California, that glittering capital of civilian disarmament, bans everything useful—guns, body armor attempts, self-defense ammo in San Francisco—and now, in peak clown-world fashion, even bear spray in its national parks.



Federal rules prohibit the one tool that might actually stop a 300-pound black

bear from turning you into trail mix. Park Service geniuses swear California's bears are just too mellow for such "dangerous" stuff. Their brilliant alternative? Clip on an air horn like it's a party favor for the apocalypse.

That's right—when a bear charges, just whip out your little plastic tooter and give it a festive honk honk. Nothing screams "apex predator defense" like hoping a cheap stadium noisemaker scares off something that can rip your face off. Pair it with bear bells for that full jingle-bell hippie hiker vibe.

Classic California: disarm you completely, then send you into the woods with a clown horn and Christmas ornaments. What could possibly go wrong?

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PLAN. PREPARE. PROTECT.

Your no-nonsense guide to owning any disaster

by John Boch

(GSL) - At the latest Guns Save Life Decatur meeting, Macon County EMA Director Tammy Schneider shared some straight-talk wisdom that hit like a perfectly placed round: "Be prepared. Plan. Prepare. Protect."

She wasn't there to preach doom and gloom—she was firing up a room full of people who already get it. You folks have the self-defense side locked down tighter than a safe room. But disasters don't care if you can clear leather in 1.5 seconds. They hit with little warning when Mother Nature decides to throw a tantrum. Next thing you know, the power's out, and if you're really lucky, the cell towers are down. Tammy's message? You are the first, best, and most important responder in your own life. The government will get there when it gets there. Until then, it's on you.

Here's the battle plan she laid out—based on real-world Midwest storm smarts, and info from FEMA, the Red Cross and Illinois EMA. So grab it, share it with your family and friends, and actually use it.

1. Get the Warning

Sirens are great—if you're outside. If you're inside sleeping soundly, you might miss sirens and the sky turning deadly.

Download the Public Safety by Everbridge app right now (Macon County's official system—it pushes emergency alerts, road closures, and severe weather straight to your phone). Other counties have their own versions—sign up today. Pair it with the FEMA app and NOAA Weather Radio for redundant coverage.

Pro tip for summer storms: Illinois thunderstorms can spawn tornadoes, flash floods, and lightning strikes faster than you can say "watched the forecast." Set alerts for your exact location. When that warning hits, act.

2. Family Communication Plan – Because "where are you at?" won't work when cell service dies

Cell towers go down. Local lines jam. Tammy's fix: Pick an out-of-town contact (relative or friend a couple states away) everyone knows and has programmed in to their phones. Use text if you can if calls won't go through. They become your family's single point of truth when normal comms collapse.

Choose a check-in spot—a relative's house, a friend's place, or even a public landmark away from your neighborhood.

Write it all down. Laminate it. Stick copies in every glove box, bug-out bag, and on the fridge. Practice it like a fire drill.

[You want to be even better prepared? Have radios and know how to use them in event of serious disruptions.]



3. 72-Hour Kit: The "We got this" box...

Tammy called for a minimum 72-hour supply of food, water, and essentials for every member of the household—including pets, kids, babies, and anyone with special needs. FEMA and Red Cross back her 100%. Must-haves (build it once, check it twice a year):

- Water: 1 gallon per person and per pet per day.
- Food: Non-perishable, easy-open, no-cook ideal. Heat and serve a close second.
- Pet extras: Food, meds, leash/carrier, litter/pads, and a recent photo of you with your pet (proves ownership if you get separated—microchips help too).
- Kids/babies: Formula, diapers, comfort items, games to keep little ones calm.
- Females: Feminine hygiene products.
- Lights & comms: Flashlights, extra bat-

teries, hand-crank NOAA radio, phone chargers/power banks.

- First aid, meds, cash, copies of IDs & important docs (in waterproof bag), multi-tool, whistle, dust masks, and sturdy shoes.



Summer storm bonus: Add sunscreen, bug spray, and a way to stay cool if the power/AC dies for days (fans, cooling towels, electrolyte packets).

4. Know your home like you know your gun

Locate every utility shutoff—gas, water, electric. Show your spouse, significant other, and teens exactly where they are and how to use the tools. Tammy's words: "Train your spouse and your teens."

When a tree takes out a power line or a gas leak starts, seconds count. Make it family knowledge, not just "Dad handles that."



5. Pre-storm checklist – Perform this when storm's coming

- Fuel the car (most gas stations can't pump at all if power goes down).
- Charge everything—phones, radios, jump packs, laptops, portable batteries.
- Park cars in the garage or away from trees.

Bring in outdoor stuff that can become missiles.

Illinois EMA and the National Weather Service hammer this every severe weather season: stay informed, have your shelter plan, and don't wait until the sirens are screaming.

6. After the storm: Report damage & help your community

Call it in. Every report helps local government track the damage and unlock disaster funding. Your quick text or call can literally get help to neighbors faster.

7. HAZMAT, first aid, and more

Macon County EMA trains for everything—including HAZMAT. Tammy reminded everyone that the ill-fated East Palestine train rolled right through Decatur earlier that day. It passed safely but was flagged as problematic. However, the point stuck: rail lines, highways, and industry mean chemicals can become your problem fast.

Personal recommendation from Tammy (and us): Get basic first aid trained. Then take a Stop the Bleed class. You'll learn three simple, lifesaving skills—direct pressure, wound packing, and tourniquet application—that turn bystanders into heroes when seconds matter most.

Final call to action: Prepare today to protect tomorrow

You already carry for protection. Now carry the mindset for everything else. Build that kit this weekend. Run the family comms drill at dinner tonight. Download the apps before you go to bed. Train the people you love.

Because when the sirens blare and the lights go out, the prepared family doesn't panic—they smile, high-five, and say, "We got this."

Share this with your crew. Forward it to family who still think "it'll never happen here." Then get after it.

TORNADOES!

'It happened to me.'

by John Boch

Bloomington, IL (GSL) - April 17, 2026. Depending on your source, we had five to nine confirmed tornadoes on the ground, over the period of a half-hour, ripping through McLean County like the Devil himself was playing with a bullwhip. My weather radio screamed like a nagging spouse. So did my cell phone. Local sirens howled not once, but twice—almost like warning those who didn't get it the first time that this was for real, not a first-Tuesday drill.

I've chased a few tornadoes in my time, so I'm not the guy who hides in the basement. But given all the warnings, coupled with a sudden freight-train hell outside, even a fool like me knows when to seek cover.

Two of those twisters were near misses—one chewing up stuff just a few hundred yards away, the other a little over two miles away. Too close for comfort. It turned into the kind of night that makes you realize Mother Nature doesn't give a damn about your weekend plans - mine involving an Essential Carry class in Clinton.

Sure, I didn't shed a tear seeing Dick's Sporting Goods' massive windows had failed, exploding inward. Couldn't have happened to a nicer anti-gun chain, but it does show you don't want to

be near windows, especially big windows, when a tornado is bearing down on you.



Scary stuff.

But the rest of it sucked. Good businesses damaged (and at least one, Talbot's, destroyed). Lives upended. Thousands more could've faced terrible damage, injuries or worse if the atmospheric dice had rolled just a little differently.

My hard lessons from the storm: My UPS backup for the CPAP? Total failure. Already replaced.

But the biggest gut punch was realizing the old crew of amateur radio weather spotters on the McLean County Amateur Radio Emergency Service repeater are ghosts. Twenty and thirty years ago those guys and gals were gold—real-time eyes on the ground feeding exact loca-

tions, speed, and direction. Now? Crickets. They aged out, moved on, or just quit. Either way, we got left hanging when seconds mattered. And waiting for information to be relayed via a YouTube live-blogger isn't my idea of staying on the cutting edge.

That's not just inconvenient. In a real emergency—tornado, hurricane, civil unrest, whatever—flying blind can get you hurt.

This was a live-fire trial by tornado. We came through okay. Others were without power for a day or more, further complicating cleanup, and making things worse for those with flooded basements and spoiled food in fridges and freezers with the power outage.

Bottom line, gun owners: You already get it. Many if not most of our GSL members train. We prepare. We don't wait for someone else to save us. Mother Nature just reminded everyone why that a proactive, preparedness mindset isn't paranoia—it's survival.

Keep your gear ready. Know your escape routes. Have backup plans for your backups.

Because next time, the sirens might not give you two warnings. They might not give you any at all.

Plan. Prepare. Protect.

Other prep before the emergency arrives...

Communications: Have radios and know how to use them. Make sure they are charged. Even the ones you seldom think about including ones in your bail out bag, car, office and with your emergency gear.

Exercise your generator every three months for 15+ minutes. Change your stabilized gas every two years if you haven't used it much. Ditto for the oil. (Use the Harbor Freight fuel pump to get most of the gas out. Drain the oil after you warm up your motor for five minutes or so.)

Vehicle prep. Check your spare tire for proper inflation and tip your car's fire extinguisher back and forth until you hear the powder inside move around. Charge batteries,

including for jumper packs.

Check your sump pump. Ensure it works. If you have a backup pump, make sure it's working. Test each with a bucket or two of water. Do you have a backup power supply on your sump pump? Test it.

Maintain a supply of your life sustaining prescription meds. Don't wait until your last three days' supply to refill.

If you've already taken these steps, you're already way ahead of the game. Now go make sure everyone you care about is too.

Stay safe out there, Guns Save Life. We'll see you at the next meeting—hopefully with stories of preps that worked and those that didn't work out as planned.

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By the end of this class you'll be the calm expert who can safely secure a gun if you, your own child, or one of your students ever encounters one. You'll clearly understand the legal, moral, and ethical realities of using force or deadly force. And you'll get an honest look at the ugly aftermath that comes with having to fight for your life or someone else's.

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Regardless if you decide to become a gun owner later, you'll leave with the real-world skills, knowledge, and confidence to use a firearm ethically and legally to protect yourself or your students.

Want to know if a weekend of your life is worth it? Head over to GSLDefenseTraining.com for the full details.

Ready to move from anxious to empowered? This is where it starts. This class is for educators and those working in public education - especially those who aren't sure about guns or who are maybe afraid of guns or certainly anxious around guns.



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Whether you're a brand-new gun owner or a seasoned shooter, GSL Defense Training will sharpen your skills and harden your mindset so you can handle a handgun safely and effectively. Bottom line: we want you alive and winning.

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solid training that turns nervous novices into confident defenders.

You'll walk away ready to enjoy your firearm at the range or protect yourself and your family when it counts.

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encounter afterwards. And unlike most training teams, GSL excels at training shooters with disabilities—no excuses, just results.

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FOID cards are not required for enrollees, but we recommend applying for them ahead of time at ISPFSB.com. Loaner firearms are available for use at no charge, but enrollees will be responsible for bringing 250 rounds of ammunition for the course. Drinks, snacks and safety gear will be provided. Enrollees will need to bring their own lunches. **To enroll, download and complete the registration form from the Essential Carry page at GSLDefenseTraining.com.** Once received, we'll e-mail you a welcome letter with a map and directions, recommendations for hotel accommodations and what to bring.



What Caliber for ‘Cocaine Hippos’?

by John Boch

(GSL/SNW) - Nobody in Columbia is singing *I want a Hippopotamus for Christmas*. At least, no one in the government. They have a three-ton problem there, actually a bunch of them, and they want rid of them. And they're finding some properly motivated folks to solve it for them with some applied ballistic therapy.

For all of you really big game hunters: what caliber do you bring for the job of population control of a brace of ornery hippos? Obviously, you don't show up with a Daisy Red Ryder BB gun or a pocket .25 auto. Your grand-dad's handy-dandy M1 Carbine's probably out as well. That's how you turn a chill hippo into a very angry critter. Pissing off a hippo is like poking a grizzly with a pool noodle—you'll get a reaction, just not the one you want.

In fact, your go-to home defense shotgun probably doesn't have the horsepower to stop an angry three-ton river horse. Sure, a slug or two might kill it, but you'll be dead and bloated before Mr. Hippo dies in a week. Yeah, you want something that will result in a dead animal, not something to turn your hunting trip into your funeral.

The hippos in question are descendants of Pablo Escobar's herd from when he was alive and well. No doubt he had a flair for the exotic and the dramatic, but boring usually means you live longer. And that goes for hunting the progeny of the animals he brought in from Texas when they were small and "cute."

Those cute animals grew up and locals nicknamed them "cocaine hippos" because, well, they were Escobar's. The invasive animals loved the area: no predators, warm Colombian rivers, endless greenery, and zero rent. Today their descendants number nearly 200 and they're breeding like (very large, very powerful, very hungry) rabbits. Colombia just announced plans to euthanize at least 80 of them, because Escobar's leftovers can't keep eating the ecosystem forever.

The good news for those culling the critters? These aren't your typically surly African cousins that flip boats for fun and rack up more human kills than lions. Locals describe them as fairly tame by hippo standards. The Colombian variety grew up pretty pampered—plenty of food, no droughts, no big cats. However, "tame" is relative when the animal can outrun you on land and squish you like a bug.

The Colombian government wants professionals. They're paying \$2 million, but they aren't looking for amateurs with ARs. But if you're daydreaming about the ultimate Escobar legacy safari, bring something that says "respect" in large-caliber Esperanto. A well-placed .375 cranial shot drops them clean. Anything lighter risks a provoking a charge that ends with the riverbank redecorated with you... in unfortunate ways.

"Bring enough gun," as Springfield Armory says. Good advice, because you might need to use it in self-defense if things go south against some very large, very angry four-legged predators.

A collaboration worth investigating...

Ruger's new LCP MAX with Magpul EHG

(GSL) - This isn't a gun for hunting hippos, but if you find yourself hunted by two-legged predators, this might be something of interest to you.

a pocket holster. The grip extension fills the hand better, tames recoil, and lets you run the gun more confidently.

While Pablo's aquatic descendants are busy turning Colombian rivers into their personal narco empire, the rest of us are dealing with a different kind of pest problem here at home. For that, Ruger just dropped a sleek little upgrade that proves good things come in small, high-capacity packages.



Ruger is serious about expanding its popular LCP MAX line, and the first big step is a tasty collaboration with Magpul. Say hello to the Ruger LCP MAX with Magpul Enhanced Handgun Grip — a pocket rocket that just got a whole lot more serious without losing its "disappear in your shorts" charm.

At an MSRP of \$449, it sits right in that sweet spot where serious shooters and everyday carriers can both nod approvingly. It's not a full-size duty gun, and it's definitely not a hippo stopper, but for discreet, reliable backup or primary carry when you want to stay light and low-profile, this little Ruger-Magpul mashup delivers.

Debuted at NRAAM, this updated LCP MAX keeps the lightweight, micro-compact DNA that made the original a bestseller but adds real-world handling upgrades. The star of the show is Magpul's Enhanced Handgun Grip, complete with that signature TSP (Textured Surface Pattern) texture that gives your hand something to bite into even when things get sweaty. No more feeling like you're gripping a wet bar of soap during a defensive encounter.

Ruger clearly understands that the LCP MAX crowd wants more than just "small and cute." They want small, cute, *and controllable*. With improved ergonomics, better texturing, and that extra two plus rounds of .380 on tap, the new model delivers exactly that.

They also bumped up the magazine release for faster, more positive operation and included an extended magazine that boosts capacity to a very respectable 13+1 rounds of .380 ACP. That's real "I brought friends" territory for a gun that still slips neatly into

So while the cocaine hippos get their dramatic send-off in South America with big-bore rifles, the rest of us can keep things civilized with something that fits in your front pocket and still brings 13+1 friends to the party. Sometimes the best tools for the job are the ones nobody sees coming.

GunNews Magazine - 14 - June 2026



If your church doesn't have a 'safety team,' ask them to start one... or find a safer church that takes your family's safety seriously

More Christian leaders are welcoming guns in church

(NorthJersey.com) - With violence at houses of worship grabbing headlines, more U.S. churches are relying on members of the flock — and even pastors — to defend the congregation in case of a mass-shooter attack.

religious sites. Almost 1,400 "acts of hostility" against U.S. churches, including vandalism, arson and bomb threats, occurred between 2018 and 2024, said the Family Research Council...

A growing number of conservative Christians also see it as their spiritual duty to pack in the pews and get firearms training.

"Religion and guns have become intimately entangled over the past few years," said Ryan Burge, a political scientist and professor at Washington University in St. Louis.



In a 2022 survey by the Tennessee-based evangelical research firm Lifeway Research, U.S. clergy said they had become more reliant on armed parishioners for security. Only 21% said they would prohibit firearms in their house of worship, down from 27% in 2019. Fifty-four percent supported the idea of armed congregants, up from 45%.

The impetus is a slew of incidents targeting

A survey by the Public Religion Research Institute in 2024 found that gun possession was highest among white evangelical Protestants, with 54% reporting that they kept them in their homes. The rate was 46% for Mormons and 45% for white mainline Protestants, the report said. Roughly 36% of white U.S. Catholics keep guns at home, but rates were far lower for Hispanic Catholics (14%) and Jews (12%), PRRI said.



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Dad, on far side of car at passenger door, fires shot that stops carjacker from running over innocents to escape.

Hero dad drops persistent carjacker

Garland, TX (GSL) - In Garland, Texas, a father became a hero after a deranged carjacker tried to steal his vehicle—with his wife and children still inside.

The suspect, acting erratically, had already crashed into other cars and attempted multiple thefts before targeting the family's white Chevy sedan. He forced his way into the driver's seat, sparking a chaotic struggle captured on surveillance video. Kids screamed as the man grappled to drive off with the family aboard.

The father fought to protect them, giving his loved ones time to escape. When the threat persisted, he fired a single decisive shot, stopping the attacker permanently. Garland police reviewed the footage and ruled it clear self-defense. No charges for the dad.

This is why armed, responsible citizens matter. A prepared father saved his family from a violent criminal. FAFO in action.

Persistence at crime can get you killed

North Philly, PA (GSL) - In North Philadelphia on May 3, a determined career criminal refused to quit — even at breaking and entering just after high noon. The woman climbed through a back window on the 2300 block of North Cleveland Street around 1:15 p.m., ignoring every warning that screamed “this is a bad idea.”



Homeowners inside spotted her and repeatedly ordered her to leave. But this non-quitter wouldn't take “get out” for an answer. She kept pushing forward like a broken Roomba with a death wish until a resident had enough and fired multiple shots, killing her on the spot.

A neighbor, identified as Shawnee C., said it was her neighbor who fired the shots.

“He was just protecting his house,” Shawnee said to media.

Police say it was a clear case of self-defense under Pennsylvania's castle doctrine. No charges against the homeowner.

Some people just can't take a hint — even when it's coming out of a gun barrel. Another Darwin Award contender who learned the hard way that persistence in crime doesn't pay.



Lessons to be learned here: Homeowner kills violent trespasser

by John Boch

Houston (GSL) - In a brand-new housing development on Houston's east side near Tidwell Road, one homeless troublemaker decided the half-built homes and backyards were his personal playground — and probably his private outhouse too. Neighbors reported the guy repeatedly trespassing, rummaging through properties, and treating the construction site like his own domain. Written and verbal warnings did nothing to deter this persistent nuisance.

Around 8 p.m. Wednesday, a homeowner caught the bum in his backyard and told him to get lost. The bum left... only to return shortly after, like a stray cat that refuses to take a hint. The homeowner confronted him a second time on the road. That's when the violent homeless man attacked.

Not wanting a hundred staples in his head — or worse — the homeowner pulled his pistol and shot the attacker. The homeless man ran off, collapsed in a nearby ditch, and died. Houston police are investigating. No charges have been filed against the shooter yet.

Mock all you want — this bad guy had

clear violent tendencies and wouldn't stay gone despite repeated warnings. But here's the smarter takeaway: the homeowner would've been far better off calling the cops the first time and letting them handle the persistent drifter.

Using deadly force to defend property, even partially-built homes, is a risky gamble in most places. Texas self-defense laws are relatively strong, and the physical assault likely gives him legal cover. Still, the aftermath is rarely clean. He now faces a police investigation, possible legal bills, media scrutiny, and the heavy stress of taking a life.

The shooter may end up dealing with PTSD, nightmares, a strained marriage, and work issues — costing him thousands — all because he chose to confront a homeless nuisance instead of letting HPD deal with it.

Cops exist for a reason. Persistent trespassers with attitude problems are their headache, not yours with a trigger finger. Let law enforcement handle (or not handle) these situations and stay out of the legal crosshairs. And save yourself a lot of time, expense and stress.



5.06:1

WHY WE CARRY:

Defensive Gun Uses outnumber criminal gun uses 5 to 1

by John Lott

(Crime Research) - The National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) estimates there were approximately 330,000 violent victimizations involving a firearm in 2021. That same year there were estimated 1.67 million defensive gun uses. That is defensive gun uses are 5.06 times more than firearms used in crime.



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NJ's Glock subpoenas: Unconstitutional attack on gun owner privacy – Is Illinois next?

New Jersey's Attorney General has issued sweeping subpoenas to every firearms dealer in the state, demanding detailed sales records for all Glock pistols sold to New Jersey residents over the past decade. The demands include buyer names, addresses, and transaction details to support a public nuisance lawsuit against Glock, Inc. This is not routine law enforcement — it is a broad fishing expedition that threatens the privacy essential to Second Amendment rights.

The Second Amendment protects more than just ownership; it safeguards the privacy of exercising that right. The Founders understood that citizens must be able to arm themselves without government surveillance, serving as a check against tyranny. Early American practice included militia musters to confirm arms existed, but not centralized registries of private gun owners. Broad data collection like this has no clear historical analogue under the *Bruen* test.

New Jersey already maintains a de facto handgun registry through its permit system. These subpoenas appear designed to bypass privacy protections on those records, creating a backdoor database of lawful gun owners. By targeting one of America's most popular handguns without specific crimes or traces, the state turns routine commerce into permanent surveillance. This chills the exercise of a constitutional right and sets a dangerous precedent for using civil litigation to achieve regulatory goals that legislatures cannot pass.

Anti-gun states are increasingly turning to nuisance lawsuits and discovery demands to pressure manufacturers and compile owner lists indirectly. If successful in New Jersey, the tactic will spread.

Illinois is especially vulnerable. The state already requires enhanced dealer record-keeping, state licensing, and expansive background checks. With its history of aggressive gun-control measures — including the PICA ban and industry-targeted bills — Illinois officials could easily adopt similar subpoena tactics in future lawsuits or "traceability" efforts. Gun owners here should recognize this pattern: incremental steps toward eroding anonymity, a classic precursor to broader disarmament.

Courts must reject these overbroad demands. Law-abiding citizens have a fundamental right to keep and bear arms without their private purchases being catalogued for political purposes.



Comment submitted to GSL anonymously

Don't let the radical 10% regain power — Our guns and freedoms depend on it

Sadly, it seems the modern Democratic Party rests on a small core of extreme radical true-believers who make up maybe 10% of the country — perhaps less.

These are not ordinary Democrats. These aren't the Democrats of Bill Clinton's era, and they certainly aren't your father's Dems of the John Kennedy era. Instead, today's Democrats seem more like full-blown radicals, the kind most Americans would consider batpooop crazy lunatics. They set the agenda, enforce the orthodoxy, and pull the entire party in their direction.

Obviously this includes their rabid support for Gun Control schemes, including gun bans, mag bans, licensing schemes, restrictions and background checks galore.

That tiny radical core is exactly why they're so vulnerable. These true-believers won't moderate or abandon their positions. They can't. They're nuts. Their ideology is their entire identity, and any move toward the center is treated as unforgivable heresy. Instead of competing for the political middle like a normal party, they're forced to try everything else — to hold onto power.

Their desperation is rising because they can see the writing on the wall: a future in which they shrink into a marginalized 10% rump, ignored as the country realigns around two more centrist parties. A movement steeped in revolutionary rhetoric and grievance isn't likely to accept that fate peacefully. It's going to get ugly until they finally internalize that they've lost.

It would get far uglier, though, if we let them win national power again. No tyrant is more dangerous than one who's just had a serious scare. Best not to give this crowd another chance.

Go get 'em!

I said "Sic 'em" before. Now I say "Go get 'em!" and keep up the good work.

I believe whole-heartedly in what you do. Proud to be affiliated with y'all.

Daniel J. Baker
Chatham, IL

Keep up the good fight

I've seen the stories about GSL's struggles in last couple issues of *GunNews*. Please keep up the good fight. We support all you do to keep us safe and free!

Greg & Pat Zak
Location unknown

Stateline Rifle sends more than their very best regards!

GSL does a lot to help our club, and of course our gun rights. So we want to help too by supporting you with a donation. Our check represents the proceeds from the 50/50 raffle at our recent meeting.

Glenn Garamoni
SLRA President
Near the Wisconsin border

He answered the call

I read your comments online re: budgetary crunch. Hope this helps! I am already a Life Member so this makes up for a few years' dues.

Chi-South meetings (Chicagoland) now in Crete?! Too far from the (*ahem*) clubs along/near US Route 30. Oh well.

Beau Meskan
Lincolnwood, IL

Brutal times for 'No Kings'

It has been a brutal week for No Kings protesters as they have been out-witted, blindsided and let down time and again in just a few days.

First a real King came into the United States and they were unable to mount a protest as he arrived.

Then they could not figure out how to protest his presence at a number of well publicized events.

Then to top it all off their supposed Democrat pals in the U.S. Congress stabbed them all in the back by giving the King a standing ovation(!) as a sign of respect.



Even the radicals in Congress were star-struck by the King! So much for "No Kings!"

These put downs and continued ineptness have fueled speculation No Kings protesters may soon unite with the No Dinosaurs and No Unicorns protesters under the No Clues umbrella.

Gary Larson
Decatur, IL



Greetings!

My wife and I really enjoy your paper. Thank God for objective reporting.

Here's a contribution for your wonderful organization!

Greg & Julie
Downer's Grove



GunNews Magazine

The monthly journal of
Guns Save Life

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

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



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

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Ferdinand Ritter von Mannlicher: The unsung gun genius who nearly conquered the battlefield - then got smoked by bad timing

by Gary Larson

(GSL) - When gun enthusiasts talk legends of the late 1800s and early 1900s, John Moses Browning and the Mauser brothers get the glory. Their designs still ride in holsters and racks worldwide. But one prolific mad genius often gets overlooked: Ferdinand Ritter von Mannlicher—the Austrian engineer who kept handing the Austro-Hungarian Empire revolutionary rifles on a silver platter, only for fate, bureaucracy, and the French to keep slapping them away.

Working at Steyr from 1880 onward, Mannlicher attacked the Empire's outdated single-shot Werndl rifles like a man possessed. He cranked out straight-pull bolt actions, early semi-auto concepts, and a wild array of magazines: tube-fed, gravity-fed, top-mounted, and even a modern-style detachable box. The military rejected most. "Too expensive," they sniffed at the box mag. "Troops will lose them like drunkards lose socks." Back to the drawing board.



Hungarian soldier in the Carpathian with a Mannlicher M1895 rifle.

In 1882 he unveiled a silky straight-pull bolt—no clumsy lifting and rotating the handle, just yank straight back and shove forward. Lightning fast, with rotary locking lugs. The brass hats rejected it as "overly complicated" and "likely to fail in the mud." Because nothing says battlefield reliability like sticking with 1860s tech.

Then came 1885. Mannlicher dropped what should have been a game-ender. Picture this: a straight-pull rifle chambered in the standard 11mm black-powder round, but with a revolutionary en-bloc clip holding five cartridges. Soldiers didn't thumb rounds in one miserable bullet at a time like some sadistic loading drill. They slammed a full clip straight into the action, shoved the bolt home, and were ready to send five rounds downrange in seconds. Empty the clip? It auto-ejected out the top like a dramatic theater curtain call, screaming "RELOAD ME, IDIOT!" It was basically a black-powder, hand-cranked M1 Garand—decades early. Fast, simple, and brutal.

The Austro-Hungarian Empire military actually loved it. Several thousand M86 rifles went into troop trials. It passed. They adopted it... then immediately neutered the glorious top-ejector spring because... reasons. Now empty clips dropped out

the bottom like polite little failures. Easy to miss in the heat of combat.



Then France came along and ruined everything.

That same year, the French unveiled the Lebel 1886 with its smokeless-powder 8mm cartridge. Lighter bullet, screaming velocity, no massive smoke cloud announcing your position like a "SHOOT HERE" neon sign. Suddenly Mannlicher's beautiful new rifle looked like yesterday's news. The Austrians, who *had* been feeling pretty smug, slammed the brakes on production.

They rushed a stop-gap 8mm black-powder version in 1888—re-barreling existing guns and slapping new sight plates on like desperate home repairs. Still no smokeless. Their troops got to enjoy the thrilling experience of shooting at the enemy through their own smoke screen while the French and Germans enjoyed clear views and longer reach.

Finally, in 1890, Austria cracked smokeless powder. The improved M90 arrived... four years late to the party. Other nations had already moved on. They converted the older rifles to the new smokeless round and hoped for the best.



But the increased pressures exposed the fatal flaw the military had demanded for "simplicity": the weak wedge-lock bolt. Case ruptures and jams became common. What started as a potential wonder-rifle ended up as a temperamental series plagued by the very compromises forced upon it.

Mannlicher's genius didn't stop there—he pioneered semi-auto rifles and pistols too, plus that gorgeous rotary Schoenauer magazine still beloved by hunters. But the rifle saga perfectly captures the man: relentless innovation, military conservatism, and cruelly bad timing.

In the end, Ferdinand Ritter von Mannlicher proved you can design the future and still get lapped by it. The Empire got decent rifles. The world got another reminder that sometimes the greatest inventors are the ones history forgets to name-drop.

Growing up with guns, horses & heroes: The Western TV craze that shaped American shooting culture

by Gary Larson

(GSL) - Growing up in the 1950s and '60s, I was treated to a steady stream of Westerns on TV — and honestly, it was the greatest childhood diet imaginable, better even than Mom's pot roast. Weekly serials from 1940s movies were repackaged for television, and hot new shows like *The Lone Ranger* and *Roy Rogers* were to be found on every channel. All three of them. (Yes, three. We survived.)

The Westerns didn't stop at Saturdays either. They came to dominate evening programming with powerhouses like *Bonanza*, *Rawhide*, and *Gunsmoke* — shows so popular that families would actually plan their week around them. Cowboys packing single-action Colt revolvers and lever-action Winchester rifles were absolutely everywhere throughout my childhood and well beyond. And it turns out, all that pistol-twirling and rifle-cocking on screen planted a seed in an awful lot of young minds.



Those shows seem to have played a massive role in the enduring popularity of those classic firearms among today's shooters and collectors — and they prompted real, serious production decisions by Ruger and other manufacturers. Colt even resumed Single Action Army production twice after shutting it down, which tells you everything you need to know about the power of a good TV cowboy. If you love these old guns — or the shiny new versions of them

— you owe a tip of the hat to those stars and shows from long ago.

Now, in the earlier Westerns especially, the star of the show often had to share the spotlight with a very important co-star: his horse. Roy Rogers always got a considerable boost from the golden Trigger, and Gene Autry's Champion was every bit as famous as the singing cowboy himself. Some horses were so popular they had their own fan clubs — which is honestly more than most of us can say. That four-footed companion wasn't just a prop; he was a central part of the brand, the merchandise, and the mythology.

Since many early Westerns grew from books or radio before transitioning to TV and film, these format changes occasionally necessitated a new horse for the hero. Most famously, the *Lone Ranger's* original mount Dusty was rather inconveniently killed by outlaws in one episode — a shocking plot development for young viewers — and was promptly replaced by the magnificent Silver once the Silver Cup Bread Company came on as a sponsor. Bread and bullets: a natural partnership.

Matt Dillon's horse on *Gunsmoke* was specifically chosen because he was a BIG horse, well suited to James Arness's considerable stature. That same horse, whose real name was Dunny Waggoner, kept his stage name when ridden by Lorne Greene in *Bonanza* and made appearances in *Rawhide* as well. Hollywood economies of scale, applied to horseflesh.

Of course, horses weren't the only beloved four-footed companions to become stars in their own right on the silver — and small — screen. *Roy Rogers* had Bullet the dog. Who could possibly forget Sergeant Preston's magnificent Yukon King? And lest we overlook the non-living supporting cast: even the jeep on *The Roy Rogers Show* had a name, Nellybelle, and Sky King's aircraft was the Songbird. When you're building a brand in the Old West, apparently everything gets a name.

Those were simpler times — and magnificent ones for anyone who loves guns, horses, and a good story about justice riding tall in the saddle.

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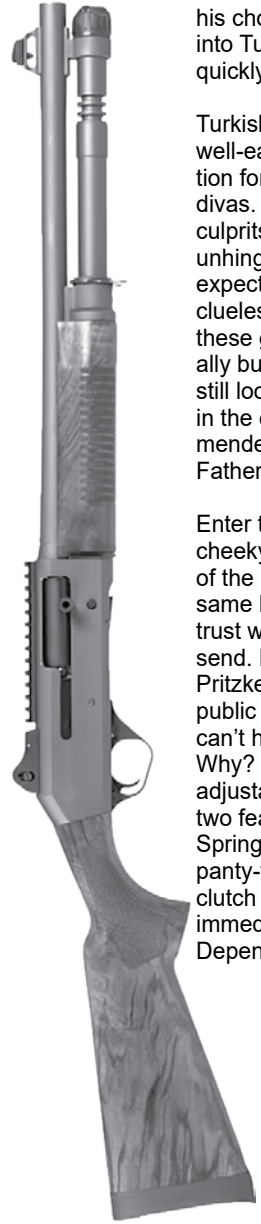
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The Panzer M4 Review: 'I recommend'

by Damon Williams
GSL Member

(GSL) - My son caught the fever for a semiautomatic 12-gauge. Not wanting to nuke the four-figure barrier on a fancy Italian or American beauty, his choices slammed into Turkish alley pretty quickly.



Turkish semis have a well-earned reputation for being dramatic divas. I blame three culprits: iffy build quality, unhinged consumer expectations, and total cluelessness about what these guns are actually built to digest. Yet I still looked my own kid in the eye and recommended one anyway. Father of the year.

Enter the Panzer M4—a cheeky Turkish clone of the Benelli M4, the same beast the Marines trust when things go full send. But here in JB Pritzker's People's Republic of Illinois, civilians can't have the real deal. Why? Pistol grip and adjustable stock. Those two features make the Springfield day-drinking panty-wetters tremble, clutch their pearls, and immediately ruin their Depends.

Slap some walnut furniture on that same guts, though, and poof—it's suddenly wholesome enough for "Protection of Illinois Communities."

Magic. Both versions ship with a five-round cap anyway, so the Panzer waltzes right through. Free-staters can yank the block and run seven rounds like civilized humans.

Plenty of other Turkish roulette wheels are legal here, so why this one? Because it's the only Turkish shotgun that survived James Reeves' savage 500-round TFB TV burn-down. Conditional pass—17 stoppages, mostly "please sir may I have another" failure-to-feeds that cleared with a loving slap. It lived, barely. Respect earned.

Real Benelli M4? \$2,000. Panzer? \$550. Candidly, you're swapping mil-spec perfection for "Turkish good enough" and hoping for the best. Early ones had pistons that mushroomed like they'd seen a ghost, but Panzer fixed that circus. Some still throw tantrums with real Benelli parts.

For \$550 you get a legitimately handsome gun—rich walnut popping against that dark silver Cerakote like it's trying to get Instagram famous. It ghost-loads like a pro: one in the chamber, one on the carrier, five in the tube for a perfectly legal seven-round middle finger to capacity limits.

Like my Beretta A300, the carrier locks up tighter than a nervous teenager until you drop the hammer or beg the release. Rapid reloads and quad loads turn into a conscious ballet. Twin-loading? Angle that second shell like it owes you money or it hangs up. Practice (or strategic polishing) sorts it out.

Panzer demands 1,200 fps minimum loads. Thankfully, Walmart Federal target loads actually qualify. Miracles happen. Use caution with "reduced recoil" offerings.

Only real gripe: that sad little pencil-eraser bolt release. Tiny, stiff, and clearly designed by someone who hates thumbs. Aftermarket leverage kits exist for those of us who enjoy functioning fingers.

Bottom line: unless you're a Marine kicking in doors overseas, this gun will handle everything a normal shooter or weekend warrior needs. Illinois fashion police murdered the \$2,000 Benelli option, so the Panzer is one of our few remaining plays. At \$550, it's absolutely worth a serious look... and a chuckle.

Panzer M4 Six Shot Side Saddle Without An Integral Sling Attachment
Integral Sling Attachment Models Are Available On The GG&G Website



Angled Shell Holder Facilitates Bottom Loading Of The Mag Tube And Top Loading Of The Chamber



Shot Shells Can Be Retained "Base Up" Or "Base Down"

Brent Harney: The Shoebox Gun

Brent Harney lit up Tech Time at the Sangamon County meeting with a trio of classic Ruger target pistols he affectionately calls "Shoebox" pistols. As a part-time gunsmith, he sees the same scene at least once a month: someone brings in one of these older Rugers completely disassembled in a literal shoebox after a cleaning adventure went sideways.



Most of us have been there (editor included). YouTube videos can save the day when it comes to fixing about anything—seriously.

Brent shared some quick history on these iconic .22s. Introduced in 1949 as Ruger's very first firearm, the Standard model (later

the Mark I Target) featured a long 6 $\frac{7}{8}$ -inch barrel, adjustable sights, and outstanding accuracy. Priced affordably, it became a favorite for plinkers, competitors, and military marksmanship training. Production ran through 1982 with various updates over the years.

Shooters beware: magazines are not interchangeable between generations, but when everything lines up, these pistols deliver tack-driving accuracy that still impresses.

The night's best tale came from a woman who brought her late dad's ancient Ruger to a carry class. Brent spotted it immediately—an internally suppressed Mark I. When she said her dad had been a "mail guy" in the Army during Vietnam, Brent chuckled: "Ma'am... your dad was no mailman." Turns out he worked for the CIA. That suppressed Ruger had quite the covert history and has since found a respectful new home.

Great guns, better stories, and a reminder that some old Rugers still carry secrets. Got one in the safe? Bring it out next meeting—just don't forget the parts.

Johns Hopkins honors a scoundrel...

SAD TROMBONE: National Coalition to Ban Handguns founder dies, his vision unrealized

(Johns Hopkins) - It is with deep sorrow that we share the passing of Michael Beard, a true luminary in the gun violence prevention community. After a prolonged battle, Beard succumbed to the effects of Parkinson's disease. He leaves behind an indelible legacy as an unwavering advocate for meaningful gun violence prevention legislation.

Beard was more than a leader. He was a pioneer in the gun violence prevention movement. In 1974 Mike founded what eventually became known as the Coalition to Stop Gun Violence, at a time when there were few if any peer organizations.



national coalition to ban handguns

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[Editor: The "Coalition to Stop Gun Violence" began as the National Coalition to Ban Handguns. Johns Hopkins can't even be honest about that part of Beard's shameful history.]

Sullivan Gun Club

2026 Events... Mark your Calendar! All open to public.



Bowling Pin Shoots

Reminder: Kids shoot free!

Jun 6, July 11, Aug 8, Sep 12, Oct 10, Nov 7

subject to weather-related cancellations

Rimfire rifle, rimfire pistol, centerfire revolver and pocket pistol classes



Rimfire Shoots

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subject to weather-related cancellations

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WATER: Your #1 prep behind shelter!

by John Boch

(GSL) - Concentration is the first thing to go with even mild dehydration. Which is why better shooting schools make sure students drink plenty. After concentration, decision-making slows and degrades. Imagining yourself in a natural or man-made disaster trying to make decisions while your mouth tastes like velcro and your body's craving a drink.

Even mild dehydration (just 1-2% body weight loss) destroys concentration, slows reaction times, impairs decision-making, and turns fine motor skills into a mess. Military studies confirm dehydrated operators make far more errors under stress and lose the mental edge that keeps them alive. You aren't an operator, but you do have your own life and your family's to defend. The most expensive guns and gear don't matter if your mind is fogged.

That's why Carl's no-nonsense presentation in Mattoon on emergency water preparedness hit like a .45 ACP. He didn't sugarcoat it.

The brutal truth few talk about

You can survive weeks without food, but only about a couple days without water before things get ugly. Like willing to drink pee out of a shoe kind of ugly.



In a real crisis — like a grid-down blackout, hurricane, wildfire, civil unrest or a terror attack — your tapwater can vanish or turn deadly overnight. What's your plan? Hope has no survival value.

Carl nailed it: "You need clean water so you don't crap yourself to death."

Drink contaminated water and you're facing explosive diarrhea, vomiting, and rapid dehydration. Giardia, Cryptosporidium, E. coli, and norovirus have wrecked far tougher people than most preppers. One gulp of bad water and your whole day takes a dump just like you.

Finding water when the tap goes dry

When water becomes scarce, it's still found in nature in the Land of Lincoln. First, turn off the valve to your water heater. If it's like most, that's 40-60 gallons you can drain out when it cools through the drain valve at the bottom of the tank.

Rainwater will be the cleanest if collected properly. Then there's flowing streams and rivers. And then there are lakes and ponds, nature's bacterial soup. No matter the source, treat everything.

Golden Rule: Assume every natural source will wreck you. Even "clean" mountain streams have killed experienced hikers.

Making sketchy water safe (aka redundancy or regret)

Stack proven options:

- Boiling — King of purification. Rolling boil for a minute, but this requires a whole lot of precious fuel.
- Filtration — Sawyer, LifeStraw, Katadyn or other pump filters remove bacteria and protozoa. There's also Big Berkeys for large quantities at a base camp or home setting. These cost more but deliver the purest water.
- Chemical Treatment — Bleach (8-12 drops of unscented bleach (no "splashless", scented or bleach with funky additives) per gallon depending on turbidity. Wait a half-hour after stirring or shaking. If it smells bleachy, you're good. If not, treat again...), iodine, or chlorine dioxide.
- UV — SteriPEN-style devices scramble pathogen DNA on clear water. They are kind of pricey and take time and batteries to work.

Pro move: Pre-filter first, then disinfect. Use coffee filters or even clean cotton fabric to filter out the big stuff if the source water is cloudy or muddy. Then filter for drinking or chemically treat.

Test your gear now so you're not learning under pressure. Be forewarned, used filters don't store well. Really nasty stuff tends to grow in them. Here's an idea: sacrifice an old filter to see how things work in real-world applications.

During Q&A, it was suggested that chemical treatment is stupid cheap with bleach. You can treat large quantities of water (thousands of gallons) with a gallon of plain bleach. Then you can share with your neighbors, trading precious potable water for goodwill and favors if the public utility water fails.



Don't be that guy who runs dry

Look, this doesn't have to be hard. Start with a case of water for every person in the home. Rotate every six months or a year.

Plan on minimum of one gallon per person per day for drinking and sanitation. You figure out how many days are needed. In hot weather, with kids or pets, plan for more. Aim for at least a weeks' supply, then work your way up to two weeks'. Again, you can store it, treat it, filter it, boil it or UV treat it. Just have a plan, a backup plan and a contingency plan if all that fails.

Use food-grade containers or bottled water to store it. Store cool and dark. Rotate every 6-12 months. Label dates. Consider rain barrels or bathtub water bladders for extra capacity. Again, storing cases of water is a cheap and easy start anyone can do to. Rotate as you consume the bottled water.

Why this matters

Ammo, optics, training and skills with a gun get the glory — but water is the foundation.

A dehydrated defender with slow reflexes and foggy thinking isn't protecting anyone. He's a liability. Especially when muzzle control gets sloppy along with degraded decision-making.

Carl's message: The most dangerous man in a crisis is the one who stays hydrated, clear-headed, and decisive.



Bottom Line

Water prep isn't glamorous, but when the poop hits the fan, the guy who can still think straight and move fast is the one who keeps his family safest.

Listen to Carl. Get serious about water today. Build redundancy. Test your methods. Rotate your stock.

Stay hydrated. Stay dangerous. Your future self — and your family — will thank you when it counts most.



\$5 GAS: Don't take it for granted

by John Boch

(GSL) - Gas at \$5 a gallon isn't highway robbery—yet. Complaining won't help. Be thankful it's freely available without limit at the moment. After all, if a couple of big refineries go down from sabotage, accidents, or surging demand, we could quickly see \$10 gas, rationing with long lines around the block, or empty pumps.

We're already getting warnings. Inventories are down. The Strait of Hormuz crisis has greatly curtailed the availability of refined fuels for many nations. They have implemented fuel rationing now - with drivers capped at 20-40 liters per fill-up after waiting hours in line. That forces really tough choices for those overseas. Here in America, we're still living in the golden age of gas availability... for now.

Meanwhile, Illinois politicians rage about \$5 and \$6 gas but won't touch the fat fuel taxes that could drop nearly a buck off every gallon tomorrow. Shocking.

What to do now:

- Keep your vehicle(s) gas tank(s) at ¾ full or better. Treat "almost empty" like a personality flaw.
- If you have gas cans at home in your garage, fill them up with stabilized gasoline. No cans? Buy some today. 10 gallons is a nice start. 20 is mo' better. Add stabilizer, fill and rest easier.
- Modern gas can spouts suck. We know. But they seal the cans nicely. Grab a cheap battery-operated transfer pump (~\$15 at Harbor Freight) for easy and mess-free fuel transfers.

Gasoline is freedom juice. It runs your generator so your fridge doesn't become a science project, your sump pump will keep your basement from drowning, and run your tools and lighting to make repairs. Not only that, but with it you can actually bug out instead of becoming a lawn ornament.

Without gas, your life gets much harder, fast. Instead of making repairs or helping others, without gas you might spend hours waiting in line for a meager ration at true highway robbery prices.

This isn't panic—it's having your head screwed on straight.

Fill the tank, stock up, and stay ahead. Life will be better if you proactively prepare for potential problems.

Be a hero, not a zero, to your family.



AMMO: Buy now or pay more later — Price hikes & possibly a new ammo tax coming

(GSL) - Ammo prices are creeping higher again in 2026, and it's not just pocket change. Manufacturers like Federal, CCI, Remington, Winchester, and others have announced fresh hikes — 3% to 12% on popular loads, driven by rising raw materials and shipping costs.



Practice ammo, especially 9mm FMJ, is getting harder to find at the stupid-cheap prices we

enjoyed a year or two ago. Bulk 9mm that dipped near 20 cents per round is now pushing 25-30 cents in many spots. What's more, supplies are running thin in places too.

And here in Illinois, Springfield politicians are cooking up a new "ammo tax" in HB4414. If it passes, every handgun round would cost you five extra cents per round starting 2027. That's \$50 on a thousand-round case.

It's exactly like the USPS jacking Forever stamps another 4 cents to 82¢ on July 12. Buy them now and they're instantly worth more later. Same logic with ammo: every box you grab today dodges tomorrow's pain.

Bottom line, folks: Gas isn't getting cheaper, politicians aren't getting smarter or soberer (is that a word?), and supply chains are staying twitchy. Don't get caught flat-footed.

Buy quality practice ammo while it's still on the shelf. Rotate your stock, store it cool and dry, and train like your life depends on it — because one day it might. Freedom isn't free, and neither is the ammo that protects it.

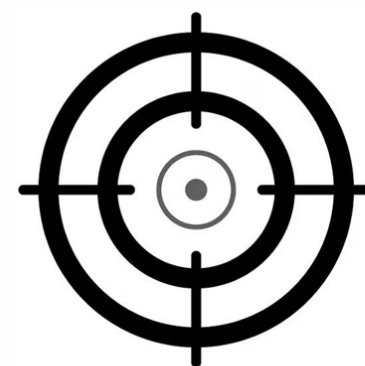
Stack it deep, shoot it straight, and stay ahead of the curve. Your future self will thank you when the next panic hits.

"I Shoot with You!"

Whatever your goal, whatever your circumstance. Whether you are just starting out, or well on your way, I'll help you to target and hit your financial goals and dreams.

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Quarter vertical	5" x 7.25"	\$100	\$80	\$65
Quarter horizontal	2.5" x 15"	\$100	\$80	\$65
Eighth vertical	2.5" x 7"	\$65	\$50	\$40
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Ad Submission Information

Email ads to jboch@gunssavelifelife.com or mail on media to *GunNews*, PO Box 51, Savoy, IL 61874. For payment and scheduling, email jboch@gunssavelifelife.com.

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

Advertising deadline: Please submit advertising by the **SECOND TUESDAY** of the month for the following month's issue. For instance, submit by the second Tuesday in March for inclusion in the April issue.

Calendar



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.

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 fxrt1984@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**



June 11: South Eastern IL, Olney
June 14: Fox Valley, New Lenox
June 25: Logan County, Lincoln
Aug 1: Two Rivers, Rushville
Aug 8: South Central Illinois, Mt. Vernon
August 22: Heart of Illinois, Washington
August 29: US Grant, East Dubuque, IL
September 19: Kishwaukee Valley, DeKalb

For more info, visit FriendsOfNRA.org.

GUN SHOWS...

May
May 23 & 24: Crown Point Gun Show, Lake County Fairgrounds, Crown Point, IN. Central IN Gun Shows. (765) 855-3836.

June
Jun 19, 20 & 21: Pecatonica Gun Show, Winnebago County Fairgrounds, Pecatonica Marv Kraus Promotions 563 608-4401.
Jun 27 & 28: Crown Point Gun Show, Lake County Fairgrounds, Crown Point, IN. Central IN Gun Shows. (765) 855-3836.

August
 August Crown Point Gun Show cancelled.

September
Sep 19: National Civil War & Collector Arms Show, DuPage Co. Fairgrounds, Wheaton IL. Irene Zurko (715) 526-9769.
Sep 19 & 20: Chillicothe Sportsman's Club, Chillicothe, IL. Steve Risinger (309) 208-1010.
Sept. 27 & 28: Kankakee Gun Show, Kankakee County Fairgrounds Kankakee, IL. Mike (630) 363-3131.
Sept. 26 & 27: Crown Point Gun Show, Lake County Fairgrounds, Crown Point, IN. Central IN Gun Shows. (765) 855-3836.

Know the location of Travis J. Branson? Call the US Marshals Texas man, 71, gets probation, \$77.5K restitution for buying poached Eagles

(The Venatic) - Well, if you're going to run one of the largest documented raptor slaughter operations in modern U.S. history, which included baiting deer carcasses, blasting thousands of protected birds out of the sky, and FedExing the tails and mounts across the country for cash, you'd better have a damn good buyer on the other end keeping the lights on.

Enter 71-year-old John Patrick Butler of Humble, Texas.

Butler was not a hunter but a key figure in a multi-year conspiracy that federal investigators say devastated raptor populations on the Flathead Indian Reservation. Court records show he paid hundreds to thousands of dollars per bird or set of feathers via PayPal and other online transfers. In exchange, co-defendants shipped eagle parts, including tails and full mounts, through the U.S. mail from Montana to his home in Texas...

The broader ring was led by Travis John Branson, 49, of Cusick, Washington (for-

merly of the Flathead Reservation), and involved co-defendant Simon Paul, who remains a fugitive in Canada. Branson and others hunted and killed approximately 3,600 protected birds, including at least 118 eagles and 107 hawks, on the reservation and elsewhere between 2015 and 2021.

Branson, who bragged in texts about being "on a killing spree" and "out here committing felonies," was sentenced in October 2024 to 46 months in federal prison, three years of supervised release, and a whopping \$777,250 in restitution.



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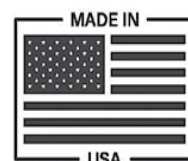
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SC 'man' arrested for threatening Trump

Raleigh, NC (US DOJ) – The United States Secret Service arrested Daniel R. Swain, 41, of Summerville, South Carolina, on a Federal warrant in Apex. The Secret Service obtained the warrant pursuant to a Federal criminal complaint signed by a U.S. Magistrate Judge which accuses Swain of threatening to take the life of the President of the United States. According to the complaint, concerned citizens contacted the Apex Police Department when they observed the message “HEADED TO WSH TO KILL THE PRES” written in white marker on the driver side window of Swain’s car.

[Editor’s note: He also had a fake license plate and a quantity of meth.]

Not in Illinois...

'Defense of Property' bill clears TN statehouse

(Breitbart) - Republicans in Tennessee’s House and Senate passed legislation this week allowing the use of lethal force to protect property.

WKRN reported that the legislation passed with Republican votes amid Democrat opposition. The House bill was HB1802 and the Senate bill was SB1847.



WSMV noted that if Gov. Bill Lee (R) signs the legislation into law it means “property owners will be allowed to use deadly force to prevent someone from attempted or actual trespass, arson, damage to property, including damage to livestock, burglary, theft, robbery, or aggravated cruelty to animals.”

House sponsor, state Rep. Kip Capley (R), said, “Do we trust law-abiding citizens or do we side with the criminals that prey upon them? Because right now, under current law, if someone is breaking into your property, if they’re stealing from you, if they’re destroying what you’ve worked your entire life to build, you’re expected to wait. You’re expected to hesitate. You’re expected to second-guess and take a calculated look at defending what’s yours. HB 1802 simply says, ‘If someone is destroying your property, that you can use lethal force to protect it.’”

Legislation regarding use of force in protection of property passed in the Tennessee Senate on April 21 and in the Tennessee House on April 23.

It does contain the caveat that lethal force cannot be used if the perpetrator has his back to the property owner.



[Editor: They’re wanting names and addresses of everyone who has ever bought a Glock.]



Virginia gov signs gun ban, lawsuits filed before her ink dries

(Breitbart) - On Thursday, Virginia Gov. Abigail Spanberger (D) signed an “assault weapons” ban legislation into law and the NRA and Second Amendment Foundation (SAF) immediately filed a lawsuit.



Ilhan Omar with Aisha Gomez.

Minnesota nice? Hardly

MN gun grabber yells ‘Go f***ing kill yourself’ to colleague who refused to vote to ban guns

(GSL) - Hypocritical Minnesota leftist Rep. Aisha Gomez—a foaming-at-the-mouth gun-grabber livid that her radical bill to ban AR-15s, standard-capacity magazines, and other common firearms for law-abiding citizens just died in a 67-67 tie—completely lost it on the House floor.

Instead of accepting democratic defeat like an adult, she and her “Minnesota Nice” DFL comrades launched an overnight sit-in tantrum, chanting and throwing fits because they couldn’t disarm more Minnesotans.

Then Gomez escalated the “passion” by screaming at GOP Rep. Elliott Engen: “Go fucking kill yourself.”

This is peak leftist irony: raging to strip peaceful citizens of their constitutional right to self-defense while proving, through their own unhinged violence and threats, exactly why armed, responsible Americans need those tools. Authoritarians who can’t handle losing a vote want you defenseless. Classic.

What do Illinois’ numbers look like? Probably similar...

NC Gov.’s disastrous COVID prisoner releases a proven reckless failure

(GSL) - Governor Roy Cooper’s disastrous COVID-era prisoner releases have proven to be a reckless failure that endangers North Carolinians.

Under a 2021 settlement with civil rights groups, Cooper’s administration freed at least 3,500 convicts. According to state data, nearly half—48%—have since been charged with new crimes. That’s worse than the 44% recidivism rate for inmates released through normal channels in the same period.

Over 600 of these released offenders went on to commit serious felonies, including homicides, sex offenses, and other violent crimes. A staggering 18 have been charged with murder.

Cases include prior murderers and violent felons let out early, only to kill again—stabbing victims, drive-by shootings, fentanyl-related deaths, and more. Families grieve while Cooper’s team defends the releases by pointing to federal precedents and claiming they fought them in court.



The eighteen murder suspects.

This wasn’t compassionate reform; it was a dangerous experiment that prioritized activist demands over public safety. Recidivism isn’t a “success” metric when it means more victims. Criminals belong behind bars, serving their full sentences—not roaming streets, preying on innocents.

Cooper’s policy failed North Carolina families. Tough-on-crime leadership that keeps violent offenders locked up is the only approach that works.



In Illinois, we release cop killers with no cash bail.

Welcome to Mississippi: Where the firing squad is legal

(Breitbart) - A billboard standing next to I-55 in DeSoto County, Mississippi, reminds would-be criminals entering the state that a “firing squad is legal” for executions and urges them to “think twice.”

The Hill reported that DeSoto County District Attorney Matthew Barton is promoting the billboard campaign, saying, “We are going to be loud and clear that DeSoto County does not coddle violent criminals. If you bring violence across our state line, we are going to prosecute you

aggressively and hold you accountable.”

“People on death row are the losers of life’s lottery... If violent criminals are looking for a state that coddles crime, Mississippi is not it,” he continued. “They’d better think twice before they act here.”

Spanberger inadvertently makes case for striking down her new gun ban

by Jonathan Turley (JonathanTurley.com) - Virginia Gov. Abigail Spanberger is reportedly “fuming” this week after the state failed to get a single justice on the Supreme Court to support her after she violated the state constitution in her attempted gerrymandering of the state. However, Spanberger may have just guaranteed another trip to the Supreme Court when she said the quiet part out loud about the new state gun ban.



After the Democrats took power recently, they went on a frenzy of tax and liberal legislative measures. The sharp move to the far left is out of sync with a

purple state that remains roughly evenly divided. While Spanberger (who ran on being a moderate) has pushed forward many of these measures, she sought to moderate one bill banning so-called “assault firearms.”

Spanberger released a statement that:

“I am signing this bill into law because firearms designed to inflict maximum casualties do not belong on our streets. We are taking this step to protect families and support the law enforcement officers who work every day to keep our communities safe. While the General Assembly chose not to adopt my amendment that specifically carves out certain firearms frequently used for hunting, I will work with the patrons to clarify this language.” (emphasis added)

The governor’s acknowledgment that the law covers common hunting models will likely be cited in Second Amendment challenges. If the law is not amended, she could prove the main witness against her own signed legislation.



When alcohol performs miracles

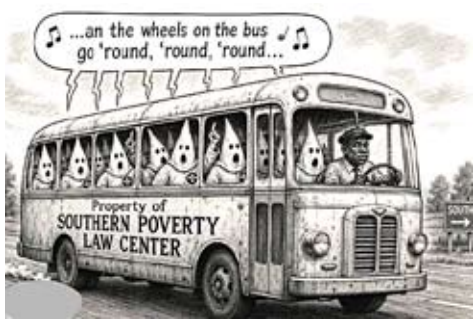


Over 200 Americans Shot Since the War With Iran Began... In Chicago



Willfred Reilly @wil_da_beast530 · 6h
Did you also confiscate the guy's parrot and eye-patch?

Toronto Police Service Guns Seized #... @TPSGu... - Apr 21, 2021
#offthestreets this week



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