



Image by Oleg Volk.

THIS IS \*REALLY\* IMPORTANT, FOLKS

# NO DUTY TO RETREAT

## Illinois has 'Stand Your Ground'!

by John Boch

(GSL) — Too many people in Illinois still believe the state forces good people to run away from a deadly threat if they can “safely retreat.” Yes, including gun owners!

At the recent IGOLD event in Springfield, the majority of a crowd of armed citizens raised their hands when asked if Illinois is a “Duty to Retreat” state.

They're dead wrong — and that misconception is dangerously widespread. And if a group of gun owners believe this is true, imagine how misinformed non-gun owners are on this issue.

Top criminal defense attorney **Dave McDermott** dropped the truth like a bomb: **Illinois does NOT impose a duty to retreat in public.** 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.

The hot-button phrase “Stand Your Ground” isn't formally written into the statutes, but the law is crystal clear thanks to ironclad court precedent that the anti-self-defense crowd desperately hopes you never learn.

The still-binding 1902 Illinois Supreme Court ruling in **Hammond v. The People** (199 Ill. 173) settled it once and for all.

In that landmark case, the Court explicitly rejected the old common-law rule that required a person to retreat “to the wall” before using deadly force.



GSL's John Boch (l) with Dave McDermott.

Instead, the justices held that a person who is lawfully present and not the initial aggressor has **no duty to retreat** before using deadly force when facing an imminent threat of death or great bodily harm. You may stand your ground and meet force with force — even to the point of taking the assailant's life if necessary or reasonably apparent to be necessary for the preservation of your own life or to protect yourself from great bodily harm.

This principle has been repeatedly reaffirmed by Illinois courts in the decades since. If you're where you have every right to be, Illinois law does **not** require you to run, hide, or back down first.

Illinois also has strong **Castle Doctrine** protections at home, even though like “Stand Your Ground” that hot-button phrase isn't used.

Continued on page 2.

PRE-SORT STD.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT NO. 51  
PEORIA, IL

Rich Goodall, President  
Guns Save Life.com  
P.O. Box 51  
Savoy, IL 61874



### Inside

#### Terror attack

page 6

#### One woman's experience firing her first shots

page 11

#### Free gun safety for educators

page 13

#### Hate crimes vs. CCW holders

page 15

#### Vandermyde: In Todd we Trust

page 18

#### Gun Rights are Women's Rights

page 24

#### Join GSL. Application here.

page 24

## May 2026

- **Quincy:** Last Wednesday: **May 27, June 24, July 29**  
Eagles Club, 3737 N. Fifth Street, Quincy
- **Chicagoland:** Last Sunday: **NEW LOCATION! April 26,** May 31, June 28  
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: **May 4,** June 1, July 6, August 3  
SCHEELS, 3801 S. MacArthur, Springfield
- **Pontiac:** First Tuesday: **May 5,** June 2, July 7, August 4  
Pontiac Sportsman's Club, 18663 4-H Park Road, Pontiac
- **Decatur:** First Wednesday: **May 6,** June 3, July 1, August 5  
Coz's Pizza, 1405 East Village Parkway, Mt Zion (*Program at 6:45pm*)
- **Peoria:** First Thursday: **May 7,** 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 **May 11,** June 8, July 13, August 10  
Ela's Restaurant, 1111 E. Voorhees St., Danville
- **Northwest Chicagoland:** Second Wed: **May 13,** 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: **May 14,** June 8, July 13, August 10  
The American Legion Post 88, 1903 Maple Ave, Mattoon
- **LaSalle County:** Third Thursday: **May 21,** June 18, July 16, August 19  
Jamie's Outpost, 602 Clark St., Utica

Dinner, conversation, exhibits at 6 p.m. Program starts at 7 p.m.  
Come on out and join us. Good food, good fun and good friends.

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

Meetings are free and open to all.



Now that's an air rifle - a suppressed Hatsun BT65 Carnivore air rifle. One of our Decatur team with a .35 caliber repeating air rifle that shoots in excess of 900 fps with about 70dB of noise.



Frank Lesko is running for Illinois State Senate. He's pictured with GSL's John Boch in Decatur.



Senator Li Arellano in Peoria.



IFOR Lobbyist Josh Witkowski at the Sangamon Co. GSL meeting.



A couple that shoots together stays together. And they've got a new pump-action .22 from the Danville GSL event!



A precision rifle so accurate... imagine hitting a clay pigeon at 1000 yards. See page 9.



Bryan won a Savage .22 bolt action in Pontiac!



Norm won a Glock in Peoria!



Chuck P. won the Gen 6 Glock 9mm in Decatur.

This is really important, folks

## NO DUTY TO RETREAT

Illinois has 'Stand Your Ground'

Continued from cover.

At home — your house, hotel room, RV, or anywhere you lawfully lay your head — the Castle Doctrine kicks in even harder. If someone forces entry in a violent or tumultuous manner, the law presumes they intend lethal harm or a forcible felony. You can meet that threat with deadly force. Period. No duty to retreat inside your dwelling.

**This distinction is life-changing — and far too many people in the system don't understand it.**

McDermott warned that cops, prosecutors, judges, and even juries are often confused about these protections and still operate as if Illinois forces you to run away first. That misunderstanding can lead directly to you being arrested, charged, tried, and possibly convicted — even when your actions were completely justified under established Illinois law.

Knowing the actual precedent (and being able to articulate it through your attorney) can make all the difference in whether you see the inside of a jail cell or walk free.

What's more, **No Cash Bail** — formally the Pretrial Fairness Act, part of the controversial SAFE-T Act that fully took effect in September 2023 — has turned into an absolute disaster for law-abiding gun owners who are forced to defend themselves.

Here's how it works now: Illinois completely eliminated cash bail statewide. You can no longer post money to secure your release while your case is pending. Instead, after arrest, you face a pretrial detention hearing where prosecutors file a petition asking the judge to hold you without release. The judge then decides based on whether you're considered a "real and present threat" to the community or a flight risk. For anyone who justifiably uses deadly force — even in a clear-cut self-defense shooting against a robber, rapist, carjacker, or home invader — the outcome is brutally predictable.

You will almost certainly be charged with first- or second-degree murder, attempted murder, or aggravated battery with a firearm. Prosecutors, especially in counties like Cook, routinely push hard for detention in these cases. Judges grant those petitions at a high rate because the charges themselves involve violence and a weapon. The result? **You sit in jail until trial.** No bond, no going home to your family, no ability to keep your job, pay your

bill, or prepare your defense from the outside. You are locked up pretrial, potentially for years.

In Cook County, serious cases like this can drag on for as long as **five to seven years** before reaching trial. Imagine this nightmare scenario: You lawfully carry to protect yourself and your loved ones. A violent criminal attacks you. You stop the threat with your firearm in a way that Illinois law — backed by *Hammond* precedent and Castle Doctrine — fully justifies. The attacker (or his associates) may be back on the street quickly under the same system that claims to focus on "danger to the community." But you?

You rot in county jail for months or years awaiting your day in court, while your life outside falls apart.

This is the cruel irony of the law: it was sold as a reform to keep "non-violent" people out of jail and stop wealth-based detention.

In practice, it often traps the good guys who had no choice but to defend themselves, while repeat predators cycle through the system with lighter consequences or quick releases on other charges.

Defense attorneys like McDermott and Irena Stefanovski see it every day — justified self-defense shootings turning into prolonged pretrial incarceration because the system defaults to detention when a gun is involved and someone ends up dead or injured.

And the final gut punch: **Nothing you say to the police can ever help your defense. So shut your mouth.** Get your attorney immediately. Let someone else make the 911 call if possible. Every word you utter can and will be used against you, twisted, or taken out of context while you sit behind bars unable to effectively fight back.

**Know the law. Get good training and train hard.** Because in Illinois, the people who want you defenseless never sleep — and neither should your vigilance. The difference between freedom and years behind bars often comes down to understanding these court-established rights before you ever need them.

**Your life, your freedom, and your family's future may depend on it.**



# GSL CHICAGOLAND HAS MOVED

BIG NEWS, FREEDOM FIGHTERS!

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

We're rolling up to the **Main Street Exchange Pizza Bar at 25346 S. Dixie Highway in Crete, IL** — think killer pizza, ice-cold drinks, great vibes, and the perfect spot to talk guns, rights, and real-life hero stories!

Our next meeting will take place on the last Sunday of the month. Dinner & conversation at 4:30. Program at 5:30.

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



Visit the Guns Save Life website online for news, information, analysis and late-breaking stories.

**GunsSaveLife.com**

## 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...)



Thank you for having our six!

## GSL roars back, bigly...

A couple of months ago, if you checked our website, you saw the writing on the wall: Guns Save Life and *GunNews* were both teetering on the edge of vanishing into the night. Guns Save Life stared down a brutal financial crunch at the end of January — Condition Red.

Our monthly beacon of truth, the one that arms Illinois gun owners with facts, fights, and real Second Amendment firepower, nearly became a ghost.

What got us there? We refused to flinch when Springfield's tyrants dropped the PICA ban — the most brazen assault on our rights Illinois has ever seen. While others talked, Guns Save Life charged straight into the fight, writing big checks. Funds that should've kept our own lights on went straight to the lawyers in the trenches, battling to smash that unconstitutional monstrosity.

We gave until it hurt — then we kept giving. Blood, sweat, and treasure poured into the legal battle. No other Illinois gun-rights group stepped up like we did. We bled green so law-abiding citizens could keep their guns, their rights, and their freedom intact.

But here's the epic part — the comeback we're roaring about right now:

Thanks to you, we're back — and we're coming back stronger than ever.

Out of Condition Red and charging hard into Condition Yellow: alert, lean, ruthless, and ready to strike. Your incredible support — generous donations, faithful renewals, new donors stepping up, and our dedicated volunteers — turned the tide. We didn't just scrape by and publish in February when it looked impossible. We published in March too.

We're publishing yet again this month, bigger, bolder, and more determined than ever.

We made the tough calls: ruthless, brutal cost-cutting that slashed the fat *and* some of the muscle. It wasn't pretty, but it worked.

We emerged sharper, more efficient, and more unstoppable for it.

And here's what we're most proud of: Even with limited resources, we didn't waste a dime on drama-filled fundraising letters. Instead, we poured everything into *GunNews* — our monthly journal that energizes, educates, and entertains our members, their friends, family, neighbors, and co-workers. Real value. Real truth. Delivered straight to your door.

That's the Guns Save Life way.

Keep the momentum rolling, folks. Donations are a godsend, but we value your participation just as much — whether it's renewing, sharing *GunNews* with someone new, or standing with us in this fight. Thanks to every one of you, we're not just surviving. We're rebuilding smarter, fighting harder, and delivering results in the courts, in the culture, and in the hearts and minds of Illinois gun owners.

This isn't just about saving a newsletter. It's about saving the Second Amendment in Illinois — one powerful *GunNews* issue, one court filing, and one educated, energized gun owner at a time.

We're back. We're better. And with your help, we're unstoppable.

Thank you for having our six.

Keep the support coming. Donations are a godsend. Checks to: Guns Save Life, PO Box 51, Savoy, IL 61874. Or grab extra tickets for the gun drawings — same fight, more fun.

—Guns Save Life Team

## 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.



**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.

# A quick round-up...

by John Boch

The Illinois General Assembly is back in Springfield, warming up for the annual legislative feeding frenzy — the final chaotic week after Memorial Day in late May. That's when the real knife fights happen and the worst bills get snuck through in the dead of night.

For the inside scoop on what's crawling around the Capitol, check Josh Witkowski's report adjacent to this story. Here's the current lineup of threats:

**The "Glock Bill"** was quietly amended to turn violations into a civil offense instead of criminal. You still can't sell — publicly or privately — any Glock (or similar pistol) that can be fitted with a "switch." Odds of passing? Unfortunately, pretty significant.

**The bullet tax/serialization bill?** Dead on arrival. Take a deep breath and enjoy the small mercy while it lasts.

**RIFL** (the "Responsibility in Firearm Legislation" Act) is the big one gun-grabbers are still obsessed with, despite it getting killed in March 2025. A handful of die-hard anti-gun jihadists keep pushing language for a "gut and replace", watering down provisions like cheap vodka to scare up more votes. They're now down to "mere" \$500 licensing fees tacked onto the price of every firearm.



GSL's John Boch.

Yes, that would effectively end lawful firearm sales in Illinois. Game over for gun stores, new purchases and private sales in the Land of Lincoln.

At a recent hearing, the arrogant mastermind behind RIFL, "Dr." Douglas, unloaded a steaming pile of elitist contempt on the "Gun Violence Prevention Committee." With clinical detachment he declared: "I think poor people don't benefit from owning firearms." What the little people really need, according to the good doctor, is more "education and resources."

Translation: Shovel even more of your tax dollars into his favorite non-profits to fund more junk science with zero results.

The man sounded like he'd spent too much time at the local dispensary — his logic was that of Cheech & Chong. This is the same "expert" working and living in Chicago, where over half of the highest-priority 911 calls go unanswered because cops simply aren't available.

**Gun Owner Insurance (HB43)** would create a committee to "study" forcing mandatory insurance on every gun owner. There were whispers that one Illinois gun group might be cozying up to a concealed carry "insurance" company and going neutral on the bill. The group swears that's not happening. We're trusting... but verifying.

Bottom line: Things get a lot more dangerous in May — especially that final week before the May 31 deadline. That's when Springfield's finest sneak through the truly toxic bills while everyone's distracted.

### Litigation Update

Still no word from the 7th Circuit on our challenge to the gun and magazine ban. With every week that passes, I grow more convinced they've ruled against us and are just shopping for the perfect political moment to drop the bad news. Judge Frank Easterbrook remains as salty as ever that he never got that Supreme Court nod — don't expect him

to suddenly discover the Constitution. Amy St. Eve hasn't exactly been a champion for gun owners either. They may be running out the clock, hoping Democrats regain control of the Senate and block any new Trump appointments to SCOTUS.

The U.S. Supreme Court once again punted on *Schoenthal v. Raoul*, refusing to defend its own *Bruen* decision on public transportation carry. John Roberts and company continue their AWOL act on the Second Amendment.

A D.C. appeals court did strike down D.C.'s magazine ban, but that ruling has zero precedential value here in the hostile 7th Circuit. On the state level, a couple of FOID card challenges are grinding through the Illinois Supreme Court. Thomas Maag scored a solid win at the circuit court blocking the ISP from yanking FOIDs after mere felony charges are filed. I expect the Illinois Supreme Court to reverse that lower court decision. Another FOID challenge is pending, but history says they'll punt it back down to lower courts for the sixth or seventh time. Don't hold your breath.



One bright spot is the NRA elections. Both GSL member candidates won the elections for the Board of Directors! Congrats to **Dick Fairburn** from Canton and **Todd Vandermyde** from the suburbs on their wins!

The brutal murder of an 18-year-old Loyola University student by an illegal immigrant from Venezuela made national headlines — for about five minutes. Yes, he was here illegally, couldn't read or write, and was living in taxpayer-funded housing, illegally had a gun and carried it in a gun-free zone. Clearly, they're not sending us their very best and that criminals commit crime. The mainstream media quickly covered that story with a pillow until it stopped twitching.

They're doing the same with the exploding wave of violent "flash mob" takeovers. Large groups — often almost exclusively black teens — swarm stores, loot everything in sight, trash the place, then spill into the streets to damage cars and attack bystanders (or each other). Police make a few misdemeanor arrests, the perps are back on the street in hours, and the cycle continues. More crime. Zero consequences.

Meanwhile, Mayor Moron is bragging that 75% of homicides are "cleared." What he conveniently forgets to mention is that most of those "clearances" didn't involve actually arresting anyone.

### Training Opportunities

**John Murphy** will teach a sharp Threat Management and De-Escalation class in May at the DeWitt County Sportsman's Club — heavy on visual cues and real-world awareness.

Coming up in June: Our popular **Teacher Class on June 13 & 14** — free for educators, open to everyone. GSL Defense Training Essential Carry CCW classes at the DeWitt Co. Sportsman's Club near Clinton. No boring PowerPoints, just lawyers and court-recognized experts teaching the law while you put 250+ rounds downrange. Check [GSLDefenseTraining.com](http://GSLDefenseTraining.com) for details.

That's what I've got for now. Check our [GunsSaveLife.com](http://GunsSaveLife.com) website regularly for breaking news, information and analysis as things happen.

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

God bless our troops and God bless America.

## Witkowski: Witness Slips, Legislative Report and Illinois Firearms Association rage baiters

*Witness slips matter, General Assembly in a state of flux on guns, IL Firearms Association by far the biggest 'problem'*

At our April Guns Save Life meeting at SCHEELS, veteran lobbyist Josh Witkowski of the Illinois Federation for Outdoor Resources dropped some much-needed straight talk on the sorry state of gun rights in the Land of Lincoln.

Witkowski urged everyone to make witness slips a habit. Once you've set up your profile on the new ILGA.gov site, you can submit opposition or support in just four or five clicks. He even pointed members to a clear how-to video on Facebook. "Every single slip counts," he stressed. "Please do them."



Josh Witkowski.

**Bills to watch:** The ban on the sales of Glocks that can accept highly-illegal switches may pass now that penalties have been changed to "civil" instead of criminal. The RIFL Act is running on its third or fourth generation. It was sent to Rules last year but they continue to treat it as live by lowering their fees and expectations. It's gone from apocalyptic to a "mere" \$500 per gun surtax. Will it pass? It's getting closer thanks to the constant watering down. The Dems have the votes. The question is do they want to deal with the fallout.

Bright spots this session are rare as hen's teeth, but one hunter-friendly bill has a real shot at passing: legislation that would finally allow up to three rounds in magazines for straight-walled rifle cartridges during deer season. It's a small but welcome step toward sanity in a state that treats gun owners like Neanderthals and hunters like third-class citizens.

Witkowski noted the shifting makeup of the General Assembly — more than a few legislators deemed "not far enough left" got primaried out by even more radical comrades. Yet when it comes to causing real headaches for actual pro-Second Amendment work, the plentiful dark money anti-gun groups in Springfield don't even come close to the damage done by the so-called "Illinois Firearms Association."

"We have to chase our tails cleaning up their messes," Witkowski said bluntly. "They cause me more work than all of the anti-gun groups combined."

He described the IFA as specialists in rage-bait social media posts designed to whip up panic, open wallets, and then... deliver exactly nothing of substance. In so many words, he called them what so many see them as: grifters and professional scam artists.

Guns Save Life has been exposing their shenanigans since they came to Illinois, and Josh gave a well-deserved shout-out to John Boch for his relentless, fact-based reporting on the Dorr brothers' stunts and scandals.

Let's be crystal clear: The Dorr brothers — Aaron, Chris, and company — have built a national network of "no-compromise" gun groups that excel at one thing: separating frightened gun owners from their hard-earned money. They blanket mailboxes with hysterical, often duplicate fundraising letters screaming that the sky is falling, while producing zero meaningful legislative wins in Springfield. Real lobbyists and grassroots leaders waste valuable time and credibility cleaning up the confusion and distrust these panic peddlers leave in their wake.



*Avoid the Illinois Firearms Association like the plague. Tell your friends to do the same.*

Instead of building coalitions or showing up consistently in the Capitol, the Dorr's specialize in fiery emails, dramatic headlines, and endless donation appeals. Critics from the NRA to state lawmakers in multiple states have publicly labeled their operation a scam. In Illinois, they've even used a private mailbox at a UPS store as their official address while flooding supporters with redundant mailings.

This isn't activism. It's a business model.

Meanwhile, serious groups like Guns Save Life, IFOR, and dedicated lobbyists like Josh Witkowski do the unglamorous, grind-it-out work: tracking bills, coordinating witness slips, and actually engaging legislators.

Gun owners in Illinois are already fighting an uphill battle against one of the most hostile legislatures in America. The last thing we need is a parasitic side-show operation that hurts the cause while lining its own pockets.

Take Josh's advice: Do your witness slips. Support real organizations that show up and do the work. And when you see those screaming red envelopes from the Illinois Firearms Association, remember — that's not a call to arms.

It's just another invoice from the Dorr's.

Guns Save Life is back on Facebook



## PURITY TEST FAIL: Gun control activist loses election to gun control jihadist, sues for defamation — court says ‘Tough Luck’

(The Center Square) - An Illinois gun control activist group and a current Illinois Democratic state lawmaker appear poised to ultimately prevail over a former Democratic state representative who sued them for allegedly lying about her gun control positions amid a Democratic primary race.

But the defendants can't use an Illinois state law forbidding politically motivated lawsuits to do so, a state appeals panel has ruled.

On April 16, a three-justice panel of the Illinois First District Appellate Court said they could not support the request from current Illinois State Rep. Kevin Olickal, D-Chicago, and the gun control group, Gun Violence Prevention PAC, to pull the plug on the legal action brought against them by former Illinois State Rep. Denyse Wang Stoneback under Illinois' version of the law forbidding so-called Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation, commonly known as SLAPPs.

However, in their ruling, the justices still likely dealt a mortal blow to Stoneback's lawsuit, finding her claims to be "meritless."

Stoneback sued Olickal and Gun Violence Prevention PAC in 2023 in Cook County Circuit Court.

The lawsuit accused the current state lawmaker and the activist group of partnering on a smear campaign against Stoneback, which was centered on allegedly lying to voters and the public about her positions on gun control amid the 2022 Democratic primary election in Illinois' 16th State Representative District...

Before running for office, Stoneback had "built a reputation" as a gun control activist, according to published reports.

However, unlike many other Democratic incumbents, Stoneback faced a strong primary challenge in the very next election cycle just two years later from Olickal.

Amid the race against Stoneback, the Gun Violence Prevention PAC reversed its support from Stoneback to Olickal, citing Stoneback's decision to abstain from voting on a gun control measure, which was centered on requiring fingerprints from Illinois gun owners, among other restrictions.

*Whose side are these lawmakers on, anyway?*

## Lawmakers introduce sweeping ban on law enforcement use of biometric surveillance

Springfield, IL (WTVO) — Illinois lawmakers are working to sharply restrict how police and other law enforcement use biometric technology, a bill that privacy advocates say could become one of the strongest surveillance-limiting laws in the country.

House Bill 5521, introduced by Rep. Kelly Cassidy, creates the Illinois Biometric Surveillance Act, which would prevent law enforcement from accessing, obtain-

ing, or using any biometric identification system.



Rep. Kelly Cassidy.

This would include: facial recognition programs, iris scanners, fingerprint-matching tools, or any other software that collects or processes biometric information.

Under the bill, law enforcement agencies would be prohibited not only from using biometric tools directly but also from partnering with outside vendors, government entities, or federal agencies to obtain biometric data.

## POLICE LINE DO NOT CROSS

## Elitist Chicago doc: Poor people don't need guns for self-defense because the poor 'don't benefit' from guns

by John Boch (Shooting News Weekly/GSL) - Dr. Anthony Douglas, the smug University of Chicago trauma resident and arrogant mastermind behind Illinois' Responsibility in Firearms Legislation (RIFL) Act, stepped up in a legislative hearing last week and belched up a heaping helping of elitist bile blended with a soupçon clinical detachment: "I think poor people don't benefit from owning firearms," he pronounced.

What the little people need, the good doctor says, is more "education and resources." Translation: more tax dollars funneled to "non-profits" with little to no return on the taxpayers' investment.

Besides, the physician and gun-control researcher claims it isn't good guys or gals with guns who stop evil predators...all evidence to the contrary. As such, it really should be harder for the poors to get their hands on firearms to defend themselves and their families.

His solution, then, is pricing guns out of reach of law-

abiding, responsible citizens who lack bodyguards, private security details, or live in gated enclaves. In Murder City, USA—Chicago—where gang thugs roam free, that's not social policy, that's sadistic malpractice.



Dr. Anthony Douglas.

Was this clown high? Does he have a full punchcard at the local dispensary? Because this delusional drivels sounds like it was baked in a dorm room cloud of weed.

Let's drag his elitist fantasy out into the reality that is Chicago, the city that's been mercilessly documented by Wirepoints.org through FOIA records from the Chicago Police Department itself.

High-priority 911 calls—Priority Level 1 and 2, the ones defined as "imminent threat to life, bodily injury, or major property damage"—are the exact emergencies Chicagoans face every day: shots fired, person shot, assault in progress, armed robbery, domestic battery. In 2019, before the progressive crime wave fully metastasized, 19% of those urgent calls had "no officers available" for immediate response.

By 2021, Wirepoints found that number had exploded to 52%—406,829 high-priority incidents in which dispatchers literally had zero cops to send. In 2022 it hit roughly 60%.

Through all of 2023, 56% of high-priority calls—437,000 of them—sat in backlog with no units available. Even in 2024, through mid-May, getting a response was still a coin-flip 50%: 127,000 out of 256,000 urgent calls in which nobody came.

That's not "delayed," that's "we have no police available to send to you."

### LOOKING FOR A PLACE TO SHOOT?

## DeWitt County Sportsman's Club

Clinton, IL



**BREAKFASTS OPEN TO ALL!**  
**1st & 3rd Sundays 8:30am**  
 Free memberships to active duty LEOs

### >>>> Memberships Available. <<<<

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

Download an application at [dewittcountysc.com](http://dewittcountysc.com) or by mailing a request to DCSC, PO Box 322, Clinton, IL 61727.



## IL Stupid Bill Alert: HB1429

### Public parks would become homeless encampments.

No fines or criminal penalties can be made against the homeless for "occupying or engaging in life-sustaining activities on public property."



HB1429 - 3 - LR8104 06164 JRC 16198 b

1 "Life-sustaining activities" includes, but are not limited to, moving, resting, sitting, standing, lying down, sleeping,

2 protecting oneself from the elements, eating, drinking, and

3 storing such personal property as needed to shelter oneself.

4 "Unsheltered homelessness" means...

break through with Jeanne Ives



## Safeguard American Voter Eligibility and Make Elections Great Again

by Nancy Hayes and Myke Luebbers  
A recent poll conducted in March by McLaughlin and Associates showed massive, overwhelming and bipartisan support for the SAVE (Safeguard American Voter Eligibility) Act or HR 22. Yet here we are – still waiting for our elected officials to get this legislation passed and signed by President Trump.

The data showed:

- **77% agree that “proof of United States citizenship should be required to register to vote in American elections”** (broken down by party, 92% of Republicans, 64% of Democrats, and 75% of Independents “agree”).
- **65% agree that “the United States Senate should bring the SAVE America Act to the floor for debate and pass the bill.”**
- **60% agree it is “urgent” for “the Senate to pass the SAVE America Act** to ensure that only U.S. citizens are on the voter rolls and that photo ID is required before the first ballots are cast.”
- 95% “currently have a valid photo ID, such as a driver’s license, state ID, or passport.”

Overall, most agree that “U.S. proof of citizenship” *should* be required to register to vote in American elections and almost everyone has a currently have a valid photo ID.

### WHAT WOULD THE “SAVE ACT” REALLY DO?

The SAVE Act (H.R. 22) would tighten up the requirements for proof of U.S. citizenship to include birth certificates issued by units of government, finalized adoption decree showing applicants name and place of birth as the U.S., a Consular Report of Birth Abroad (RoBA) of a U.S. citizen or certification of RoBA issued by the Secretary of State, a Naturalization Certificate or Certificate of Citizenship issued by Homeland Security or any document issued by the Federal government in accordance with the Immigration and Nationality Act or an American Indian Card (KIC) issued by Dept of Homeland Security.

The SAVE America Act (H.R.7296) adds to H.R.22 the additional requirement that voters present a government issued photo ID to cast a ballot.

It’s hard to imagine *anyone* opposing presenting a photo ID (like a state issued drivers license or photo ID) to vote since we need a photo ID to buy liquor, board an airplane, buy tobacco or cannabis, or even in most places these days buy Drano, cough medicine or super glue. Are you going to seriously tell me that buying Drano is more important than voting?

Then there’s the MEGA (Make Elections Great Again) Act (H.R.7300) which includes a ban on automatic mailing of ballots to all eligible registered voters, *and* requires that mail ballots be received by Election Day to be counted. MEGA also requires voter roll maintenance and a ban on ballot harvesting, and in addition requires paper ballots.

The Make Elections Great Again Act is led by House Administration Committee Chair Bryan Steil (R-Wis.). In an interview with “The Hill”, Steil stated:

*“Americans should be confident their elections are being run with integrity – including commonsense voter ID requirements, clean voter rolls, and citizenship verification. These reforms will improve voter confidence, bolster election integrity, and make it easy to vote, but hard to cheat.”*

Even our own Mary Miller! Kudos to Mary Miller! Supporting free, fair and honest elections should be Common Sense!

While the SAVE, SAVE America and Make Elections Great Again Acts will have a huge

positive impact on how our elections will be conducted going forward, make no mistake, they are far from being done.

We desperately need election reforms, citizenship verification, allowing vote by mail only for absentee and overseas voters, the elimination of electronic voting machines that do not produce a voter verifiable paper ballot, paper ballots and hand counting of all ballots.

It’s not that much to ask for - to keep our elections fair and restore faith in the electoral process.

With free and honest elections should come a higher voter turnout and hopefully a better representation for We the People.

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](http://www.illinoisfreedomalliance.us) or call 309-377-1776).



[IllinoisFreedomAlliance.us](http://IllinoisFreedomAlliance.us)



## TERROR ATTACK

### Strategies to beat a Complex Terror Attack

by Keith Graves  
(Christian Warrior Prepper) - Most people imagine a terror attack as one attacker with one weapon in one location. That model is too simple.

Real attacks can involve several methods and several phases. A vehicle may be the first weapon. An explosion may drive people into the open. Gunfire may begin after the crowd starts running. In some cases attackers hit several locations at once, or one attack pushes people directly into another danger area.

When that happens the problem looks very different from the lone gunman scenario people usually picture. You may be dealing with confusion, injured people, blocked exits, and police moving rapidly toward the scene. The place that feels safe at first may not actually be safe.

Your goal is not to stop the attack. Your goal is to get yourself and the people with you out of the danger area alive.

#### Stop thinking the attack ends with the first event

In a layered attack the first event may only be the beginning. A vehicle attack may be followed by gunfire. An explosion may be followed by another device or another attacker.

Instead of focusing on what just happened, focus on what could happen next.

If a vehicle just drove into a crowd, do not assume the threat is over because the vehicle stopped. If there has been an explosion, do not assume the area nearby is safe. If everyone around you is running in one direction, do not assume the crowd knows where safety is.

Panic spreads faster than accurate information.

Think in layers. Look for cover. Look for exits. Look for the possibility of another attacker. Keep moving until you are clearly outside the hazard area.

#### Movement is life

In most cases your best option is movement. That movement must be deliberate.

If a vehicle is bearing down on you, move laterally. Do not try to outrun it straight ahead. Vehicles are faster than people. Get behind something that can stop a moving vehicle such as large concrete barriers, heavy planters, thick structural columns, or the corner of a solid building. A parked car will not reliably stop a speeding vehicle.

If you move inside a building, get well inside and away from entrances and glass. Vehicles can travel farther than people expect once they crash through doors or windows.

If you are caught in a crowd, work toward the edges instead of letting the crowd carry you. Face the direction you want to move and protect your balance. Move diagonally when possible and avoid pushing directly against the flow. Look for service exits, side corridors, or alternate routes rather than funneling into the same doorway everyone else is using.

Do not stop at the first place that feels quieter. Stop when you are confident you are outside the attack pattern.

#### Your gun is a tool to get to safety

A firearm can be useful in a crisis, but it is not a counterterror strategy.

In a large chaotic attack you may be dealing with multiple attackers, different weapons, and a police response arriving quickly. Your firearm is primarily a tool to break contact if someone blocks your path to safety.

Trying to hunt attackers in a crowded environment is extremely dangerous. You could be killed by another attacker you did not see, or mistaken for the attacker by responding officers or another armed citizen.

#### Carry reliable equipment and train with it

If you carry a handgun you should be able to deploy it quickly and make accurate hits under stress. If you cannot do that, the gun will not solve the problem by itself.

Also remember that a handgun or rifle will not stop a moving vehicle.

#### Medical gear often saves more lives

Severe bleeding is one of the most common preventable causes of death in violent incidents.

A small trauma kit can make a significant difference. A tourniquet, compression bandage, gauze, and shears take very little space but can keep someone alive until professional help arrives.

If you are able to move after an explosion or attack, your first step is still to leave the immediate danger area. Once you are outside the kill zone you can address life threatening bleeding.

If a loved one is wounded but can be moved, getting them away from the scene may be the most important action you take.

[Read the rest at [GunsSaveLife.com](http://GunsSaveLife.com)... or at the [Christian Warrior Prepper](http://ChristianWarriorPrepper.com) website.]

## GEORGE ALARM COMPANY

BURGLAR • FIRE • VIDEO SURVEILLANCE  
CARD ACCESS • ANSWERING SERVICES  
U.L. CENTRAL STATION MONITORING

[www.georgealarm.com](http://www.georgealarm.com)

COMMERCIAL • RESIDENTIAL • INDUSTRIAL



- 62 YEARS EXPERIENCE
- 24 HOUR SERVICE
- FREE ESTIMATES
- MONITORING & SERVICE OF ANY EXISTING SYSTEM
- CUSTOM DESIGNED SYSTEMS
- CONTROLLED BY ANY SMARTPHONE
- LICENSED & INSURED # 127000430

WE ARE DEDICATED TO PROTECTING YOU!

Listed Central Station

**217-525-1334**

Protect your home  
for as little as \$199

8 Lifetime NRA Members - Supporters of the 2nd Amendment - 10% off Basic or Basic Plus Video



In regione caecorum rex est luscus

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

FIGURE 1: Global Chokepoints for Maritime Trade



AMERICAN FARM BUREAU FEDERATION®

www.fb.org

Purple - Primary Chokepoints  
Blue - Secondary Chokepoints

## Chokepoints

Back in Marco Polo's day, if you lived in Venice and heard he was heading to China, you raced over on your gondola to give him an order for cooking spices, knowing he was a pal and would pick some up for you – although it might take eight or ten years for delivery. Today, you just drive over to Walmart, or go through Amazon, and you can get things from around the world in just a few days.

Except when there are problems with a geographic "chokepoint." There are other kinds of chokepoints, such as financial systems, insurance, and advanced technologies like semiconductors, but let's just stay with Mr. Johnson's geography class that you slept through back in school. Had you been awake, you would know that there are roughly 200 waterway straits worldwide, but only a handful serve as true chokepoints – narrow passages where geography concentrates shipping into corridors that cannot be easily bypassed.



So, wake up! *Because geographic chokepoints cost you money*, and if you don't believe that, see if you can fill up your car for 50 bucks anymore. One is in the news right now: the Strait of Hormuz near Iran. 20% of the world's seaborne trade of liquefied natural gas, and 25% of oil trade pass through the strait annually. We get most of ours domestically, but when Hormuz is threatened by Iran, energy prices around the world climb, including right here in the US of A. Fairly close by, on the other side of Saudi Arabia is the Bab-el-Mandeb. Similar impact on oil. Bad news is that the Houthis – Shia Islamist terrorists and buddies of the mullahs in Iran – near this chokepoint, like to fire missiles at Israel and to attack ships going through, often heading north to the Suez Canal, another chokepoint. The US Navy does yeoman's work keeping the Bab safe, but the rub here is that the Bab-el-Mandeb is only 16-miles wide, and that means many anti-ship missiles that use inertial guidance, active radar homing and radio command guidance, can be deadly.

And they don't even have to hit a target. Maritime insurance companies like Lloyds of London base their ship insurance on what the risk might be, and that sometimes costs \$10,000,000 to \$14,000,000 per tanker, for a single trip. Lloyd's ain't eating that cost; the buyer of the oil is, which gets passed on and on till it hits the end user. That be you and me.

Some geographic chokepoints are manmade, like the Panama Canal. For an interesting view, go to <https://www.marinetraffic.org/PANAMA-CANAL/ship-traffic-tracker>. When situations at other chokepoints get dicey, tankers and cargo ships can face three-and-a-half day waits to enter the Panama Canal. There's a fee here obviously. Of course, bidness bein' bidness, a tanker recently hauling liquefied petroleum gas agreed to pay \$4 million in a canal auction to "expedite" its passage, according to people familiar with the matter who asked not to be identified. That's another cost that will be passed on.

Here's another chokepoint that doesn't get a lot of publicity – yet. The Strait of Malacca – between the island of Sumatra in Indonesia (southwest of the strait) and the Malay Peninsula (northeast of the strait.) It's about 560-miles long. The minimum width is listed as just 24-miles, and if you're the skipper of one of those ships you better keep your eyes open, because the traffic recently hit a new all-time high of 94,301 transiting ships per year! Sometimes that's tough as the yearly haze caused by raging bush fires in Sumatra can reduce visibility to 660-feet, forcing ships to slow down in the busy strait – so your radar better be working.

Pirates, armed to the teeth, ply these waters, but don't get too bad, as the following countries would get royally screwed if it ever shut down: India, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Vietnam, China (roughly 80% of China's oil imports pass through this narrow corridor,) Japan, Taiwan, and South Korea. Those ships carry 25% of the world's traded goods: oil (35% of all oil and 20% of all gas transported by sea), Chinese manufactured products, coal, palm oil, Indonesian coffee.

The maximum size of a ship that can pass through the Strait is referred to as Malaccamax. For some of the world's largest ships (mostly oil tankers), the Strait's minimum depth (82-feet) isn't deep enough. But the next closest passageway (the Sunda Strait) is even more shallow and narrow than Malacca. Therefore, these largest ships must make large detours to use the Lombok Strait, Makassar Strait, Sibutu Passage, or Mindoro Strait instead. But it potential gets worse. While it is accurate that the minimum width of the strait averages over 20-miles, the Singapore Strait, may be the mother of all chokepoints. Between the Strait of Malacca in the west and the South China Sea in the east, and just to the south of the Republic of Singapore, an island country and city-state – it is only about ten miles wide!

So while your heart still may be set on that ocean cruise you've been hoping to take, your everyday life really depends on ocean commerce that can be disrupted whenever bad guys put a stranglehold on a chokepoint – no matter how much Mr. Johnson talked about it!

## Chinese weapons failed in Venezuela & Iran. Now Beijing faces consequences.

Battlefield humiliation did more than embarrass the CCP. It exposed the rot in Beijing's military model, badly set back its bid to become a major arms exporter, and upended its calculations on Taiwan.

by Rod Martin

China didn't just lose face in Venezuela and Iran. It lost something much more important: credibility.

That matters because modern arms sales aren't really about steel, explosives, radar signatures, or glossy brochures. They are about confidence. They are about prestige. They are about whether foreign governments believe your weapons will work when the shooting starts, your doctrine will hold when it is tested, and your regime knows what it is doing.



When those things fail in public, the damage doesn't stay on the battlefield. It spreads into diplomacy, deterrence, alliance politics, and global arms exports.

**The word is out: China won't show up for its allies. And the weapons it sold them are junk.**

The CCP has spent years trying to persuade the world that China is the coming military superpower, that its systems can hold America at bay, and that countries wanting something cheaper, simpler, and less politically encumbered than U.S. weapons should look East. Russia has long run a version of this play, making itself the world's

third-largest arms supplier, with weapons sales its second-largest export.

China has been trying to imitate that as it grows its own arms exports. Its pitch is the same: America is tired, decadent, expensive, and overcomplicated; we are rising, smart, capable, and ruthless enough to win.

But that pitch has been taking on water for some time. Ukraine already showed Russia's much-vaunted strength to be a Potemkin village. China's own vulnerabilities received unwelcome scrutiny during last year's Operation Sindoor, when India's clash with Pakistan tested Chinese systems in combat and punctured the aura Beijing has tried so hard to build. Venezuela and Iran have now made the problem impossible to ignore for both Russia and China. Chinese systems that were supposed to deter, blind, protect, or complicate American operations were annihilated in the opening minutes of combat.

The result was not merely embarrassment. It was a live demonstration. Bad weapons do not just lose wars. They lose customers, and allies.

Arms exports aren't just a source of revenue. They're a source of influence. They create dependencies, long-term relationships, maintenance pipelines, training arrangements, intelligence opportunities, and diplomatic leverage. A country that buys your fighters, missiles, or integrated air defense systems buys a relationship as well. The seller gains a foothold.

But they'll only buy if they think your stuff is good.

The deeper question is why China's weapons failed so spectacularly.



# X RING CUSTOM

## Complete Firearms Sales & Service

508A W Main St - Toledo, IL 62468

Outdoor Rifle and Pistol Ranges with 25—100—200—300 yard berms

ADVANCED PISTOL,  
LONG RANGE RIFLE,  
CARBINE CLASSES  
DATES AVAILABLE

Largest Selection of  
Firearms, Ammunition,  
Reloading Supplies, AR-  
15's and Accessories in  
East Central Illinois



Shooting you the best price in Central Illinois!!

## Gun Shop Hours

Friday 9:00am - 5:00pm  
Saturday 9:00am - noon

## Illinois Concealed Carry Classes

Call for Dates and Availability  
Range Fees Included  
*\*Active Military & Veteran Discount*

email: [sales@xringcustom.com](mailto:sales@xringcustom.com)

Shop: 217-849-3353

Gift Certificates Available!

hello  
FALL

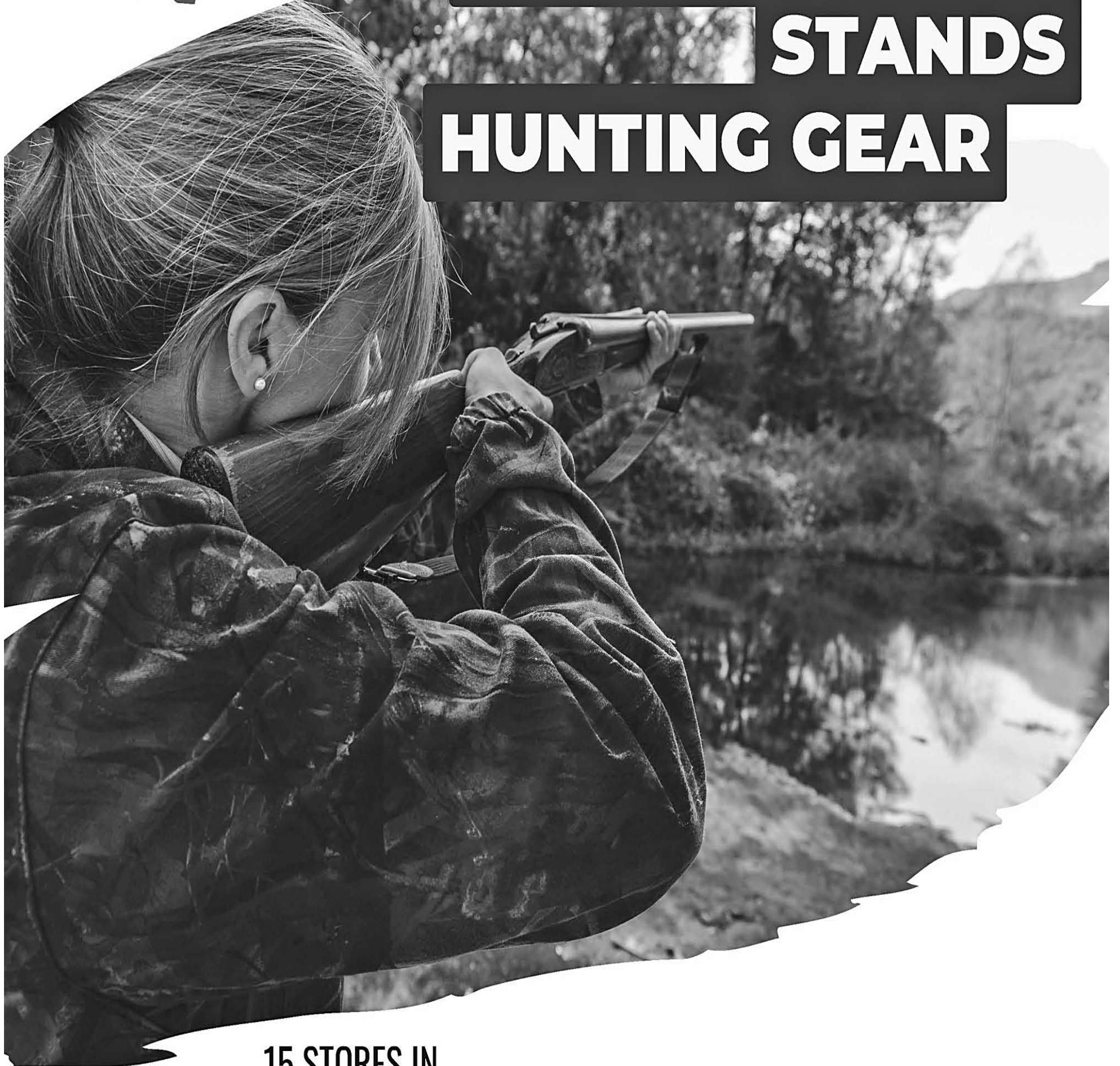
CAMO

BLINDS

CAMERAS

STANDS

HUNTING GEAR



15 STORES IN  
ILLINOIS, IOWA & MISSOURI

[FarmandHomeSupply.com](http://FarmandHomeSupply.com)



**Farm&Home**  
SUPPLY

'A gun won't make you a gunfighter'

## Dillard drops wisdom from Florida training

by John Boch

(GSL) - We know a whole lot of gun owners in Illinois are "thirty rounds every five years" kind of shooters. Sadly that includes some GSL members. If that describes you, you're relying on hope and luck to overcome a potential lethal threat. Pro-tip: Hope has no survival value.

At our April GSL meeting in Sangamon County, life member Benjamin Dillard stood up and shared some great information about a recent training course he attended.

He began by urging folks to learn and grow as a shooter. "If you've got questions about guns or shooting, ask the experienced instructors right here," Ben told the crowd. Yeah, it's one of the benefits of coming to GSL events!

Then he launched into several valuable "nugget drops." Ben started by quoting one of his early mentors — a former FBI special agent and firearms instructor who taught at Quantico. The line was pure gold: "Your gun isn't gonna make you a gunfighter any more than buying a guitar will make you Jimi Hendrix."

Ouch. But true.

Ben had just returned from a serious two-day tactical pistol and carbine class taught by Bob Keller of Gamut Resolutions in Florida.



Bob Keller.

Keller isn't some YouTube personality or range cowboy — he's the real deal: a retired U.S. Army Master Sergeant with over 20 years of service, including time in elite Special Mission Unit (SMU) operations. This is a combat-proven gunfighter teaching proven methods, not theory.

The biggest takeaway Ben hammered home? Situational awareness.

"Pay attention to your surroundings," he said. "That's how you spot trouble early — and can usually interrupt an attack before it ever starts by doing the unexpected." Translation, you'll interrupt the bad guy's OODA loop before he gets to "Act." At that point, *he's reacting to you.*

He shared a great line from that FBI mentor: "Why do I carry a gun? Because I'm too old to fight and too young to die." Given the age of those in attendance, that philosophy no doubt resonated, hence the chuckling. Point landed.

Ben then got serious and asked the group a question every responsible gun owner needs to answer honestly: Can you actually shoot someone? Can you kill to defend yourself or your family?

Because without the right mindset, all the cool gear and extensive training in the world won't save you.

He broke it down cleanly into four pillars every armed citizen needs:

**Mindset** — Developed and instilled. It's the foundation. Mindset is knowing you can never give up.

**Tactics** — Learned through quality training.

**Skills** — Honed through repetition, experience, and deliberate practice.

**Gear** — Anyone can buy this stuff in stores or on the internet.

"If you're missing any one of those four," Ben warned, "you're not nearly as prepared as you think you are."

His advice to every GSL member — no matter your age, sex, physical ability, or current skill level: Invest in real training. Take a solid

two-day class from a legitimate instructor. Don't cut corners with your life or your family's safety any more than you'd cut corners with your health.



The family-friendly mindset to dealing with criminals and bad actors: Not today, Satan.

And yes, he noted (with a grin) that your average Illinois Concealed Carry class is... let's just say it's not exactly "top-notch" elite training.

Ben knows what he's talking about. As a trainer himself, he teaches to empower good people. He's worked with a wide range of people including those who have had "Come to Jesus" moments. One, a sharp, attractive twenty-something woman in a wheelchair was fondled at a party. Ben showed her how to shoot a pistol, and how and where to carry it in her chair. Other folks survived violent attacks and were highly motivated to defend themselves afterwards. Feeling helpless sucks, especially when you're with people who look up to you to provide for their safety too. They all walked (or rolled) away safer, more confident, and truly capable of defending themselves.

The secret to building real skill? Simplicity and repetition.



Dry-fire. Use orange training rounds (use your imagination in the above photo) for malfunction clearing practice, too.

"Dry fire, dry fire, and dry fire some more," Ben emphasized. Practice your draws, trigger pulls, and reloads with an unloaded gun in a safe area with no live ammo present.

"Don't practice until you get it right — practice until you can't get it wrong." That repetition builds neural pathways in your brain. It turns conscious effort into automatic, unconscious competence.

Other practical tips he shared:

- Keep your eyes on the target and bring the gun up to the target (don't dive your head down to the sights).
- Maintain a strong, stable stance — stay a little low for better balance.
- Let your support hand drive the gun. With a rifle or shotgun, that support hand also pulls the firearm firmly into your shoulder while directing it onto the target and transitioning between threats.
- Once on the live-fire range, use your time well to execute excellent fundamentals and not further ingrain bad habits.

Ben left the room energized and thinking. That's what great members do — they don't just show up; they bring back hard-earned knowledge and share it with the rest of the Guns Save Life family.

If you haven't taken a serious defensive firearms class lately, make it a priority in 2026. Your gear is only as good as the person holding it — and the person holding it is only as good as their training and mindset.

Thanks for the wisdom, Ben. Keep bringing those Florida nuggets back to Illinois.

Stay safe out there. Train hard. Stay aware.



## Jerry Rowe brings the 6BRA beast

(GSL) - If you think long-range shooting is just "point and click," Jerry Rowe will happily blow that myth out of the water — preferably with a single, laser-like round that punches the exact same hole 20 times in a row.

Jerry is a serious F-Class competitor, one of Illinois' top shooters in a discipline that takes high-power rifle competition to ridiculous extremes. Think prone position, heavy custom rifles, high-magnification scopes, and the constant battle against wind, mirage, and your own heartbeat. The goal? Keeping 20 rounds inside a dinner-plate-sized X-ring at 1,000+ yards while the flags are dancing like they're at a rock concert.

He used to run the .264 Winchester Magnum, a screaming magnum cartridge, but he's now all-in on the 6 BRA (6mm Bench Rest Accurate (?)) — and he hauled the big beast to the meeting so everyone could see it up close. This round is a precision maniac's dream: efficient, accurate, and capable of turning good shooters into demons at distance.



Loading these rounds is basically gunsmith-level surgery. Jerry weighs every charge of powder to the single grain. Seating depth, neck tension, bullet runout — everything has to be just perfect. The payoff? One-hole groups at 100 yards that look like a single bullet hole with extra lipstick. Push it out to 1,000 yards and a 5" group might win the event. Or not.

With a tuned rifle and tuned rounds, they produce tiny, consistent, and downright surgical results. How surgical? The record (we think) for a ten-round group at 1000 yards is 2.68". Most of us mere mortals would be happy with that at 100 yards.

The gear isn't cheap. Barrels in these rigs burn out after roughly 2,000 rounds

of serious precision work (hot loads and tight tolerances eat throats fast). Replacement barrels aren't exactly bargain-bin items. Then there's the Nightforce optic perched on top — many of these scopes cost more than a decent used car. Hybrid bullets? Custom actions? Hand-tuned everything? It all adds up fast. This isn't plinking; it's chess with gunpowder.



Plenty of seasoned shooters at the shooting competitions (the "old guys" with decades of stories), but also some promising young talent — including a sharp 14-year-old and the pint-sized superstar everyone's talking about: 9-year-old Grace. Jerry grinned and admitted it straight: "I can barely beat Grace on a good day." He and two others partnered with her in a team competition and she brought the average age down to 55 or so - and she was no anchor around their necks.

He only scratched the surface of the obsessive details — the mirage reading, the wind calls measured in tenths of a mile per hour, the relentless load development — but the message was clear: extreme precision doesn't happen by accident. It's built one painstaking grain at a time.

On his best days, Jerry lands in the top 10 F-Class shooters in Illinois. Some matches he's on fire. Others? The wind gods laugh and he eats humble pie like everyone else. That's the beauty of the game — it keeps even the best honest.

If you missed Jerry's visit, you missed a masterclass in what real long-range dedication looks like. Whether you're a grizzled veteran, a curious newcomer, or a kid with dreams of punching tiny holes at impossible distances, nights like this are why we gather at Guns Save Life.

Next time someone tells you "close enough" at the range, just remember Jerry's one-hole groups at a gazillion yards... and start weighing your powder.



**MAKE TRACKS TO**  
**GROSS' BURGERS**

**GROSS' BURGERS**

25 Henderson Street  
Danville, IL 61832  
(217) 442-8848



# 'It is absurd'

## McHenry County State's attorney frustrated after Crystal Lake man with 12 separate felony cases in year released under SAFE-T Act

(Lake and McHenry County Scanner) - The McHenry County state's attorney says it is "absurd" that a Crystal Lake man, who has racked up 12 separate felony cases against him in less than a year, cannot be held in custody due to the Illinois SAFE-T Act.

Jordan Pena, 32, of Crystal Lake, was released from the McHenry County Jail on Friday following an Initial Appearance Court hearing...

McHenry County State's Attorney Randi Freese said it is "absurd that this man is required to be let free into our community."

"This case highlights a serious gap in our current law," Freese said. "An individual with a demonstrated pattern of repeated

felony conduct, spanning multiple jurisdictions, is not eligible for pretrial detention under the SAFE-T Act."



Jordan Pena.

### If only the victim only had a gun... Facebook torture perp arrested... again

Chicago (GSL) - Tesfaye Cooper, one of four people convicted in the 2017 Chicago hate crime in which an 18-year-old White man with special needs was kidnapped, tortured, and livestreamed on Facebook, has been arrested again.

Cooper, now 30, was taken into custody last Wednesday after he and 33-year-old Mazi Pearson allegedly chased, attacked, and robbed a 48-year-old White bicyclist at the Clark-Lake CTA station in Chicago's Loop. Prosecutors say the victim waved as he passed the pair, prompting them to claim Gangster Disciples affiliation before pursuing him into the station.



Tesfaye and Mazi.

Pearson allegedly punched the victim and spat in his face, while Cooper attempted to strike him. The suspects took the man's bicycle. A security guard witnessed the incident, and officers arrested both men nearby, recovering the bike. Pearson was also found with suspected heroin and cocaine and had active warrants for prior shoplifting cases.

Both men are charged with robbery and were ordered held pending trial. Cooper previously served a seven-year sentence for the 2017 aggravated kidnapping and hate crime.

### If only the clerk had a gun... Facial recognition helped solve attempted murder of 7-Eleven clerk in the Loop

Chicago (CWB Chicago) - The gunman who shot and nearly killed a downtown convenience store clerk last month was identified through facial recognition technology linked to the Illinois Secretary of State database, prosecutors said Thursday. It's the latest case solved using the technology, even as state lawmakers move to bar Illinois law enforcement from using it.

### If only bystanders had a gun... Violent perp catches 24 years for latest savage attack

Chicago (CWB Chicago) - A man who randomly and violently attacked a 4-year-old boy at the Belmont Brown Line station in Lakeview in 2021 is now going to prison for 24 years for another random attack: the horrific beating of two workers and a 77-year-old patron at a Chicago Public Library branch.

Calvin Williams, 28, pleaded guilty to two counts of attempted murder and one count of aggravated battery in a public place in exchange for the sentence from Judge Timothy Joyce, court records show.



Calvin Williams.



## FERAL: Teens swarm Chicago, other cities as 'takeovers' spread across IL

By Ward Clark (RedState) - Many of our major cities are, in one way or another, out of control. Chicago may be one of the worst; the return of moderate spring weather has already produced an increase in feral teen mobs taking over the city's streets, looting, stealing, and destroying property. Sometimes there are several of these street takeovers going on at once.

Hundreds of young people filled the streets and sidewalks in Chicago last week in what Mayor Brandon Johnson is calling "teen trends" that he warned can turn deadly.

Video, obtained by Fox News from ChitownCrimeChasers, showed the teens filling streets and sidewalks on March 30, clustering around parked vehicles and moving through intersections.

Other footage from that night captured different individuals dancing and socializing in the city's streets, while other moments showed people climbing on cars and brief altercations within the crowd.

Mayor Brandon Johnson is superficially correct in noting

that these mobs can "turn deadly," but his feather-headed characterization of these riots as "teen trends" is unforgivable. These are not happy teens out skylarking; these are criminals, trespassing, stealing, and destroying property - not to mention interfering with the regular, law-abiding citizen's ability to go about their honest business.



One resident of the area suffered serious damage to his car as the mob overtook him:

One resident, Jason Hale, said his car was among roughly 30 affected by crowds in Chicago that night.

"Yeah, it's bad. The hood is messed up, terrible. A thousand worth of damage, dents everywhere, footprints everywhere," Hale told FOX 32 Chicago.

Video shows groups of teens standing and moving on top of parked vehicles as crowds formed around them.

It's not just happening in Chicago, either... The city's response in many of these affairs has been nothing short of impotent:

Chicago police confirmed to the local outlet that three curfew violations were issued in connection with the gathering. A 16-year-old girl was also charged with unlawful possession of a weapon and disorderly conduct.

Editor: Reports have these "flash mobs" doing their thing in Naperville as well. And in Springfield at the Westside Walmart. In both cases a hundred or more young scholars looted stores, broke things and accosted innocent people.

Yes, police have made a handful of arrests, but they are typically charged with misdemeanors, which means they are processed and released - yes, even after committing thousands of dollars in damage.

## State Line Rifle Association

Proud sponsor of Brownell's NRA Day Family Fun Shoot. In affiliation with: NRA, ISRA, GOA, IFOR, CMP, GSL, MCSA

Monthly meetings on the fourth Tuesday each month at 7pm.

American Legion  
111 E. Main Street  
Round Lake Park, IL 60073

StateLineRifle.com  
see us on Facebook



An influential voice in advancing armed self-defense 'North of I-80'

**LARRY RINKENBERGER**  
PRESIDENT

**HOURS:**  
MON-SAT 9 - 8  
SUNDAY 10 - 5  
RANGE CLOSSES 1 HOUR BEFORE

815-838-1371  
FAX 815-838-1372

14363 S. ARCHER  
LOCKPORT, IL 60441

WWW.RINKSGUN.COM  
EMAIL: INFO@RINKSGUN.COM  
LIKE US ON FACEBOOK @RINKSGUN

**RINK'S GUN & SPORT**  
75 FT. INDOOR PISTOL RANGE

# ABC: Always Be Carrying!



Because the next Walmart horror show could be yours.

## Walmart kidnapping

Omaha, NE (GSL) - In the bright aisles of an Omaha Walmart, a mother shopped with her three-year-old son in the cart—just another routine day. Suddenly, a deranged woman, recently released after violent crimes and ruled not responsible due to insanity, shoplifted a large knife.

She brandished the blade and forced the terrified mother ahead with her child, and marched them through the store into the parking lot in a brazen kidnapping. Officers arrived and ordered her to drop the knife. She refused—and in a split second of horror, slashed the toddler's face.

Police then shot and killed the attacker. The child survived with facial wounds but will bear the scar forever.

This is why good people must carry their guns every single day. Always.

Evil doesn't wait for backup. An armed citizen on scene could have stopped the threat instantly and protected that innocent child, but they weren't. Police arrived, but not soon enough to stop the attack.

Your family's safety cannot rely on hope or delayed response. Carry everywhere. Train hard. Be the good guy ready to end the nightmare before it claims a life.

## HOME CARRY: Because sometimes a lunatic will try to kick in your door and end you

Fairfield, CA (GSL) - Seconds separate life from tragedy when a "nice, rational guy" suddenly kicks in your door.

On April 7, 2026, in Fairfield, California, a man in a trench coat and sandals—calling himself "Harry Dresden" like some deranged wizard—banged on a family's front door. He ranted incoherently, demanded to see the daughter "to make sure she's safe," issued threats, then began violently kicking until the door frame splintered. The Ring camera captured the entire unhinged episode.



The homeowner, armed and carrying at home, was ready the instant trouble exploded. Police later arrested the attacker, but the family survived because a gun was already on the belt—not locked away in a safe.

Criminals and lunatics don't schedule appointments. Are you counting on a police response? Hopefully 911 picks up and hopefully there's officers available to respond. In Chicago in recent years, there are frequently no police available to respond and dispatchers tell callers to "shelter in place."

## GET GOOD TRAINING!

# One woman's experience at an Essential Carry CCW class

[Editor's note: This woman (name withheld for privacy) showed up at our April Essential Carry class openly admitting she had never fired a gun, didn't like guns, and was terribly afraid of them.

This was a woman who had spent twenty years living in New York City — where, to this day, people believe the only people with guns are cops and criminals. Then she moved back to the Land of Lincoln.

For deeply personal reasons, she decided it was time to step way outside her comfort zone. Here's what happened next...]

This weekend, I did something that truly pushed me out of my comfort zone—I faced one of my biggest fears.

I attended a 16-hour class with GSL Defense Training, and to be honest, I walked in feeling intimidated. The instructors—ranging in age from 33 to 80—brought such a depth of experience, patience, and perspective that immediately set the tone for learning.

But nothing could have prepared me for that first moment with live ammo.

I have to admit... pulling the trigger for the first time was terrifying as hell. I almost cried. And that's saying something—because I've literally walked on hot coals barefoot, and that felt easier than firing a firearm.

Yet, something powerful happened over the course of the weekend of classroom lectures and shooting almost 250 shots while doing a host of shooting exercises.

Through consistent practice drills, guidance, and repetition, my fear slowly started to shift into understanding—and eventually, confidence. Not confidence in the sense of comfort, but confidence rooted in knowledge, safety, and respect.

And here's the part I'm really proud of—I ended up being a pretty good shot. I

passed my qualifying test 30/30. [Editor's note: that included five head shots at ten yards.]

This experience reminded me that growth rarely feels good in the moment. It feels uncomfortable. It feels scary. Sometimes it feels overwhelming.

But stepping into that fear gave me the opportunity to learn something new, to respect it, and to handle it responsibly.

Getting out of my comfort zone wasn't easy—but it was necessary.

And I'm proud of myself for leaning in anyway.



[Editor follow up: At Guns Save Life, we love stories like hers — because they prove that one good defensive handgun class - available in every region of our state - can shatter fear, build real confidence, and literally transform a person.

Whether you're male or female, if you've been hesitant, nervous, or even scared of guns... we're talking to you.

It's time to step up, step out of that comfort zone, and discover what millions of Americans already know:

Freedom feels a whole lot better when you're not afraid anymore.]

# Zancha's

## Guns & Ammo INC.

**Over 950 firearms in stock!**

**Reloading Supplies**

**Garrett & Minelab Metal Detectors in stock!**

**108 E. State St.**  
**Lovington, IL 61937**  
**217-873-6567**  
**guns@zanchasguns.com**  
**www.zanchasguns.com**  
**M-F 10am-6pm**  
**Sat 9am-4pm**  
**BUY\*SELL\*TRADE**

**IL Concealed Carry Classes & Renewal Classes**

**Buck, Case & Cobratec knives in stock!**

**Fishing & Hunting Licenses**

**Sponsored by Guns Save Life!**

*Illinois Department of Natural Resources*

## Introductory Wingshooting Clinic

*Learn to hit flying targets! For ladies, kids and novice males*

### June 27 & June 28 10am - 4pm

Middle Fork State Fish & Wildlife Area near Collison, IL

- For novice wingshooters, men and women, ages 10+
- Instructors certified by IDNR and/or National Sporting Clays Assn.
- 28ga. shotguns, shells, clay targets, eye & ear protection provided
- Lunch provided for registered shooters
- Limited to 24 shooters per day. Register for either day.

Event sells out. Register today. Like *right now*.  
 Online registration available: Google "IDNR Wingshooting Clinics" or  
<https://dnr2illinois.gov/WingshootingClinics>  
 or Contact Terry Doyle at 815-258-8474

Sponsored by

- IDNR
- IL Conservation Foundation
- Guns Save Life
- Champaign Co. Pheasants Forever
- Vermilion Co. Pheasants Forever
- Gordon Farms Seed Company
- Freedom Firearms in Rantoul



## Patriot's Day re-enactment 2026

by Northern Barbarian

(X) - Patriots Day. Marking April 19, 1775. When Americans took up arms against their king, and bled, at the crack of terrible dawn.

It's a holiday in Massachusetts and Maine, which was then part of Massachusetts. Should be a national holiday.

July 4 marks the day they published a piece of paper, telling the king to shove it. Important. Up until then it was a civil war. Americans who considered themselves Englishmen fighting British troops. After that, it was Americans fighting the British for their independence.

Patriots Day is first blood.



I took my boy to Lexington for the re-enactment when he was just six. We arrived well before dawn, to get a place right on the Green. Right by the stone that marks the place where Capt. Parker's line was. With his reported order etched in it, "Stand your ground. Don't fire unless fired upon, but if they mean to have a war, let it begin here."

Which is where it did.

There was a light rain, and my boy pressed himself against my legs for shelter and warmth. A woolen horse blanket over our heads against the rain.

Around 5 am he said, "Daddy, my feet are cold."

I said, "Stamp your feet." So he did. Only complaint out of him. Brave boy.

Just before dawn, we heard the fifes and drums coming up Massachusetts Avenue. The same road the British took on their 20-mile march from Boston to Concord to seize a cache of American guns and munitions.

Why we have 2A. The British could see where things were going, and were actively trying to disarm the Americans. In New England, close to Canada, they were heavily armed. Nearly every able-bodied man had a musket and was in the militia. White and black.

My boy and I heard the crash of boots. Loud. I felt him shudder against my legs.

Then the British re-enactors rushed onto the Green, shouting.

Both sides in their reports after the fact agreed, no one knows who fired the first

shot. Was it an accidental discharge, a provocateur trying to get things going? No one knows.

Both sides erupted in fire. A cacophony of flints sparking powder in the pan, then the discharge. A violent discordant atonal symphony, up and down the line. Clouds of white gunsmoke, with streaks of fire cutting through. The British troops in red uniforms and black leather helmets pushing forward, bayoneting the militia in their broadcloth farmers' work clothes. Officers trying to bring it to a stop.

The British had fired without orders. Royal Marines Maj. John Pitcairn, who had been tapped to lead an Army vanguard, did not want this. He was a man respected and liked by the Americans who knew him. Killed later at Bunker Hill, buried in the Old North Church. The British troops by now hated the Jonathans, as they called the New Englanders, who never missed an opportunity to mock them.

The troops finally brought to heel, they marched the five miles on to Concord. Leaving the American dead and wounded on Lexington Green behind them. The first Americans to take up arms for their freedom.

My boy is grown. He's one of them now. An American soldier. Ranger tab, jumps out of airplanes. For you.



He told me years later, he knew what he was going to do from age 5. 9/11. We always spoke to the kids in age appropriate ways about what was happening in the world. He knew. He was the one, flipping channels from Sesame Street to Nickelodeon before kindergarten, who saw the Twin Towers spewing smoke and went to tell his mother.

When he was seven, when I was back from Iraq, tucking him in, he said, "Dad. When I grow up, if I'm not killed in battle, I want to be a major league baseball player."

So we still make them like that, those farmers who lined up at Lexington Green.



## When the grid goes dark...

### Why reliable radio communications are essential for gun owners (& everyone else)

(GSL) - On Good Friday, a U.S. Air Force F-15E Strike Eagle was shot down over Iran. The pilot was recovered quickly, but the Weapon Systems Officer (WSO) wasn't so lucky. He spent nearly 48 hours evading capture in rugged mountain terrain. What made the difference? A compact survival radio. It transmitted his location via beacon and allowed real-time voice contact with rescue forces. U.S. special operations teams executed a high-risk extraction under fire on Easter morning before dawn. Without that radio, the outcome would have been far worse.

This incident underscores a critical reality for American gun owners: in a genuine emergency, communication can save lives, maybe even your own.

The bigger the crisis, the more likely your cellphone will not work. You may have to do without local emergency service, and you definitely won't have America's military riding to your rescue. Cell towers fail. Networks overload. Local authorities can shut down cell service to all but emergency workers. The bottom line for each of us mere mortals? Life is more dangerous without communications.

The good news is you don't need expensive military-grade equipment. Inexpensive handheld radios provide exactly what most people need: reliable two-way communication over a few miles without relying on infrastructure. A standout example is the Baofeng UV-5R series. For \$20 to \$30 each, this dual-band VHF/UHF transceiver delivers dependable performance. It runs on rechargeable batteries, fits easily in a range bag or bug-out pack, and has helped preppers, hunters, and everyday citizens through everyday life and real emergencies for years. (Pro-tip: Spend \$100ish to get a four-pack with better antennas, shoulder speaker/mics, a programming cable and extra accessories.)



Consider practical scenarios armed citizens face. In event of a serious storm or terror attack that knocks out cellular service, how do you coordinate reunification with friends and family without cell phones? How do you warn friends of threats or plan your way home? With a hand-held (or mobile) radio programmed to local simplex frequencies (like the MURS frequencies) you can communicate effectively. With a \$35 FCC license (no test required), you can use GMRS frequencies, too, expanding your reach dramatically. Typical line-of-sight range is one to three miles depending on terrain. Use a better antenna and/or talk from higher ground and you can easily double or triple that range. No internet, no apps, no monthly fees, no relying on complex cellular tower hardware — just simple walkie-talkies.

Put a mobile radio in your ride with a high quality mobile antenna and you can expect greater range still, especially when using repeaters. With permission of the owners, you can use GMRS repeaters to communicate with people twenty, thirty or even fifty miles around the repeater. These are usually fairly robust systems set up by serious hobbyists with power backups to survive utility blackouts. Having access to a good repeater allows you to communicate across counties instead of across neighborhoods.

Gun owners already practice layered defense. We carry a pistol for close threats, a rifle for distance, medical gear for trauma, and supplies for sustainability. Communications complete the kit. During events like the 2020 riots, Hurricane Ian, or for those who remember it, Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans, those with radios coordinated neighborhood watches, shared real-time intelligence, and kept families connected when emergency lines were dead or jammed. In times when Second Amendment rights face pressure, the ability to pass concise messages among trusted persons or groups becomes a force multiplier.

Programming the Baofeng is fairly straightforward. Tons of tutorial videos populate the YouTube space. Free software like CHIRP lets you load local repeaters, emergency frequencies, and program your hand-held or mobile radio in seconds. Stock spare batteries, of course, along with a shoulder speaker/microphone and better antennas.

Practice with family or your shooting club on legal frequencies (like MURS which again, doesn't require a license). Amateur radio licenses cost \$35ish and unlock far greater capabilities, but they require a test. Many ham radio clubs run emergency communications drills that serve as excellent training if you want to sharpen your skills using the amateur radio systems, maintain proficiency communicating with them and helping others.

Skeptics sometimes dismiss these affordable radios as toys. Sure, they aren't as robust as multi-hundred dollar cellphones, but when cellular infrastructure fails, the "toy" still works. And the skeptics can roast in their haughty arrogance waiting for their stupid-expensive, cellular-dependent "Rapid Radios" to work if cell towers go down.

The UV-5R has proven reliable in floods, wildfires, and blackouts across America. It's used every weekend by church safety teams across America, and at worksites and for family recreation. It is not a replacement for training or good judgment, but it levels the playing field by restoring what modern society depends upon — the ability to communicate and coordinate.

Second Amendment supporters value self-reliance. We study, learn and train hard. We maintain supplies, and exercise our rights daily. Adding simple, robust radio communications is not paranoia; it is prudent preparation. When towers fall silent and authorities are unreachable, the difference between isolation and mutual support may come down to a \$25 handheld radio and the skill to use it.

Don't wait for the next crisis to find yourself cut off. Acquire radios today, and practice using it with friends and family to stay connected when it matters most. Place them in your car(s) and at home. Your safety—and the safety of those you protect—could depend on it.

Guns Save Life, DeWitt County Sportsman's Club and GSL Defense Training partner together to offer...



# FREE GUN SAFETY TRAINING for Education Professionals

## ILLINOIS 16-HOUR CONCEALED CARRY CLASS

**GSL Defense Training** is offering a FREE 16-hour, ISP-approved Illinois Concealed Carry Class (Essential Carry) to faculty and staff of public and private schools in Illinois. This offer is available for everyone from the superintendent to educators to support staff including cooks and janitors. If you work for *any* school in *any* capacity, or teach/coach in any capacity, you're eligible. Yes, even the Fire Service Institute or a daycare facility. This is a one-time offer, and subject to availability.

**June 13 & 14**  
At the DeWitt County Sportsman's Club  
near Clinton, IL



This class is built specifically for teachers, school staff, and anyone working in public or private education — especially if guns make you nervous, anxious, or downright uneasy.

Why do we bother? Simple: we're passionate about arming good people with the tools and mindset to protect innocent lives — kids, teachers, families — when seconds count.

Loaner guns and gear are available at **zero charge**. Don't own a gun? No problem — we've got plenty, and we won't even make you clean them afterward.



Our patient, no-BS instructor team will take you from "I'm scared of guns" to "I actually know what I'm doing." We'll calmly walk you through every safety rule until gun handling feels natural instead of terrifying.

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.

You'll need to bring 250 rounds of 9mm or .38 Special practice ammo. No FOID card? No sweat. Class sponsors will have limited ammo available for roughly our cost — about \$60-\$100 depending on caliber.



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](http://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.



## Learn safe, defensive gun handling skills

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.

Our 15+ experienced and extensively trained instructors—men and women with wildly diverse real-world experience—deliver rock-

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.

We go even harder: practicing lawyers break down lethal force law in plain English, so you'll actually understand when and how you can use force and then prevail in the legal

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

In 28+ years we've trained over 5,000 people to shoot straight and carry smart. If you want to feel truly safe at home or on the street, this is your class. Normal price: \$200 per person.



## GSLDefenseTraining.com

FOID cards are not required for enrollees, but we recommend applying for them ahead of time at [ISPFSB.com](http://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](http://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.





## The device that kept the downed F-15E Weapons System Operator alive

(GSL) - The successful rescue of a U.S. F-15E Strike Eagle navigator over southwestern Iran showcased the Combat Survivor Evader Locator (CSEL), one of the most advanced tools in modern combat search and rescue.

The rugged CSEL operates after submersion in up to 10 meters of water and has a standby battery life of up to 21 days. Its glove-friendly interface works in darkness and under pressure. It supports line-of-sight communication via an external antenna and satellite links via an internal one, with an emergency button for unencrypted distress signals as a last resort.



In the operation, the navigator used preloaded safe zones and sent encrypted updates every few hours to avoid detection. Only when rescue helicopters neared did the device enable precise location lock-on. Military satellites relayed data—including the airman's identity, medical information, and authentication codes—to command centers.

Even if communications are fully disrupted, the CSEL stores topographic maps and safe locations, functioning as an onboard GPS.

Manufactured by Boeing, the compact 800-gram device is integrated into a pilot's survival vest and stays attached after ejection. It continuously transmits encrypted location data and preloaded messages such as "injured" or "ready for extraction." Using rapid frequency hopping and ultra-short bursts, the signals are extremely difficult for enemy electronic warfare systems to detect.

## SECWAR orders base commanders to allow CCW by off-duty servicemembers...

(US Department of War) - Secretary of War Pete Hegseth signed a memorandum directing military installation commanders to allow War Department personnel — namely, uniformed service members — to request to carry privately owned firearms while in their nonofficial duty capacity on DOW property within the United States.



Peter Hegseth.

"Before today, it was virtually impossible ... for War Department personnel to get permission to carry and store their own personal weapons aligned with the state laws where we operate our installations. ... Well, that's no longer," Hegseth said during a social media video released today.



## NRA Election Results!

The 2026 NRA Board of Directors election results are official, and we couldn't be prouder: two Guns Save Life members are heading back to serve on the NRA Board!

**Dick Fairburn**, who has contributed a near-monthly column to *GunNews* magazine, won a full three-year term. Dick is a retired law enforcement professional from Canton, Illinois, with decades of real-world experience in firearms training and Second Amendment advocacy.

**Todd Vandermyde**, a decades-long friend of Guns Save Life and a tireless Illinois lobbyist who's fought for our rights at the statehouse for 30 years, won a one-year term. Todd was nominated by petition and brings unmatched street-level experience fighting for gun owners in one of the toughest states in the country. He also brings a brilliant mind on litigation strategy to the table as well.

Congratulations to both Dick and Todd! Your election is a

clear victory for the NRA 2.0 reform movement's goals that Guns Save Life has proudly supported.

Both men ran as staunch reformers committed to the NRA 2.0 vision: cleaning house, restoring transparency, and refocusing the organization on its core mission — defending the Second Amendment, training law-abiding gun owners, supporting shooting sports, and protecting our rights without the self-dealing and waste of the past.

Meanwhile, Wayne LaPierre's old cronies and the "old guard" who enabled years of corruption fared poorly. That's no coincidence. NRA members are fed up and are voting with their ballots for real change.

ELECTED FOR 3-YEAR TERMS ENDING IN 2029

1. Leroy Sisco
2. Megan Hilbish
3. Amanda Suffecool
4. Ted Carter
5. Linda Walker
6. James D'Cruz
7. Kenneth Bowra
8. David Raney

9. James W. Porter II
10. Jacqueline Janes
11. Jay Wallace
12. William Bailey
13. Eric Mettauer
14. Bruce Widener
15. Rob Beckman
16. Mark Vaughan
17. Robert Mansell
18. Charles Brown
19. Charles Hiltunen III
20. Mark Robinson
21. Jerry Kraus
22. Amy Heath-Lovato
23. Randy Luth
24. Eb Wilkinson
25. **Richard Fairburn**

ELECTED FOR 2-YEAR TERMS ENDING IN 2028

26. Regis Synan
27. Todd Figard
28. Deborah Lyman
29. Kyle Hupfer
30. Robert K. Brown
31. Steve Schreiner

ELECTED FOR ONE-YEAR TERMS ENDING IN 2027

32. Jim Wallace
33. Alex Carroll
34. Huey Laugesen
35. **Todd Vandermyde**
36. Lynn Gipson



## Visit Central Illinois' Premier Indoor Shooting Range & Gun Store!

- 16 Lane, State-of-the-Art Heated Range
- Beginners to Advanced Level Firearms Classes Offered – Sign Up Now Online
- Illinois Concealed Carry Classes – Only \$179
- Rent our Firearms – Over 50 Rental Firearms Available to Try Before You Buy
- We Buy and Trade Used Firearms
- Range Membership Packages Available
- Book Your Private Parties, Corporate Meetings, and Fundraising Events
- USPSA Pistol Competition Every Tuesday Night
- Gunpowder & Glitter Monthly Ladies Night Event



INDOOR RANGE • FIREARMS • TRAINING

700 WYLIE DRIVE NORMAL, IL 61761

309.820.1008 • WWW.CISHOOTINGSPORTS.COM



# State Line Rifle Association

Proud sponsor of NRA Day Family Fun Shoot.  
In affiliation with: NRA, ISRA, GOA, IFOR, CMP, GSL, MCSA

Monthly meetings on the fourth Tuesday each month at 7pm.

**American Legion**  
111 E. Main Street  
Round Lake Park, IL 60073



StateLineRifle.com  
see us on Facebook

*An influential voice in advancing armed self-defense 'North of I-80'*

# Armed American

You don't have to be a helpless victim. Empower yourself. Become a gun owner.

## Stupid racist games, stupid racist prizes: Edgar County, IL edition

*Paris, IL (GSL)* - On April 3, 2026, around 10:45 p.m. at White Oaks Park in Paris, Illinois, three black men—Danville Alderman Jaleel Jones, Tajon King, and Duane Williams—were peacefully fishing for catfish when trouble arrived.



The Kollman brothers.

A beat-up Dodge Ram pulled up carrying three drunken white men from Edgar County: brothers Jordan J. Kollman (29) and Jesse L. Kollman (25), along with their friend Jayden A. Reynolds. The trio allegedly couldn't tolerate the sight of black men fishing in "their" county.

Instead of leaving the fishermen alone, the group surrounded them and began hurling racial slurs. Jones and his friends tried to de-escalate, offering to pack up and leave peacefully. The bullies refused.

Jordan Kollman, a felon already, grabbed a 12-gauge shotgun (reportedly traded for a PlayStation 5 in violation of countless IL gun control statutes) from the truck. He fired a shot into the air, then pointed the weapon at one of the men and threatened to "blow his head off." He continued firing rounds over their heads while his brother Jesse cheered him on and urged him to get closer.

The fishermen had tried everything to avoid violence. When the threats escalated into an imminent deadly attack, Tajon King—who was legally carrying a 9mm handgun—fired back in self-defense. He struck Jordan Kollman with three rounds: two to the abdomen and one to the hip. The attacker went down, crying like a toddler.

The three fishermen then fled to safety, called 911, and fully cooperated with police.

Jordan Kollman now faces charges including attempted first-degree murder, hate crime, aggravated discharge of a firearm, and unlawful possession of a weapon by a felon. He is being held without bond. His brother Jesse is charged with attempted murder and hate crime for encouraging the attack. Jayden Reynolds was arrested for mob action.

The victims showed noble restraint by first trying to walk away from the confrontation. When the aggressors kept escalating with a loaded shotgun and explicit death threats, the armed fisherman stopped the threat the only way left available.

Play stupid racist games... win stupid racist prizes—like fresh new holes in your gut and a long stay behind bars. Ol' Jordan's going to be very popular with the black prison gangs.

The three fishermen were simply enjoying a public park. They defended themselves when attacked and catfish are still laughing about the whole incident.

## Florida father halts hate assault

*Miami Beach, FL (GSL)* - Last week in Miami Beach's Stillwater Park, a "proud Muslim" named Ahmad Zeeshan decided it was the perfect afternoon to hunt for Jews.

Spotting a father with his two little boys, ages 5 and 7, Zeeshan sauntered up and asked the million-dollar question: "Are you Jewish?"



Ahmad Zeeshan.

When the dad confirmed it, the bigot flipped the switch. He unleashed a torrent of filth—screaming "Get the f— out of here, you f— dirty people!" and promising to "f— him up." Witnesses watched this unhinged clown hurl vulgar, racially charged insults while the terrified father pleaded with him to back off and leave his kids alone.

Zeeshan didn't listen. Of course he didn't.

He charged. Repeatedly. Like a rabid ideologue who thought screaming antisemitic slurs at small children was some kind of holy mission.

Here's where the story gets satisfying.

The dad—a law-abiding Florida gun owner who carries for exactly this kind of nonsense—had enough. He drew his firearm, held the frothing attacker at gunpoint, and kept him there until police arrived. Both men called 911. One to report being threat-

ened with death for existing while Jewish. The other to whine that someone had the audacity to point a gun at him after he threatened to assault a man and his young kids.

No shots fired. No one hurt. Just a hate-filled bully neutralized by the one tool antisemites and violent bigots truly fear: an armed good guy who refuses to be a victim.

Zeeshan later bragged to cops that he's a proud Muslim who hates Jews. The judge wasn't impressed—called his behavior "disgusting," slapped him with a hate crime charge for assault motivated by prejudice, denied standard bond, and issued a no-contact order. Zeeshan's still cooling his heels in jail.

Meanwhile, the father walked away with his children safe and sound. No charges. Just another quiet reminder that in Florida, the Second Amendment isn't a suggestion.

This is why millions of Americans refuse to be disarmed. Because predators—whether street thugs or ideological fanatics—don't suddenly become peaceful when you ask nicely. They only stop when someone capable of stopping them shows up armed and ready.

The dad didn't go looking for trouble.

Trouble came looking for his kids because of who they are. He simply answered with the most American response possible: "Not today. Not ever."

Never again doesn't mean hoping evil changes its mind. It means being ready when it shows up screaming in a public park.

Florida gets it. Armed citizens get it. And Ahmad Zeeshan learned it the hard way—without becoming a statistic.



## The terror threat Americans aren't supposed to discuss

by John Lott, Jr.

*(Real Clear Politics)* - Many commentators claim that Islam does not pose a threat of violence in the United States. Influencers such as Tucker Carlson often repeat this argument. Others, including then-President Joe Biden and FBI Director Christopher Wray, have argued that white supremacists represent the primary domestic threat.

Yet March alone saw multiple terrorist attacks carried out by Muslims. In Austin, a terrorist wore a sweatshirt reading "Property of Allah" during an attack. In New York City, bomb throwers shouted "Allahu Akbar" while throwing a homemade shrapnel bomb. At Old Dominion University, a shooter also yelled "Allahu Akbar" and had previously been convict-

ed of supporting ISIS. Another attacker, whose brother was a Hezbollah terrorist commander, targeted Temple Israel in Michigan, and yet another attack, involving three men of Iraqi origin, targeted the U.S. embassy in Norway. The Austin, Old Dominion, and New York City bombers and the Michigan synagogue attackers were also all foreign-born individuals who were naturalized U.S. citizens...

From January 1998 to December 2025, the United States experienced 108 mass public shootings by 111 shooters. Eight of those shooters were Muslim—7.2% of the total. During that same period, Muslims averaged about 0.4% of the U.S. population. In other words, their share of attacks was 18 times their share of the population.

## Chicago home invader's career ends... suddenly

*Chicago (GSL)* - In the early morning hours of April 6, 2026, around 1:30 a.m., a low-IQ Chicago home invader made the single dumbest decision of his short, pathetic life. He forced entry into a single-family home in the 2200 block of East 103rd Street on the South Side—apparently missing all the obvious signs that this wasn't an easy mark.



The 33-year-old homeowner, wide awake and properly prepared, was confronted as the brain-dead intruder charged straight at him like a mouth-breathing zombie. Without hesitation, the resident fired one calm, center-mass shot to the idiot's chest.

The career criminal collapsed instantly and was pronounced dead at the scene. Police confirmed the homeowner's account: the intruder broke in and aggressively advanced on him.

No one else was hurt. The homeowner faced no charges—it was textbook self-defense. Darwin crowns another one: another genius who FAFO'd the hard way and learned too late that some houses fight back.

### Citizen-Defender: *Just Get Home!*

(400 rounds of ammunition are required)

*Just Get Home!* is named after your ultimate mission and fills the dangerous knowledge and experience gaps that are present in both basic permit classes and advanced shooting courses.

Students will be equipped with a suite of cross-spectrum skills and prepared responses via a highly effective combination of pre-class video and sequential task learning followed by scenario-based validation. Students will be mentally prepared and physically equipped for prompt decisive action to *Just Get Home!*

#### THE CITIZEN-DEFENDER DIFFERENCE!

#### Situational ACTION!

- ▶ Time and Timing
- ▶ Skill Cycling
- ▶ The Mouth Game
- ▶ Pepper Spray
- ▶ Stop Hemorrhaging
- ▶ Pre-decisions and REAL Speed
- ▶ Pre-Assault Indicators
- ▶ Conflicts and Boundary Enforcement

Info@Citizen-Defender.com Call us at (703) 609-6350

[WWW.CITIZEN-DEFENDER.COM](http://WWW.CITIZEN-DEFENDER.COM)

## IGOLD 2026

### Gun Owners showed up... sort of

by John Boch

Roughly 300 Land of Lincoln patriots rolled into Springfield on April 15th for this year's IGOLD — Illinois Gun Owners Lobby Day. Where the heck was everybody else? The seats should've been packed wall-to-wall with freedom-loving Illinoisans ready to roar. Instead, the place felt dead. Sure there were sparks of life, but overall? There was no sizzle of energy. GSL has had almost as many people at some of our monthly meetings in the past.



If memory serves, almost a million Illinois FOID holders didn't vote in 2024. And get this: a couple hundred thousand of them aren't even registered to vote. Do you know these folks? Let's get them into the fight. Sitting on the sidelines while their rights get torched? That's a surrender.

**Also bad:** The audience overwhelmingly believed Illinois is a "Duty to Retreat" state. I was straight-up appalled. Most Guns Save Life members know better. If you think you have a duty to retreat here, you need to find yourself a better concealed carry instructor AND brush up on the real deal law in Illinois. Illinois is a stand-your-ground state by Illinois Supreme Court precedent. Spoiler alert: *Hammond v. People*. Look it up. If you, your attorney and your judge don't know any better, congrats on being halfway to a felony.

**The Ugly:** Springfield is looking rough, almost dystopian in places. Unmowed lots, the old Hilton and the rest of the block across the street boarded up like a war zone, and sketchy characters loitering on the sidewalks. ISRA wisely brought in off-duty cops in uniform for security inside... but next year? Post a couple of them a block or two out in every direction. Make sure the good guys who left their self-defense tools in their cars don't get rolled walking back to their cars. I wasn't sweating the mopes I spotted — I didn't plan on going through magnetometers — but most folks did.

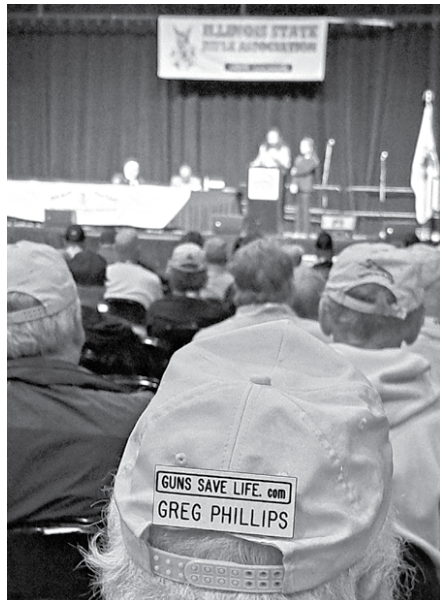
**Really Butt Ugly:** Bob Fioretti was there, smiling like he belongs. Yeah, *that* Bob Fioretti — the guy now running for Illinois Attorney General.



Remember him? I seem to remember how he marched arm-in-arm with Jesse Jackson and Father Pfleger — Chicago's infamous gun-grabbing priest in an effort to shut down Chuck's Guns. Yes, the same Father Pfleger who publicly suggested assassinating John Riggio, owner of Chuck's Guns, a lawful gun shop. Now this Bob Fioretti character is running for the state's top law enforcement job.



Folks can decide if they want to vote for this guy. Personally, I wouldn't urinate on Bob Fioretti if his toupee was on fire.



#### The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly

**The awesome:** David McDermott dropped some serious legal wisdom on the crowd, backed by his partner Irena Stefanovski. No fluff — just straight talk on what it really takes to keep from getting victimized by the criminal justice system in Illinois. Because too often some prosecutors try to victimize you a second time for defending innocent life from death or great bodily injury. McDermott said that we need to codify "Stand Your Ground" in Illinois. Amen. We must raise public awareness of its existence in our state. Yes, this includes educating police, prosecutors and judges on the strong "Stand Your Ground" court precedent in the Land of Lincoln.

**The Good:** Hats off to the ISRA for stepping up and sponsoring the event again. Somebody's gotta carry the torch, and they did. Respect.



**Also good:** Props to the NRA-ILA for showing up and pressing the flesh. Thank you Fritz Fritzgerald (say that ten times in a hurry). We love the NRA 2.0 leadership.

**The Bad:** Only one kid of school age or younger in the whole crowd. My soon-to-be ex-wife dragged the kids off on a birthday trip out of state, so I couldn't triple the number. Next year, I plan to bring them to witness the bad idea factory in person.

Where are the working-age gun owners? Hopefully they were at work. Sparse attendance didn't send a good message to the bad people. That's also a yellow flag heading into November.



**Did you know...** Until 1969, virtually every public high school - even in New York City - had a shooting club. High school students in NYC carried their guns to school on the subways in the morning, turned them over to their homeroom teacher or the gym coach during the day, and retrieved them after school for target practice and competition. Club members were given their rifles and ammunition by the federal government.

## MAIL CALL



### Letter to the Illinois State Rifle Association...

I attended yesterday's IGOLD.

Honestly I have never been a member of your organization for a number of reasons. And as the years went by I have felt good about this decision.

My first bad taste came from an encounter with Mr. Pearson. At an IGOLD event several years ago he asked (something to the effect of) "Why are you wearing a GSL t-shirt at a ISRA event." My response was (something like) "If we are all here for the same reason, it actually looks good for us to show solidarity among the various organizations" Mr. Pearson suggested that I was being rude to wear this to an ISRA event. I have and will continue to wear shirts supporting other groups.

Then there are other things over the years that have made me scratch my head in wonder. How can this be? If we are all here fighting the same fight, why would ISRA deliberately undermine what other organizations are doing?

Now to the point. Your emcee yesterday spoke of putting an end to the infighting among the various organizations in attendance and named several that he thought might be there.



However, your stage had a ISRA banner in the background, the table was covered with a cloth with the ISRA logo, the signs were plastered with ISRA and finally, the lanyards that we were asked to wear, ISRA as well. To top this all off Mr. Pearson himself spoke as if the ISRA organization

is the only dog in this fight.

If we are to put our differences aside and work together, would it be better to share in such a day and remove organizational logos? The name IGOLD in itself, should be enough for signage.

Mr Pearson, how can we, John Q. Public, put our differences aside and begin to trust you? Sir, you have a lot of work to do before I and many others will share our hard earned money with your organization. Like the NRA, it took a nearly complete overhaul of the board and leadership team before the average guy began to trust the organization to do what is in the best interest of the gun owner.

Honestly I had planned to set my differences aside and join yesterday, at the event. I'm glad to have taken pause, to wait on my impression of the day first.

Keith Pippin  
Charleston, IL

## GunNews Magazine

The monthly journal of  
Guns Save Life

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

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](mailto:jboch@gunssavelife.com).

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



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

[a-human-right.com](http://a-human-right.com)  
[blog.olegvolk.net](http://blog.olegvolk.net)



901 Detroit Ave Suite C Morton IL 61550

Mon-Fri 11-7, Sat 10-6

(309)291-5164

**kamrange.com**

**Need a CCL class?**

16-hour full class \$140

8-hour class \$85

3-hour renewal \$60

We offer classes monthly

**Just want to shoot?**

Lane fee \$19

Additional shooter \$11

Never a time limit!

You can shoot your own ammo

**Need additional training?**

Private instruction \$40

Memberships start at \$350/yr.

NRA Instructor Training

**Need a firearm?**

Over 500 guns in stock

New & Used

\$10 rentals/try before you buy

**FREE rentals on Friday**

Come and enjoy a clean safe range to shoot at. All of our staff are NRA certified Instructors and our range is air conditioned & heated

We offer Veteran, LE, and First Responder discounts, but already have the best prices in town

You can sign up, and pay for all of our classes online at **kamrange.com** or call us at (309)291-5164, or just stop in and see us

*Let us Help you Uphold your 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment Right*



## In Todd We Trust: No-BS gun rights update from Todd Vandermyde

by John Boch

(GSL) - At the April GSL NW Chicagoland meeting, veteran Second Amendment warrior Todd Vandermyde delivered his signature brand of unfiltered truth. For decades, the longtime NRA lobbyist, Aurora Sportsmen's Club president, and newly elected NRA Board member has fought in the trenches of the Illinois General Assembly and courts. When he speaks, gun owners listen. The rallying cry? "In Todd we trust."

Vandermyde kicked things off with some rare good news from the national level: **the NRA finally has a solid leadership team.** Reformers now hold a supermajority on the board, fending off rumors of an old-guard comeback. That old guard, he reminded the crowd, burned through over \$200 million on a Texas law firm led by an attorney who hated the 2A.

Todd's dropped a blunt "what if" that landed hard: "Imagine giving me a \$100 million for smart litigation." In Illinois alone, four or five more well-chosen cases would swamp the Attorney General's office — maybe even force them to stop suing Donald Trump every week.

His core message was simple and powerful:

litigation and legislation are the twin engines of victory. Everything else — rallies, social media noise, distractions — falls into line when you get these right.

Illinois groups including Guns Save Life, Aurora Sportsmen's Club, FFL-IL, and GOA are already proving it. They filed America's first "Right to Repair" lawsuit aimed at gun parts and components. A win here doesn't just protect owners' ability to fix their own firearms — it could torpedo much of the "ghost gun" legislation across the nation, including here in the Land of Lincoln.

Next on the docket: aggressive challenges to administrative adjudications — the bureaucratic star chambers where officials suspend or revoke your FOID card, CCL, or other 2A rights without due process. Vandermyde singled out Illinois' notorious "Clear and Present Danger" process, which strips constitutional rights on flimsy claims. He highlighted a standout case in Normal, where police allegedly fabricated an arrest report, leading to a man's FOID and concealed carry revocation. The victim sued — and stripped the officers of qualified immunity. That case stands as a textbook example of systemic abuse.

Todd pushed back against single-issue distractions. While some activists fixate on expanding rights for 18-to-20-year-olds to buy handguns or get carry licenses, he asked the tougher question: "Which issue impacts more law-abiding gun owners — age restrictions or due-process violations that can destroy anyone's rights overnight?"

On the legislative battlefield, Vandermyde warned about the Responsibility in Firearm Legislation (RIFL) Act. This backdoor scheme would impose heavy licensing and accountability measures on manufacturers, potentially driving gun shops out of Illinois.

Gun-control groups worry it could invite lawsuits similar to those challenging the Protect Illinois Communities Act (PICA), but the real threat is economic destruction of the industry. It's less likely to pass than PICA was in its final chaotic hours, but Illinois Democrats have a habit of ramming bills through at the last minute. The so-called "Glock Bill" remains a murky threat, while bullet serialization efforts keep resurfacing — pushed, Todd quipped, by a "half-assed bullshit artist" holding the patent.

He saved special fire for the Illinois Firearms Association and the Dorr brothers, labeling their operation as little more than grift. They fundraise aggressively through rage-bait social media posts that stir division, alienate allies, and create more problems than they solve. Real results? Don't happen. Pocket-lining? Seems like the priority. Todd praised GSL's John Boch for his reporting on their activities in our state.

Vandermyde also tore into the Gun Violence Prevention Committee in the legislature — calling it busywork for low-information lawmakers with nothing better to do.

On the courts, realism ruled. He's pessimistic about the 7th Circuit, where judges like Easterbrook and Amy St. Eve have consistently ruled against gun rights. At the Supreme Court, Chief Justice John Roberts remains the primary roadblock. Despite *Bruen*, contradictory lower-court rulings pile up while SCOTUS stays mostly silent. "Their inaction on guns has caused a huge loss of confidence in the Court," Todd warned. "Patience is running thin."

Bright spots? The current U.S. Department of Justice has good people in place, and he likes Harmeet Dhillon exactly where she is. As the only non-lawyer on the NRA's legislative affairs committee, Vandermyde continues grinding from the inside.

Bottom line from one of Illinois' most battle-tested voices: Stop chasing shiny objects and manufactured outrage. Hit hard with targeted lawsuits and smart bills. Build real coalitions. The rest will sort itself out.

The fight in Illinois is brutal, but with clear-eyed leaders like Todd Vandermyde on the board and in the trenches, there's reason for hope — and plenty of reasons to stay vigilant.

In Todd we trust. The Second Amendment defense continues — and it's far from over.



GunNews reported on this last month too!

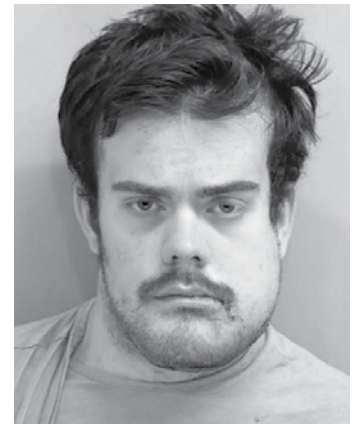
## ChatGPT accused of helping Florida State spree killer

(ZeroHedge) - Big Tech's leading AI faces growing accusations of enabling violence rather than preventing it.

Attorneys representing the family of Robert Morales, killed in the April 17, 2025, Florida State University shooting, announced plans to sue OpenAI and ChatGPT. The law firm Brooks, LeBoeuf, Foster, Gwartney and Hobbs stated the suspected gunman, [Scumbag's name redacted], was in "constant communication" with the chatbot leading up to the attack.

[Scumbag's name redacted] opened fire outside the FSU student union, killing Morales, a 57-year-old Aramark worker and father, and Tiru Chabba, 45, a vendor from South Carolina. Six others were wounded. Court records list more than 270 images of ChatGPT conversations as exhibits.

The firm declared: "We have reason to believe that ChatGPT may have advised the shooter how to commit these heinous crimes. We will therefore file suit against ChatGPT, and its ownership structure, very soon, and will seek to hold them accountable for the untimely and senseless death of our client, Mr. Morales."



Social misfit, loser and accused murderer.





279 North Front St. | Macon, IL 62544



# Indoor Range & Simulator!



**Retail Store:**

- Firearm Sales and Consignment
- Ammo
- Holsters
- Pro Shot Cleaning Supplies
- Range Bags and Accessories
- Hearing and Eye Protection
- Accessories

**Services:**

- Transfers
- FOID and ILCC application assistance
- Facility rental
- Simulator Parties
- Gift Cards

**Classes and Events:**

- Leagues
- Date Night
- Private Classes & instruction
- Marksmanship classes
- ILCC and Renewal classes (weekly)

**Hours:**

Mon/Wed/Fri/Sat: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.  
Tues/Thurs: 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.  
Sunday: CLOSED

217-764-5678  
WWW.THEBULLETRAP.COM



TERRANCE C. SULLIVAN, MANAGING BROKER

## LYONS-SULLIVAN REALTY, INC.

321 W. MADISON STREET, PONTIAC, IL 61764  
OFFICE 815-842-1400 | DIRECT 815-674-6299  
LYONSULLIVANREALTY.COM



## WEAPONIZING CAPITALISM: Springfield's Latest Assaults on Illinois Gun Owners

by Damon Williams  
GSL Member

(GSL) - I'd like add my voice on two proposed bills floating around in Springfield that use capitalism as a new weapon to disarm the citizens of Illinois.

Let's start with the RIFL Act (HB3320). This legislation seeks compensation for health care costs related to gun violence. It creates another bureaucratic board to determine reimbursement from manufacturers and FFLs paying their "fair share" of "damages" incurred by an individual's unlawful use of a lawfully manufactured product — even if stolen.

Failure to comply brings penalties of \$1 million per month for manufacturers and \$10,000 per firearm sold by FFLs. The buy-in to this insanity? It keeps changing as the primary sponsors keep watering the bill down to add support. Originally it started at \$821 million to be extorted from dealers and manufacturers just to continue doing business in Illinois. Along with "penalties" for criminal misuse.

The most recent (as of this writing) version of this bill would purportedly "only" add about \$450-500 per firearm sold. How many of you are willing to pay that when you can buy that same long gun outside of Illinois for \$500 less? How many gun shops will remain open. Spoiler alert: Almost none.

Election season is ramping up. Downstate Dems know they cannot have this stain on their voting records when constituents are paying attention. So the act is being passed back and forth between the House Rules Committee and the Gun Violence Committee, waiting for sleeping voters to look away.

HB4414, the serialized ammunition bill, never made it out of committee — mainly due to the flood of witness slips in protest. It was tabled, not struck down. The chicanery of our legislative bodies has already shown they can circumvent the voice of the people. I predict this bill will be resurrected, bypass the three readings rule of the Illinois Constitution (like that means anything these days), and passed in the dark of night.

What does it do? It calls for serialization of every brass case and a matching serial number on the bullet for all handgun ammunition possessed in Illinois. Each un-serialized round found in a person's possession carries a misdemeanor charge. (Imagine all of the

misdemeanors for a bulk pack of .22s!)

All serialized ammo sold will be recorded in an ISP database, with owners logged and tracked on purchases.

If some Fudds think this isn't directed at your single-shot deer rifle or bolt-action coyote gun, think again. If a handgun is chambered in a specified caliber, then by definition it is handgun ammunition. AR platform braced pistols in .223/5.56 or .300 Blackout sit in the PICA database. Even Bond Arms derringers and Thompson Contenders cover common rifle calibers.

Proving once again that the troglodytes who draft these atrocities do not understand the technology they want to legislate, the serial number on the projectile will break apart and deform beyond recognition upon striking its target. This legislation effectively outlaws reloading — the numbers on projectiles won't match the brass. At a public range, you'd better police every serialized case, or a criminal can plant yours at his crime scene. Prepare for a new wave of law enforcement "knock and talks."

Regardless, I will not allow my focus to be diverted by this legislated stupidity on public display. The true purpose is to use capitalism as a weapon against conducting firearms-related transactions in Illinois. These bills sour the Prairie State market, making it not cost-effective to do business here.

Illinois is only about 2.5% of the U.S. firearms market. The serialization technology doesn't exist. Manufacturers won't invest R&D for such a tiny slice, nor will FFLs pay five-figure extortion fees on razor-thin margins.

"We're not coming for your guns." No — they're criminalizing individual stockpiles of existing ammunition (unlawful takings?).

Their piety about reducing crime is supposed to eclipse the civil right of "...shall not be infringed."

The mere drafting of these bills proves an armed citizenry is their greatest fear. The pattern is clear: pass knowingly unconstitutional laws, tie them up in state courts for years, and keep them away from federal scrutiny.

Illinois gun owners must push back hard.



Why your place of worship needs a good safety team

## Lunatic with loaded gun, 100 rounds tackled by security at Houston church

Houston (NY Post) - A Texas man armed with a loaded gun and more than 100 rounds of ammunition was tackled by a security guard inside a Houston church before he could open fire, police said.

Emmanuel Ahsono Mbwavi, 23, was charged with two counts of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon, court records show.

Houston police said that on March 15, Mbwavi arrived at Eden Church, which holds services at Post Entertainment Center in downtown Houston on Sunday mornings.

According to court documents, a member of the church's security team recognized Mbwavi, who had been asked to leave the property roughly two months earlier after he tried handing out "concerning" flyers.



Emmanuel Ahsono Mbwavi

Based on that history, the church's pastor asked the security team to monitor Mbwavi.

The security guard told police he saw Mbwavi wearing a backpack and following a pastor into the bathroom, then walking in and out multiple times before disappearing into the crowd.

According to court documents, another pastor

confronted Mbwavi, and while the two were speaking, the security guard noticed Mbwavi holding the grip of a pistol in his pocket.

The guard told police he saw Mbwavi reach for the gun and tackled him, believing he was about to harm members of the security team and congregation.

Mbwavi had his cellphone in his hand and was allegedly counting down, leading the guard to believe a bomb could be detonated.

The security team and members of the church assisted the guard in restraining Mbwavi.

While on the ground, Mbwavi allegedly shouted, "I'm going to kill [the pastor], who is a fake prophet. I am a prophet called Warlock."

## Sullivan Gun Club 2025 Events... Mark your Calendar! All open to public.



### Bowling Pin Shoots

Reminder: Kids shoot free!  
May 2, 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

Reminder: Kids shoot free!  
Apr 25, May 16, Jun 20, July 25, Aug 22, Sep 26, Oct 24, Nov 21

\*subject to weather-related cancellations\*

Sporter stock, sporter heavy, target, unlimited, .17 classes

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

### Give the gift of membership!

Gift Certs available year-round.  
\$35 for individual membership.  
\$60 for family membership.

### Matches start at 9a.m.

\$10 per firearm. Kids free.  
Sign-in and warm up starting at 8a.m.  
All dates are subject to the weather.  
Follow us on Facebook for updates.

Gift certificates available at Zancha's Guns & Ammo in Lovington. Or send a check to Sullivan Gun Club LLC

### Sullivan Gun Club, LLC

1458 State Hwy 121  
Sullivan IL 61951

c/o Tracy Bettinger  
PO Box 584  
Lovington IL 61937.

## Join Guns Save Life today.



Membership application on back page of GunNews



# Storage Containers For Rent or Sale

Containers Available in the following sizes:

8x10' - 20' 8x8 - 40' 8x8  
40' 8x9.6 - 48' 8.6 x 9.6

*Perfect for seed or chemical storage*

# MEL PRICE CONTAINERS

1938 N. Bowman - PO Box 1637 - Danville, IL 61832

217 442-9092  
prcml@yahoo.com

217 304-1722  
melpricecontainers.com



## The Great Gun “Science” Scam: Why most “gun violence” studies are worthless junk

*Why is it that so little of the ‘science’ around so-called ‘gun violence’ can be replicated?*

(GSL) - Listen up, America. Every time some politician or media hack screams for more gun control, they wave around “studies” claiming “science proves” your AR-15 is the real enemy.

Turns out, that so-called science is about as reliable as a politician’s campaign promise.

Welcome to the replication crisis – the dirty little secret rotting social “science,” especially anything touching guns. In plain English: when other researchers try to rerun these famous gun-control studies using the same methods and data, the results often collapse like a house of cards. Poof. Gone.

A massive 2020 RAND Corporation review dug through a staggering 27,900 gun-related research papers. Guess how many actually tested gun control effects with any real rigor? Just 123 — that’s a pathetic 0.4 percent. And even those? Statistician Aaron Brown and Reason magazine tore them apart: full of statistical defects, p-hacking, cherry-picked data, missing controls, and researcher bias. Their brutal conclusion? The studies prove nothing about whether gun laws actually work.

Broader social science is no better. A major replication project found only 49% of papers across fields could be reliably reproduced. Psychology’s big 2015 effort? A miserable 39%. One PNAS study handed the exact same dataset and hypothesis to different skilled research teams — they couldn’t even agree on basic numbers or conclusions. It’s the “garden of forking paths”: tweak one tiny decision in analysis, and you can “prove” whatever your funding masters want.

Why does this matter to gun owners? Because these flaky studies are the main ammunition for every assault weapon ban, magazine limit, and red-flag confiscation scheme. Anti-gun activists and their taxpayer-funded academics crank out alarming headlines to scare voters and justify stripping your constitutional rights. It’s a cozy racket: researchers chase grants by hyping “gun violence epidemics,” while politicians use the junk science to grab more power over law-abiding citizens who just want to defend their families.

Real-world armed citizens stop bad guys every day. Defensive gun uses dwarf criminal ones in credible estimates. Yet the “public health” crowd treats your God-given right to self-defense like a disease that needs curing. Meanwhile, cities with the strictest gun laws — Chicago, Baltimore, Los Angeles — remain blood-soaked war zones run by criminals who ignore every law on the books.

The Founders didn’t enshrine the Second Amendment because they trusted government “experts.” They knew an armed populace is the ultimate check on tyranny. When “science” can’t even replicate its own findings, it has zero business overriding your fundamental rights.

Bottom line: Don’t let these charlatans with lab coats disarm you. Demand real, replicable evidence — not activist propaganda dressed up as science. Your right to keep and bear arms isn’t up for debate by people whose “studies” evaporate under scrutiny.

The replication crisis proves what gun owners have known all along: it’s not the guns. It’s the bad guys — and the bad “science” pushing to leave good people defenseless.

## NPR sympathizes with synagogue killer’s Hezbollah family & pals — Ignores armed heroes who stopped the massacre

(GSL) - NPR’s coverage of the March 12, 2026, Hezbollah-inspired attack on Temple Israel synagogue in West Bloomfield, Michigan, revealed its hard-left bias in stark terms.

Despite running multiple stories, NPR quoted not a single rabbi, congregant, parent, or child from Temple Israel. Local outlets covered the terror felt by the Jewish community.



NPR instead dispatched a reporter 6,000 miles to [Scumbag’s name redacted]’s hometown in Hezbollah territory for a March 14 segment titled “In a small Lebanese town, grief and fear follow the Michigan synagogue attack.” It humanized the attacker’s family, friends, and neighbors while soft-pedaling his deliberate targeting of Jewish children...

A 41-year-old Lebanese-born U.S. citizen, [Scumbag’s name redacted], rammed his truck—loaded with fireworks and gasoline—into the synagogue building housing a Jewish preschool with over 100 children inside. He opened fire before being killed by heroic armed volunteers providing security.

This wasn’t oversight. It was pattern: reflexive sympathy for narratives fitting NPR’s ideological priors, while marginalizing Jewish victims of antisemitic terror. Taxpayer-funded “public” radio inverted the story—sympathizing with the killer’s circle rather than the intended victims.

The FBI linked the assault to Hezbollah; Ghazali’s brother was a Hezbollah commander.

## American radicals arrested in Czech Republic arms producer arson attack

*Prague (Jerusalem Post)* - Czech and Slovak police have detained three people, including US and Czech citizens, on terrorism charges following an arson attack on an arms producer's facility claimed by a group that says the company develops weapons in cooperation with an Israeli firm.



Meet Yusuf Morsi, an American Muslim anti-colonial, non-binary feminist with bullring in his (her?) nose who supports Palestine. He/she is reportedly the ringleader of this circus of clowns.



Some of the other "persons of interest."

[Editor's Note: Please don't burn down CZ.]

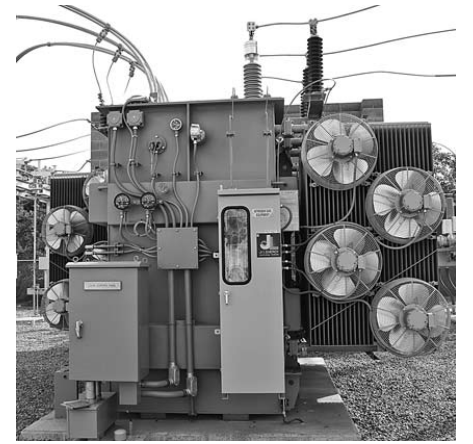
## Pro-Iranian hackers breached US infrastructure, Feds say

*(ZeroHedge)* - Pro-Iranian hackers have breached critical U.S. infrastructure, according to a joint warning issued Tuesday by several federal agencies...

Iranian cyberattacks targeting U.S. organizations have increased recently with the ongoing war against Iran, the advisory said.

In the latest breach, hackers caused disruptions through "malicious interactions" on project files and data displays in organizations across multiple U.S. critical infrastructure sectors, including government services and facilities, local municipalities, water and waste systems, and energy infrastructure.

Hackers exploited vulnerabilities in internet-connected devices used to control machinery in the key U.S. sectors...



A whole lot of infrastructure remains vulnerable to malicious hackers.

## Even electricity is leaving Illinois

by Don Surber

*(Substack)* - New York state's tax policy is exiling millionaires to Florida. California's craziness is banishing billionaires.

But Illinois has them beat with its climate change laws that are forcing two-thirds of an electric plant in Elwood to take the advice of Suzy Bogguss and drive South with the one they love.

Reddy Kilowatt packed its power plant and headed for Texas, which welcomes gas-powered electric plants. The company that owns two-thirds of that plant is hauling away the equipment that will generate 900 megawatts of power for Texans.

This is the reaction to the 2021 Climate & Equitable Jobs Act, which the Chicago Tribune called "one of Gov. JB Pritzker's signature accomplishments, requires Illinois to phase out the burning of fossil fuels for

electricity by 2045 and sets an earlier 2030 deadline for closing certain gas-fired plants."

Elwood was among the plants that Democrat gave the arbitrary death penalty.

One year after the governor signed the law, the Chicago Tribune proudly endorsed Pritzker's re-election.

Much to its surprise, the editorial board discovered the evil Elwood plant is shutting down ahead of schedule.

On Friday, the newspaper ran an editorial, "Owner of massive Elwood Energy plant isn't waiting for Illinois closure deadlines. They're literally moving the plant to Texas."

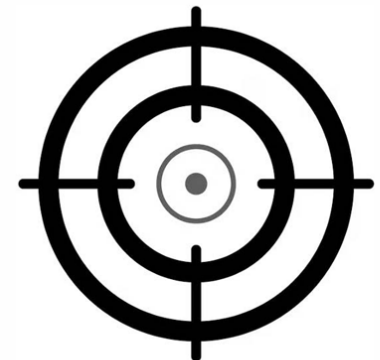
The editorial said, "Imagine that an entire nuclear reactor were shutting down for good in northern Illinois. The move at Elwood Energy is the equivalent."

## "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.*

### Individuals and Families

- College Planning
- Retirement Planning
- Investments & Portfolio Building
- Traditional and Roth IRA
- Life Insurance
- Long Term Care Insurance
- Disability Income Insurance
- Alternative Investments
- Tax-Efficiency Investing



### Business

- Employee Benefits
- Business Succession Planning
- Retirement Plans: i.e. 401(k), SIMPLE, SEP, PEP, Defined Benefit
- Educational Services
- Insurances
- Executive and key personnel benefit plans
- Alternative Investments
- Tax-Efficiency Investing



### Gerald Arnholt • Financial Advisor

- Ripon College: B.A. Economics
- President - Scimitar Foundation & Chairman Scimitar Sportsman's Night
- Donor Representative - Shriners Hospital for Children
- Member - Sons of the American Legion (Germantown, WI)
- Member Milwaukee Elks Lodge #46
- Lifetime Member NRA

### VantagePointe Financial Group

13400 Bishop's Lane • Suite 150  
Brookfield, WI 53005  
(262) 784-8400



Securities and investment advisory services offered through **Osaic Wealth, Inc.** member FINRA/SIPC. **Osaic Wealth** is separately owned and other entities and/or marketing names, products or services referenced here are independent of **Osaic Wealth**. 9/25 8353226

WE DEFEND YOUR RIGHT TO DEFEND YOURSELF. **GUNNEWS** PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY GUNS SAVE LIFE. VOLUME 22, NUMBER 8 AUGUST 2016

SECOND AMENDMENT NEWS AFFILIATED WITH JPFC, CIVILIAN MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM, NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION, ILLINOIS FEDERATION FOR OUTDOOR RESOURCES, ISRA, AND OTHERS

## Advertising Opportunities

GSL currently prints about **20,150 copies** of *GunNews*, distributed primarily in Illinois to members and select distribution sites. We have members in 39+ states.

Description	Dimensions	Single (each)	4+ (each)	Annual
Full page	10.375"x15"	\$250	\$200	\$150
Half vertical	5" x 15"	\$150	\$125	\$100
Half horizontal	10.375" x 7.25"	\$150	\$125	\$100
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
Eighth horizontal	7" x 2.5"	\$65	\$50	\$40

**Ad Submission Information**  
Email ads to [jboch@gunssavelifelife.com](mailto:jboch@gunssavelifelife.com) or mail on media to *GunNews*, PO Box 51, Savoy, IL 61874. For payment and scheduling, email [jboch@gunssavelifelife.com](mailto: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



**Second Sunday:** Annie Shoot/.22 steel plate shoot.

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

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

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

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

**Crete Gun Club.**  
Monthly meetings at 7pm on the **First Monday.** 1962 W. Exchange, Crete, IL. Open to all. Contact Howard Kaye at 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**



**April 26:** Illinois Valley, Mendota  
**May 13:** Northern IL, Rockford  
**May 16:** Bluff City, Godfrey  
**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](http://FriendsOfNRA.org).

## GUN SHOWS...

### May

**May 16 & 17: Kankakee Gun Show,** Kankakee County Fairgrounds Kankakee, IL. Mike (630) 363-3131.  
**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.

## 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.

## Wisconsin man fined \$29,000, ten-year ban for illegally shooting moose in Canada

(Venatic) - A Wisconsin man has been hit with a stiff penalty after illegally killing a cow moose while on a northern Ontario hunt back in the fall of 2023. According to reports and a recent court bulletin, Larry Szura, of New Auburn, Wisconsin, shot the animal from a public roadway and then attempted to cover it up by convincing his hunting partner to falsify a tag.

out a license, and possessing illegally killed wildlife.



For his actions, Szura was found guilty in the Ontario Court of Justice in mid-December of three offenses which included discharging a firearm down the travelled portion of a roadway, hunting moose with-

## Idaho Fish & Game Commissioner charged with hunting violations in illegal elk hunt

(Venatic) - Idaho Department of Fish and Game commissioner Brody Harshbarger



Brody Harshbarger.

In what sounds like yet another headline we definitely didn't want to see on the timeline, the guy Idaho's governor tapped to help set the state's hunting rules, bag limits, and wildlife policy, was charged earlier this month for allegedly turning a Saturday in December into his own bonus elk season.

That's right, Brody Harshbarger, the Idaho Department of Fish and Game commissioner representing the Upper Snake Region, is now up against seven misdemeanor charges related to the alleged unlawful killing of a pair of bull elk in Fremont County back on December 20th of last year.

Harshbarger, a dryland farmer from Ashton, Idaho, had reportedly filled his own elk tag the previous weekend and decided he'd better be off going tagless for the final two bulls of his "season". Court documents allege that neither Harshbarger nor the second man involved (identified as Eric Murphy) had permission to hunt on the private property where one elk was recovered.

According to court records and a conservation officer's deposition, the case began when a tip was received via the Citizens Against Poaching hotline reporting individuals shooting at elk near the Spring Hollow boat ramp. Responding officers later located a six-point bull on private property and an antlerless bull on adjacent Bureau of Reclamation land.

The charges against Harshbarger include three counts of unlawful taking of game animals, hunting without an appropriate tag, hunting from a motorized vehicle (he allegedly let the bullets fly from the driver's seat of a pickup truck), shooting across a public highway, and trespassing on private property to hunt.

## GSL LEADERSHIP DIRECTORY

**MEMBERSHIP SERVICES:** Andy McLaughlin [mclaughlin.iii.1776@gmail.com](mailto:mclaughlin.iii.1776@gmail.com)

**John Boch**  
Executive Director  
[jboch@gunssavelife.com](mailto:jboch@gunssavelife.com)  
217 649-3702

### OFFICERS

**Rich Goodall**  
President  
[casbrisco@yahoo.com](mailto:casbrisco@yahoo.com)  
309-737-0974

**John Coyne**  
Vice-President  
[johncoyne2010@gmail.com](mailto:johncoyne2010@gmail.com)  
847 361-6201

Treasurer  
**Joanne Chandler**  
[weims4me\\_us@yahoo.com](mailto:weims4me_us@yahoo.com)

**Tracy Bettinger**  
Corporate Secretary  
217 254-1772  
[sullivangunclub@yahoo.com](mailto:sullivangunclub@yahoo.com)

**Dale Lock**  
Immediate Past President  
[lockdale1953@gmail.com](mailto:lockdale1953@gmail.com)  
217-670-9786

### DIRECTORS

**Chad Berck**  
[cberck@gmail.com](mailto:cberck@gmail.com)  
309 531-4851

**Joel Gain**  
[joelgain37@yahoo.com](mailto:joelgain37@yahoo.com)  
217 632-3267

**Don Jensen**  
[djensen@jvnet.com](mailto:djensen@jvnet.com)

**Howard Kaye**  
[FXRT1984@gmail.com](mailto:FXRT1984@gmail.com)  
708 921-6768

**Kristen Garrett**  
[kristengarrett17@gmail.com](mailto:kristengarrett17@gmail.com)  
217 779-2675

**Keith Pippin**  
[keith.pippin@yahoo.com](mailto:keith.pippin@yahoo.com)

**Glenn Pratt**  
[pratman1776@yahoo.com](mailto:pratman1776@yahoo.com)  
708 822-4735

**Dave Randolph**  
[bowfisher5@hotmail.com](mailto:bowfisher5@hotmail.com)

**Ken Rishel**  
[krishel@gunssavelife.com](mailto:krishel@gunssavelife.com)

**Charles L. Sykes**  
[charles@effectivefirearms.com](mailto:charles@effectivefirearms.com)

**Tim Wier**  
[timothywier@yahoo.com](mailto:timothywier@yahoo.com)

**REGIONAL**  
Champaign County  
**Dick Brandt**  
[rbrandt720@aol.com](mailto:rbrandt720@aol.com)  
217-778-3800

Pontiac  
**NOW HIRING!**

Charleston Co-Director  
**Keith Pippin**  
[keith.pippin@yahoo.com](mailto:keith.pippin@yahoo.com)  
217 259-7420

Charleston Co-Director  
**Justin Bawcum**  
[bawcum.justin@gmail.com](mailto:bawcum.justin@gmail.com)  
217-508-8459

Peoria  
**Richard Parks**  
[richardsguns01@hotmail.com](mailto:richardsguns01@hotmail.com)  
309 645-4603

Chicagoland  
**Alfreda Keith Keller**  
[fredaka9@comcast.net](mailto:fredaka9@comcast.net)  
708-800-5263

LaSalle County  
**Glenn Pratt**  
[pratman1776@yahoo.com](mailto:pratman1776@yahoo.com)  
708 822-4735

Northwest Chicagoland  
**Eric North**  
[ericnorth283@gmail.com](mailto:ericnorth283@gmail.com)  
708 932-1636

Sangamon County Director  
**Tim Wier**  
[timothywier@yahoo.com](mailto:timothywier@yahoo.com)

Decatur  
**Bill Hutton**  
[billhutton2000@gmail.com](mailto:billhutton2000@gmail.com)

Danville  
**John "Jack" Land**  
[johnfland1962@gmail.com](mailto:johnfland1962@gmail.com)  
217 497-1866

Quincy  
**Kristen Garrett**  
[kristengarrett17@gmail.com](mailto:kristengarrett17@gmail.com)  
217 779-2675

### TEAM LEADERS

**GunNews Distribution**  
**Warren Drake**  
217 898-9602

**GunNews Editor**  
**John Boch**  
[jboch@gunssavelife.com](mailto:jboch@gunssavelife.com)  
217 649-3702

**Gun & Trade Shows**  
**Carlin Anderson**  
[canderson@uslawshield.com](mailto:canderson@uslawshield.com)  
217-371-4025

Membership Services  
**Andy McLaughlin**  
Team Lead  
[mclaughlin.iii.1776@gmail.com](mailto:mclaughlin.iii.1776@gmail.com)



## Handcrafted Custom Knives

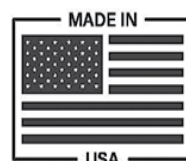
Dorian Mosack, Bladesmith  
Army Veteran  
2-time *Forged In Fire* Contestant

☎ 309.339.3224

🌐 [whiskeycityforge.bigcartel.com](http://whiskeycityforge.bigcartel.com)

f [whiskey\\_city\\_forge\\_](https://www.facebook.com/whiskey_city_forge_)

📷 [whiskey\\_city\\_forge\\_](https://www.instagram.com/whiskey_city_forge_)





Gun free zones aren't crime free

## 'Lucifer' maims three in NYC machete attack; cops shot him dead right there

*NYC (NY Post)* - A criminal slashed three elderly people with a machete — while calling himself "Lucifer" — in an unprovoked attack and was fatally shot by cops at Grand Central Terminal Saturday morning, police said.



## Brady Campaign calls for resignation of gun control lover Eric Swalwell

**Last year:** "He is unafraid to take action. Brady is proud to endorse Rep. Eric Swalwell for re-election to the U.S. House of Representatives."

**BRADY CALLS ON ERIC SWALWELL TO IMMEDIATELY RESIGN FROM OFFICE, WITHDRAW FROM CALIFORNIA GOVERNOR'S RACE**

**Today:** "Eric Swalwell must resign from Congress and drop out of the California governor's race now."

Even police getting nervous in VA

## VA State Police try to calm fears of door-to-door gun confiscations

*(Breitbart)* - On Thursday the Virginia State Police (VSP) used an X post to try to calm fears that Democrat Gov. Abigail Spanberger's gun control push will result in state police going door-to-door to confiscate firearms.



A study you won't see in the NY Times

## Manufacturing white criminals: Depictions of criminality and violence on Law & Order

*(TandFOOnline.com)* - "Results suggest whites are disproportionately portrayed as criminals five to eight times more often on police dramas compared to actual crime statistics for the city of New York, and exposure to police dramas leads to elevated perceptions of white criminality among non-whites."



OUR WOKE JUDICIARY

## Mass. high court rules armed robbery not violent enough to hold suspects

*Boston (Mass Daily News)* — A Florida man walked into a Fall River bank last summer, handed the teller a note that said "I have a bomb," and walked out with \$5,000. He got caught the same day with dye on his hands and stolen cash in his pocket. Open and shut.

But before his case was resolved, a legal question made it all the way to the state's highest court: could prosecutors hold him without bail as a danger to the public?

The Supreme Judicial Court said no.

Armed robbery, the justices ruled on March 10, doesn't count as a violent enough crime to lock someone up before trial.

Read that again. Armed robbery. Not violent enough.



## Camden, NJ: Homicides down 90%, violent crime down 57% since 2012

Homicides in Camden, New Jersey, were down 90% during the first quarter of 2026 compared to 2012, according to data shared by the Camden County Police Department on April 3, 2026.

Officials said the city has also seen a 57% reduction in overall violent crime and an 89% reduction in shootings throughout the city's 19 neighborhoods compared to the same period in 2012, the year when the city department was disbanded and reformed as Camden County Metro Police.

### Editor: So what happened?

Since 2012, New Jersey went from strict "may issue" carry licenses to "shall issue". In the last 14 years, 100,000 carry licenses were issued.



Good news!

## Home distilling on its way to 'legal'

*(ZeroHedge)* - A federal appeals court on April 10 declared a nearly 158-year-old ban on home distilling to be unconstitutional, ruling that the ban was an unnecessary and improper means for Congress to exercise its power to tax.

We'll see how many rules and regs they place on it!

## USPS to allow 'lawful' handguns to be mailed soon

*(Breitbart)* - On April 2, 2026, the U.S. Postal Service will post a proposed rule revising "mailing standards for firearms" to allow "lawful handguns to be mailed" in a manner similar to long guns and shotguns.



On January 15, 2026, Breitbart News reported the DOJ's Office of Legal Counsel (OLC) issued an opinion indicating a ban against mailing handguns violates the Second Amendment.

Today, the Postal Service made clear their pending proposed rule is an attempt to comply with the OLC's opinion:

*On January 15, 2026, the OLC at the Department of Justice issued a*

*Memorandum Opinion for the Attorney General concluding that Section 1715 of title 18 U.S. Code "is unconstitutional as applied to constitutionally protected firearms, including handguns, because it serves an illegitimate purpose and is inconsistent with the Nation's tradition of firearm regulation." Constitutionality of 18 U.S.C. § 1715... OLC further concluded that the "Postal Service should modify its regulations to conform with the scope of the Second Amendment as described in [the OLC] opinion."*

*...The Postal Service defers to OLC's judgment as to the lawful scope of this criminal statute and worked in consultation with OLC to develop the proposed revisions to our mailability regulations... The proposed revisions expand the scope of mailable firearms compared to the existing regulations by allowing lawful handguns to be mailed under the same terms and conditions as lawful rifles and shotguns.*

The Postal Service will accept comments on the proposed rule change for 30 days after it is published.

## Veteran's Gun Ban Officially DEAD!

*(NAGR)* - In February, the National Association for Gun Rights announced a 30-year gun ban had been defeated. Now, it has been confirmed that those veterans who were stripped of their rights under this ban are regaining their Second Amendment rights back.

On March 30th, the National Association for Gun Rights received confirmation directly from the House Veterans Affairs Committee that ALL names of veterans who were banned from owning firearms for things as simple as requesting financial assistance have been removed from the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS).



What could go wrong? Morale booster for Russian soldiers?

## Will Ukraine end up forcibly conscripting women to fight?

*(ZeroHedge)* - Since Ukraine's population has shrunk dramatically, the army's number one problem is no longer the lack of weapons, such as ballistic missiles and air defense systems, but the lack of soldiers to operate them, writes Világgyazdaság.

The authorities in Kyiv, however, must bring the army size required by Commander-in-Chief Zelensky (800,000 active soldiers), and since the number of men eligible for military service (between the ages of 18 and 60) is slowly running out, the Ukrainian leadership is now trying to fill the gaps by conscripting women.

## HOW IT STARTED

## Australia prosecutes its most decorated soldier for 'war crimes'

*(GSL)* - In the shadow of Parliament House, Australia arrested its most decorated soldier. Ben Roberts-Smith, Victoria Cross recipient and veteran of ten deployments, was led from his Sydney home in handcuffs on a crisp autumn morning in 2026. The charge: war crimes.

Witness after witness—Afghan men—claimed he murdered civilians. Yet their stories unravelled under scrutiny, with evidence of coaching and inconsistencies. Each accuser received fast-tracked permanent asylum, housing, stipends, and citizenship—rewards that critics called "winning the lottery" for testimony.



## HOW IT'S GOING

## SAS soldiers resign over war crime 'witch hunts'

*(UK Telegraph)* - Special forces troops are quitting in 'significant' numbers as result of human rights probes

## This is what the media squandered in pursuit of the narrative:



[Editor: Trust in the American media has dipped from about 75% shortly after 1970 to under 30% today.]

## THE SECOND AMENDMENT



## MAKING MORE WOMEN EQUAL THAN THE ENTIRE FEMINIST MOVEMENT

### Gun rights are women's rights

By Grace Rutherford

*(Claremont College The Student Life)* - Women need access to guns to even the playing field when faced with physically stronger assailants. Consider the 57-year-old woman living in Cape Girardeau, Missouri, who was raped by Ronnie Preyer in October 2008. When this registered sex-offender came back five days later to assault her a second time, she used a 12-gauge shotgun to kill him in self-defense. Take Melinda Herman, a Georgian wife and mother who protected her nine-year-old twins while her husband was at work, when Paul Slater, a thirty-two-year-old with an extensive criminal history, broke into her house with a crowbar. She shot him, saving her life and the lives of her children. Similarly, in Richmond, California, eighty-four-year-old Gustava Harvey fired a .38 caliber revolver when an intruder kicked down her door; the gunfire alone caused him to flee.

A gun neutralizes physical strength differences — what matters is not size, but the ability to act. There are numerous accounts of women of all ages protecting themselves, their children and their homes through the use of guns. Without a gun, these stories could have ended very differently. Without a weapon, women are forced to rely on physical strength they do not have; with a gun, they gain the immediate and equal capacity to defend themselves.

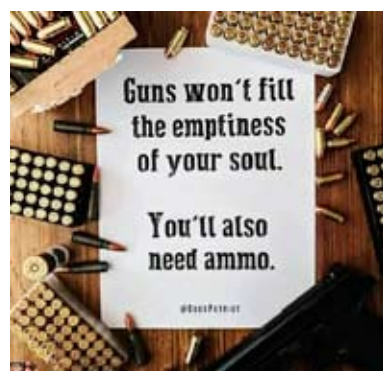
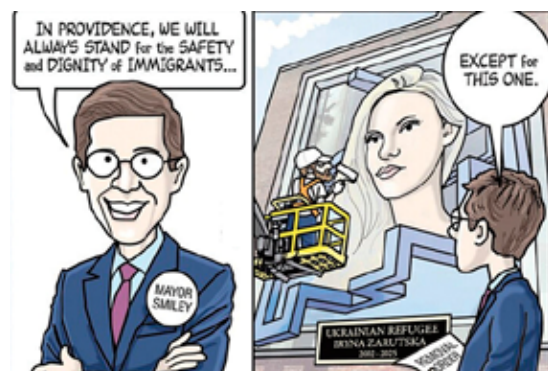
Many advocates for gun control believe that more guns inherently increase crime, suggesting that increasing gun ownership among women would be associated with more overall crime. However, there is little evidence to suggest that this would be the case. Women are significantly less likely than men to commit violent crimes overall. Men commit roughly 75-80 percent of violent crime and about 88-90 percent of homicides.

Furthermore, the “guns cause crime” view ignores evidence that firearms are also used defensively, often preventing crimes before they escalate. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported that defensive use of guns is at least as common as offensive use by criminals, and an estimated 500,000 to more than 3 million defensive gun uses occur annually. Defensive gun use, whether through firing or simply brandishing, can deter attackers and stop violence in real time — exactly the way women are most likely to use guns.

Gun control advocates also often argue that if no one had guns, violence during crime would decrease and women would be safer. However, this ignores the reality that certain types of violent crime can worsen in countries with strict gun control. Burglars in the United States are far less likely to target occupied homes than burglars in the United Kingdom.

Research suggests that this is largely due to fear of encountering an armed resident. In the United States, only 13 percent of burglaries occur when people are home, while in England and Wales, this number is 59 percent. Removing guns does not remove violence, and even in countries where guns are strictly regulated, women remain disproportionately victims of physical and sexual violence. Removing guns eliminates one of the few tools women have to effectively resist violence.

Ultimately, guns provide women with a practical and immediate means of self-defense against physically stronger male attackers. The defensive use of firearms can deter crime, interrupt attacks and reduce the likelihood of victimization. Women are statistically less likely to commit violence and are well-positioned to use firearms responsibly for protection.



# Join the Guns Save Life family today!

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

- **Get GunNews delivered to your door every month.**
- **Stay up-to-date on the latest news & information**
- **Learn strategies & tactics to keep your family safe**
- **Discounts with some legal coverage providers**
- **Pride of ownership in our famous highway signs**  
Yes, you may call them “your own” when telling friends about them.
- **Members-only Legal Defense Fund.**  
Access to legal support for those who are victims of subject to inappropriate or unjust firearm-related arrests, as well as arrests following justifiable use of force in self-defense incidents.

Sign up online at: [GunsSaveLife.com/join](https://GunsSaveLife.com/join)

## SIGN UP HERE!

Clip this application and mail it along with your check to  
Guns Save Life, PO Box 51, Savoy, IL 61874

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State and Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

*(for urgent alerts only)*

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

### Membership:

- o \$40 - Annual membership / Renewal
- o \$20 - Sign up a friend *(with regular annual membership or renewal)*
- o \$120 - Three-year membership / Renewal
- o \$60 - Sign up three friends *(with a three-year membership/renewal)*
- o \$50 - Family membership
- o \$150 - Family membership three-year
- o \$50 - Business membership
- o \$1000 - Life membership
- o \$500 - Life membership for over age 65

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

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

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

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

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

Renew or sign up for a new membership in Guns Save Life, and you can sign up a friend for an annual membership for only \$20 more! If you sign up for multiple years, you can sign up multiple friends, too. Share the love!

