



RED ALERT: AMICI NEEDED. See page 2.



Image courtesy Oleg Volk.

SCOTUS
BOUND!

by John Boch
(GSL) - The U.S. Supreme Court has granted *certiorari* in two major challenges to gun and magazine bans, consolidating *Viramontes v. Cook County* (Seventh Circuit) and *Grant v. Higgins* (Second Circuit). The move, announced on the final day of the 2025-2026 term, sets the stage for the Court to decide whether states and localities can ban the most popular rifles in America—AR-15 platform and similar semiautomatic firearms owned by millions of law-abiding citizens.

This is the moment gun owners have awaited since *New York State Rifle & Pistol Association v. Bruen* (2022). Lower courts have spent years dodging that precedent. In *Viramontes*, the Seventh Circuit panel of judges refused to revisit its earlier flawed *Bevis v. City of Naperville* decision, which upheld bans by claiming AR-15s are functionally akin to military M16s and therefore “lie outside the class of Arms” protected by the Second Amendment. The panel faulted plaintiffs for not “developing the arguments or record” to overrule *Bevis*—a convenient procedural dodge that let the circuit cling to a novel “military-like” or “predominantly military” test *never* endorsed by the Supreme Court.

GSL’s opinion has been bolstered by other legal observers who have rightly called this playing fast and loose with *Bruen*. The Seventh Circuit (and others) invented exclusions for common semiautomatic platforms and, in related litigation, large-capacity magazines, rather than applying *Heller’s* “in common use for lawful

purposes” standard and Bruen’s history-and-tradition test. These rifles number in the tens of millions, outpace many popular trucks like the F-150 in civilian ownership, and serve self-defense, sport, and competition for ordinary Americans. Feature-based bans targeting them rest on cosmetics and fear, not text, history, or data.



The recent *Wolford v. Lopez* decision (June 25, 2026) further clarifies the proper framework. In that 6-3 ruling striking down Hawaii’s “no-carry default” on private property open to the public,

Continued on page 3.

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August 2026

- Quincy: Last Wednesday: **July 29**, August 26, September 30
Eagles Club, 3737 N. Fifth Street, Quincy
- Chicagoland: Last Sunday: **July 26**, August 30
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: **August 3, NO MEETING IN SEPT!**
SCHEELS, 3801 S. MacArthur, Springfield
- Pontiac: First Tuesday: **August 4**, September 1
Pontiac Sportsman's Club, 18663 4-H Park Road, Pontiac
- Decatur: First Wednesday: **August 5**, September 2
Coz's Pizza, 1405 East Village Parkway, Mt Zion *(Program at 6:45pm)*
- Peoria: First Thursday: **August 6**, September 3
Barrack's Banquet Center, 1224 Pioneer Parkway, Peoria
Dinner and conversation here at 5:30pm. Program at 6:30ish.
- Danville: Second Monday **August 10**, September 14
Ela's Restaurant, 1111 E. Voorhees St., Danville
- Northwest Chicagoland: Second Wed: **No Meeting in August**, Sept. 9
Prairie House Tavern, 2710 Main St., Buffalo Grove
Dinner and conversation here at 5:30pm. Program at 6pm-ish.
- Mattoon: Second Thursday: **August 13**, September 9
The American Legion Post 88, 1903 Maple Ave, Mattoon
- LaSalle County: Third Thursday: **August 20**, September 17
Jamie's Outpost, 602 Clark St., Utica

Dinner, conversation, exhibits at 6 p.m. Program starts at 7 p.m.
Come on out and join us. Good food, good fun and good friends.
Dinner is optional but we encourage attendees to eat to support the venues.

Meetings are free and open to all.



Retired flag from Flight 93 Memorial

Pastor Stephen Holden, left, delivered a powerful, unforgettable moment at our July meeting. Before we recited the Pledge of Allegiance, Pastor Holden brought out a retired American flag from the sacred grounds of the Flight 93 Memorial in Shanksville, Pennsylvania—one of the few places on Earth where raw American courage stared down pure evil on 9/11 and refused to blink.

That flag, carefully folded and full of history, wasn't just fabric. It was a living tribute to the 40 heroes who fought back so the terrorists' fourth plane never reached its target. As Pastor Holden presented it, the room grew quiet. You could feel the weight of it—the sacrifice, the defiance, the unbreakable American spirit that said, "Not today. Not on our watch."

And that's the beautiful thing about Guns Save Life meetings: you never know what you'll find. One month it's great speakers dropping knowledge, the next it's rare, valuable, or downright interesting guns on the table... and sometimes it's sacred historical objects that stop you in your tracks and stir your soul.

In this 250th anniversary year of our nation's birth, that flag served as a profound reminder: freedom isn't free, and real patriots—whether on a hijacked flight or in the daily fight for our Second Amendment rights—stand ready when it counts.

It was one of those goosebump moments that hits you right in the chest. Thank you, Pastor Holden, for bringing that piece of living history to Guns Save Life. We're honored, humbled, and fired up to keep carrying the torch.



THIS IS FOR ALL THE MARBLES: Supreme Court battle expected to crush PICA & restore real freedom but the good guys need your help

by John Boch
My fellow GSL members and our friends, the fight of our lifetimes is here — and freedom itself is on the line.

Guns Save Life, alongside our co-plaintiffs in the landmark *FFL-IL v. Illinois* challenge to PICA, is filing *Amicus Curiae* briefs to the U.S. Supreme Court in support of *Viramontes v. Cook County*. SCOTUS accepted the case at the end of June. As our lawyers put it: **this is for all the marbles.** It will decide once and for all what guns the government can ban — and how far politicians can go in harassing law-abiding owners.

jump through ridiculous hoops: special Firearms Eligibility Cards, state AND county fees, mandatory training courses (up to 12 hours), written exams, and more bureaucratic nonsense just to exercise their rights. You want that in Illinois? Because it's coming if SCOTUS doesn't stop it.

We're also pushing hard for a clear right to repair — your God-given right to buy parts and keep your firearms working without Big Brother's permission.

Other allies are covering suppressors and essential accoutrements. Together, we're building a wall around the Second Amendment that even activist judges can't ignore.

We have less than four weeks to file unless an extension is granted — and the plaintiffs in this case are going to fight any extensions as we don't want Illinois and Connecticut to drag briefs into next year. We want to keep this thing moving.

Here's the hard truth: these briefs aren't cheap. Each one runs about \$10,000 — a deeply discounted rate from top-tier firms that would normally charge \$50k or more to a "nobody" client.

We're not asking you to send the money to Guns Save Life. Instead, donate directly to the warrior lawyers carrying the fight:

Second Amendment Law Center: www.2alc.org

Second Amendment Defense and Education Coalition: www.sadec.org

Both are 501(c)(3) organizations — perfect for itemized deductions.

You already know the other side isn't sitting this one out. Bloomberg, Soros and their billionaire buddies and every gun-grabbing dark money machine will be flooding the Court with slick *Amici* designed to intimidate the justices into choosing tyranny over liberty. We can't match their wallets — but we've beaten them before with freedom's righteous cause, along with grit and sheer determination.

I know many of you have given until it hurt during the PICA fight. We at GSL have too. But this is the moment that could finally gut these unconstitutional bans and restore the rights our Founders intended. One more push. One more round of support from patriots who refuse to be disarmed.

The future of the Second Amendment in Illinois — and across America — hangs in the balance. Step up, freedom lovers. History is watching.

Guns Save Life — Defending our rights, one member at a time.



Rep. Chris Miller gives us an update at the Mattoon meeting.



JB (not the governor) won in Mattoon.



Tim won a lever action in Pontiac!



Thermal optics were the star of the show in Pontiac.



She won in Peoria!



Dillan Vancil for Congress!
Dillan Vancil is running for Congress in Illinois' 17th District. Vancil is a husband, father of two, small business owner, and lifelong west-central Illinoisan who's stepping up to fight for our values in Washington. He's working hard to replace an anti-gun incumbent and bring common-sense representation to a district that deserves better. The fight is uphill thanks to gerrymandering, but Dillan is in it to win it — standing strong for our Second Amendment rights, families, and hardworking communities.



Lou won in Springfield at SCHEELS.



This isn't a theoretical, either. Colorado is set to implement a new law on August 1st, forcing buyers of many popular semi-automatic rifles, shotguns, and pistols to

"The century of progressivism did not go well. The European system that Wilson and the progressives scolded Americans for not adopting—which he called nearly perfect—led to the governments that caused the most awful century that the world has ever seen. Stalin, Hitler, Mussolini and Mao all were intertwined with the rise of progressivism, and all were opposed to the natural rights on which our Declaration is based. Many progressives expressed admiration for each of them shortly before their governments killed tens of millions of people. It was a terrible mistake to adopt progressivism's rejection of the Declaration's vision of universal, unalienable natural rights."

-Justice Clarence Thomas, 2026



Join Guns Save Life. Get the truth that keeps you alive.

The Supreme Court has taken up major challenges to AR-15 and magazine bans. Victory is possible, but the other side is already working to make any win narrow, weak, and full of loopholes that let politicians keep harassing lawful owners with permits, registration, fees, and insurance mandates. Guns Save Life is filing Amicus Curiae briefs right now to force the broadest possible ruling — one that actually protects your rights instead of leaving Illinois gun owners in the same trap. This is the fight of our lifetimes. Without GSL's voice in that courtroom, the chance to finally crush PICA could slip away.

Legacy media and Springfield politicians will not defend you. They won't educate you. Instead, they bury the truth about gang violence, the SAFE-T Act's revolving door for criminals, and the real defensive gun uses that outnumber criminal ones.

GunNews gives you the unfiltered facts every month — plus practical intelligence that can save your family: how to protect your gun collection from FOID traps and obituary burglars when you die, how to stay ready during blackouts and emergencies, and how armed citizens should (and shouldn't) act in chaotic situations.

GSL doesn't just report the news. We fight. We host monthly meetings across the state where you train, connect with other patriots, and stay sharp. We sponsor clinics, events, and gun drawings that build skills and fund the legal war. While Bloomberg-funded groups pour tens if not hundreds of millions of dollars into disarming you, we're the ones on the ground pushing back with lawsuits, lobbying, and grassroots muscle.

The alternative is clear: more restrictions, more isolation, and watching your rights erode while criminals run free.

Join Guns Save Life today. Get the truth that arms your mind and helps protect you and your family. Support the briefs that could break PICA for good. Attend meetings and receive two free gun drawing tickets for every year you sign up. Life Memberships available for those ready to go all in.

See the back page for the form. Do it now. We defend your right to defend yourself. The time to stand up is right now.

USE THE RIGHT TOOL FOR THE JOB



SCOTUS BOUND

Continued from cover.

even Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson's dissent reinforced *Bruen's* structure: once plaintiffs show the plain text covers the conduct (here, keeping and bearing common arms), the burden falls squarely on the government to identify relevantly similar historical analogues that share the "how" and "why" of the modern restriction. The government must affirmatively prove a founding-era tradition supports disarming law-abiding citizens of common firearms. Plaintiffs do not bear the burden of scouring colonial records to prove a negative. Lower courts cannot evade this by manufacturing new categorical exclusions or shifting the load.

Gun-control advocates responded to the *cert* grant exactly as expected. Everytown and allied groups unleashed a wave of base-

less fearmongering and hysterics, recycling claims of surging "assault weapon" violence and inflated victim counts while ignoring that the overwhelming majority of these rifles are never used in crime and that overall violent crime rates remain near historic lows despite record gun ownership. This is the same industry—bankrolled by billionaire interests—that has compiled a 1-6 record before the Supreme Court since *Heller* revived the Second Amendment. After repeated losses, they doubled down on banning America's favorite rifle. They may have finally overplayed their hand.

Twelve states plus D.C. now have such bans, many enacted or expanded after *Bruen*. The Supreme Court has signaled it may no longer tolerate lower-court

distortion of its precedents. Justice Kavanaugh captured the stakes in an earlier statement: lower courts upholding these bans appear "bent on distorting this Court's Second Amendment precedents," and further percolation serves little purpose when the question is whether government can ban the most popular rifle in the country.

Arguments are expected this fall, with a decision likely in the 2026-2027 term. For Illinois gun owners staring down the Cook County ordinance and its statewide progeny, and for millions nationwide, the Court is finally poised to restore clarity: the Second Amendment protects arms in common use. The gun-control industry's campaign of billionaire-funded fear may soon meet its constitutional reckoning.

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: 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: Eric North. ericnorth283@gmail.com. 708 932-1636

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.

MISSION PRIORITY: AMICI

Executive Director's Report
by John Boch

The legislature slithered back into their holes until after the election—thank heavens. The highlight? The Ammons crime family finally got federally indicted. Cue the world's saddest trombone. Illinois won't miss Rep. Carol Ammons' unhinged anti-gun screeching in Springfield, nor her colleague Rep. Harry Benton—the pervy gun-grabber who re-signed in disgrace. That trombone's getting hoarse from all the victory toots.



GSL's John Boch.

Litigation remains our battlefield. We're asking folks to drop cash on *Amici* briefs for the U.S. Supreme Court in *Viramontes*, where victory is all but certain. The gun-control billionaires and their sock-puppet advocates are desperately trying to keep any ruling narrow and toothless. We're pushing for a broad smackdown to slam the door on future infringements. (Details on page 2.)

The DOJ is hammering California's absurd Glock ban and their ridiculous "handgun roster." California's response is comedy gold: they argue a Glock isn't even an "Arm" under the Second Amendment—and even if it is, it's too "dangerous and unusual" to allow. Someone clearly raided the gummy bear dispensary before drafting that gem.

Chicago: Clown World Capital
Mayor "Moron" Brandon Johnson and Governor Pritzker both turned their backs on federal help to crush gang violence. Priorities, right?

On Father's Day, while Chicago tallied another bloody weekend of black-on-black gang carnage, what did Mayor Moron whine about? Not the daily murder spree. No, he declared a **"Transfemicide State of Emergency."** Transfemicide—homicides of transgender individuals. A handful a year. That gets the emergency sirens. Innocents caught up in gang violence? Just Tuesday in Chicago.

Then, in true grift fashion, he announced pulling \$100 million from city funds for a new "gun violence" task force. Translation: a massive slush fund for cronies to scapegoat law-abiding gun owners instead of the actual gangbangers terrorizing the streets.

Same old Chicago. Different day.

SCOTUS ruling upends Illinois gun rules for marijuana users

by John Boch
(GSL) - Illinois Attorney General Kwame Raoul fought vigorously against marijuana users being able to possess guns in a recent Supreme Court battle in the Rahimi case. So much for supporting a friendly constituency when it comes to guns.

The U.S. Supreme Court unanimously ruled on June 18, 2026, that occasional or "habitual" marijuana use alone cannot justify denying someone their Second Amendment right to own a gun. Justice Neil Gorsuch wrote that broadly stripping gun rights from any marijuana user risks swallowing the Second Amendment whole, even while acknowledging that active intoxication or certain threats could still justify restrictions.

The decision rebuked federal law and posi-

tions taken by Raoul and 18 other state attorneys general, including many Democrats, who had urged the Court to uphold categorical bans on gun ownership for marijuana users. Raoul co-authored a brief arguing that "habitual" users pose dangers to communities, despite Illinois' strong support for marijuana legalization and decriminalization under Gov. JB Pritzker.



The case stemmed from the prosecution of Ali Dania Hemani, a dual U.S.-Pakistani citizen found with a Glock pistol and marijuana. Lower courts struck down the federal ban as unconstitutional, limiting enforcement to

instances of actual intoxication. The ruling could force Illinois to revisit its Firearms Owner Identification (FOID) card rules, which still allow denial for those deemed "addicted to or habitual users" of marijuana — a standard that remains vaguely defined.

While Illinois State Police guidelines already limit denial based solely on legal marijuana use, the state retains discretion over "habitual" users. The Supreme Court decision may require legislative or regulatory adjustments to align with the new constitutional interpretation.

Raoul has not publicly commented on the ruling. The decision highlights tensions between progressive drug policy and strict gun control efforts in Illinois.

Pritzker once aaid Biden 'Knows more than most of us have forgotten' — Now diagnoses Trump with Dementia

Biden defender JB Pritzker now claims Trump has 'Dementia'

(ZeroHedge) - Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker, one of President Joe Biden's most vocal defenders when the former president faced questions about his mental acuity, is now claiming President Donald Trump has dementia.

A hard-core leftist says the quiet part out loud...
After the storm clears, what should be done with MAGA?

by fiendish-trilobite
(Reddit) - The Democrats are eventually going to get back into power, but we all know these cowards are going to back down from any punishment for MAGA and GOP politicians. Remember to remind your congressmen and other politicians, by showing up to their town halls and rallies, demanding that they pass acts and/or push for judicial justice against all of MAGA. I have my own ideas of what should be done. Please add your own or argue against my ideas if you wish.

Voters who registered as Republicans for the 2020-2028 elections shall have to take an oath that's a modified version of the Ironclad Oath, a pledge from the Reconstruction era. Failure or refusal to recite the oath voids your vote and may carry jail time due to voter fraud. Jan 6 rioters, ICE agents, and MAGA politicians will have their right to vote remove permately. Supporting tyranny needs to be an automatic removal of your rights to vote in the same way that driving drunk gets your license to drive removed, and murder gets your general freedoms removed. Jan 6 rioters will have their pardons reversed/removed and be thrown back in federal prison.

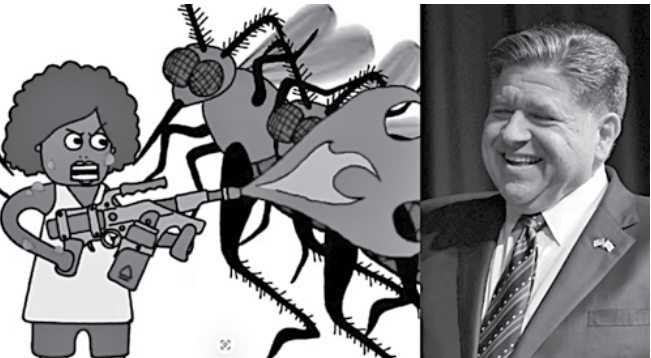
Anyone who donated more than \$500 to Trump's election fund or to any other MAGA politician's election run will have their assets seized, and 50% of their assets will be liquidated to repair the economy. Additionally, any 401k will be seized. Gifting and/or transferring your assets to someone else to avoid this punishment grants you a felony charge for tax evasion. This includes billionaires and corporations. Corporations that were complacent with the current administration (looking at you, Reddit) will be further fined, and their COE and executives will be investigated for crimes against the people.

Every single politician and official who supported Trump, Republican or independent, will be removed from office, barred

from running, and investigated for treason or for any other crime. Future politicians and officials will be subject to background searches, and any ties to Trump and his administration is a automatic disqualification. This will open up seats for more moderate Republicans in heavy red areas and possibly turn some areas blue.

No more federal subsidies for red states for about two years, and all FEMA funding is to be redirected to states that will actually use it. Virtually every single red state, with a few exceptions, are welfare states. All the states targeted by Trump are high earning blue states. Republican voters need to be reminded who pays their civic bills. The only thing they will get is a federally mandated restructuring of their public schools to make sure their kids don't end up as dumb as they are. This last one is optional, but after spending the last year listening to MAGA bash blue states has taken its toll.

MAGA needs to be forced underground, and MAGA voters need to be reminded that they had a hand in ruining the country in which we live. They can be rehabilitated, or at least their kids, but the country needs to be repaired.



JB Pritzker's Illinois: Forced Racial Indoctrination on State Payroll

Pritzker admin's training video portrays white people, cops as blood-sucking mosquitoes

(GSL) - Governor JB Pritzker's radical administration mandates taxpayer-funded "microaggression" training for state employees, depicting white people and police officers as blood-sucking mosquitoes draining life from people of color. The grotesque video climax features a Black woman gleefully incinerating them with a flamethrower, while the curriculum viciously attacks color-blindness as a racist microaggression that "denies" minority experiences.

This divisive DEI drivell—pushed by Pritzker's Department of Human Rights—brands everyday civility like

"articulate" or "best friend is Black" as harmful oppression. It's compulsory thought reform, wasting millions while stoking resentment and division.

Nationwide, voters overwhelmingly reject this woke nonsense as toxic and electorally suicidal. Yet in Illinois, Pritzker's personal fortune and machine politics shield him, allowing this billionaire to impose his far-left fantasies on captive public workers. Illinoisans deserve better than being forced to endure anti-white, anti-cop propaganda on the job. Pure authoritarian cultural warfare.

Guns Save Life
is back on Facebook

BUSTED!

At last, Champaign County Democrat ‘Power Couple’ - & daughter - busted by feds

Urbana, IL (GSL) — State Representative Carol Ammons (D-Urbana), the Bernie Sanders-endorsed Democrat Socialist and rabid gun-grabber who co-sponsored PICA — Illinois’ unconstitutional assault weapons and magazine ban — has been indicted by a federal grand jury along with her husband, Champaign County Clerk Aaron Ammons. Along with their daughter Tatianna.

Publically, Ammons loudly advocated for gun control for the little people. She also supported, promoted and co-sponsored legislation supporting prison inmates, re-entry programs, and leniency toward criminals. Behind the scenes, Ammons and her family were “allegedly” busy enriching themselves through a multi-year kickback scheme that preyed on taxpayers and campaign donors.



Carol Ammons. “Ask me anything.” The FBI did. And she allegedly obstructed.

From 2017 to mid-2025, prosecutors say she paid herself and daughter Titianna inflated campaign funds, demanded cash kickbacks, filed false reports with the State Board of Elections, and steered over \$1 million in state grants to nonprofits that employed her daughter — all while ignoring conflict-of-interest rules. The family allegedly pocketed more than \$100,000 in illicit gains. When investigators closed in, Aaron Ammons reportedly coached witnesses, suggested coded language, and tried to “muddy the waters” with the FBI.

#MeToo, ‘Believe all women’ except those accusing Dem gun grabbers...

Pervy, gun-grabbing IL State Rep. resigns

Plainfield, IL (GSL) - For months, the Illinois Democratic machine protected their own. State Rep. Harry Benton was booted from the House Democratic caucus and stripped of committee assignments in February 2026 after victims came forward.



Now former-State Rep. Harry Benton.

The Legislative Inspector General’s report confirmed patterns of misconduct. Sources confirm the core issue: sexual harassment. Yet the party stayed silent publicly until the heat became unbearable. Typical Democrat hypocrisy — preach “believe women” until one of their own is the accused.

This is the same Harry Benton who aligned with his party’s radical anti-gun agenda. He backed the Protect Illinois Communities Act (PICA), the unconstitutional gun and maga-

This is the same Carol Ammons who championed policies that coddled criminals while doing nothing for the productive citizens, small business owners, and crime victims repeatedly brutalized by the very hoodlums her legislation empowered. She voted for and sponsored PICA to disarm law-abiding gun owners, backed the SAFE-T Act and bail reforms that released dangerous repeat offenders back onto the streets, and posed as a champion of the “oppressed” while her family allegedly operated like a self-dealing political machine.

Aaron Ammons has had multiple arrests and was convicted on drug charges. He spent time in prison, and later violated parole. That happened before his convenient pardon (which didn’t include restoration of his firearm rights) so he could run for Champaign County Clerk. He has been accused as Clerk of obstructing Republican election judges and enabling questionable mail-in ballots that tilted local races.

Then there were the persistent rumors of Aaron and Carol’s illicit personal affinity for cocaine as well. Gee, where might that have those “rumors” come from?

Their daughter Titianna, installed on the Champaign County Board with her mother’s help, faces her own federal wire fraud indictment for allegedly collecting pandemic unemployment benefits while drawing pay from multiple sources — including her mother’s political committee.

In 2020, Carol Ammons was investigated for allegedly shoplifting a Coach purse from an Urbana charity thrift shop. No convictions followed. Months later she sponsored a bill raising the felony retail theft threshold from \$300 to \$2000. It would also have removed the felony enhancement for shoplifting with a prior conviction for the same. The pattern of looking out for herself and her circle while harming everyone else is unmistakable.

The feds have now exposed this gun-grabbing, criminal-coddling dynasty for what it is. Couldn’t happen to a more deserving bunch of hypocrites. Illinois gun owners and honest citizens are finally seeing the rot get dragged into the light.

zine ban that disarms law-abiding Illinoisans while doing nothing to stop criminals. Gun control groups like Giffords PAC and the Gun Violence Prevention PAC (GPAC Illinois) endorsed him for his commitment to “gun safety.” Another Dem who wanted to strip your constitutional rights and leave productive citizens defenseless, all while his own conduct showed utter contempt for personal boundaries, consent, and the safety of others — particularly women.

Benton embraced the broader Democratic soft-on-crime worldview. The irony is sickening: lecture everyone about “community safety” while allegedly using his position to prey on women.

Illinois Democrats keep delivering hypocrisy, self-dealing, and personal predation. Benton’s ouster is welcome, but voters deserve far better than these ethically bankrupt operators who push gun control and leniency for criminals while their own behavior endangers the public.

One less hypocrite in Springfield. Let’s hope the replacement isn’t cut from the same tainted cloth. Illinois gun owners are done with this nonsense.



DSA’s Marxist Fever Dream: JB Pritzker calls it “winning”

(GSL) - Illinois Governor JB Pritzker, a billionaire Democrat, proudly endorsed the Democratic Socialists of America (DSA), declaring their primary victories “the recipe for winning in 2026 and beyond.” This chilling stamp of approval highlights how radical Marxism has captured the Democratic Party’s soul. With over 100,000 members and growing influence in Congress, the DSA’s platform is a blueprint for national suicide.

At its core, the **DSA seeks the abolition of capitalism**. They demand **nationalizing banks, major industries, energy, agriculture, insurance, real estate, media, and telecommunications**. **Wage caps** would limit what Americans can earn, while “social ownership” puts the state in control of everything. This is not Nordic social democracy—it’s the failed command econo-

mies of the Soviet Union, China, and Venezuela, which delivered poverty, famine, and tyranny.

Their vision for “justice” is even more deranged. The **DSA calls for abolishing police and prisons entirely**—“carceral forces of the state.” **Free all prisoners with no exceptions for murderers, rapists, or traffickers. Disarm law enforcement completely. End pre-trial detention, misdemeanors, and parole enforcement.** Remove police from schools, hospitals, and communities. **Decriminalize drugs, prostitution, homelessness, and squatting.** This guarantees chaos, victimization, and societal collapse.

Gun control is non-negotiable in their disarmament agenda: strip law-abiding citizens of firearms while defunding and disarming police. Leaving the

public defenseless against empowered criminals is straight from the totalitarian playbook—**disarm the people to dominate them.**

Add open borders: abolish ICE and CBP, grant immediate amnesty to millions of illegals, provide taxpayer-funded health-care, and end all enforcement. They push rewriting the Constitution—eliminate the Senate and Electoral College, pack courts—and a foreign policy of retreat: exit NATO, renounce nuclear weapons, and appease adversaries like China.

Pritzker’s enthusiasm for this extremism isn’t leadership; it’s complicity in revolution. These policies have failed everywhere they’ve been tried, costing millions of lives. Americans must reject DSA radicalism and its enablers before liberty, order, and prosperity are extinguished.

LOOKING FOR A PLACE TO SHOOT? DeWitt County Sportsman’s Club Clinton, IL



HAVE A GREAT SUMMER! Free memberships to active duty LEOs

>>>> Memberships Available. <<<<

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

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





Republicans control everything — So why is the SAVE Act still languishing?

Pass the SAVE Act or get out of the way

by Nancy Hayes

In 2024, Americans stormed the polls and delivered a Republican House, Senate, and White House. We didn't do that so you could sit on your hands while our elections remain wide open to fraud.

Yet here we are, still wondering why the SAVE Act — the one bill that would actually secure our elections — remains stalled like a RINO at a MAGA rally.

Let's cut the crap: 87% of Americans demand proof of citizenship to register to vote. 86% say only U.S. citizens should vote in American elections. These aren't fringe numbers — they're overwhelming.

The "Safeguard American Voter Eligibility" (SAVE) Act isn't some partisan wishlist. It's the bare minimum for a functioning republic. Without secure elections, we don't have a country. We have a farce.

Gun owners, this fight is existential for the Second Amendment. Illegals and non-citizens aren't flooding in to elect stalwarts of freedom and liberty who respect the Constitution. They're being imported as reliable votes for lunatic leftists who promise free stuff — paid for by confiscating your guns, your rights, and your future. Look at Illinois: PICA-style bans, FOID cards, ammo serialization, and politicians like Pritzker who openly hate armed self-defense. Every fraudulent or non-citizen vote tilts the scales toward more of the same nationwide. Secure elections = survival of the Second Amendment. Insecure ones = slow-motion disarmament.

The House has passed the SAVE Act three times already. Now Speaker Mike Johnson says they're going for a fourth — this time hitching it to a budget reconciliation bill. Good. About damn time. But let's be real: the real fight is in the Senate, where a handful of obstructionists and a filibuster rule cooked up by Harry Reid's ghost are blocking the will of the people.

Enter Rep. Anna Paulina Luna (R-FL). She's done playing nice. Luna flat-out blocked House business until leadership attaches the SAVE Act to a must-pass bill like the NDAA. She's taking incoming fire and she doesn't care. That's the spirit we need — not polite memos and press releases.

The Senate math is ugly: 53 Republicans versus a 60-vote filibuster wall. That means begging Democrats — the same party that's spent years importing voters and fighting every voter ID measure tooth and nail. Not one has supported basic citizenship verification. Shocking.

Even President Trump yanked a housing bill until SAVE moves forward. But canceling one bill won't light a fire under the base. We need action.

Here's the unvarnished truth: Why do Republicans tolerate a non-elected Parliamentarian — a Harry Reid relic from 2012 — overriding 100 elected Senators? Fire Elizabeth MacDonough. Override the 60-vote filibuster. If Senator Thune can't deliver, replace him with someone who will. Enough with the excuses.

This is an election year. If 86-87% of Americans want proof of citizenship and citizen-only voting, then make it happen — or we'll make sure the next crop of Republicans actually fights for us. The stakes couldn't be higher. We're choosing

between a Constitutional Republic with the right to bear arms and a slide into communism/Marxism where only the government has guns.

America needs you awake and engaged. Call the White House right now at (202) 456-1111. Demand a live operator. Tell the President to veto every single bill until the SAVE Act lands on his desk. Flood congressional offices. Show up at town halls. Primary the weak. Stay loud. Stay relentless.

Our kids and grandkids are watching. If we surrender election integrity now, we hand them a nation run by whoever cheats best — and their guns will be first on the chopping block. That's not the American legacy. Wake up. Stand up. Fight like hell.

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

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



IllinoisFreedomAlliance.us



Florida Governor Ron DeSantis v. Illinois Governor JB Pritzker

A tale of two governors... each in their 8th year in office

by Jeannie Ives and John Boch

For reference, Florida is 1.8x more populous than IL: 23.37 million people in FL compared to 12.71 million in IL.

Now consider these points:

1. FL's general revenue budget is \$52B; IL's is \$56B. Because states have different budgeting approaches, looking at total FY27 budgets: FL = \$117B; IL = \$130B.

2. Pritzker advocated for and signed the largest budget in state history this year and in previous years. Pritzker's budget is up \$16B since he took office.

DeSantis has reduced spending each year for the last four years and vetoed over \$10B in spending during his time in office.

3. Pritzker brags about his credit upgrades, but IL has the worst state credit rating; FL has the best credit rating.

4. FL has a rainy day fund of \$18B. IL's rainy-day fund is \$2B, and Pritzker did not add to it this year after bragging about his contributions in past years — remember this is the largest budget in IL state history, and he didn't budget to add to the rainy-day fund.

5. FL is pushing \$78B in

road programs and moving planned projects ahead 5-15 years, according to DeSantis' discussion of his budget.

IL can't even get projects planned, permitted, and built in a timely manner, so many projects are left undone, and money sits in an account collecting interest. And now that surplus interest is being sent to the CTA to bail them out.

6. DeSantis has given back over \$9B in taxes. Pritzker has raised taxes every year for a total of over \$77B, according to IPI.

7. FL is giving \$5,000 signing bonuses for police officers. IL politicians want to defund the police.

8. FL is on the cusp of eliminating property taxes for 60% of homeowners, and they have no state income tax. IL has the highest property taxes, plus individual income and estate taxes, high corporate taxes, and there's been no attempt to meaningfully lower property taxes.

9. **On the Second Amendment and the right of self-defense** — the contrast could not be starker.

Governor Pritzker has made gun control a signature priority. In January 2023 he signed the Protect Illinois Communities Act

(PICA), one of the most restrictive gun-control packages in the nation. It bans many semiautomatic rifles and pistols, implements magazine capacity limits, and piles on top of Illinois' already onerous FOID card system, registration requirements, and other restrictions. These measures were rammed through in the wake of tragedy and remain under active legal challenge. Law-abiding Illinois gun owners face more hurdles, higher costs, and greater uncertainty every year.

Governor DeSantis took the opposite path. In April 2023 he signed HB 543, enacting constitutional carry in Florida. Law-abiding Floridians can now carry a concealed firearm without first obtaining a government permit. Florida strengthened self-defense protections, maintained strong state preemption against local gun-control schemes, and consistently pushed back against federal overreach. The message is clear: trust responsible citizens with their rights rather than treat them as suspects.

Yes, elections have consequences. But it can all be reversed.

DeSantis *barely* got elected 8 years ago.

Your vote matters.

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In regione caecorum rex est luscus

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

Rare Earth



Back in the day, a music band, called Rare Earth, came out of Detroit. Termed psychedelic soul, or funk rock, their biggest hit occurred in 1971, “I Just Want To Celebrate.”

But ain’t nobody celebrating now! The Motown music group is gone, and today “rare earth” has to do with about 17 chemical elements in the ground. Despite their name, these minerals are pretty abundant world-wide in the Earth’s crust. But the rub is that most of them have to do with China, not the US.

Because these heavy rare earth elements possess unique magnetic, optical, and nuclear properties very vital to modern military technology. They enable weapons and systems to be lighter, more heat-resistant, and more powerful. They are in F-35 jet fighters and precision-guided missiles (to include Tomahawks) used by the Air Force, Navy, Marines and Army. And also Joint Direct Attack Munition series of smart bombs.

Here are a few specifics; don’t bother to memorize the names! Dysprosium is added to magnets to improve high-temperature performance for missiles, jet engines and drones (to include Predators, and you know how many drones there are now whizzing about!) It is also used in nuclear reactor control rods in naval reactors.

Terbium also helps in high-temperature performance and is especially helpful for high-power sonar transducers on submarines. I’m pretty sure we have 14 ballistic missile submarines (aka Boomers), 53 nuclear-powered attack submarines, and 4 guided missile submarines. Yttrium is used in radar systems and night-vision goggles, as well as laser targeting systems.

Erbium helps in laser systems for ranging, targeting, and countermeasures, as well as in satellite communications and space-based applications. In short, the US Department of War notes it needs “nearly all” rare earths in some capacity for our military platforms. And it isn’t just a teaspoon here and there. A single F-35 Lightning II fighter, for example, contains around 920 pounds of rare earth elements.

And that could get nasty. Analysts estimate nearly 50% or more of global heavy rare earth supply now originates from the country of Myanmar, which used to be called Burma, centered of the state of Kachin in the far north. Kachin borders China. It’s a rough spot. Bordering the Himalayas and its tallest peak is 19,294 feet high, so you’ll suffer acute altitude sickness.

And the Kachin Independence Army (KIA): now that’s a bad abbreviation!, is engaging Myanmar’s armed forces in protracted warfare, made worse since the 2021 military coup.

So you just don’t go traipsing around in there. The KIA often relies on guerrilla tactics: including ambushes, hit-and-run raids, and improvised landmines in the area’s mountainous and forested regions to offset the Myanmar military’s superior firepower and numbers. Plus, the lack of real government control leads to toxic leaching methods of mining, contaminating rivers and farmland

with heavy metals like arsenic, even in abandoned mining sites. So you can get sick.



Myanmar has become China’s most important external supplier of heavy rare earth elements, accounting for more than 60 percent of import value each year in recent years. So all together, China accounts for roughly 70 percent of rare earth mining, 90 percent of separation and processing of these elements, and 93 percent of magnet manufacturing using these elements.

But that’s all Washington’s problem. Why should I worry? Well, if you love small, lightweight CCW revolvers, you are likely to encounter Scandium, another rare earth element, alloys in personal firearms, which are virtually corrosion-proof, lighter, and less expensive than titanium alloys.

But you’re not a revolver-shooter, so who cares? Well, rare earth elements are very essential in hunting optics, due to their unique optical properties, which enhances the performance of lenses and coatings. This in turn improves light transmission and reduces reflection, making optical devices (like rifle scopes) more effective in various lighting conditions.



But you won’t buy a “Made in China” optic that might have some rare earth in it, so who cares? Not so fast. German optics giant Zeiss has a plant in Suzhou; its new Conquest spotting scope is made there. China is Zeiss’ largest and fastest-growing market globally. Bushnell, Leupold, and Kowa produce optics in China. Vortex Optics maintains its headquarters and some specialized production in the U.S., but several of its well-regarded series, including the Crossfire II, Diamondback, and Diamondback Tactical lines, are produced in China. In fact, several sources posit that over 80% of the world’s rifle scopes are now manufactured in China.

But what about night vision scopes and devices. There are two kinds: one is actual thermal scopes. Thermals detect heat. The other is what is called a “night vision” product. In the Army, we called a night vision product, an infrared (IR) scope, meaning it works best when it has an IR source, like an IR spotlight, doing the illuminating. ATN (American Technologies Network,) which makes excellent scopes, has some night vision products made in China.

We shouldn’t be surprised. When the US “unassd” Afghanistan in 2021, many national security military experts, while concerned with the actual weapons left behind – such as rifles, mortars, machineguns, etc. – were even more concerned about the sophisticated optical and thermal target acquisition systems now in enemy hands. Because those systems can be reverse-engineered.

We’ve always known that crude oil is an element that a nation will go to war for as being in its vital national interest. But now, rare earth elements appears to be vital national interests as well.

Book Review: American Paladin by Larry Correia

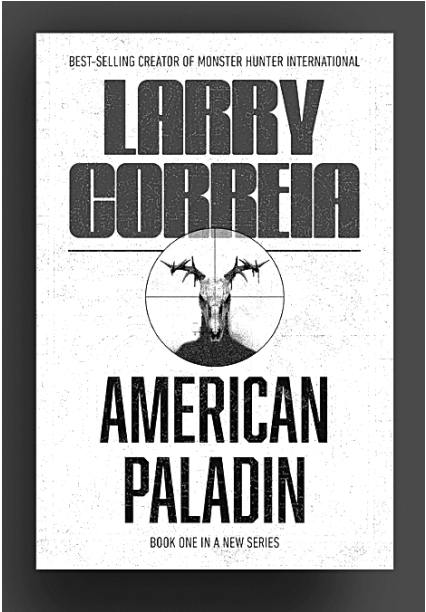
A high octane thriller for men explores how and why men become vigilantes

by John Boch

Time is precious in my world and I’d like to share an exceptional book I found: *American Paladin*. It strikes a chord in its message, its characters, and its core theme: how an ordinary man who suffers unimaginable tragedy can train relentlessly to become a bad people’s worst nightmare.

Think John Wick, but instead of a puppy, they killed Mike Spears’ whole family. Big mistake. He’s gonna pay them back—with usurious interest.

Don’t like books? If you’re a guy, you probably haven’t tried a Correia book yet.



Mike isn’t some special forces super soldier. He’s a regular young man who got pushed too far and decided the predators needed to meet a new apex. Spears took some nationally-known classes, including some I’ve attended in the real world—and a few I’d like to take myself. These included solid defensive pistol and carbine work, plus some advanced fighting and scenario-based training that turns knowledge into muscle memory.

Now he dishes out righteous pain and pre-death misery to the kinds of scum who richly deserve it. His favorites? Sex predators, especially the child variety in soft-on-crime jurisdictions (ring any bells?). In general, he’s busy in locales where bad guys commit crime not worrying about police because even in the unlikely event they are caught, the consequences will be trivial. Until someone like Mike shows up.

Here’s an excerpt:

WHEN YOU GO LOOKING FOR TROUBLE, sure enough, you will find it.

As I expanded my search beyond supernatural evil and started asking around about the regular kind, I was stunned how much there was to choose from.

Do you realize there are dudes walking around out there free with twenty, thirty, even forty prior arrests? And I’m not talking about lovable rogue, petty shit either. I’m talking serious violent crimes. Robberies, assaults, carjackings, just beating the hell out of random innocent bystanders, every deviant pervert weird sickness you can think of and then a bunch more, things normal people are incapable of imagining. These are obvious menaces who do bad shit, get picked up by the cops, spend a day or two in jail, maybe, and then get kicked back out on the street to go at it again the next day—most set free by a judge who will face zero repercussions when that mad dog bites again.

And that was just the violent psychos. The thieves and scammers were legion, and they barely got any attention at all. Decent people work hard all their lives, making things, building a functioning society, and then utter trash comes along and robs them and destroys what they made. The law’s too busy or short-handed to

bother investigating, while the useful idiots cry on behalf of the criminals, “It’s only money, why do you care?”

Which tells me those fools have never worked an honest day in their lives, because that’s not just money they took. For some single mom that was the tips from five hundred hours of waiting tables. For some exhausted mechanic that was months of turning a wrench while his back ached and his feet hurt.

When you get robbed, that’s a chunk of your life they just ripped from you.

It isn’t right. You should not be able to take people’s lives away, whole or in part, with impunity. You shouldn’t be allowed to hurt people and skate.

They get away with it because we let them.

And I was done letting them.

I just needed to learn how to go about that without getting busted. Because the same state that won’t bother dealing with lunatics, perverts, and thieves will absolutely stomp on regular people who pick up their slack. Justice isn’t the goddess they serve. It’s keeping a monopoly on the use of force. For themselves.

The book opens with Spears getting pulled over with a dead pedophile in the back of his pickup truck.

I hate it when that happens.

Fast forward a bit, and he’s rescuing a hypothermic eight-year-old girl from sex slavery while helping her abductors meet Jesus—up close and personal.

Things get even better as he picks up leads on the monsters (human and otherwise) who slaughtered his family years earlier. Their paths cross with his and things get really exciting.

Correia’s pacing is excellent as always—this one clocks in at a tight ~260 pages with zero filler. If Spears isn’t stacking bodies, he’s researching, coordinating with a small circle of allies, or improvising when plans go sideways. It’s high-energy, grounded, and relentlessly satisfying.

True crime podcasts play a smart role early on, which feels completely natural. Correia keeps the vigilantism realistic while still delivering the satisfying “how” of it all—exactly the kind of details that make you grin when the trash takes itself out.

Mike Spears is an aspirational character. We’d all like to be him—or like Aaron Spencer, the Arkansas man who hunted down his daughter’s abductor right moments after the perv kidnapped a fourteen year old girl from her bedroom. Dad forced the suspect off the road, and ended the threat following a struggle. And then won the primary election to become sheriff while waiting for his murder trial (charges have since been thrown out.) Most of us have families and responsibilities that keep us from walking that path. But strip away a man’s reason to live, or snatch a man’s son or daughter and you might just find yourself an unstoppable force with accounts to settle. With interest.

I give *American Paladin* a solid 4.5 out of 5. It’s a page-turner that leaves you wishing the folks around you would just leave you alone long enough to finish each chapter. It ain’t perfect, but it’ll leave you satisfied.

Time to read? Four to eight hours, depending on distractions. Still don’t like to read? Get the audiobook version for free for signing up with Audiobooks.

Highly recommended. Grab a copy and support a great, exceptionally pro-gun author who gets it.



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Don't die stupid: Disposing of Estate Firearm Collections

by John Boch

Mark Twain famously observed that the only certainties in life are death and taxes. In modern Illinois, add one more: violent crime that our genius politicians treat like an unfortunate weather pattern they can't control.

Most of us will dodge the bad guys. None of us dodge the dirt nap. Frankly, it could happen tomorrow. So do your family the ultimate solid while you're still breathing: don't leave them staring at a mountain of guns wondering if that fancy rifle is worth \$400 or \$4,000—or whether answering the door for “potential buyers” is going to get them killed.

GUN BUY BACK

NO QUESTIONS ASKED.

\$50 GIFT CARD PER GUN

NO BB GUNS, PAINTBALL GUNS, AIRSOFT, OR OTHER NON FIREARM TYPE WEAPON.

HELP REDUCE GUN VIOLENCE ON OUR STREETS. LET'S WORK TOGETHER TO KEEP OUR COMMUNITY SAFE.

FRIDAY JUNE 5, 2026

9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

SAVE A LOT PLAZA
1208 DIXON BLVD.
COCOA, FL

Don't be the guy whose widow trades price-less heirlooms to police “turn-in” programs for a shiny \$50 or \$100 debit card at some virtue-signaling buyback. Events like this might as well be a stupid tax... you're stupid, so you it costs you money. Ignorance might be bliss, but it isn't power. It's just expensive stupidity with extra steps and a side of regret. And in Illinois? It's a timed game of bureaucratic Russian roulette thanks to the glorious FOID rules.

Illinois gives your executor or widow a generous 60 days to get a FOID card or legally dispose of every firearm and round of ammo. Miss it and—oops!—your grieving loved one is suddenly an accidental felon. Nothing says “compassionate government” like kicking a widow while she's down, right?



I once heard from a seventy-something lady whose husband had built a collection so epic it made the SCHEELS gun counter look like a sad flea market booth. Easily a 1200+ firearms (most new in box), three plus tons of ammo (no exaggeration), and enough spare parts to open a small arms factory. Oh yeah, and a couple of buckets full of silver ingots and rounds, along with junk silver coins. It all was literally was their retirement fund before his passing.

She was terrified that once the obituary dropped, that some low-trust individuals would break in and steal the stuff. I was more worried a desperate family member would show up with scumbag friends, kill her and then loot the guns. People have been killed over a handful of guns. But 1200-1500 guns - literally two bedrooms full

and more in the garage? She needed to get the stuff out of the house ASAP.



Is this you? Create an inventory for your heirs, with estimated value, etc. Or adopt Guns Save Life and we'll use them for our monthly gun drawings.

Smart lady. The honest, non-drug-addled wing of the family scrambled, got the guns and ammo out. Some went to auctions, some went to heirs, and some got sold to very trusted people. Crisis averted. But her husband? He left her sitting on a literal powder keg when a simple afternoon of paperwork and some proper planning ahead of his death could've made things a lot safer and less anxiety-ridden for his wonderful widow.

Don't be that guy. Here's how to avoid starring in your own family's “What Was He Thinking?” documentary.

Make the Damn List (Santa checks his twice—What's your excuse?)
Grab a spreadsheet, notebook, or one of those fancy gun inventory apps. Do it this weekend, not “someday.” Take pictures. Update it annually.

- For every gun, note:
- Make, model, caliber, serial number, condition, upgrades, and matching accessories
 - Realistic resale value (stalk GunBroker “sold” listings like a suspicious spouse) Who gets it (“To my son Mark, the one who actually shoots instead of just collecting dust”)
 - Any cool backstory (“This was the rifle that dropped that monster buck in '98—unlike that one time you missed at 20 yards”)

So, for a basic entry:
Glock 19 Gen 3, 9mm, Ser. 046FJB. Trijicon night sights added in 2025. Five spare mags and a holster. Package value: \$450–\$550. Straight to my son Mark before he inherits my collection of dad jokes.

Fancy entry:
Ruger Precision Rifle. 6.5 Creedmoor caliber. Serial No. 12345A. Estimated value about \$1000. With Vortex Razor 5-20x50 scope (attached and sighted in). Scope serial No. 6789X. Paid \$1700 for scope. Estimated value at least \$1000ish. Rifle with scope, scope mount (\$100), Harris bipod (\$100), Timney trigger upgrade (\$200), three spare magazines and misc. accessories, as is, should bring at least \$2000-2500 with the couple of hundred custom precision hand-loaded rounds of ammunition nearby in ammo cans. Don't recommend parting it out like a junkyard Toyota as you'll never sell the small stuff and you'll end up with a lot less than its true value.

This list stops some smooth-talking know-it-all from telling your widow that your custom precision rig is “just an old hunting rifle, ma'am.”

It also keeps the family from turning probate into a reality TV bloodbath.

Security: ‘Obituary Burglars’ are real (and they read the paper)
Cops have a special name for these charm-ers: obituary burglars. They scan death notices like it's the Sunday comics.

“NRA Joe finally kicked the bucket? Jack-pot! Time to check out his ‘arsenal’ while the widow's at the funeral crying into a casserole.”

And here's the kicker: most burglaries are committed by a person aged 15-24 living within six to eight blocks of the victim's household. Sketchy neighbor kids and un-or under-employed young adults? Who knew he had a whole lot of guns? Yeah, they're already updating their shopping list. So too are less ethically-inclined relatives who have inside information about Joe's gun collection.

If you're a serious collector, assume word travels faster than a Pritzker tax increase. Move the bulk of the guns to a safe location before the obituary runs. Have armed, trusted friends (the kind who actually carry and shoot more than 30 rounds every five years) watching the house during services. *Not* the well-meaning neighbor with the casserole and zero situational awareness.

Never let random strangers come to the house to “just look at the guns.” That's how you turn probate into a *Dateline* homicide episode. Your family already has enough drama without adding home invasion bingo.

Liquidation Options: Pick Your Poison

Top choice for big collections: Professional auction
In Central Illinois, **Bauer Auctions in Mattoon** handles massive estates like absolute pros—hundreds of guns, ammo, reloading gear, the works. Online and/or hybrid online/in-person sales, reasonable fees. For more than 10-20 guns, this is probably your best bet. Your family gets a check a few months later without turning gun selling into their new full-time job. Highly recommended unless you enjoy watching loved ones suffer.

190 LOT PUBLIC FIREARM ONLINE ONLY AUCTION

BIDDING BEGINS CLOSING: THURSDAY, JUNE 25TH - 7:00PM

Spartanfield Armory Pre 1988 M&A Transfer • Winchester 54 .32 Special Rifle • Remington 1050A .410 Shotgun • Savage 110 .210 Rifle • Jennings J-22 .22 LR Pistol • SCCY CPX 9mm Pistol • Smith & Wesson S&W 510 9mm Pistol • Iver Johnson Champion .410 2.8" Shotgun • Thompson Center Omega 50 88 Rifle • Bushell Arms RA-2 Dega Shotgun • Lohwer True Dega Shotgun • M&S 263 22LR Rifle • S&W 46 .22 Hag Shotgun • Ruger Ranch 22 LR Rifle • Winchester Rough Rider 22 LR Revolver • M&S Revolvers • Remo 52 30-30 Rifle • S&W 200 12ga Shotgun • Japan Type 99 7.7mm Rifle • Barrett Carcano 6.5mm Rifle • Noble SSA 22 S&W Rifle • Bertram Pre18 Probert 22 RF Rifle

SILVER PREMIUM: 15%, a 3% card fee is added for in-person card payment. PREVIEW: No preview for these firearms. Bidders can fill out 4472 paperwork on the following dates and times: Friday, June 26th from 9:00am - 12:00pm & 1:00pm - 4:00pm. Monday, June 29th from 9:00am - 12:00pm & 1:00pm - 4:00pm. Tuesday, June 30th from 9:00am - 12:00pm & 1:00pm - 4:00pm. Wednesday, July 1st from 9:00am - 12:00pm & 1:00pm - 4:00pm. SEE COMPLETE SALE LISTING & PHOTOS AT WWW.BAUERAUCTION.COM

For true high-end collectibles? **Rock Island Auction.** They market the good stuff to well-heeled collectors while your heirs sip coffee instead of stress-sweating.

Consignment at a reputable local shop. Guns go somewhere secure, they handle the endless paperwork. Expect a 20% cut to the shop. Downside: It takes time, and ammo is often a hard pass thanks to liability lawyers. Still beats playing Craigslist roulette with your life.

Fast cash (with a side of financial self-harm): Sell the whole pile to a gun shop. If you *really* want your heirs to get financially molested, sell it to a pawn shop that sells guns. You'll get roughly 30-40% of retail—basically trading your Audi for grocery money because “time is of the essence.” Perfect if you hate your heirs and want to light money on fire for convenience. Or spite.

Avoid private sales like the plague. Tire-kickers, lowball artists, flakes, and the

occasional charming gentleman who shows up with friends and very bad ideas. Not worth the headache, the risk, or the therapy bills.



Pre-estate actions... Tips and tricks as you age gracefully.

Put specific bequests in your will or trust. “My Ruger Precision goes to nephew Dave” beats family arguments and awkward holiday dinners.

Gift guns now. If your kids or heirs are quality people, you can skip the paperwork. Yes, that's technically illegal. However, let Gov. Porkulus' men try to coerce paperwork from your corpse. Shrinks the estate headache and lets you enjoy watching your kid actually shoot the thing without the State of Illinois knowing who has your guns. It's none of their business.

If your health is failing and you're looking at a nursing home in your future, absolutely gift the guns now. As for record-keeping, if you're facing a nursing home, keeping good records will likely be the last thing on your mind.

The bottom line...
Your family's already going to be picking out caskets, fighting probate, and dealing with the government. Don't make them Google “how to sell guns without getting murdered” while they're still crying into their coffee.

Do the list. Take the photos. Make the plan. Do it before that metaphorical (or literal) bus with your name on it shows up.

Because the only thing worse than dying is leaving the people you love to clean up an expensive mess while wondering why you couldn't be bothered to spend one afternoon protecting them. Your legacy shouldn't be “He had a lot of guns...” and the planning skills of a goldfish.” Be the hero who actually planned ahead. Your widow—and her bank account—will thank you. Probably with fewer tears and more gratitude.

Patriotic Bonus Option: Donate to Guns Save Life
If you want your collection to keep fighting for freedom long after you're gone, consider donating it to Guns Save Life. We'll put those firearms to work in our popular monthly gun drawings—rewarding loyal members and supporters while raising critical funds to defend the Second Amendment across Illinois. Your guns will continue the fight instead of gathering dust or getting lowballed by strangers. GSL will handle secure pickup, proper transfers, and all the paperwork so your family doesn't have to. What better legacy than turning your steel and wood into more freedom-loving patriots and stronger advocacy? A true win-win: you help secure liberty for the next generation, and we take the hassle off your loved ones' hands. God, guns, and guts—right to the end.



Mayor Moron's answer to gang violence:

A new \$100M slush fund to demonize gun owners

Chicago (GSL) - Chicago Mayor Brandon "Moron" Johnson is a feckless progressive disaster—a spineless, incompetent hack who has transformed the Second City into a nonstop slaughterhouse for residents and visitors while gangbangers terrorize the streets with total impunity. His latest pathetic "solution" to the carnage? A brand-new \$100 million taxpayer-funded slush fund explicitly engineered to harass, disarm, and punish responsible gun owners rather than the actual criminals.



The violent Father's Day/Juneteenth weekend delivered eight murders and nearly 40 shootings, started off by a vicious gang drive-by at a Juneteenth celebration in Princeton Park that wounded a dozen or more innocent people. While grieving families buried loved ones, Mayor Moron chose that moment to re-up his absurd **"Transfemicide State of Emergency"**—obsessing over a niche identity issue while ignoring the real emergency of unchecked gang violence destroying black neighborhoods across Chicago. What a contemptible, tone-deaf distraction from reality.

Johnson loves to bluster that he'll "hold those responsible accountable." This feckless mayor excels at empty rhetoric but fails at basic governance. You can't hold killers accountable when you can't even identify them to arrest or prosecute them. It's textbook symbolism over substance—cheap political theater from a leader too weak and ideologically captured to protect his own residents. In the end, it's more of the same zero consequences for the gang

members who turned a holiday celebration into a shooting gallery.

The new Department of Gun Violence Reduction is nothing more than a \$100 million patronage machine designed to launder taxpayer dollars into more failed anti-gun propaganda. Chicago already wastes billions on these useless programs, bloated offices, and meaningless slogans, yet the results speak for themselves: shootings and victims are up year-to-date, homicides continue climbing, and independent crime trackers paint a blood-soaked picture of hundreds shot and families shattered.

Mayor Moron responds by lying about "progress" and deflecting blame onto firearms, manufacturers, other states, and Republicans—anyone except the violent thugs he continues to enable.

Criminals don't obey gun bans, purchase restrictions, or weepy press conferences. They commit violent crime precisely because they know Chicago's revolving-door "justice" system offers little to no consequences for their crimes in the very unlikely event they should be caught.

Meanwhile, law-abiding citizens who follow every rule get treated as the problem and stripped of their constitutional rights. This is the rotten core of Johnson's entire failed worldview: punish the innocent, coddle the guilty, and call it compassion.

Chicago desperately needs aggressive policing, stone-cold prosecutors who actually charge cases, real prison time for repeat violent offenders, cooperation with federal partners, and full respect for the Second Amendment—not another wasteful bureaucracy or identity-driven sideshow. Until this feckless Mayor finally prioritizes public safety over woke virtue-signaling and criminal leniency, the body count will keep rising and Chicago families will continue paying the price. The people of this city deserve far better than this ongoing incompetent clown show.

Without any meaningful support from Mayor Johnson or Gov. Pritzker

DOJ announces 300 fugitive arrests in Chicago area crime sweep

Chicago (Sun-Times) - Justice Department officials on Thursday announced the arrests of 300 fugitives as well as sweeping prosecutions against more than 175 people accused of violent crimes — all part of a massive federal law enforcement collaboration over the past two months.

U.S. Attorney Andrew Boutros called the effort, which he created, "Operation New Dawn."

The size of the joint effort was "an experiment," Boutros said — and something that "had not been done before here in Chicago" and which "worked very, very well."

In all, charges were filed against 179 people in 140 new cases, while 305 fugitives were arrested and 24 children who had been kidnapped or lost were returned home.



One of the illegals arrested was wearing a "VOLUNTEER" shirt from the failed "Kat for Congress" campaign to elect local Democrat Socialist Kat Abughazaleh in the Democrat primary for Jan Schakowsky's seat.



Spoiler alert: He's won't. They're among his best campaign donors...

Hey, Mayor 6%: When will you admit violent criminal gangs are the problem?

by George Shay (Chicago Contrarian) - I was strolling through the park one day in the merry, merry month of July (as the old song goes) when I stumbled upon something that perfectly captures the absurdity of Chicago's approach to crime. It was a Lime scooter, not particularly remarkable in itself, except for one detail: It was covered in gang graffiti. Think about that for a moment. Not a wall. Not an abandoned building. Not a railroad viaduct. A rented electric scooter that exists for one purpose — to move people from Point A to Point B. Apparently, even that has become gang territory.

Now, I realize this is anecdotal evidence. One scooter does not constitute a scientific study. But it does illustrate something everyone in Chicago already knows and our political leadership desperately tries not to acknowledge: The overwhelming majority of serious violence in this city is connected to gangs. Not poverty alone. Not climate change. Not racism. Not a lack of social workers. Not a shortage of government programs. **Gangs.**

The problem is obvious. In some neighborhoods, everybody knows who the gang members are. Chicago Police know who they are. The neighbors know who they are. The victims certainly know who they are. Yet somehow our political class continues to treat gang violence as though it were a random weather phenomenon rather than the predictable result of organized criminal behavior.

Every weekend we see the same headlines: Drive-by shootings, retaliatory shootings, street-corner shootings, carjackings, armed robberies. Again and again, investigators discover gang connections. Again and again, the same names, the same crews, the same neighborhoods, the same feuds.

In fact, many experienced law enforcement officers will tell you that a relatively small number of individuals are responsible for a disproportionate share of the violence. In previous discussions of crime on these pages, we have noted estimates that only a few hundred chronic offenders drive much of the bloodshed in some of Chicago's most troubled neighborhoods. Yet, instead of focusing relentlessly on those offenders and the gangs that support them, our political leadership continues searching for explanations everywhere except the obvious one.

Which brings us to another self-inflicted wound. Chicago does not even maintain the kind of gang database it once had to help monitor gang activity and identify emerging threats. Why? Because concerns about disparate impact and civil liberties eventually overwhelmed concerns about public safety. Like so many other tools abandoned in the name of progressive orthodoxy, such as the gone but not forgotten ShotSpotter, it may not have been perfect, but it was better than pretending gangs do not exist. When a city is struggling with organized

criminal groups that openly mark territory, recruit members, and wage violent feuds with unacceptable collateral damage, deliberately blinding yourself is not a strategy.

Instead of focusing relentlessly on the people pulling the triggers and the organizations directing them, Chicago's leadership prefers to discuss "root causes..."

No one exemplifies this confusion better than Mayor Six Percent. Whether because of ideology, identity politics, or simple stubbornness, the mayor consistently appears reluctant to confront the gang problem directly...

The proper response to that reality is not denial. The proper response is enforcement and real justice that favors the interests of the prey over the predators, the victims over the perpetrators...

The solution is not particularly complicated. Treat gangs the way an exterminator treats pests. No, you may never eliminate them entirely. Human nature being what it is, there will always be some individuals willing to engage in criminal behavior. But the goal should be relentless suppression. Make gang activity dangerous for gang members. Make it expensive. Make it inconvenient. Make it unattractive...

The only remaining question is whether our leaders will finally find the courage—and the common sense — to do something about it.

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Membership application on back page of GunNews

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2026 Middle Fork Introductory Wingshooting Clinic Follow-Up

by Terry Doyle and John Boch
(GSL) - Despite some sketchy weather at times trying to rain on our parade, the 2026 Introductory Wingshooting Clinic at Middle Fork SFWA was another roaring success!



We had 27 shooters light up the range on Saturday and 17 more on Sunday, for a total of 44 enthusiastic participants — including 14 Youth, 13 Women, and 17 Men. And get this: that's after 11 people had to cancel. We're unsure how many of those were fearful of the weather. However, the fact that so many still showed up and had a blast says everything about how much people love this event.



From the first clay to the last cheer, the energy was electric. You could feel the excitement building as new shooters started breaking targets and grinning from ear to ear. The positive feedback was off the charts — folks left not just with new skills, but with that addictive spark that makes them want to come back for more.

None of this happens without an all-star team, and we've got one of the best. A massive *thank you* to every single person who stepped up — whether you threw in money, spread the word, cooked the meals, taught on the line, wrangled equipment, shuttled folks to the field, or kept the whole operation running smoothly behind the scenes.



This is a serious investment of time, sweat, and resources... but man, is the payoff worth it. Watching beginners light up when they connect with their first target? That's pure gold.

It's an absolute blast and an honor to work alongside such a talented, dedicated crew.

When a plan comes together this well — even with the weather throwing curveballs — it just doesn't get any better.

Thank you, guys and gals. You made it awesome!



Armed Citizens: EXTREME CAUTION required in third party defense, including those involving police

by John Boch
Armed citizens should exercise extreme reticence before inserting themselves into conflicts involving third parties, including active deadly force incidents involving police and criminals.

The same prudent hesitation you would apply to any third-party conflict applies to police-involved situations—only more so. You're risking a great deal, and you must be dead certain (pun intended) that your actions are necessary, legally justified, and unlikely to make a bad situation worse before you act.

Even if you become involved and act righteously, the potential negative consequences are substantial. What's more, you're risking a lot on behalf of people you don't even know. Your life, your freedom, your finances, and your family's stability are all on the line. Are they worth risking for a third party? It's a question best considered before life hands you a crap sandwich and teases you to take a bite.

Why is third-party defense so risky?

Consider the very real risk of misidentification by law enforcement. Officers responding to reports of gunfire operate in a compressed, chaotic environment with incomplete information. They see a person with a gun; they don't automatically know your intentions.

In November 2018 at the Riverchase Galleria mall in Hoover, Alabama, 21-year-old Emantic "E.J." Bradford Jr., a US Army soldier on leave who held a valid concealed carry permit, drew his handgun and moved toward the sound of shots during an active shooting incident in an apparent effort to help. Amid panicked shoppers and rapidly unfolding events, officers mistook him for the killer and fatally shot him from behind without issuing a verbal warning.

To make matter worse, city leaders threw Mr. Bradford under the bus after it was all over. That's quite a "thank you" for risking everything to save lives and perishing.

Courts later determined the officer's split-second decision was reasonable given the circumstances. Bradford's family pursued legal action but did not prevail. A young man acting on good intentions became a casualty of the very confusion that defines these scenes.

A parallel danger exists with other lawfully armed citizens. In the fog of an active shooter event, robbery, or confrontation, another CCW holder could reasonably perceive you

as part of the threat, particularly if you are moving toward the danger with a firearm in hand. Also consider that other CCW holders might not be nearly as well-trained, either. They may want to find their way onto the pages of the American Rifleman's *Armed Citizen* column and act before they have correctly discerned what's happening.

Without badges, radios, or coordinated training, the potential for tragic friendly fire between good guys is real and well-documented in after-action reviews of chaotic incidents.

Not only that, but you also operate with far fewer legal protections than sworn officers. Police enjoy qualified immunity in many use-of-force situations and benefit from departmental legal support. Private citizens do not. Even when your intervention is later ruled a justified use of force under defense-of-others statutes—which most states recognize—you can still face civil lawsuits from the criminal's family or estate alleging wrongful death, excessive force, or negligence. How sweet is that?



What else? The local municipality isn't going to pay your legal bills, either. If you don't have some sort of legal defense coverage (like CCW Safe, US Law Shield or USCCA), the legal costs alone will bankrupt you unless you have a \$100,000 rotting away at Chase Bank. Even then, \$100k might not be nearly enough.

One instructive case involved an Indiana woman who shot and killed a man actively attacking a conservation officer in order to save the officer's life. Despite widespread initial praise for her actions, the attacker's family filed a civil wrongful death lawsuit against her. Although the suit was ultimately resolved in her favor, she endured significant legal costs and stress that highlight the exposure good Samaritans face.

Pretty much every state permits the use of reasonable force, including deadly force when necessary, to defend yourself or another person from imminent death or great bodily harm.

Continued on page 18.

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It happened to me!

FAMILY HEROICS: How one man’s preparedness saved the day

By Eric North

(GSL) - Folks, if you’ve ever stared down a finished basement full of water, spoiled food, and melting ice cream while the power company shrugs and says “maybe Tuesday,” you know the sweet relief of a generator that actually runs when the lights go out. I just lived it — and barely dodged disaster thanks in part to equal parts procrastination, duct tape legacy, and last-minute panic maintenance.

It was July 3rd in beautiful Tinley Park. *We don’t do long power outages* here in the suburbs. Those are for country folks with wells and septic systems, right? Wrong. A nasty line of storms rolled through, dropping trees and knocking out the juice at 3:30 p.m. right at the tail end of that brutal heat wave.

With the power out, trees down and fingers crossed the power would be restored soon, I looked at the sump pit. I saw the water rising. “Uh oh. I better do something,” I thought to myself.

That’s when I remembered my crippled generator sitting in the garage like a neglected lawn ornament. Two years ago I fired it up during (another) day-plus long power outage (how quickly we forget) and discovered the fuel line had dry-rotted and was leaking gasoline everywhere.

Being a red-blooded American, I slapped some duct tape on it (because duct tape fixes everything), crossed my fingers, and somehow avoided my generator turning itself into an enormous backyard tiki torch.

Like a good boy, I bought a replacement fuel line way back when. Yeah... it had been sitting proudly on top of my toolbox ever since. Like a good procrastinator, I’d admired it many times while thinking, “I should really install that someday.”

Someday arrived with a vengeance.

With my sump pit water level rising, I tore into that machine like a man possessed. New fuel line, carb cleaned, air filter swapped, oil changed, fresh stabilized gas poured in. An hour plus later, I yanked the cord and — miracle of miracles — she roared to life like she’d been waiting for her big moment.

Three extension cords became my lifelines. One to the garage keeping the fridge and freezer alive. Another snaked through the basement window to run the sump pump and ejection pump (that sump pit now mere inches from turning my finished family room and two basement bedrooms into an indoor wading pool). The third cord powered the house fridge, a couple of fans, some lights, and a power strip for charging phones.

Yeah, it was hot and miserable, but that glorious little generator ran almost non-stop from Friday at 5:30p until Monday night at 10:30p. The fans it powered at least made things a little better.

The only time it quit was when it ran out of fuel — my fault for not watching the gauge closely enough at first.

All told we burned through about 30 gallons of fuel (roughly \$150 here in Chicagoland territory).

Worth every single penny and then some.

What I Did Right (*The Short List*)

- Thank God I had a generator.
- Thankfully I’d actually bought that new fuel line instead of just thinking about it.
- I kept some stabilized fresh fuel on hand for “just in case.”
- I didn’t panic. I got to work.
- I had extension cords. Some could have been better 12ga. cords, but I made it okay.

The generator, even though it wasn’t (nearly) big enough for the A/C, kept the basement bone-dry, the food safe, and gave us lights, fans, and phone chargers. Civilization sort of preserved at my house at least.

What I Screwed Up (*A Longer List*)

- I should have replaced that fuel line two years ago. Running a generator in a puddle of gasoline is a terrible life plan.
- I should have used fuel stabilizer with the gas last time I ran it so I didn’t have to clean out the carburetor after two years of untreated gas in it.
- I should have exercised the generator every three months for 10-20 minutes like a responsible adult.
- Should have way more stabilized, stored fuel on hand just in case the gas stations nearby aren’t pumping gas. Thankfully I didn’t have to travel far to replenish my fuel cans this time - and there were no lines. Next time? Who knows.

As for those without generators for whatever reason? They got the full Chicago-style misery package: spoiled food, flooded basements, and very expensive lessons in wishing “it’ll never happen here” is a crappy plan. Skip spending \$400-600 on a decent generator and get to pay a few thousand in water damages and lost meat is penny-wise and pound foolish.



Look, we talk a lot in these pages of *Gun-News* about being prepared. It’s often about how to avoid becoming a victim of crime and needing to defend your life and your family with a firearm. But true preparedness doesn’t stop at a gun. Storms, blackouts, “teen takeovers,” or whatever fresh hell the universe throws at you tomorrow or next week — it all comes down to the same principle: Don’t wait for the emergency to start preparing for it.

Exercise your generator regularly. Stock stabilized fuel. Keep those spare parts. Maintain your gear like your family’s safety depends on it... because it does.

My duct-tape-and-a-prayer generator saved the day once. I didn’t tempt fate twice. Don’t count on being that lucky. Get your house in order before the lights go out.

Stay ready, Illinois. The storm doesn’t send a warning text.



If you thought AOC was a kook, get ready for Darializa
You already know her stance on guns... ‘gun control for thee, but not for me!’

Darializa Chevalier and the radical Left’s Tea Party Moment

(*National Review*) - There are famously nine Greek Muses, those classically feminine embodiments of inspiration in the creative arts. There was Terpsichore (dance), Clio (history), Polyhymnia (sacred poetry), etc. — the full range of artistic expression available to man, both then and now. To them we must now add a tenth: Darializa, the Muse of fully automated luxury communism.

For the professional cynic in me is positively inspired by the obscene absurdity of last night’s upset Democratic primary winner in New York’s 13th congressional district: the Mamdani-endorsed and spectacularly three-named Darializa Avila Chevalier. She is a career activist, police/prison abolitionist, open-borders fanatic, Hamas booster, and America-loathing communist. And that’s just the start.

Readers probably already know that Chevalier is a Democratic Socialist, without knowing what specifically that means beyond “wild-eyed, radical leftist.” So I cannot wait for every Democrat in the 120th Congress next year to be asked to answer for Chevalier’s many, many, many outrageous and outright bigoted statements over the years. (Credit where due: Many of these were unearthed back in late May/early June by the *New York Post* as well as inveterate archive-hound Andrew Kaczynski over at CNN.) It turns out that dear Darializa is not just your everyday “working-class Afro-Latina” — she’s a rabid true believer.

A few select quotes and thoughts:

- **“F*** you. We’re gonna defund and abolish [the police]. You don’t get to water down our movements.”**
- **“No. It means ending policing full stop. Period. No. more. police. at. all. ever.** it’s very harmful to the work Black abolitionists have been doing for decades to dilute this movement.”
- **“A world without borders — just like a world without prisons or police —**

is possible, necessary, and the only moral way forward.”

- “Abolish the border.”
- “All deportation is wrong.”
- “I forgot to get napkins so I just wiped my face on the American flag behind me.”

Elsewhere she casually accused both black and Arab men of being race traitors for “fetishizing ugly colonizer women.” Some people deny Israel’s right to exist, but when asked in August of 2020 how she would react if Israel ceased to exist, Chevalier outwitted her social media opponent: “Trick question — Israel doesn’t exist!” During that same period, she accused Joe Biden of being both a “rapist” and a “war criminal” (and you thought *National Review* was hard on him).

Chevalier has responded that she said most of these things back when she was recklessly, irresponsibly young — five years ago, to be exact. And now she’s headed to Washington, D.C., probably forever!



Democrat Socialists in Denver support Darializa. They don’t support your gun rights though. Over half are still wearing masks in July 2026. Their virtue signaling is strong, as is their desire to hide from facial recognition.

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Turquoise Tony talks Cowboy Action Shooting

Turquoise Tony rides into Sangamon County GSL like a stagecoach full of dynamite!

“Turquoise Tony?”

Yeah, you read that right. Sounds like the hero of a Saturday matinee who just stepped off the silver screen with spurs jingling and a grin wider than the Chisholm Trail.

No bad movie here—this was pure, unfiltered Old West thunder at the Sangamon County GSL meeting at Scheels. Close to a hundred shooters, dreamers, and history buffs packed in to hear why Cowboy Action Shooting (CAS) is the most fun you can have with your boots on and smoke in the air.



Turquoise Tony.

Illinois sits second in the nation for CAS clubs, breathing down Texas's neck. There was a time we even had 'em outnumbered. Outside the Windy City, this state is still wide-open frontier, partner.

What's the Draw?

Pure Adrenaline with a Side of Nostalgia Cowboy Action Shooting, governed by the Single Action Shooting Society (SASS), throws you straight into the taming of the Old West. You compete with period firearms: single-action revolvers (cock the hammer every shot, no shortcuts), pistol-caliber lever-action rifles, and old-school shotguns—double-barrel coach guns, exposed-hammer pumps like the Winchester 1897, the works.

Tony made it crystal clear: You don't need a safe full of custom iron to start. A big hat, cowboy boots, and the right spirit will get you in the door. No guns? No problem. These folks are friendlier than a town saloon on payday—someone will loan you hardware and ammo. First-timers get the full treatment.

Want to go fancy? Build yourself a “Barbeque gun” that's dressed up prettier than a dance-hall gal. Tony prefers Marlin lever guns and Rugers, and he's done some serious action jobs on his own. When asked about that signature turquoise finish, does he use duracoat or something similar? He chuckled:

“Nah, I use Rustoleum.” Classic Tony—keeping it real and a little wild.

The Legend in the Room

The crowd lit up when someone asked Tony about Bill Oglesby. Oglesby, who lives near Springfield, is one of America's last great exhibition shooters. How good is Oglesby? He can call a golf ball's flight (hook, slice, or straight) before he drills it mid-air with his pistol. Tony's verdict on Oglesby's shooting? “He shoots okay.” On Oglesby's gun-making? “Yeah, they're pretty good.” The understatement landed like a .45 slug—perfect deadpan delivery that had the room roaring.

Family Fun, Serious Speed, Zero Tolerance for Jerks

Stages run fast and close: pistols at 5-7 yards, shotgun around 11, rifle out to 15. A timer-toting Range Officer calls the shots—literally—telling you the scenario, the targets, and when to draw. It's all about time plus accuracy. Misses cost you. Safety violations? You're DQ'd quicker than a card cheat in a poker game. No drama, no nonsense—just good, clean, fast shooting.

Loads are mild—some so light they'd struggle with a screen door. Lead bullets on steel targets keep the bang manageable and the cleanup straightforward (unless you go black powder, which Tony warned turns your guns into a sooty mess).

Little kids are not just welcome—they thrive. They can shoot .22s up to age 13. That's a gateway to lifelong shooting fun most sports can't touch. CAS is family-oriented, collegial, and downright wholesome.

Everyone pitches in: running timers, spotting at the loading table, and cleaning up afterward. Costumes aren't just encouraged—they're half the show. Regulars show up in full frontier regalia, and some categories require it. Think Wild West cosplay with live fire.

Wild Bunch: When You Want More Modern Firepower

For those itching for a taste of the early 20th century, Tony mentioned the cousin sport: Wild Bunch Action Shooting. Swap the single-actions for a 1911 semi-auto in .45 ACP, keep the lever rifle (pistol caliber), and run pump shotguns like the Model '97. Same SASS family, more 1911 roar and faster reloads. It's the perfect next step when you're ready to channel The Wild Bunch on the range.

The Real Magic

Reloaders love it—most participants reload

their ammo. Gear freaks go nuts over fancy holsters, belts, and accoutrements. Questions flew: black powder cleanup (brutal), preferred loads, maintenance rituals. Tony handled every one with the easy confidence of a man who's lived the life.

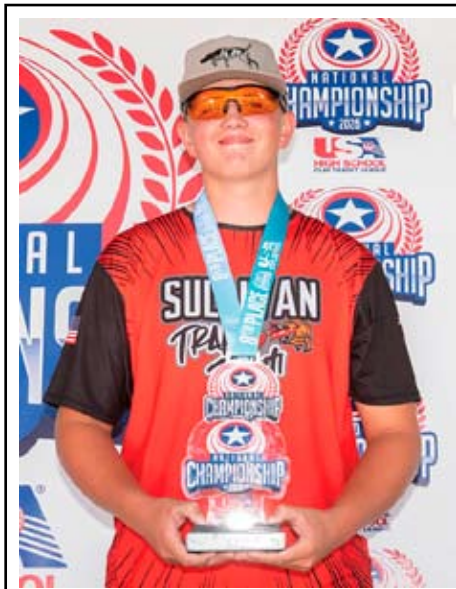
Cowboy Action Shooting isn't just about punching holes in steel. It's about preserving history, building community, teaching kids responsibility, and having a rip-roaring good time while you're at it. No politics, no ego—just iron, leather, and laughter under the prairie sky.

If you've ever dreamed of strapping on a gun belt and living out those old Western fantasies, saddle up. Find a local SASS club (Illinois has plenty), borrow some iron, and let 'er rip. Turquoise Tony and the whole CAS crew will be waiting with a smile, a spare revolver, and probably a tall tale or two.

Yee-haw, folks. This sport is alive, kicking, and calling your name.



Shortcake and Lawdog.



Koltan Kidd

We're proud of him!

8th of 1800!

(GSL) - Sullivan High School Trap Team's Koltan Kidd just made a statement at the USA High School Clay Target League National Championships in Mason, MI.

He battled through a massive field of 1,800 of the best young clay target shooters in the country and came out 8th overall — improving on last year's 10th-place finish.

That's elite performance on the biggest national stage in high school trap. If you recall, Koltan swung by the Decatur GSL meeting a few months ago with some of his team to connect with the local shooting community. We sent them off with some cash for targets and shells.

This kid is the real deal. Serious talent, serious work ethic, and he's only getting better.

Huge congrats, Koltan. You're putting Sullivan — and the entire shooting sports community — on the map. Keep crushing it, buddy!



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They almost lost everything that Sunday in Effingham

The urgent case for church safety

Sunday morning, July 5, 2026. St. John's Lutheran Church in Effingham, Illinois, sat peaceful under a quiet sky. Volunteers had just begun to arrive to prepare for service. Just the ordinary rhythm of a house of worship going about its day. Then a man with a stolen car slipped inside, asking for the pastor.

Church security didn't blink. They saw noticed the out-of-state plates and saw the man approach. Safety team members made contact as he entered. The man asked for the pastor, but the safety volunteers sensed something wrong. They called 911.

Police rolled in. A struggle. A gun produced. One shot fired. From the details it sounds like it might have been an attempted suicide. Either way, the intruder went down with life-threatening wounds and later died.

Thankfully no innocents got hit. No blood on the pews. No parents clawing through wreckage crying out for their kids. The pastor lived. Tragedy averted—saved by extraordinary vigilance.

Breathe easy? Not quite. Close your eyes and run the other reel: unlocked side doors, nobody watching the parking lot or the doors. No radios calling out alerts. Chaos explodes where hymns should rise. Gunfire shatters stained glass and the pastor and others go down. Children scream from the daycare area. Paramedics arrive to heartbreak. A community gutted, forever asking, "Why didn't we see it coming?"

That nightmare is one lazy policy away. Churches aren't fortresses—they're sanctuaries. Open doors, welcoming smiles, coffee and cookies. But evil doesn't check the welcome sign. It walks right in.

FBI patterns show Sundays host more active shooter incidents than any other day. Yet only about 57% of Protestant churches have a real plan for such horror. The rest? Hoping, praying, winging it. That's not faith. That's playing Russian roulette with your flock.

Picture the mom dropping her little ones at children's ministry, trusting you've got their backs. The widow finding peace in the back pew. The young family singing together. They come seeking refuge, not risk. Your church's safety team's job is to make sure they find it.

This is where preparation becomes love in action. Start with brutal honesty: a vulnerability walk-through. Treat your parking lot like

the front line it is—trouble announces itself there first, as Effingham proved. Eyes on the lot, radios in hands, cameras rolling (especially when weather hides threats or makes time outside miserable, especially in winter cold). Lock or man every door. One welcoming entrance. Tight control at kids' areas.

Layer it like the pros recommend. The DHS' Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA)—the feds' infrastructure defenders—pushes exactly this: outer perimeter watch, middle access controls, inner sanctuary safeguards.

Equip a real team. Safety side for deterrence and response. Vetted folks with good heads, not untrained folks who shoot 30 rounds every five years. Or worse yet, those who have never received an ounce of training and who don't practice. When the only tool in your toolbox is a hammer, everything looks like a nail.

Recruit everyone you can with medical backgrounds. The medical side of safety will respond fifty times more often for everything from anxiety attacks to heart attacks. Falls happen way more often than crimes.

Radios with clear codes allow instant, discrete communications. Visible presence that says "not today" to bad guys without scaring the saints. Train like lives depend on it—because they do. Drills. Tabletops. De-escalation. Stop-the-Bleed kits ready, right next to the AEDs.

The Effingham team didn't turn their church into a bunker. They simply refused to be caught flat-footed. That's the difference between headlines that heal and ones that haunt.

We live in a broken world. Evil doesn't take Sundays off. But neither does a prepared shepherd. Church members and visitors walk through those doors carrying real burdens—divorces, diagnoses, doubts and life struggles. The least you owe them is safety to lay those burdens down.

Don't wait for the knock that comes too late. Assess your risks today. Build that team. Lock those doors. Watch that parking lot. Train like tomorrow depends on it.

Because for someone in your pews, or your pastor, it just might.

The flock is counting on you. Be the sanctuary they deserve.

Fr. Pfleger caught in *another* sex scandal

Chicago (GSL) - Chicago's activist priest Father Michael Pfleger faces yet another sex abuse allegation, this time from a woman claiming he molested her as a minor at St. Sabina parish in the mid-1990s. Placed on leave by Cardinal Cupich, Pfleger denies it as "absolute lies" from money-seekers. He was previously cleared in 2021-2022 probes—investigations many view skeptically given the Church's notorious history of cover-ups and protecting its own.

How many more victims remain silent? The repeated accusations paint a troubling pattern for a man who built a career on social justice.

Pfleger's rhetoric often veers un-Christian. He once notoriously targeted gun shop owner John Riggio of Chuck's Gun Shop, vowing to "snuff out" the business and its

owner amid anti-violence crusades—hardly the language of Christ-like mercy or forgiveness.



Father Pfleger.

While Pfleger preaches against societal ills, his own record invites scrutiny. The archdiocese promises a thorough review, but past scandals prove such vows often amount to little more than institutional self-preservation. Survivors deserve accountability, not more denials and delays.

Paging parents and kids from Northern Illinois!

Stateline Rifle's NRA DAY Family Fun Shoot September 19th 2026 SIGN UP NOW!

Mark your calendars, freedom-loving families! On Saturday, September 19th, the State Line Rifle Association is hosting an action-packed NRA Day Family Fun Shoot at the Wisconsin Sportsman's Association in Union Grove, Wisconsin—and Guns Save Life is all in!

Bring the crew, pack the sunscreen, bug spray, and plenty of water. Expect laughs, friendly competition, great food (lunch available), and memories that last a lifetime.

Guns Save Life gives this event our strongest endorsement. In a world that demonizes our firearms heritage, events like this are how we pass the torch—teaching responsibility, marksmanship, and love of liberty to the next generation.

Don't miss it!

September 19 • 8:30am–2:30pm • Wisconsin Sportsman's Association, Union Grove, WI

Register today at statelinerifle.com. See you on the line!



This isn't just another range day. This is a full-throttle celebration of American shooting sports where the whole family can get in on the fun. Sign in starts at 8:30 a.m., followed by a safety briefing at 9:00. Then it's game on: handguns, rifles, shotguns, and muzzle loaders—all firearms and ammunition provided by NRA and USCCA certified instructors ready to deliver one-on-one coaching.

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Ft. Worth neighbor shoots, kills machete-wielding man dragging woman down street

(CBS News) - A neighbor shot and killed a man who was dragging a woman while armed with a machete, the Fort Worth Police Department said.

According to FWPD, at about 10:20 p.m. Sunday, officers responded to a call concerning a person with a weapon in the 2900 block of Ross Avenue. When officers arrived, they found a man suffering from an apparent gunshot wound. He was transported to the hospital in critical condition, where he was pronounced dead.

After speaking with witnesses, officers learned that the man was involved in a verbal and physical argument with a woman and dragged her down the street while being armed with a machete.



Stabby man brought knife to gunfight

West Philadelphia (CBS News) - A 42-year-old man fatally shot a man who stabbed him Wednesday during an altercation in West Philadelphia, police said.

It happened on the 700 block of South 60th Street around 2:21 p.m., according to police.

Police said a 35-year-old man stabbed the 42-year-old man, who then pulled out a gun and shot him multiple times. Both men were taken to Penn Presbyterian Medical Center, where the 35-year-old was pronounced dead, and the 42-year-old was placed in stable condition, police said.

It can happen anywhere

First shooting in 20 years for quiet MO community

Pleasant Hill, MO (GSL) - A 27-year-old gunman opened fire with a hunting-style rifle outside the Price Chopper in Pleasant Hill on Monday, killing a 45-year-old woman and wounding a 17-year-old employee.

Two brave CCW holders confronted the killer, with at least one drawing his handgun to stop the threat. Their courageous intervention prompted the gunman to turn the weapon on himself, likely preventing further casualties. He is in custody after a self-inflicted gunshot wound.

Police Chief Tommy Wright (who came out of retirement to assist the investigation) called the shooting highly unusual for this tight-knit rural community. "This doesn't happen in Pleasant Hill," he said.



16-year-old shoots father, saving self, mother

Tulsa, OK (KTUL) — The Tulsa Police Department said a man was shot and killed by his son in south Tulsa. The family said the father started attacking them before the shooting.

Around 2 p.m. on Sunday, officers responded to a shooting at the Avondale Apartments near East 71st Street and South Peoria Avenue.

The caller said her husband, 49-year-old Aubrey Nears, attacked their 16-year-old son and then assaulted her.

The son grabbed a gun kept in the apartment and shot Nears.

Police said officers arrived and found Nears dead with a gunshot wound to the head.

The son was questioned and released.

Minor shoots violent family member

Benicia, California (GSL) — On Thursday, May 1, 2026, around 10 p.m., officers responded to a residence on London Circle for a reported domestic violence incident. A juvenile fatally shot a male family member in what police describe as an act of self-defense. All individuals involved lived in the same household.

The victim died at the scene from a gunshot wound. This marks the city's first homicide since January 2022. Police have not disclosed the exact relationship between the shooter and victim, but confirmed the juvenile's weapon was fired defensively.

The Solano County District Attorney is now handling the juvenile's case and placement. No arrests have been reported.

Marine Vet stops racist thug's shooting rampage

Leesburg, GA (GSL) - A peaceful family reunion in Leesburg, Georgia, turned into a war zone on June 7 when Jeffrey Tyler Kinzer allegedly drove by screaming racial slurs, then returned wearing body armor and wielding an AR-15-style rifle.

Kinzer opened fire on the gathering of about 20 people, including children and elderly relatives, according to witnesses. The racist coward didn't pick a fight with armed men in the street — he targeted a family cookout.

One family member, Marine veteran Ramell Green, didn't hesitate. He grabbed his own gun, returned fire, and put Kinzer down. The attacker was wounded, arrested, and charged with aggravated assault. More charges are expected.

This is the reality the gun-control crowd hates to admit: When a hate-filled thug shows up armed and ready to murder innocents, the only thing that stops him is a good guy with a gun who refuses to be a victim. Kinzer learned that lesson the hard way.



'Biden calls white supremacy greatest terrorism threat as 2024 race heats up' - Washington Post

Interracial crime stats vs. the "white supremacy" narrative

(GSL) - Legacy media dramatically amplified the term "white supremacy," with usage surging 5,296% from 2009–2020 across major outlets according to analyst David Rozado's tracking of newspaper content. What was once a niche descriptor for explicit racists became an all-purpose framing for American society itself.

— The Guardian (2020)



Examples, you ask?

"Delayed Homeland Security Report Warns of 'Lethal White Supremacy'" — The New York Times (2020)

"Wray says FBI has recorded about 100 domestic terrorism arrests... and most investigations involve white supremacy" — The Washington Post (2019)

"DHS: Domestic terrorism, particularly white-supremacist violence, as big a threat as ISIS, al-Qaeda" — The Washington Post (2019)

"White supremacists remain deadliest US terror threat, Homeland Security report says" — CNN (2020)

"White supremacists and militias have infiltrated police across US, report says"

The truth:

During the same period, National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) data on violent crimes told a different story: black-on-white offenses occurred at a rate of approximately 1,162 per 100,000 blacks, compared to 38 per 100,000 whites for white-on-black offenses — roughly 30 times higher.

Broader picture

This media surge and the crime data asymmetry reveal a profound disconnect. While legacy outlets framed "white supremacy" as a pervasive, existential danger to minorities, the empirical pattern of interracial violent crime showed

the opposite directional risk for white victims relative to population proportions. Most violent crime remains intraracial due to residential segregation, yet the per-capita interracial offending rates expose uncomfortable group differences consistently documented in BJS and FBI data across decades.

The narrative appears driven more by ideology than statistics. Black Americans suffer disproportionately from intra-racial violence (over 90% of black homicide victims killed by black offenders), a tragedy rooted in family breakdown, concentrated urban poverty, cultural factors, and policy failures — not a white supremacist conspiracy. Over-emphasizing rare interracial cases while downplaying the data fuels division, erodes trust, and distracts from effective interventions like better policing, family stability, and cultural accountability.

Truth requires facing patterns without excusing individuals. Crime disparities are real; the dominant media story around them has been disproportionately propagandistic.

The mainstream political and media perpetuates false narratives. Shocker.

The false narrative of white supremacists committing mass public killing sprees

(GSL) - According to John Lott, Jr. of the Crime Prevention Research Center, organizations like the Anti-Defamation League claim right-wing extremists are responsible for all identified extremist-related killings, a narrative echoed by politicians and much of the media. However, Lott's research shows the vast majority of mass public shooters have no political motivations.

In his dataset, *Mass Public Shooting List US 1998-2025*, Lott defines a mass public shooting as an attack in a public place where four or more people are killed, excluding gang fights or robberies. His analysis of these incidents, along with mass vehicle attacks and rare bombings, finds very few stem from political or religious motives.

Demographics: Whites (excluding Middle Eastern descent) comprise the largest share of shooters but are underrepresented by 9.3% relative to their population share. Hispanics are also underrepresented, while Blacks, Asians, American Indians, and those of Middle Eastern descent are overrepresented. Christians account for 14.9% of shooters (underrepresented), while Muslims and other non-Christians are overrepresented.

Motivations: 77% of shooters are non-political, up from 73% in prior data. Islamic extremists account for 6%. Few incidents are anti-Black hate crimes.

Gender: 96% of mass public shooters are male.



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US Marshals outside Justice Samuel Alito's home.

Now more than ever, ensuring Supreme Court Justices' personal security is critical

Supreme Court Justice Amy Coney Barrett testified (along with Justice Elena Kagan) before a House Appropriations subcommittee on Supreme Court funding and budgetary matters yesterday. As part of her testimony, she told the subcommittee that the threat level faced by the Justices these days "is really high."

She described her own experiences such as having to wear a bulletproof vest following the Dobbs decision leak, being swatted recently, and having packages delivered to her home in the name of the murdered son of a federal District Court judge.

This is outrageous stuff and, obviously, totally unacceptable. And with another hot-button case like Viramontes being decided next year, it's critically important that security for the Justices be tighter now than ever. Leftists have carried out shootings before — or tried — and said in the manifestos they left behind that they did it, at least in part, to advance the cause of gun control.

With the rise in the glorification of assassins on the left in recent years, don't think they wouldn't try to take out a conservative justice again, whether to affect the Viramontes ruling or for any number of other left wing priorities.

Not long ago, such an idea would have sounded farfetched and insane to me. But after Charlie Kirk, after the deification of Luigi Mangione, after repeated attempts on Trump's life, it isn't crazy anymore.

Our take on the 7th Circuit ruling

(GSL) - In one final, sneering act of judicial contempt, Judge Frank Easterbrook spat on the Second Amendment in the *Barnett* case—our Guns Save Life (and fellow groups like GOA, ASC, FFL-IL, and others) challenge to Pritzker's tyrannical PICA gun ban. Easterbrook has spent his career hating gun rights for ordinary Americans like us. This time, the bitter old jurist couldn't resist one last pathetic ego stroke as his career winds down.

This wasn't a ruling. It was a temper tantrum from a small, vindictive man furious he never got the Supreme Court seat his inflated ego told him he deserved. He signed his name to a garbage, intellectually dishonest opinion that directly thumbs its nose at clear U.S. Supreme Court precedent. SCOTUS will shred it or render it moot (that's "toss it

in the trash" for the non-legal types) within months.

What a pathetic disgrace. This *Barnett* case had the makings of a landmark civil rights victory for law-abiding citizens fighting for their God-given right to self-defense. Easterbrook could have chosen the right side of history. Instead, his towering narcissism and rabid hatred of guns in the hands of the little people triumphed once again.

Way to go, Frank. You didn't just betray the Constitution—you cemented your legacy as a bitter, irrelevant hack.

Frank who?

Our righteous fight continues just as Frank's irrelevance is assured.



A Flag that still fought back

by John Boch (GSL) - On July 4th at Maranatha Church in Decatur, before a truly exceptional fireworks display lit up the sky, I stood with roughly 16 fellow Americans and received one of the greatest solemn honors of my life: helping hold a massive 10x20 flag retired from the Flight 93 Memorial in Shanksville, Pennsylvania.

As the *Star Spangled Banner* swelled, we raised it high overhead together. My young sons took their turns too—small hands joining

ours under those proud stripes. That flag flew over sacred ground where ordinary passengers became warriors on 9/11, charging the cockpit instead of waiting to be slaughtered.

In that quiet, powerful moment, the truth hit hard: It didn't take holding a flag to know freedom isn't free—but that flag certainly proved it.

While politicians in Illinois and Washington push gun control, red-flag laws, and disarmament, the heroes of Flight 93 remind us why the

Second Amendment exists. Free people don't beg for permission to defend themselves. They act.

This is the spirit that built America—the refusal to submit. We honor it by staying armed, trained, and vigilant against every threat, foreign and domestic.

Some flags simply wave. This one remembers the battle—and challenges us to reject the victim culture peddled by our elites and prove ourselves worthy of the price paid for liberty.



5.06:1 WHY WE CARRY: Defensive Gun Uses outnumber criminal gun uses 5 to 1

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

MAIL CALL



Yet another gun owner stripped of gun rights without due process

Dear GSL:

I am writing to bring a serious matter to your attention and to request a legal referral.

Recently, I was notified by the Illinois State Police (ISP) that my FOID status had changed. After contacting the ISP and the Sangamon County Sheriff's Department, I discovered that a no-contact stalking order had been issued against me in Sangamon County, despite the fact that I reside in Cass County.

This order stems from a dispute between my ex-wife's new husband, Matt, and their neighbors. The neighbor has made multiple complaints to the sheriff's office, including one involving my son. When a deputy previously attempted investigate this at my ex-wife's address,

Matt informed the officer that I have not lived there since 2017 and was not involved in the situation. I have never met the neighbor in question, yet I am now facing the repercussions of this dispute.

I am reaching out for two reasons: 1. To raise awareness about this issue, as I believe the current application of this law is unconstitutional and needs to be addressed. 2. To obtain a recommendation for a qualified attorney in Sangamon County who can help me contest this order and pursue appropriate legal action against the individual who filed it.

Thank you for your time and assistance.

Mike Last name withheld City withheld

GunNews Magazine

The monthly journal of Guns Save Life

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

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



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

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



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The Scourge of Teen Takeovers

by Heather MacDonald

(City Journal) - This past Memorial Day, more than 1,000 teens swarmed the blocks around Lake Michigan in Chicago's Hyde Park neighborhood. A resident described the scene: "Hundreds of people were walking and running down our street, jumping on top of cars, twerking, smoking blunts." One group twerked on the top of a city bus.

At about 9 pm, the Chicago Police Department closed Lake Shore Drive. As sirens wailed, the Hyde Park resident armed himself with bear spray to retrieve something from his car. An hour later, a gunman shot three teens a block from the resident's home. The suspect remains at large, though police made 13 arrests for illegal gun possession, battery of an officer, and other felonies.

The previous day, an after-prom gathering in Chicago's Little Italy neighborhood descended into mayhem. "It looked like a million kids out here," one neighbor told WGN News. "They were acting like straight animals. Kids were all on top of cars. They were stopping in the middle of the street, twerking." Fights involving pepper spray and other weapons were common. Cars sped through the crowds. Shortly before 3 am, a police commander formed skirmish lines. Three minutes later, a sedan veered into oncoming traffic and struck an officer. Moments afterward, it hit a second officer, crossed into another lane, accelerated, and plowed into three more cops. The rampage ended when the vehicle crashed into a police car and a utility pole. The 18-year-old driver was carrying a semiautomatic handgun with an extended magazine. An hour later, shots were fired in the area, but no arrests have been made.

These two incidents are just a few of the mass-disorder events this year that have

been dubbed "teen takeovers." Nationally, violent felonies overall are down, but disorder is not...

Police officers, district attorneys, and sheriffs offer a different explanation for the teen takeovers: they are the consequence of a decades-long demonization of the criminal-justice system...

The juvenile-justice system was similarly emasculated in the twenty-first century, for much the same reason as the adult system: to avoid disparate impact. The Obama administration sued school districts for disparities in school-discipline rates between black students and white students. Suspensions and expulsions plummeted. Rather than being punished, insubordinate pupils were directed to "peace circles" and other forms of restorative justice...

The ideal solution to the teen takeovers is a change in culture—both in the elite culture that excuses lawlessness in the name of racial justice and in urban black culture itself...

Teen takeovers are not a mystery. They are the predictable result of a culture that increasingly refuses to hold lawbreakers responsible for antisocial behavior, especially if those lawbreakers are black. Every institution that once imposed discipline—the family, the schools, the juvenile-justice system, the police, even public opinion—has been weakened. Despite elite hopes, government programs cannot substitute for the habits of self-control and respect for law that make civil society possible, however. Until those habits are restored, Americans should expect more takeovers and a widening divide between jurisdictions willing to enforce basic norms and those that are not.

Armed Citizens: EXTREME CAUTION required in third party defense, including those involving police

Continued from page 11.

However, that protection is not ironclad in the civil arena, and hindsight review by attorneys, judges, and juries can be unforgiving when facts are disputed or video evidence is ambiguous.

If you can render meaningful assistance with minimal risk to yourself or your loved ones—directing people to safety, providing accurate information to 911 dispatchers, or rendering first aid once a threat is clearly neutralized—then stepping forward is often the right thing to do. Responsible armed citizens do this regularly without ever firing a shot or drawing their guns.

Obviously a whole lot of us aren't going to let a police officer die on the side of a street or highway at the hands of one or more murderous thugs. Yet even when the circumstances are truly dire, you're risking a lot to intervene.

But when the scenario requires engaging in or escalating deadly force during an ongoing police-criminal confrontation? Or any other third-party confrontation? Think long and hard. Ask yourself: Is the threat to innocents truly imminent and unavoidable without my involvement? Can I act

without creating additional targets or confusion? Will my family be left to deal with the aftermath if things go wrong? Unlike the police, you aren't wearing body armor. You could get shot and wounded, crippled or killed in a gun battle.

In the majority of cases, the best contribution you can make is to get yourself and your family to safety, keep your firearm holstered and concealed, and serve as the best possible witness once the scene is stabilized. Instead of firing on a suspect, the better course of action might involve dragging a wounded officer to safety or taking other action to save innocent life.

Carrying a firearm for self-defense is a profound responsibility. It requires more than range time; it demands clear judgment, knowledge of the law, and the discipline to recognize when the wisest and most courageous action is *restraint*. Prioritize the people who count on you coming home. Train realistically. Know your rights and limitations. And never forget that true preparedness includes knowing when not to draw.

From Paramedic to SWAT/Drone Guy...

Charleston PD's Chad Schwenke brings the real talk to Mattoon GSL

by John Boch

Guns Save Life's Mattoon crew rolled out the welcome mat for Charleston Police Officer Chad Schwenke, and the man did not disappoint.



Chad Schwenke.

Chad's one of those rare superhumans who apparently doesn't need sleep. Paramedic turned cop, now SWAT team operator, department drone pilot, and the guy teaching Illinois' brand-new mandatory four-hour medical training for every officer in the state.

That's right — four whole hours of "don't let them die before the real EMTs arrive." Bleeding control, CPR, choking response, and other heroic basics. Chad's not just drilling his fellow cops; he's taking the same life-saving class out to regular folks in the community. Finally, some training that actually helps people instead of just padding another politician's press release.

During the Q&A, things got real fast.

Chad didn't sugarcoat the juvenile crime disaster in Coles County. Thanks to the SAFE-T Act and the "kids will be kids" — even when they're stealing cars and leading high-speed chases" approach, these young offenders are basically running around with permanent get-out-of-jail-free cards.

One unforgettable example? A 15-year-old with twelve arrests in the last two years — multiple stolen vehicles and police pursuits. Total time behind bars for all of it? About one week. The crowd's reaction was a perfect mix of "you're kidding" and "of course he is."

Then there's the drug scene. Arrests are still happening, but the old flip-on-your-supplier system is dead. No-cash bail means zero incentive to talk. When someone asked if local users wear a sign saying "I HAVE DRUGS," Chad shot back with a grin:

"No. They just hang out at the north side Hucks."

Even the laughter sounded exhausted.

Walmart, Chad noted, has become the revolving-door capital of retail theft in Illinois. Catch them, book them, and they're back in the store a couple days later like it's their part-time job. Crime without consequences — the new Illinois standard. Officer Schwenke is exactly the kind of cop you want: competent, battle-tested, and refreshingly willing to tell the truth instead of regurgitating the latest progressive criminal justice fairy tale. He's out there saving lives with both medical skills and his badge, while the geniuses in Springfield keep stacking the deck against him.

The Mattoon crowd walked out with eyes wide open about the daily reality local law enforcement faces — and a sharper appreciation for why groups like Guns Save Life keep hosting these no-BS meetings. Because when the system treats consequences as optional, responsible armed citizens damn well better stay sharp.

Thanks, Officer Chad Schwenke, for the straight talk and the life-saving training. Illinois needs a lot more like you.



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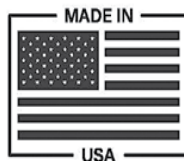
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Red Dots: They’re here to stay, whether you like them or not

by Damon Williams
GSL Member

(GSL) - Red dots on rifles and carbines? Game-changers for short- to medium-range work. That rock-solid shoulder anchor lets you pick up the dot instantly, and when it's zeroed, where the dot sits is exactly where the bullet goes.

As for shotguns? I'll stay in my lane—I've got zero experience, so no opinion.

On handguns, though, the iron-sight purists come out swinging with their list of complaints:

- Batteries die. If your red dot isn't mounted so you can see your iron sights and it fails, you suddenly have no sights. Sure, Jerry Miculek doesn't need sights, but you ain't Jerry Miculek.
- Not every optic has "shake awake." Some time out and go dark. *Ask me how I know—lost big on a competition stage because I forgot to turn it on.*
- Cost. A decent, reliable red dot starts around \$250 *after* you buy a red-dot-ready gun or slide. That's real money.
- More points of failure: Glass can crack, lasers fail, screws walk and mounts can shift.
- Slower to master. Learning a proper draw and dot acquisition takes serious reps. People that shoot thirty rounds every five years? Good luck.
- Lost zeroes. A good smack can knock the zero off.

On the other hand, the pro-red-dot crowd fires right back:

- Even adjustable irons can get knocked out of whack. Fixed sights? Good luck adjusting for different loads or recoil.
- Faster follow-ups. Once muscle memory kicks in, you can chase the dot wherever it appears in the window. The bullet goes where the dot is—no perfect sight picture required. Wider eye-box forgiveness beats iron-sight precision every time under stress.
- Iron sights fail too. I've peened a loose dovetail back into place after recoil beat it loose. My buddy once lost his 1911 front sight in competition... only to find

it had landed neatly in his shirt pocket. True story.

- Cost? A quality red dot can move from gun to gun and often adds value when you sell.
- Battery life? Modern units run tens of thousands of hours. Shake-awake and instant-on tech make annual battery swaps optional. It's not 2015 anymore.

So what's my two cents? Pistol red dots are fantastic... **for other people.**

I've been running iron sights in competition for nearly 30 years. My brain is hard-wired for that front sight focus. I gave a quality red dot an honest, full-effort try. For this old dog, the time and ammo investment to chase marginal gains just wasn't worth it. Diminishing returns hit hard.

A good friend of mine shoots Cowboy Action on weekends and runs a red dot on bowling pins during the week. He's legitimately good with both—yet even he admits the mental switch between the two systems can bite him at times.

Here's where I saw the real value, though: In a recent training class, a right-handed, left-eye-dominant woman was struggling on a rapid-fire, multiple-target drill. This poor woman was trying, but her times and accuracy were suffering as her eyes fought for dominance. My buddy handed her his red-dot pistol. Boom—immediate, dramatic improvement. Her left eye locked onto that dot no matter which hand she used. Parallax solved her problem. That's not theory; that's real-world performance.

Bottom line? This isn't a religion. The "my way or the highway" crowd in the gun world needs to knock it off.

Different tools for different shooters, different eyes, different missions. Give both systems an honest run, keep an open mind, and pick what actually makes you faster, more accurate, and more confident when it counts.

Your life. Your choice. Just be good enough with whatever you pick to win the fight.

Damon Williams knows his stuff, big time!

Handgun red dots aren't for everyone.

by John Boch

Many gun owners love red-dots. It's cool tech and turns your defensive handgun into a real-life video game blaster.

Like Damon, I'm pushing 60. Like Damon, I've been shooting seriously since my teens and handguns since my 20s. Damon probably outshoots me on most days ending in -y, but I hold my own for a guy who only burns maybe a thousand rounds a year plus classes.

But here's the cold truth: despite real effort and practice, my brain is hard-wired for iron sights at an unconscious competence level. Yours may be too. Adding a red dot costs me an extra .25 to .3 seconds on the timer. Every

time. Sure, when "warmed up" that goes down to .1 to .2, but still.

A quarter-second might not sound like much on the range—until you realize it's an eternity in a real gunfight.

The problem? With irons, I'm already taking up trigger slack by full extension. A quick glance confirms and the gun goes *bang*. With the dot, I hunt for it, the window blocks my iron reference, and I make small head/hand adjustments right when I should be pressing the trigger.

If you're running a red dot expecting automatic faster hits without serious training and practice, you're expectations suck. You're building in

a dangerous liability. Embarrassing yourself at a match is one thing. Betting your life on unmastered gear? It's your life.

Run what works for *you*. If you don't know what works for you, train more and practice.

Younger shooters might benefit by starting with dots and building around them. Us old dogs with decades of iron-sight muscle memory need brutal honesty about the trade-offs.

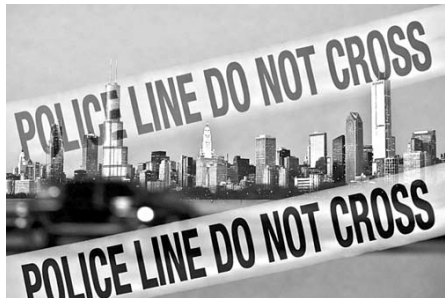
Bottom line: Train like your life depends on it—because it does. Serious practice makes you a danger to the bad guys, not yourself.

The Crime Data shell game: How Illinois obscures reported crime

A retired accountant's analysis of state and federal databases exposes reclassifications, underreporting, and manipulated statistics that downplay threats to public safety

by John Boch

(GSL) - At the Guns Save Life Chicagoland meeting on June 28, 2026, retired accountant Mike Heatherly delivered a sobering analysis of crime data drawn from local reports, the Illinois State Police, FBI UCR, and NIBRS. His findings exposed how Illinois manipulates statistics to downplay real threats.



Heatherly highlighted frequent changes to crime classifications. Offenses are routinely shifted into vague "other" categories treated as minor, artificially lowering serious crime counts. Many FOID violations now fall into these lesser buckets.

Reporting gaps compound the problem. In 2021, amid elevated crime, only 14% of Illinois cities submitted data to the ISP for the FBI. The NIBRS transition left major holes in coverage.

Even submitted data gets massaged. Officials claimed a 38% drop in thefts from motor vehicles; proper categorization revealed it was actually a 17% increase. Later adjustments came too late for accurate reclassification, producing yet another year of low-ball numbers.

Heatherly's deeper review uncovered sharp rises hidden by these tactics: stolen property offenses up 90% from 2023 to 2024, animal cruelty up 80%, and drug crimes up 22-30%.

Chicago exemplifies the obfuscation. Catalytic converter and airbag thefts are buried under broad "all other thefts from motor vehicles" rather than specific accessory codes. Airbag thefts exploded in 2026 — over 2,000 reported in the first five months versus just 147 across the prior three years — with more than 1,200 cases early in the year and no successful prosecutions.

When Heatherly shares his detailed work with legislators, interest is minimal. The data is too complex for easy sound-bites. "Do they want confusion?" he asked.



Mike Heatherly.

For Second Amendment supporters, the implications are clear. Manipulated statistics leave the public and policymakers blind to actual safety threats. In Illinois, this reality reinforces why the right to keep and bear arms for self-defense remains essential.

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The U.S. Model 1917 rifle

by Gary Larson

(GSL) - When America entered World War I, the Army faced a serious crisis. They didn't have nearly enough rifles to arm a rapidly growing force.

The excellent 1903 Springfield was widely regarded as one of the best military rifles in the world, but the government armories simply couldn't produce them fast enough. Britain accidentally offered a way out.

The British had learned painful lessons fighting the Boers in South Africa. Their troops were regularly outshot at long range by farmers using 7mm Mausers while the British carried slower .303 Lee-Enfields. After that costly campaign, Britain designed the Pattern 1913 — a sleek Mauser-action rifle chambered in a fast new .276 cartridge. It was meant to be more accurate and quicker to operate than the Enfield.

World War I broke out before the new rifle could enter full production, so the British simplified the design into the Pattern 1914 in standard .303 and hired Remington and Winchester to build it in large numbers. When the United States desperately needed rifles, someone had a pragmatic idea: instead of forcing those factories to completely retool for 1903 Springfields, why not simply adapt the already-running Pattern 1914 production lines to fire the American .30-06 cartridge?



The result was the Model 1917 "American Enfield."

It wasn't as graceful or well-balanced as the Springfield. It was longer, about half a pound heavier, and had a bulkier stock that made it feel less refined in the hands. But it held six rounds instead of five, featured a heavier barrel for better precise shooting, and came with a modern peep sight that was superior for rapid target acquisition under combat stress. Remington and Winchester were already tooled up and running at full speed, so production numbers exploded. Roughly three-quarters of the American Doughboys who went "over there" carried an M1917 into combat.

The rifle kept the old Pattern 1914 bayonet, making it the first U.S. service rifle that could not interchange bayonets with the Krag, the 1903 Springfield, or the later M1 Garand. From the beginning, the 1917 was the odd man out in the American arsenal — the rifle nobody really wanted to brag about.

In other words, it got zero respect despite its widespread use and proven results in combat.

The moment the Armistice was signed, the U.S. Army quickly sidelined the M1917 and kept the prettier 1903 Springfield as the standard rifle. Most 1917s were sold off, given away, or put into long-term storage. Britain

did the same thing with their Pattern 1914 rifles. Both designs, which had performed heroically when their countries needed them most, were essentially forgotten by the very institutions they had served.

When World War II broke out and the United States again found itself short of modern rifles, the stored 1917s were brought back into service. They were mostly issued to artillery, engineers, and rear-echelon support troops. The U.S. even shipped quantities of them to Britain, where they received bright red paint bands around the receiver so nobody would accidentally feed them .303 ammunition. The same resurrection happened with Britain's old Pattern 1914 rifles when they needed every available gun.

After 1945 the tough old 1917 continued to see service around the world, eventually arming troops in about twenty different nations. Its most famous and longest-running role came with Denmark's elite Sirius Dog Sled Patrol in Greenland. There, these nearly century-old rifles still serve alongside modern Glock 20 pistols in 10mm — because when you're patrolling the frozen Arctic and a polar bear decides you look like an easy meal, you want a rifle that will go bang reliably no matter how cold it is or how long it's been sitting on a sled.

There's still debate about whether Sergeant Alvin York used an M1917 during his legendary exploit in the Argonne Forest in 1918. His unit was issued 1917 rifles, though York later claimed he carried a Springfield. Historians and collectors continue to argue about it to this day.



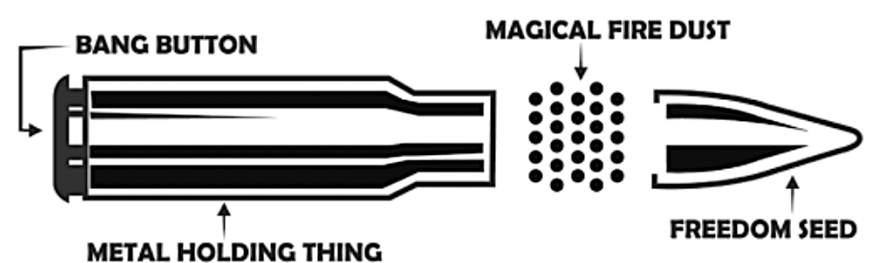
Above, the M1917 Carbine.

In civilian hands, Remington later turned the 1917 action into the Model 30 sporting rifle. Collectors eventually discovered what the military had overlooked for decades: these actions are incredibly strong, accurate, and well-suited for conversion to powerful wildcat magnum cartridges. Hunters still use M1917-based rifles today for deer, elk, moose, and other large game.

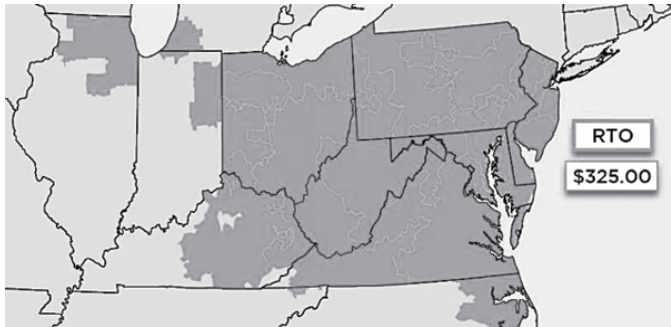
Here's the delicious irony: back in 1913 the British were already developing a high-velocity .276 cartridge for their new rifle. A full century later, the U.S. Army adopted something remarkably similar — the 6.8x51 cartridge firing a .277-caliber bullet with modern powder technology. The British had simply been about a hundred years ahead of their time.

The Model 1917 was the rifle that stepped up and got the impossible job done when nobody else could keep up. Then, once the crisis passed, it got quietly pushed aside while flashier, more photogenic rifles took the spotlight and the credit.

Classic Rodney Dangerfield. No respect... but it never stopped showing up when it was needed most.



ANATOMY OF A PEW



Chicagoland Grid Crisis: Why an inverter generator beats buying yet another gun

Chicagoland readers, take note: The grid serving your area is in trouble. PJM Interconnection — which covers northern Illinois including Chicago — is short nearly 7 gigawatts of capacity needed to maintain basic reliability. The cause? Soaring demand from AI data centers that's outpacing new power generation. This marks the third straight auction shortfall, and the problem is only getting worse.

When the largest grid in the country can't keep up, blackouts and rolling outages move from theory to real risk, especially during heat waves or winter peaks. Your home in the Chicago suburbs or city doesn't care about hyperscaler AI projects gobbling up electricity.

A portable generator is your practical answer. When the power fails, it keeps the refrigerator running, medical equipment powered, phones and radios charged, and critical systems like sump pumps online. It gives you independence instead of waiting on an overstretched utility.

But don't stop there. Stock 10-20 gallons of stabilized fuel alongside it. Winter-blend gasoline is ideal for storage, but even stabilized summer blend beats having nothing — or worse, unstabilized fuel that's gone bad and turned to varnish. Treated fuel stays usable for 1-3 years depending on the treatment type, ensuring your generator will run smoothly when you need it most.

While you're at it get a couple of quarts of oil to keep your gennie running for more than a few days if something really bad happens.

If your defensive firearm needs are already covered, buying an inverter generator is probably a smarter next move than picking up another gun you don't really need. In an age where corporate demand is stressing the grid that serves Chicagoland, self-reliance makes more sense than ever. Don't get caught unprepared. Make a quality portable generator and proper fuel storage a priority purchase now.

CHICAGO: 34-time felon gets 25 years for attempted murder - will be free in 9 years

Chicago (GSL) - Mitchell Davis, a 55-year-old career predator with 34 felony convictions, just got 25 years for a vicious armed robbery in a River North parking garage. This habitual offender and his crew ambushed two men at gunpoint, stole cash, phones, and keys — then Davis fired at a victim who dared to run. The bullet missed, but his intent was clear: kill them if they resist.

This animal's rap sheet includes attempted murder, home invasions, and armed robbery from 1997 — 30 felonies back then alone. Paroled? He was right back at it, terrorizing decent people. Yet Illinois let this monster roam free to strike again.

The joke? Illinois' pathetic "good behavior" credits mean this garbage will serve half his sentence. With jail credit, he's out in about nine years to rob and shoot again.

His accomplice, Duran Gladney (a rookie with "only" six priors), got a measly 10 years. He'll be out in months.

This isn't justice — it's a sick revolving door for human trash. Davis belongs in prison for life, not handed a get-out-of-hell-free card. In El Salvador, animals like him get permanently removed from society. This is why Chicago's violent crime rate is approximately eleven times higher.



Mitchell Davis, left, and Duran Gladney.

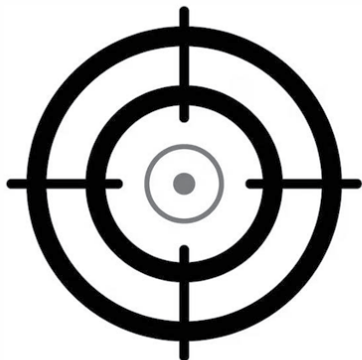
Illinois politicians coddle these predators while citizens pay the price. Enough. Lock them up and throw away the key

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Calendar

GUN SHOWS...

August

August Crown Point Gun Show cancelled.

September

Sep 19: National Civil War & Collector Arms Show, DuPage Co. Fairgrounds, Wheaton IL. Irene Zurko (715) 526-9769.

Sep 19 & 20: Chillicothe Sportsman's Club, Chillicothe, IL. Steve Risinger (309) 208-1010.

Sept. 27 & 28: Kankakee Gun Show, Kankakee County Fairgrounds Kankakee, IL. Mike (630) 363-3131.

Sept. 26 & 27: Crown Point Gun Show, Lake County Fairgrounds, Crown Point, IN. Central IN Gun Shows. (765) 855-3836.

GUN CLUBS

Foosland Sportsman's Club

Second Tuesdays: 6p Tuesday night trap shoots

Fourth Saturday: Trapshoot starting at 10 AM. All open to the public.

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

Sullivan Gun Club LLC.

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

Oak Park Sportsmen's Club.

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

Springfield Tactical Shooters Indoor Gun Range in Curran, IL.

Thursdays: Weekly USPSA tactical matches at 5pm. Open to all.

Crete Gun Club.

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

State Line Rifle.

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



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Aug 8: South Central Illinois, Mt. Vernon

August 20: Northbrook, Hainesville

August 22: Heart of Illinois, Washington

August 29: US Grant, East Dubuque, IL

September 19: Kishwaukee Valley, DeKalb

September 26: Gin Ridge, Macomb

September 27: Spoon River, Galesburg

October 2: Winnebago-Boone County, Rockford

October 4: Fox Valley, Batavia

October 10: Sauk Valley, Dixon

October 11: Grundy County, Morris

October 15: Kankakee River Valley, Kankakee

October 17: River Bend, Carrolton

October 18: Macon County, Decatur

October 24: Capital Area, Chatham

For more info, visit FriendsOfNRA.org.



OWN THE NIGHT:

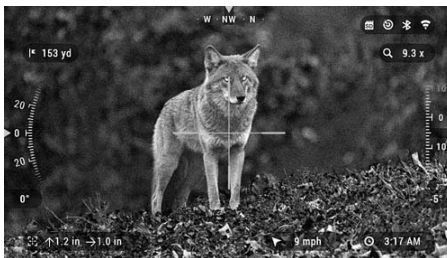
Thermal turns “What was that?” into “I see you”

by John Boch

(GSL) - At the latest GSL meeting in Pontiac, one member didn't just talk about night vision — he brought the goods and made traditional IR look like a flashlight with delusions of grandeur. We'll call him Tim. Tim is obsessed with thermal, and after his presentation, a lot of guys in the room started rethinking every night hunt, predator sit, and “was that a deer or something else?” moment they've ever had.

Traditional night vision either needs some ambient light or blasts out IR that screams “here I am” to anyone else running the same gear sans the IR light emitter.

Thermal doesn't play that game. It reads heat signatures with zero light emitted from your device. You stay invisible while everything warm-blooded lights up like a Christmas tree on the display. It punches through light fog, smoke, and brush that turns regular night vision into a blurry mess. In short: thermal doesn't care if it's pitch black or lightly raining. It just works.



The performance is stupid good for high end units (\$7500ish). Cutting edge thermals let you detect a human-sized target at up to nearly two miles. Identification as human (versus deer) can be had at 1000+ yards, easy.

In his backyard, Tim has watched feral cats hunting mice at 70 yards and had mature bucks stroll within 10 yards upwind, completely oblivious. That's not just cool — that's the difference between guessing what's out there and knowing exactly what's sharing the darkness with you. He's also thinned the local coyote population by dozens, and now has a stuffed black coyote in his house.

Here's where it gets compelling for anyone who actually uses the woods after dark: thermal gives you real-time information when it matters most. Spot hogs or coyotes moving through cover before they spot you. Identify a threat on your property without broadcasting your location with an IR beam. Distinguish a living animal from a stump or rock in seconds instead of minutes of squinting. Track wounded game because you can actually see the heat trail, including the blood they're leaking. And when you're moving at night — whether scouting, checking trail cams, or just getting back to camp — you're not stumbling around blind. You're operating with an unfair advantage. Yes, it works for search-and-rescue as well as search-and-destroy.

Then there's the “what the hell was that?” factor. For those who like (or are slightly terrified of) exploring remote timber after dark, thermal is basically cheat codes for the woods. Tired of every twig snap turning into a Sasquatch encounter in your head? Now you can actually see what's mak-

ing the noise. Spot large heat signatures at distance through brush and darkness, confirm it's a deer instead of your imagination running wild, or — for the dedicated Bigfoot enthusiasts — finally get some actual data instead of another blurry trail cam still. Either way, you stop guessing and start knowing. That alone is worth the price of admission for a lot of guys who spend serious time out there after the sun drops.

You don't need to mortgage the house, either. Tim pointed out strong Pulsar scopes in the \$1,800 range that deliver serious detection and clarity without the five-figure sticker shock. Rechargeable batteries last for hours, monoculars are perfect for scanning, and full scopes turn that information into precise shots.

Local shooters can check out Midwest Thermal Optics in Walnut for hands-on demos and solid advice.

The local Runnings store in Pontiac has some thermals scopes for about \$1000. They won't be the greatest resolution, but they will “see” further than most folks can accurately shoot.



AGM Rattler at Runnings for under \$1000.

Tim summed it up perfectly: “I've never had so much fun after dark.” Then he dropped the line that had the whole room laughing: “The most fun you can have with your clothes on after dark.”

If you're still running around in the dark wondering what's out there, thermal isn't a toy. It's the upgrade that turns uncertainty into clarity, guesswork into confidence, and “I think I heard something” into “I see exactly what it is.” Stop letting the night own you. Start owning it.

Or maybe you will feel better *not* knowing what's out there while you're outdoors at night.

Presentations like Tim's are exactly why showing up to GSL meetings is about more than just shooting the breeze with fellow gun owners. You get real-world, hands-on education from guys who actually use this gear in the field — practical knowledge that goes way beyond what you'll find in a catalog or online review. It's equal parts entertaining and genuinely informative, turning what could be dry tech talk into something that helps you make smarter decisions, whether you're hunting, protecting property, or just trying to own the night instead of guessing what's out there.

GSL LEADERSHIP DIRECTORY

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

John Boch
Executive Director
jboch@gunssavellife.com
217 649-3702

OFFICERS

Rich Goodall
President
casbrisco@yahoo.com
309-737-0974

John Coyne
Vice-President
johncoyne2010@gmail.com
847 361-6201

Treasurer
Joanne Chandler
weims4me_us@yahoo.com

Tracy Bettinger
Corporate Secretary
217 254-1772
sullivangunclub@yahoo.com

Dale Lock
Immediate Past President
lockdale1953@gmail.com
217-670-9786

DIRECTORS

Chad Berck
cberck@gmail.com
309 531-4851

Joel Gain
joelgain37@yahoo.com
217 632-3267

Don Jensen
djensen@jvnet.com

Howard Kaye
FXRT1984@gmail.com
708 921-6768

Kristen Garrett
kristengarrett17@gmail.com
217 779-2675

Keith Pippin
keith.pippin@yahoo.com

Glenn Pratt
pratman1776@yahoo.com
708 822-4735

Dave Randolph
bowfisher5@hotmail.com

Ken Rishel
krishel@gunssavellife.com

Charles L. Sykes
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Chicagoland
Alfreda Keith Keller
fredaka9@comcast.net
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LaSalle County
Glenn Pratt
pratman1776@yahoo.com
708 822-4735

Northwest Chicagoland
Eric North
ericnorth283@gmail.com
708 932-1636

Sangamon County Director
Tim Wier
timothywier@yahoo.com

Decatur
Bill Hutton
billhutton2000@gmail.com

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

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

TEAM LEADERS

GunNews Distribution
Warren Drake
217 898-9602

GunNews Editor
John Boch
jboch@gunssavellife.com
217 649-3702

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

Membership Services
Andy McLaughlin
Team Lead
Mclaughlin.iii.1776@gmail.com



Gun grabber Graham Platner with David Hogg of 'March for our Lives' fame...

Graham Platner quits, claims he's the real victim

(Patriot TV) - In the rugged political landscape of Maine, Graham Platner's Senate bid has collapsed under the weight of credible accusations that should have disqualified him long before he secured the Democratic nomination. The oyster farmer turned scandal-plagued candidate suspended his campaign Wednesday, blaming a vast conspiracy of "large forces," corporate media, and the political establishment rather than confronting the pattern of behavior that made him toxic even to his own party.

2023: UK arrested 12,183 for social media posts!

(GSL) - Once a beacon of Enlightenment values, the UK now arrests more people for social media posts—over 12,183 in 2023 alone—than China, Russia, Turkey, and the rest of the top ten countries combined. Police haul citizens in for "offensive" tweets and memes under vague laws like the Communications Act, racking up 30 arrests daily.

Meanwhile...

UK sends 13,000 warning letters to rapists

(GSL) - As Director of Public Prosecutions, Keir Starmer presided over a catastrophic betrayal where over 13,000 suspected rapists and grooming gang members received mere warning letters and cautions instead of prosecutions.

This spineless leniency—fueled by fears of "racism" accusations—allowed predatory networks to devastate thousands of British girls with impunity. While communities burned and victims were silenced, Starmer's CPS opted for polite letters telling monsters to "cease their raping."

Third Circuit strikes down NJ's gun and mag ban

(GSL) - In a landmark decision on July 17, 2026, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, sitting en banc, ruled that New Jersey's long-standing semi-auto rifle and standard capacity magazine bans unconstitutional under the Second Amendment.

By a 10-5 vote, the court struck down the state's 1990 ban on commonly owned semi-automatic rifles—including AR-15-style firearms—along with the magazine restriction. The majority opinion, written by Judge Arianna Freeman (appointed by Biden), held that broad prohibitions on arms in common use for lawful purposes lack support in the nation's historical tradition of firearm regulation, consistent with the Supreme Court's decisions in *Heller*, *Bruen*, and subsequent cases.

The ruling expands a prior district court decision that had already invalidated the AR-15 ban for home defense and marks the first time a federal appeals court has invalidated a state-level assault weapons ban. New Jersey officials have criticized the decision and are considering further appeals.



Recoil is a thing...

Russian troops dodge friendly fire in anti-drone test

(GSL) - During a Russian military training exercise, an improvised anti-drone system went badly wrong. Soldiers had mounted a YakB-12.7mm four-barrel rotary machine gun, designed for the Mi-24 helicopter, on the back of a truck. When the gunner opened fire to test it against drones, the massive recoil caused the mount to spin wildly out of control. The operator was thrown clear as the gun sprayed thousands of rounds indiscriminately across the training area. Comrades scrambled for safety amid the chaos. No one was hurt, but the dramatic video quickly spread online, illustrating the dangers of adapting aircraft weapons for ground use without proper stabilization.



Sad trombone plays loudly & proudly

Child molester deported even after Gov. Walz pardons him

(GSL) - Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz and his Board of Pardons granted clemency to illegal immigrant Tou Lue Vang (pictured above), convicted of repeatedly sexually abusing a child starting at age 10. Despite the heinous crimes, Walz prioritized keeping the predator in America over public safety, issuing a pardon explicitly to block deportation.

Thankfully, federal authorities overruled the madness and deported him anyway. This grotesque example exposes radical open-border priorities that endanger children to protect criminals. Walz's compassion for rapists over victims is indefensible.

Baltimore's downtown turned into war zone by gangs of 'kids'

(ZeroHedge) - One of Baltimore City's premier bar and restaurant districts was transformed into a warzone over the weekend, with roaming gangs of underage kids, large unruly crowds, fights, and even a shootout that seemed like a scene from the crime drama *The Wire*. Urban decay in Baltimore is rampant and is a symptom of failed left-wing leadership, which seems more focused on city-killing progressive politics, DEI, illegal aliens, and climate change than actually providing basic law and order to taxpayers.

Fox Baltimore reports that Fells Point was flooded with hundreds of young people, mostly underage teens, overwhelming parts of the nightlife district known for its local shops, bars, and restaurants.

'Giffords' moves from gun control to defending illegals trying to murder ICE agents

(GSL) - The Giffords gun grabber group, originally born as "Americans For Responsible Solutions" after Gabby Giffords' 2011 shooting, have long pushed gun control while claiming to seek "responsible solutions." They have always targeted the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding Americans.

Now they've morphed into defenders of illegal immigrants who attack and try to murder federal agents — all under the banner of fighting "gun violence."



In Houston, ICE agents targeted Lorenzo Salgado Araujo, a Mexican national illegally in the U.S. for 35 years. He rammed their vehicle, ignored commands, and tried to run over an officer with his van. The agent fired once in self-defense. Araujo died. No gun on him — the agent's firearm was the

only one used to stop the lethal threat. Giffords tweeted sympathy for Araujo as a "father, husband and business owner" in the country for decades. They demanded an investigation into "gun violence," disabled replies, and omitted his illegal status and violent resistance to lawful arrest.



This omnicause mission creep is clear and dangerous. After failing to confiscate guns from citizens, Giffords now excuses would-be cop killers and brands the agent's defensive shot as part of the "gun violence epidemic." They side with the criminal alien over American law enforcement every time. This grotesque hypocrisy shows they care more about advancing their radical agenda than protecting officers or upholding the law.

The same group that wants your guns taken will happily spin any narrative to protect those who would kill to evade justice. Do you think for a moment they won't support a criminal trying to murder *you*, a law-abiding American gun owner?

This Suburban Is the Secret Service's new anti-drone weapon



(ZeroHedge) - For any indication of how seriously the federal government is taking the threat posed by one-way attack drones on the homeland, particularly against President Trump, look no further than the US Secret Service's new Chevrolet Suburban.

The Secret Service's Counter-Unmanned Aerial Systems Branch operates a specially equipped Chevrolet Suburban Premier, known as "Hindsight," to detect and mitigate suicide drones and other loitering munitions during National Special Security Events and other high-profile security operations, according to the Instagram account "dmvfireandpolice."

The Suburban is outfitted with an Axis Communications IP camera, radio-frequency antennas, and additional counter-UAS technology, and it appears to have a mobile command station inside...

The drone threat against President Trump materialized last month when far-left revolutionaries were foiled by federal agents in their alleged plot to use suicide drones to target "capitalists" at the UFC Freedom 250 event at the White House.

Oregon's radical PEACE Act bans hunting, fishing, and farm livestock

(GSL) - Oregon voters face a dangerous ballot measure this November: Initiative Petition 28, the so-called PEACE Act. Backed by animal rights extremists, this initiative seeks to dramatically expand animal cruelty statutes to wild animals, farm livestock, and research subjects—effectively criminalizing hunting, fishing, trapping, and much of Oregon's traditional way of life.

Supporters spent over two years gathering roughly

140,000 signatures, with the bulk coming from urban residents in the Portland area. This is classic urban liberals attempting to dictate how rural Oregonians live, work, and manage their land.

If passed, it would dismantle wildlife management programs funded by hunters and anglers through Pittman-Robertson and Dingell-Johnson funds. These sportsmen have been the backbone of conservation in America,

restoring habitats and game populations for generations.

This isn't compassion—it's cultural erasure. It ignores that regulated hunting and fishing are proven tools for population control, preventing disease and habitat destruction. Banning them won't "save" animals; it will lead to overpopulation, starvation, vehicle collisions, and the collapse of rural economies, family traditions, and conservation funding.



Exposing fake narratives is what John Lott does well

Myth Busted: U.S. actually much safer than many peer nations

by John Lott
(ZeroHedge / Condensed) - Conventional wisdom claims the United States is the most violent nation in the developed world. This narrative is used by progressives to push gun control and by others to criticize the American system. Nations like Australia and Canada, with strict gun laws, frequently highlight U.S. crime rates as an Achilles' heel.

However, the data tells a different story. While the U.S. has a higher homicide rate—about 4 per 100,000 in 2025, roughly double that of Australia and Canada in 2024—homicides represent only a tiny fraction of violent crime (just 0.21% in the U.S. per National Crime Victimization Survey estimates). U.S. murders are also highly concentrated: just 2% of counties account for ~54% of them, often tied to gang activity in small urban areas. Most of the country is far safer.

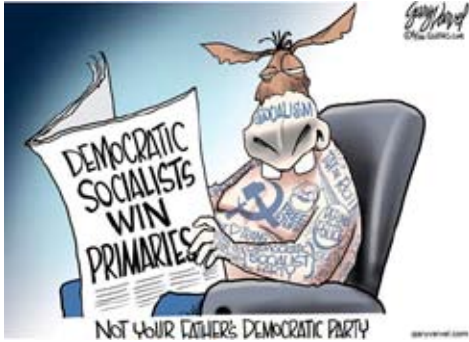
Broad victimization surveys, which capture unreported crimes, provide a clearer picture than police statistics. The U.S. National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), Australia's ABS survey, and Canada's General Social Survey (GSS) all show significant underreporting abroad. In Canada, police-reported violent crime is ~885 per 100,000, but the GSS estimates ~8,300 per 100,000—nearly 10 times higher. Australia reports low reporting rates (e.g., only ~37%

for robberies/sexual assaults in some data). Comparisons reveal the U.S. fares better overall:

- Australia's rape/sexual assault rate is roughly 3x higher than the U.S.; assault ~2x higher; burglary ~2.5x higher. Even these figures understate Australia's problem because its surveys count victims (not incidents), missing repeat offenses. Adjusted estimates put Australia's violent crime ~15% higher still.
- In Canada (2019 data), overall violent-crime victimization was at least 175% higher than the U.S.; robbery 268% higher; burglary 259% higher. Low clearance rates (e.g., ~8% arrest/charge rate vs. 20% in the U.S.) and complaints that "rape is effectively decriminalized" in parts of Australia erode public confidence.

Historical International Crime Victimization Surveys (e.g., 2000) show similar patterns: Australia's violent crime ~104% higher, Canada's ~40% higher than the U.S., with England/Wales, Scotland, and others also exceeding or matching U.S. rates.

Experts note that media reliance on incomplete police data misleads the public. Victimization surveys offer the fuller view: on balance, the U.S. has significantly less violent crime per capita than many peer nations like Australia and Canada.



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