



Image courtesy Oleg Volk.

CHICAGO: 3X Florida's murder rate

(GSL) - In the heart of the Midwest, Chicago's streets tell a grim tale. In 2025 the city recorded roughly 15 murders for every 100,000 residents—three times the rate of the entire state of Florida.

The year before, the gap was even wider: Chicago's rate sat near 21.5, almost four times Florida's 5.5. Using stricter FBI-style figures the disparity grows still larger—nearly four times higher in 2025 and more than five times higher in 2024.

One city chose a different path. Chicago's leaders spent years disarming law-abiding citizens, starving police budgets, eliminating cash bail, and installing soft-on-crime prosecutors bankrolled by progressive networks including George Soros.

The result was predictable: gangs operate with near impunity, arrest rates collapsed, and families live under constant threat. Even after recent declines, the body count still dwarfs that of a state nine times larger in population.

Meanwhile, Florida took the opposite road. Constitutional Carry became the law of the land. Police were funded, recruited, and publicly backed. Prosecutors who treated violent crime as a social experiment were removed from office. Career criminals faced real consequences. The numbers followed: Florida's homicide rate hovered near 5.5 per 100,000 in 2024 and continued trending lower into 2026.



Say hello to Illinois' Dumb and Dumber crew, Gov. J.B. Pritzker and Mayor "Let's Go Brandon" Johnson.

The contrast is not abstract. In the first half of 2026 alone, Chicago had already tallied more killings (close to 270) than several of Florida's largest cities combined.

One jurisdiction treated public safety as optional ideology. The other treated it as the first duty of government.

The scoreboard is written in blood—and the difference is measured not in talking points, but in lives that continue or end.

**Sangamon Co. GSL moves to September 8th
At Combat Air Museum in Springfield**

Our September meeting relocates to the Air Combat Museum in Springfield. Scheels closes early for Labor Day, so we're taking the fight where history still lives. Stand among two of the greatest WWII fighters ever built—the legendary P-51D Mustang and the hard-hitting F4U Corsair. Attending a Guns Save Life meeting while surrounded by these historic greats is a once-in-a-lifetime event. Real 2A updates. Real talk. Real patriots. Be there. Don't miss it.

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

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

Inside
DSA Platform
page 6
Ft. Hood/Storm Prep
page 9
Red Dot Arms
page 10
One way ticket to prison
page 11
TRT update
page 12
Post Office Carry
page 14
Join GSL. Application here.
page 24

September 2026

- Quincy:** Last Wednesday: **September 30**, Oct. 28, No Nov/Dec meetings
Eagles Club, 3737 N. Fifth Street, Quincy
- Chicagoland:** Last Sunday: **August 30**, September 27
Main Street Exchange Pizza Bar, 25346 S. Dixie Highway, Crete
Exhibits and conversation here at 4:30pm. Program at 5:30pm.
- Sangamon County:** **Tuesday, September 8 this month!** October 5
Air Combat Museum, 835 S. Airport Dr., Springfield
- Pontiac:** First Tuesday: **September 1**, October 6, November 3
Pontiac Sportsman's Club. 18663 4-H Park Road, Pontiac
- Decatur:** First Wednesday: **September 2**, October 7, November 4
Coz's Pizza, 1405 East Village Parkway, Mt Zion (*Program at 6:45pm*)
- Peoria:** First Thursday: **September 3**, October 1, November 5
Barrack's Banquet Center, 1224 Pioneer Parkway, Peoria
Dinner and conversation here at 5:30pm. Program at 6:30ish.
- Danville:** Second Monday **September 14**, October 12, November 9
Ela's Restaurant, 1111 E. Voorhees St., Danville
- Northwest Chicagoland:** Second Wed: September 9, October 14, Nov. 11
Prairie House Tavern, 2710 Main St., Buffalo Grove
Dinner and conversation here at 5:30pm. Program at 6pm-ish.
- Mattoon:** Second Thursday: **September 9**, September 9, Oct. 8, Nov. 12
The American Legion Post 88, 1903 Maple Ave, Mattoon
- LaSalle County:** Third Thursday: **September 17, October 15**
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.

Sights from across the state at GSL events



Interesting knives was the tech time in Decatur. Here, one of our members said he went on a field trip in 3rd grade and bought this knife. His mom snatched it from him when he got home. Decades later, when cleaning out her house after her death, he found it!



Stephanie Springfield from 300 Below in Decatur.



Gary Stevens, aka The Rossiman.



Cowboy Fast Draw gun belonging to Gary Stevens, aka The Rossiman.



A pair of (almost) matching fast draw revolvers. See story on page 19.



Cowboy Fast Draw Association in Springfield. See page 19.



Pete won the Glock in Peoria.



Owen won in Pontiac!



Glenn won the IWI carry gun in Decatur!



Steve won in Springfield!



Sangamon Co. GSL moves to Sept. 8th at Air Combat Museum in Springfield

Our September GSL meeting in Springfield is relocating to the Air Combat Museum. Scheels closes early for Labor Day, so instead of settling for the usual cancellation for the holiday, we're moving the meeting to the 8th and stepping into living history.

You'll stand beside two of the greatest fighters of World War II. The P-51D Mustang—the long-range escort that finally let American bombers strike deep into Germany and return. Fast, lethal, and unmatched at altitude, it turned the air war. Right beside it sits the Vought F4U Corsair, the bent-wing beast that dominated the Pacific. With its massive radial engine and devastating firepower, the Corsair became the terror of Japanese pilots and a legend among Marine and Navy aviators.

And these aren't static relics. The museum houses more than a dozen additional historic aircraft—all of them fully airworthy and still flying, save the ones getting refurbished. From trainers to fighters, these machines aren't just preserved. They still take to the sky.

Attending a Guns Save Life meeting while surrounded by the very aircraft that helped secure the freedoms we defend today is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Real Second Amendment updates. Unfiltered discussion. Patriots who refuse to surrender.

Be there. Stand among the greats. Don't miss it. Bring your kids and grandkids to see what history looks like, in person and up close.

Air Combat Museum, 835 S. Airport Dr., Springfield, IL 62707



Darren Bailey and Dave McDermott say "hi" to our Guns Save Life family.

Quote of the Month

The gun is a civilizational technology in the deepest sense: it requires responsibility, judgment, and the willingness to accept the consequences of your decisions. You cannot outsource it. You cannot have a committee fire it. It is the most anti-bureaucratic object ever invented – a direct, personal, consequential instrument that puts the full weight of the decision on the individual holding it. Which is precisely why the administrative state finds it intolerable. Not because it is dangerous. Because it is sovereign. @Kristof_Poland

GunNews distribution hubs

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

Chicagoland: 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.

Dwight: Rick's Automotive in Dwight.

Product Review: The \$240 machine that turns kids into full-auto addicts



DPMS SBR
Full-Auto BB Gun

by John Boch (GSL) - We gave a couple of these DPMS full-auto short-barreled rifle BB-guns away at Guns Save Life gun drawings last year and they vanished faster than free pizza. So last summer I bought one myself. The plan was simple: present it to my twin boys at Christmas. Santa, however, somehow forgot to check the gun safe before leaving the North Pole. Classic.

I finally handed it over earlier this summer. The memories that followed were pure Mastercard commercial territory—priceless. The boys went full-auto addicted in a single magazine of fire. They now prefer this little beast to real rimfire pistols and even their Savage Rascal. That is high praise from a couple of kids learning what actual gunpowder smells like.

How it works (and why it's smarter than it looks)
It runs on a pair of CO2 cartridges in the magazine and cycles at roughly 1,200 rounds per minute. Trigger control matters if you want the fun to last more than a second or two. Pull the magazine and the whole thing goes completely inert—no residual gas, no “one last BB” surprises. You can safely set it down while you reload without worrying that Junior is going to do something unsafe.



Velocity sits around 450 fps, solid airsoft territory. Plenty of punch to blow through cardboard and paper targets at 5–10 yards. CO2 lasts for a solid five-ish mags before you notice things slowing down.

The boys immediately started planning home-defense tactics, wanting to keep this under their bed: “We’ll shoot bad guys in the eyes and the balls, Dad!” I laughed. Good on them for identifying soft targets and tactics. I’ll handle the actual bad guys, the same way I used to handle the monsters in the closet. That’s what dads are for.

The one thing you should run from
They offer a 60-round magazine for about \$80 that is supposed to make loading

easier with its own BB reservoir. I bought one. It did not work especially well even after reading the instructions, and it completely failed after three cycles. That was a genuine disappointment in an otherwise excellent package. The “standard” magazine works fine. Sure, it takes a minute or two to reload with an included reloader, but that’s good. The delay allows memories to stack and anticipation to build.

Price of admission to the smile factory
The gun itself runs about \$240. Add a case of fifty CO2 cartridges (good for three or four solid range sessions) and a pile of BBs and you walk out for under \$300. No waiting period. No 4473. No paperwork. No FOID. No special transportation rules. Just pure, unfiltered fun.



Used as a crew-served device—Dad holds and stabilizes while the kids aim (or don’t) and mash the trigger—even five-year-olds will do just fine. The adjustable stock helps, too. The grins are *enormous*. I can’t publish the pictures because of certain court rules in my divorce, but trust me: ear-to-ear, pure joy and over-the-top, jumping up-and-down excitement.

BBs are cheap. The experiences you create and share with your kids or grandkids are priceless. This little full-auto SBR is one of the easiest ways I’ve found to make long-lasting, incredibly positive memories and at the same time quietly plant the seed that shooting is fun, exciting, and worth doing right. In a world that spends a lot of energy trying to make the next generation soft and scared of guns, that is no small thing.

Just leave the 60-round mag on the shelf. Everything else about this gun is a memory-making machine.



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

In a state that treats law-abiding gun owners like the enemy while soft-on-crime policies leave streets soaked in blood, *GunNews* is the monthly reality check the rest of the media refuses to print. Chicago’s murder rate triples Florida’s. “Peacekeepers” turn predators. Courts punish speech harder than child rape. Scammers sell fake permits that land you in prison. Churches with safety teams get mocked as “playing church.” And still the body count climbs.

GunNews doesn’t flinch. It hands you the numbers, the names, the court filings, the defensive-gun stories that prove good guys win, the practical gear that works, and the blunt readiness advice that turns “it’ll never happen to me” into “I’m harder to kill.” One issue can change how you carry, how you train your kids, how you protect your church, and how you vote with your feet and your wallet. This is the unfiltered voice Illinois gun owners actually need.

But the paper is only half the fight. Across Illinois every month, GSL chapters meet face-to-face: This month, Springfield under the wings of a P-51 and Corsair. Then there’s meetings in Peoria, Decatur, Quincy, Chicagoland, Pontiac, Danville, Mattoon, LaSalle. Free. Open. No filters. Real patriots. Real food. Real talk. Bring your family. Buy tickets to win a gun. These meetings build the network that actually fights back. You will leave sharper, better connected, and far less alone.

Join for the magazine that arrives every month. Stay for the people who show up every month. Life memberships are open. Regular membership starts for the price of a box of good defensive ammo.

The scoreboard is written in blood. Don’t sit on the sidelines reading someone else’s version of the truth.

Fill out the form. Show up. Own the night.

Record diesel cracks signal trouble ahead —
Prepare now... fill those cans and tanks

The warning lights are flashing red across America’s fuel system. Diesel crack spreads just smashed an all-time record at \$102 a barrel—levels analysts call “absolutely unprecedented.” Refined-product inventories sit near multi-decade lows while global diesel exports crater. The Strategic Petroleum Reserve has already plunged below 300 million barrels, the lowest since the early 1980s. Another few weeks of draws and the emergency stockpile will effectively hit the floor.

What follows is a textbook setup for a sudden price shock. Diesel, the lifeblood of trucking, farming, and

freight, is already tightening. Shortages of distillate could appear in regional markets within weeks as harvest demand collides with constrained refining capacity and geopolitical disruptions. Gasoline will not escape the squeeze; when diesel margins explode, refiners prioritize the more profitable product and pump prices rise in tandem.

History shows these pressure cookers do not resolve quietly. Once the last easy barrels leave the SPR and commercial stocks thin further, the market can gap higher overnight. Drivers who wait for the evening news will pay the premi-

um—or worse, find stations running dry on the grades they want.

Prudence is still available. Fill clean fuel cans now with stabilized diesel and gasoline while both remain obtainable at today’s prices. Store them properly. Those backup generators will not run on good intentions, rainbows, or unicorn farts when the grid flickers or a winter storm hits. Neither will your truck, car, or tractor. A few hours of preparation today can keep essential machines operational when the refined-products crisis fully arrives.



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.

OPTIMISM REIGNS

Executive Director's Report
by John Boch

There's MUCH to be thankful for and reasons for optimism. The Second Amendment has once more become something halfway akin to black letter law, compared to twenty-five years ago when it was dead letter law.

What's the diff, you ask? Thanks for asking. You're not the only one who wanted to know.

Black letter law

This means well-established, clear, and settled legal principles that are widely accepted and consistently enforced by courts.

Dead letter law

This refers to a statute or legal rule that remains technically on the books but is no longer enforced or followed in practice.

We are appealing the Seventh Circuit's flawed decision in the PICA gun and magazine ban case to the U.S. Supreme Court; details are on the website. It'll be stayed though until *Viramontes* is decided, likely in June 2027.

Speaking of *Viramontes*, *amici* briefs have been filed. Both sides expect a pro-gun ruling, striking down gun and mag bans. Gun-control groups are working to keep any decision narrow, while our briefs urge a broad ruling that blocks future state and local restrictions like those just implemented in Colorado. These *amici* filings are critical because they let us address supporting issues the plaintiffs' page-limited briefs cannot fully cover.



GSL's John Boch.

Other court cases remain the usual carnival of judicial malpractice. Judge Sue Myerscough just dropped a 93-page pretzel of a ruling declaring that banning guns in foster homes and daycares is somehow constitutional, thereby proving she has never actually read *Bruen*, *Heller*, or *Wolford* and would probably struggle with a cereal box. Meanwhile the Third Circuit told the gun-and-magazine ban crowd to go pound sand, creating yet another circuit split that the Supreme Court will eventually have to clean up with a mop and a flamethrower.

If I peer into the crystal ball for the next five years, the forecast is simple: more gun-

control laws will keep getting struck down like cheap carnival targets—assuming the DOJ stays as pro-gun as it currently is. Prohibited-location lists will get pruned harder than a bad hedge. Open-carry bans will become an endangered species last seen in the wild around 2028 or 2030. Eighteen-to-twenty-year-old adults will finally be treated like the adults the Constitution already says they are and will carry under constitutional carry or right-to-carry laws. And the FOID Act? That Illinois masterpiece of bureaucratic sadism will eventually join the dodo. After all, how many colonial militiamen had to apply to the local sheriff for a FOID card before owning a musket?

Chicago remains a hot mess and a masterclass in selective outrage. Mayor Brandon "Moron" Johnson declared a full-blown "transfemicide" emergency over the alleged "genocide" of trans "women" on Chicago streets, timed for maximum Father's Day virtue-signaling.

I did the research. The actual body count: four over six and a half years. Two of them were prostitutes whose clients discovered—mid-transaction—that the merchandise came with factory-installed extra hardware and reacted the way that profoundly unhappy customers sometimes do. Those four deaths triggered a state of emergency.

Meanwhile the 3,316 Black murder victims and 771 Latino homicide victims in the same city are just the background noise of days that end in "-y." Welcome to peak wokedom, where the hierarchy of grief is calibrated by identity politics instead of body bags.

Four years ago the Supreme Court handed down *Bruen* and forced New York into a shall-issue licensing regime.

The Brooklyn District Attorney's office promptly clutched its pearls and warned that letting "millions of New Yorkers" carry concealed weapons would be "a nightmare for public safety."

A couple of weeks ago that same office issued a triumphant press release crowing that Brooklyn had just recorded the lowest number of homicides in a single month and the longest murder-free stretch in recorded history.

Naturally they gave zero credit to the growing number of good guys with guns—despite years of doing everything in their power to slow-walk, paper-jam, and psychologically waterboard every license applicant. Irony so thick you could use it as body armor.

Feedback:

Turns out, for some, church safety is controversial

CONTROVERSIAL??

by John Boch

I appreciate feedback. It keeps me grounded, honest and on point. Once in a while it stings, but I learn from those mistakes. Sometimes though, it makes me shake my head. In this case, there's just no saving people who refuse to acknowledge that bad people exist. That evil exists. Sure, God will protect you. God also protects those who protect themselves.

I received critical feedback after "The Urgent Case for Church Safety" ran last month. It exposes a stubborn blind spot.

Critics attacked the "crazy" idea of armed people standing between evil and the congregation. One critic in particular dismissed safety teams as the mark of people merely "playing church." Real churches that "know who God is," this man claimed in so many words, need no security because "He [God] has got them." His prescription was repentance, baptism, and seeking God's face.



That reasoning is short-sighted and dangerous. It treats prudence as unbelief and preparedness as spiritual failure. It is the same logic that would refuse seat belts because one trusts God. Or refuse to seek immediate emergency medical treatment for chest pains. Scripture never equates faith with willful blindness to human evil or physical frailty. God protects those who take wise steps to protect the vulnerable in their care.

The proven benefits of a church safety team make the case stronger than any slogan. Medical emergencies vastly outnumber violent ones. Cardiac arrests, strokes, seizures, diabetic crises, falls, and choking incidents occur far more often than active threats. Roughly 350,000 out-of-hospital cardiac arrests happen in the United States each year. Immedi-

ate CPR can double or triple survival odds. An AED on site restores a shockable rhythm long before EMS arrives—median response times often run five to ten minutes in bigger cities. By then the victim has permanent brain damage or is dead. In rural areas? Forget about it.

Uncontrolled bleeding can kill in three to five minutes. Having doctors, physician assistants, EMT paramedics, trauma and ER nurses, or even a single retired nurse on the team closes that lethal gap. These responders recognize warning signs, start interventions, control hemorrhage, manage airways, and hand patients cleanly to arriving paramedics. Churches that staff medical personnel routinely report successful interventions for chest pain, fainting, choking, bleeding and pediatric injuries that might otherwise escalate.

At the same time, armed capability remains a necessary second layer for the uncommon but high-consequence attack. Documented cases show volunteer or staff teams stopping armed intruders before mass casualties occur. Including the incident in Effingham, IL in July. Violence is rare; its cost is beyond measure. A balanced team—medical first, armed as needed—does not replace reliance on God. It practices stewardship. It builds congregational confidence so people can worship without fear. It reflects genuine care for the flock rather than denial of reality.

Safety teams also take care of routine tasks like monitoring parking lots, warmly welcoming guests, making sure secure doors remain closed and locked, and that keys and keycards remain secured. Then there's the big one: making sure that kids in the daycare area are safe and go home with the right people.

Claiming that churches with safety teams are merely "playing church" is about like insisting the good Samaritan should have walked past the wounded man because God would handle it. Or like refusing to lock the doors of the sheepfold because the Shepherd is sovereign. Evil exists. Bodies break. The Creator does not need security. His people, living in a fallen world, do. Preparedness is not unbelief. It is obedience to the command to watch over one another.

Controversial or not, I will choose a proactive house of worship—mocked as "playing church"—over an unprepared sanctuary that leans solely on God's grace, every day of the week and twice on Sundays.

You should too.



WE DEFEND YOUR RIGHT TO DEFEND YOURSELF.

Guns Save Life's LIFE MEMBERSHIP!

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

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

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

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



A critical act of kindness

by John Boch
GSL members are exceptional people. I'm far from perfect, but I like to help good people in bad circumstances—and GSL gives me the means to do it.

Here's an act of kindness that still sits in my chest like a live round.

I get calls. Not the spam ones. The real ones. The ones that arrive out of the blue with desperate people asking for help. These often leave the air different when they end. This is one of those.

A woman called early Monday. Said her mom gave her my name and number. She said she'd had a bad weekend. I'm no stranger to bad weekends lately—my own "spirited" divorce has been a masterclass in emotional waterboarding. She had me beat by a mile.

On the Saturday night - roughly 36 hours earlier - three punks forced entry into her home. The one on point carried a butcher knife and went straight for her 13ish-year-old son, lunging at him trying to poke her kid. She warned the intruder. He lunged yet again. So she shot him. Once. *(I told her there's no extra paperwork for a second round.)*

The intruder hit the floor. Her son was uninjured. That was the good part.

She actually helped save the intruder's life by helping to slow down the blood loss. *(Wouldn't happen for an intruder at most homes... certainly not in mine.)*

Then the system did what the system does. She told the cops she shot him.

Mom then told the responding officers she wanted to speak with an attorney before giving a statement. They cuffed her. Stuffed her in the back of a cruiser. Held her for four hours in an interrogation room. Took her gun. Then four hours later cut her loose with no charges and no apology. The same officers who might have found her dead child if she hadn't pulled the trigger treated **her** like the threat.

She was still shaking—not from the shooting, but from the aftermath. The prosecutor wanted her to come in for a statement. *(I advised her to decline that and tell him that she can't afford an attorney.)*

Moreover, family and friends of the punk she shot were already talking revenge.

She camped out at a relative's house for safety.

I asked if the police took her gun. I already knew the answer.

"How'd you know?" she asked.

"You got another one?" I asked.

"No."

"You want one?"

The silence on the other end was the sound of an exhausted, scared woman who couldn't believe what she just heard.

"You're kidding, right? I mean... you don't even know me."

I thought she was a great candidate to gift one of those occasional GSL guns I win by dropping twenty bucks in the ticket jar at most of our meetings—the ones that make people groan when they hear John Boch won another one. One of those was still sitting in my safe: a Ruger Security-9 Compact with a laser. Perfect.

I ran the private transfer through the ISP, got the approval, and asked when she wanted to meet.

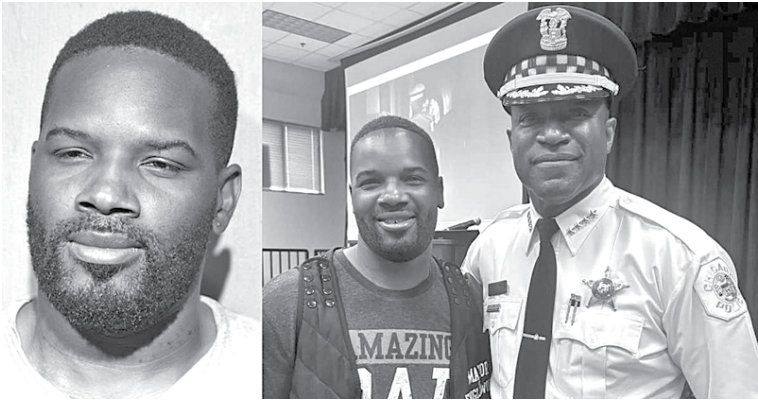
Of course a gun without ammo is just an expensive paperweight. So I tossed in two boxes of Winchester Law Enforcement defensive ammo. Because mom had a carry license, I also bought a holster for it. Lastly, I threw in a couple of copies of *GunNews* so she'd know who Guns Save Life was.

She drove down and met me at about hour 73 after the deal was agreed upon. Right after that storm tore through Bloomington-Normal. I handed her the bag at Freedom Sport Shop in El Paso. No speech. No ceremony. Just handed it over like it was the most normal thing in the world.

Because in that moment, it seemed like the right thing to do. Okay, it did feel awkward.

A single mother who did everything right still ended up without a gun, under multiple credible death threats from the friends and family of the punk who forced in her door and tried to stab her son to death.

The least I could do was make sure the next time someone came through that door, she wouldn't face them empty-handed.



Charles McKenzie with Chicago Police Superintendent Larry Snelling.

Another "Peacekeeper" predator busted

Chicago (GSL) - What's wrong with these "violence prevention" people?

Charles McKenzie, the self-proclaimed "Mayor of Englewood," founder of Englewood First Responders, and a Chicago Public Schools counseling assistant, sits in Cook County Jail charged with criminal sexual assault of a family member under 18 and grooming two 14-year-old girls.

Prosecutors say he began grooming one girl in 2017—making explicit facial gestures, touching her buttocks, then exposing himself on FaceTime after she scanned the room to prove she was alone. Screenshots showed him naked. In March he allegedly overpowered the second girl, held her down, groped her, removed his pants, and attempted to sexually assault her. Both mothers initially declined to report it. McKenzie was still on the CPS payroll when arrested. Judge Deidre Dyer ordered him held without bond.

This is not an isolated case. It is a pattern.

Chicago's violence interrupters, peacekeepers, and ceasefire workers—often former gang members hired with public money—keep producing the same results. Kellen McMiller, a Peacekeeper who posed with

Governor Pritzker days earlier, was charged with murder after a Michigan Avenue smash-and-grab that killed a young father. Jamari Edwards, a CeaseFire interrupter, got 22 years for armed carjackings that left one victim shot. Another "peacekeeper" drew nine years for a mob beating. In 2023 police found a full-time interrupter naked under a bed with \$50,000, narcotics, and a gun. **At least 28 Peacekeepers have been arrested since 2023.**

Even programs meant to protect kids are not immune. A CPS Safe Passage worker—functioning like a crossing guard in dangerous neighborhoods—turned out to be a convicted murderer who sold cocaine and a gun to an undercover officer while on duty as a crossing guard!

The city that treats lawful gun owners as threats, hands contracts and legitimacy to men with violent records, then acts shocked when bad guys keep doing what they have always done. McKenzie is simply the latest exhibit. The question is no longer whether these programs hire the wrong people. It is how many more ruined lives it will take before someone admits the model is broken.

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.**

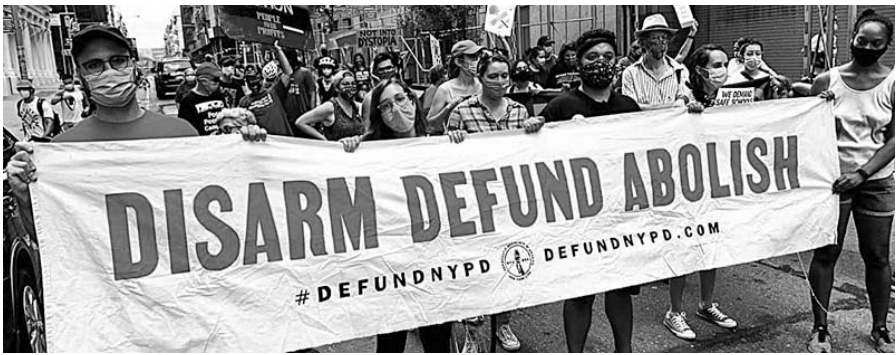
Download an application at dewittcountysc.com or by mailing a request to DCSC, PO Box 322, Clinton, IL 61727.



Join Guns Save Life today.



Membership application on back page of *GunNews*



The Democrat Socialists of America’s own platform

DSA’s current national program is titled “Workers Deserve More!” It is available at program.dsausa.org.

Thriving Working-Class Communities

- Universal healthcare (Medicare for All) with no premiums, co-pays, or deductibles, including full reproductive (aka abortion) and gender-affirming care.
- Housing as a human right: publicly owned social housing, universal rent control, right to counsel for tenants. 32-hour work week with no reduction in pay or benefits.
- Free public education, cancellation of student debt, living wage.
- “Finish Reconstruction”: reparations, investment in minority communities, honor tribal sovereignty.
- End mass incarceration and police immunity: demilitarize police, empower civilian oversight, as steps toward fully abolishing the police and prison system.



Working-Class Foreign Policy

- Defund the Department of War / end the U.S. war machine.
- Close overseas bases, end foreign wars and economic sanctions.
- Free Palestine (including recognition of Jerusalem as capital of a Palestinian state in some formulations).
- Abolish ICE, end all detentions and deportations, full amnesty for immigrants regardless of status, freedom of movement.



Working-Class Democracy

- Abolish the U.S. Senate. Replace the President and Supreme Court with an executive and judiciary chosen by and subordinate to Congress.
- Expand the House, ranked-choice voting, multi-party democracy. Popular vote for president / abolish the Electoral College.
- Voting rights extended to permanent residents.
- Public ownership of major corporations, energy, transportation, and natural resources.

Here is the DSA’s published position on guns titled “The Second Amendment is a Threat to us All.” It argued:

- “The only way to guarantee that we will dramatically reduce acts of violence involving guns is to remove

guns from society.”

- This requires repealing the Second Amendment.
- It proposed a new 28th Amendment that would ban the manufacturing, transportation, or importation of all pump-action, semi-automatic, and automatic firearms.
- Only single-shot, manually loaded guns would remain legal.

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



Democrat Socialists of America very radical on gun control

(GSL) - The Democratic Socialists of America has published positions that go far beyond mainstream gun control or criminal-justice reform.

On guns, a 2018 article on the official DSA website declared that “the only way to guarantee that we will dramatically reduce acts of violence involving guns is to remove guns from society” and that this requires repealing the Second Amendment.



The authors proposed a new constitutional amendment banning the manufacture, transport, or import of all pump-action, semi-automatic, and automatic firearms—leaving only single-shot, manually loaded guns legal. Later DSA-affiliated writing has described the abolition of guns as the ultimate goal and the gun industry as a “capitalist death machine.”

On criminal justice, the organization’s current program calls for demilitarizing police departments, disempowering police unions, and redirecting funding as explicit “steps towards fully abolishing the police and prison system.” It frames the existing system as one that “protects the rich and jails the poor.”

These positions exist alongside the reality that firearms are used defensively far more often than they are used in crime. Economist John Lott’s research, including work from the Crime Prevention Research Center, finds that defensive gun uses occur roughly *five times more frequently* than criminals use guns in violent crime—on the order of 1.67 million defensive uses versus roughly 330,000 firearm victimizations in recent data.

Removing modern firearms from law-abiding citizens while simultaneously dismantling police and prisons would eliminate the primary tools ordinary people currently use to protect themselves when the state is not present.



Kamala test-driving radical DSA-style platform on guns

(GSL) - With the 2028 Democratic presidential race already underway, former Vice President Kamala Harris holds an early lead in some polling and is testing a Democratic Socialists of America-aligned platform that is openly hostile to gun rights. Rasmussen shows her at 37 percent among Democrats, ahead of Gavin Newsom, Pete Buttigieg, and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, though other surveys paint a more competitive field.

Harris’s record includes leading the White House Office of Gun Violence Prevention, which pursued a “whole-of-government” campaign against the firearms industry and worked closely with Everytown for Gun Safety. She backed bans on common handguns, supported extreme restrictions matching the Biden administration’s agenda, and has shown no daylight from the most aggressive gun-control groups. She has also outlined the structural changes needed to enact that agenda.

Speaking in Nashville, Harris called for packing the Supreme Court by expanding its size, granting statehood to Puerto Rico and Washington, D.C. (adding four reliably Democratic senators), and “revisiting” the Electoral College—effectively replacing it with a national popular vote. These reforms would permanently alter the balance of power, making it far easier to pass and uphold sweeping gun-control measures that would severely restrict Second Amendment rights and pressure the lawful firearms industry.



GEORGE ALARM COMPANY

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

www.georgealarm.com

COMMERCIAL • RESIDENTIAL • INDUSTRIAL



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

WE ARE DEDICATED TO PROTECTING YOU!



217-525-1334

Protect your home
for as little as \$199

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



In regione caecorum rex est luscus

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

But ammo may be a better investment Diamonds are forever

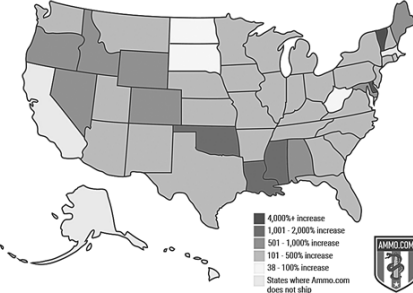


Ammunition. You might own a Hatson Escort PS20 12 gauge shotgun that you paid \$290.99 for, or a Benelli 828U 12 gauge for a cool \$3,799. Vastly different, but one thing in common is they fire the same ammunition. So you keep a certain amount of ammo on hand, depending on how often you shoot. Same with pistol or rifle ammo. And when you don't have any, it's as valuable as a diamond.

On top of that "required" amount, you probably add some additional number of rounds based on your own personal experiences with respect to ammunition shortages. Then there are the "oddball" calibers, like the .38 Super. NOT .38 Special. Good luck going into your Bass Pro Shop or Scheels; they don't carry it, and I doubt they ever will. That's not a knock; stores operate on the laws of supply and demand, and if just good ole Desiderius Erasmus is your sole demand, that won't move the needle.

COVID-19: AMMO SALES INCREASE BY STATE

A DATA STUDY BY AMMO.COM SHOWING AMMUNITION SALES AFFECTED BY CORONAVIRUS



Ammo sales increases by state: Like most states, Illinois sales were up between 100-500%. (Ammo.com doesn't ship to California, Alaska and Hawaii.)

But sometimes, "normal" caliber ammunition is in short supply, even .22s. Ammunition is a commodity, sale price is largely based on the economic principles of supply and demand. During increased ammo demand, often triggered by political uncertainty (think, elections every two or four years), proposed legislation restricting personal firearm ownership (in Illinois almost a yearly occurrence), or widespread concerns about personal safety (think, George Floyd riots in 2020, or the Ferguson riots of 2014), the price can dramatically rise, and widespread shortages can occur. But even taking these out, shortages of raw materials like brass, copper, lead, powder, or limitations in manufacturing capacity (how much the machines can make), can all lead to price increases.

Conversely, when demand cools down and production finally catches up, prices tend to stabilize or even decrease.

But what about Investing in ammunition? There's two ways to do this. First, invest in ammunition companies themselves. You can chart stock prices. You buy when you figure a company's stock price

is pretty low, and you sell when it gets higher; your exact moment of sale is the moment of truth. Wealth managers spend lifetimes studying this stuff. It all comes down to an investor's risk tolerance. Risk tolerance is how well you function in uncertainty. Given that life is uncertain (life is also tough and no one gets out alive), you understand that.

But what about actually buying ammunition during periods of low prices, and selling it at a profit later when prices have surged up? Buying ammo isn't like buying stock. Cool, dry, secure. It must be stored in cool, dry, and secure locations, away from flammable materials, and you don't want your grandkids messing with it. And there could be regulations governing ammunition, including limits on the quantity that can be stored and requirements for specific types of containers. There do not appear to be any current Illinois general ammunition storage mandates/restrictions in private homes with two exceptions. Black powder falls under the Illinois Explosives Act and is subject to special storage requirements. And in child-care facilities, foster homes, and some other licensed-care settings, firearms and ammunition have certain restrictions, and you need to know every single letter of these rules.

Concerning firing quality factory ammunition, not reloads which can vary depending on who's doing the reloading, with proper storage, I have seen estimates of 10 to 50 years. Anecdotaly, I have heard of ammunition successfully fired that was made in the 1960s, 1950s, and even earlier, and I have personally fired .30-06 and 9mm from World War II with no problems.

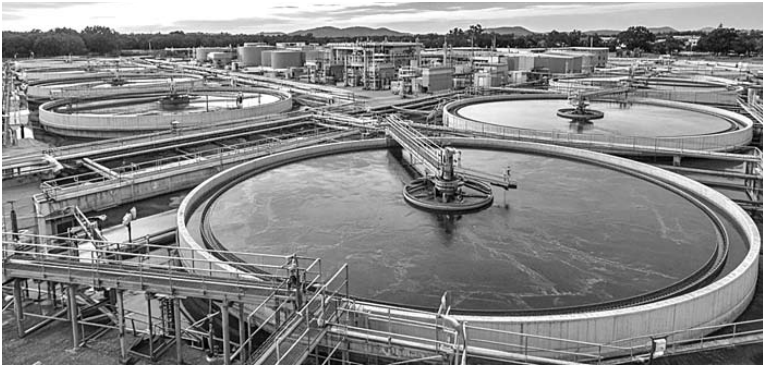
Since we're in Illinois, you have to check the FOID of the buyer when you sell.

OK, should you stock up to make a profit? Common calibers like 9mm, .223/5.56, .45 ACP, .22 LR, and 12 gauge shotgun shells are generally more "liquid" and easier to sell. Uncommon calibers, such as the aforementioned .38 Super, if you can find a desperate buyer, can bring a good return. Ammunition can act as a hedge against inflation, as its price tends to rise along with other goods and services. And in dire times, that price accelerates.

2008–2009: prices up 30 – 100% due to the banking crisis, election of Barack Obama, and fears of gun-control legislation. 2012–2013: prices up 50 – 200%+ (some calibers higher) due to the Sandy Hook shooting, renewed gun-control concerns, and widespread ammunition production shortages. 2020–2021: "The perfect storm" with prices advancing 100 – 300% because of the COVID-19 pandemic, civil unrest, record firearm purchases, and supply-chain disruptions. However, in 2022, prices remained elevated, but generally declined 20 – 50% from 2021 peaks, as manufacturing caught up, and demand eased. So if you bought in 2021 and sold in 2022, you took a beating.

So to answer the question of buying ammunition to make a profit. I would not base my overall investment strategy on it. But read up. Go to ChatGPT and ask: "What stock prices for ammunition manufacturing companies increases in value the most reliably?"

The price of a share of stock can only stay the same, go up or down. Ammo is something you can actually use, so when ammo for your oddball caliber is available, stock up. Same with common calibers. You can always fire it. Plus, your kids can inherit it and thank you. Because it will be more expensive in the future.



The Iranians would love to poison Americans or make us very sick

America's water systems under attack — Have you prepared your own supply?

(GSL) - In late July 2026, coordinated cyberattacks struck American water and wastewater systems, beginning with more than 30 facilities in Minnesota. Hackers targeted internet-facing programmable logic controllers (PLCs) that control pumps, valves, and water pressure, locking operators out of their systems.

The FBI confirmed incidents in at least seven states, later expanding to a dozen, including Michigan, Georgia, South Dakota, and New Jersey. Some utilities experienced pressure loss, flooding, and boil-water notices. Intelligence assessments pointed to Iranian state-linked actors. No drinking water was contaminated, but the attacks exposed how easily adversaries can disrupt critical infrastructure.

For ordinary Americans, the lesson is straightforward and practical. Relying solely on the continuous, uninterrupted function of a local water treatment plant is a single point of failure. A successful cyber intrusion—or any other disruption such as a natural disaster, equipment failure, or supply-chain problem—can leave households without safe running water for hours or days.

That is why basic personal preparedness matters. Keep several cases of sealed bottled water on hand—enough for at least several days of drinking and cooking for every household member. Maintain a reliable water filtration system capable of handling municipal or natural

sources (a quality gravity filter, ceramic filter, or reverse-osmosis unit with appropriate pre-filters). Store water-purification tablets or a proven chemical treatment method as a backup. Know how to safely collect and treat water from alternative sources if necessary. These steps are inexpensive, take little space, and require almost no ongoing maintenance.

Members of groups such as Guns Save Life already understand this mindset. The same practical outlook that leads people to maintain firearms, ammunition, medical kits, and food stores naturally extends to water security. The recent multi-state cyber campaign simply underscores why that preparation should not remain private knowledge. Share the information with family, neighbors, and friends in your circle of influence. Encourage them to stock a modest water reserve and a workable filtration method. At the very least everyone should have a case or two of bottled water as a bare minimum.

A few conversations and a short shopping list can make the difference between calm self-reliance and scrambling when the taps run dry or a boil-water order is issued. Infrastructure vulnerabilities will not disappear overnight. Nation-state actors will continue testing American systems. The responsible response is not panic—it is quiet, deliberate readiness at the household level, and the willingness to help others do the same.

GANG VIOLENCE

Seattle's inept, anti-gun woke circus helps turn a food festival into a gang shooting gallery

(GSL/SNW) - Seattle's "Bite of Seattle" food fest was supposed to serve overpriced fusion tacos and Instagrammable Space Needle vibes. Instead, it became a gang shootout that killed three (including one shooter) and wounded four, one a toddler. A 15-year-old rolled up with a homemade "ghost gun" complete with happy-stick magazine—like a science-fair project that actually worked.



Some of the "Grimey Gangsta Gorillaz" responsible for the Seattle shooting.

Welcome to the Emerald City, where the only thing greener than the weed shops is the green light for gang thugs, courtesy of Seattle's inept, anti-gun woke circus. Police Chief Shon Barnes, imported from Chicago's murder capital and still primarily residing there, was off networking at a black law-enforcement executives conference in Dallas while bullets flew.

Mayor Katie Wilson and the progressive pageant needed a full five hours just to stage a press conference—enough time for a pizza delivery, a suspect's interstate

escape, and Congress to pass a bill and break for lunch.



Seattle's woke Mayor Katie Wilson. And Chicago resident/Seattle Police Chief Shon Barnes behind her.

Washington's juvenile "justice" system still treats armed teenagers like traumatized therapy clients needing hugs, not consequences; a kid can rack up five gun arrests before a judge can even consider longer detention. One of the gangs involved? The "Grimey Gangsta Gorillaz." You can't make this up. Meanwhile, local gun-grabbers at the Alliance for Gun Responsibility blamed the usual invisible forces and ignored the actual criminals.

Seattle's woke kakistocracy has perfected a city where the only reliable public service is the ambulance. Crime without consequences isn't compassion—it's a taxpayer-funded protection racket. The smart residents are packing U-Hauls. The rest keep voting for more of the same.



RODS

REELS

BAIT & TACKLE

LINES & NETS

FISH FINDERS!

**15 STORES IN
ILLINOIS, IOWA & MISSOURI**

FarmandHomeSupply.com



**Farm&Home
SUPPLY**

Glass sprayed inches from his face

The day Justin Bawcum’s psychiatrist opened fire at Ft. Hood

by John Boch (GSL) - None of us wants to find ourselves in the middle of an Islamic terrorist’s murder spree. We tell ourselves it always happens somewhere else, to someone else. On November 5, 2009, at Fort Hood, Texas, it happened to Justin Bawcum.

Standing before the room at the Mattoon GSL meeting, Bawcum did not raise his voice. He did not need to. The heavy weight of what he carried did the work for him.



Justin Bawcum talks in Mattoon.

Major Nidal Hasan had been his mental health provider—the Army psychiatrist entrusted with helping soldiers bear the invisible wounds of war. Bawcum had an appointment with him after lunch that day.

Less than an hour before Bawcum was scheduled to walk through Hasan’s office door, the crazed lunatic Hasan pulled out an FN 5.7 pistol inside the Soldier Readiness Processing Center and opened fire on the men and women waiting in what was effectively a large waiting room—soldiers preparing to deploy, dependents, the unarmed and the trusting. The air filled with the sharp crack of gunfire and the sudden screams of people diving for cover.

From what Bawcum later pieced together, Hasan started shooting almost randomly at first. Then brave men charged him. A civilian physician assistant. A captain. A specialist. They ran toward a lunatic’s gunfire a few feet away instead of away from it.

Hasan’s aim tightened. Two of those men died. A third was badly wounded. Their courage bought seconds and saved lives. It cost the first two everything.



Hasan eventually pushed outside and turned his fire on the parking lot.

That day Bawcum had found a really awesome parking spot. You know how it feels to find that great spot close to the entrance? He felt it.

Sitting in his truck, killing a little time before his appointment, he heard the distant commotion including some muffled pops. Then the unmistakable sound of gunfire and people running. Then louder. Closer. The metallic tang of fear rose in his throat.

Glass exploded across his face and lap as a round punched through the windshield, missing his head by inches. Tiny shards stung his skin.

He reached for his pistol—the one he carried everywhere. The familiar weight wasn’t there. He had left it at home that morning. Something he almost never did when coming onto base. His hand closed on empty air.

“I carried it everywhere,” Bawcum said, the words quiet but edged with something that still cut. “Except that day.”

Hasan put four more rounds into the Justin’s Durango before he lost sight of Bawcum and shifted to other targets, including the responding police officers trading fire with him. Bullets cracked and ricocheted across the asphalt.

A female Department of the Army police officer, Kimberly Munley, was badly wounded in the exchange. Her shots and Officer Mark Todd’s shots finally put Hasan down, striking him in a way that left him paralyzed from the waist down. He has sat in a wheelchair ever since.

“Yeah, that is a shame,” Bawcum noted with a tiny grin.



Hasan was convicted and sentenced to death. As of now he remains on death row after years of appeals. When news of the case cycles back into the headlines, Bawcum said, the old memories surge—stress, anxiety, guilt and the sharp edge of what-ifs.

He had seen combat “over there” so his family and his country wouldn’t have to face it “over here.” He expected Islamic violence in a war zone. He was not prepared to meet it in a parking lot on an American military base, less than an hour before he was supposed to sit across from the man who was supposed to help him heal.

After Hasan finished shooting at the truck, Bawcum watched him turn away to engage someone else. If he had been carrying that day, he could have ended it right there.

He wasn’t.

“For that,” he said, “I carry deep, deep regret.” And we could see the guilt in his eyes too.

Bawcum is better than he was. But the PTSD from that day, layered on top of everything else from his service, still visits.

As one might expect.

This was not a story about politics or abstract ideology. It was the story of a quiet parking lot, a missing pistol, a windshield that shattered inches from a soldier’s face, and the knowledge that the man who tried to kill him had once been trusted with the minds of soldiers.



None of us wants to be there. On November 5, 2009, Justin Bawcum was. And he will never forget the sound of glass and the empty space where his gun should have been.

Sirens, Storms, and the ‘It’ll Never Happen to Me’ Club

Why preparing for tornadoes and other emergencies makes you harder to kill—just like preparing for everything else

Jason Meeks, Peoria County’s Director of Emergency Preparedness, stood in front of a room full of people who already understand that the universe occasionally tries to kill you and delivered a refreshingly blunt talk on weather and tornado preparedness.



Jason Meeks.

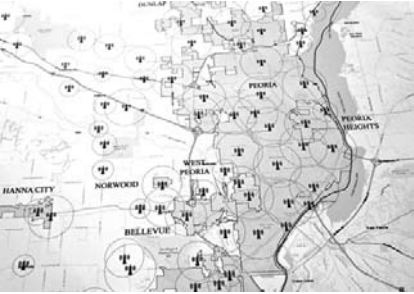
Illinois has taken the national lead in tornadoes this year. Congratulations to us. Meanwhile, our outdoor warning system is aging and failures happen. If you notice a siren that stays silent during the first-Tuesday-of-the-month test, tell your local authorities. That’s the civic equivalent of getting your car to the mechanic when the “check engine” light comes on instead of tapping the light then ignoring it until the engine explodes.

Forecasting is dramatically better than it used to be. You still have to do the hard part: look at the forecast and treat a severe-weather outlook like an actual warning instead of background noise. Outdoor sirens are for people who are outdoors. Counting on hearing them while you’re inside during a serious storm is like counting on the bad guy to politely knock first. And if you ever hear the old “woo-woo” enemy-attack siren, Meeks noted, you should probably pray. The room laughed.

Why most people still refuse to prepare Meeks nailed the psychology in two steps. First, a lot of people simply prefer not to think about bad things happening—whether the threat is a tornado or a two-legged predator. Second comes the classic denial upgrade: “It’ll never happen to me.” Until it does. At that point the people who prepared look like geniuses and everyone else looks like the guy who brought a stern look and a harsh word to a gunfight.

Your phone is actually useful here. Modern alerts can trigger sirens and blast phones in tightly defined geographic areas when a tornado is confirmed. That is not the moment to step outside to film a *Tik Tok*

video. It is the moment to get low, get inside, and stay there.



A map of outdoor sirens in the Peoria areas and their approximate coverage areas.

The good news (relatively speaking) Most emergencies in Illinois - outside a major earthquake, regional power outage, or an internet failure - are localized and short-lived. If you are not completely unprepared, you and your family are unlikely to become short-term refugees. A hotel thirty or sixty minutes away works *if your car has gas*. Friends or adult kids with spare rooms and working utilities are even better. This is not Florida after a hurricane, or LA after wildfires, where entire communities can look like a war zone. It is Illinois after a tornado—ugly in spots, very survivable if you planned and sought cover.

Meeks is recruiting weather spotters too. Retired folks with good eyes, a vehicle, and a functioning sense of civic duty are ideal. If that describes you, raise your hand. Spotting storms is one of the cleaner ways to keep your neighbors from becoming statistics.

Guns Save Life’s larger point This is exactly the mindset Guns Save Life pushes every month. We exist to make our members, their families, and their friends smarter, safer and harder to kill. That includes refusing to live in the “it’ll never happen to me” fantasy. Bad guys and bad weather share one important trait: both punish the unprepared with extreme prejudice.

So watch the forecast. Listen for your nearest siren. Keep your phone’s emergency alerts on. And while you’re at it, keep training, keep your gear ready, and keep the people you love from becoming soft targets. Prepared people sleep better and live longer. Unprepared people become cautionary tales.

Be harder to kill. GSL will keep helping you get there.

Welcome to Minnesota... bad judges make poor decisions

90 days for a slur, Probation for child sex abuse

(GSL) - In a striking contrast of judicial priorities, Judge Christa Daily of Olmsted County, Minnesota, sentenced Shiloh Hendrix to 90 days in jail, 200 hours of community service, and a \$1,000 fine for using a racial slur in a viral video. The speech, while widely viewed as offensive, remains protected under the First Amendment and, in the eyes of many, should never have led to criminal prosecution.

The same judge has repeatedly handed down far lighter sentences to sex offenders and child predators. One man who possessed child sexual abuse material depicting children ages 6–8 and admitted viewing thousands of such images received no jail time; his felony charges were stayed and later reduced after probation and community service. Another man who repeatedly sexually assaulted a 9-year-old girl was sentenced to only 30 days with work release. A woman who sexually assaulted patients at an inpatient facility received probation—despite having previously received probation for a similar offense.

Other predators received sentences lighter than or comparable to Hendrix’s.

These disparities raise serious questions about the court’s priorities. Offenses involving the sexual exploitation and abuse of children involve deep, often recurring pathology and pose ongoing risks to the most vulnerable members of society. Yet they have been treated more leniently than the use of an offensive word. Prosecutors share responsibility for offering soft plea deals, but the judge ultimately accepted them and failed to draw a clear line distinguishing the gravity of the crimes.

Olmsted County is a blue-leaning area that supported Kamala Harris and Tim Walz in 2024, a political environment some observers link to these sentencing patterns. Regardless of politics, the outcome is clear: a system that punishes protected speech more harshly than the sexual abuse of children has its priorities fundamentally inverted. Protecting children should come first.



Cook County's latest program to combat violent gang crime: More signs

Chicago (GSL) - Chicago's latest answer to violent crime on the CTA is more signs. Over 7,000 of them are going up on buses and trains, declaring that "Violence on the CTA will not be tolerated" and that the Cook County State's Attorney will seek pretrial detention for violent offenses. Officials present this as a serious deterrent. It is pure theater.

"No guns" signs already failed. These new ones will fare no better. Criminals who shoot, rob, and assault riders do not pause to read government messaging. Many of the young people committing these acts come from a school system where literacy itself is optional.

In Chicago Public Schools, large majorities of students cannot read or do math at grade level. In nearly two dozen schools, not a single student met basic reading proficiency standards in recent data. Expecting people who struggle with basic reading to be deterred by a carefully worded sign is fantasy.

The real problem is consequences—or the near-total lack of them. In Chicago, the clearance rate for non-fatal shootings has hovered around 6 percent. That means roughly a 94 percent chance a shooter will never be arrested or prosecuted. When violent crime carries almost no risk of punishment, signs are irrelevant. Bad actors know the odds. They act accordingly.

This is the predictable result of years of soft-on-crime policies dressed up as reform. Low-information politicians keep offering low-information voters the same empty symbolism: awareness campaigns, task forces, and now brightly worded placards. Actual enforcement—more officers on trains and buses, consistent prosecution, and real penalties—requires harder choices and political courage they prefer to avoid.

Signs are cheap. Visible policing and accountability are not. Until Chicago stops pretending that messaging can replace consequences, riders will continue to ride



Even Cook County States Attorney Eileen Burke is calling for overhaul of 'Electronic Monitoring'

Chicago (CWB Chicago) - Cook County State's Attorney Eileen O'Neill Burke is asking Illinois residents to contact their state legislators and push for an overhaul of the state's electronic monitoring law.

"The whole system right now is broken and it needs a legislative fix," Burke said in a wide-ranging interview with Landon Campbell posted to YouTube on Sunday. "So, I'm going to be asking you and everybody you know and everybody who's listening to this to please reach out to your legislators and tell them that you do not believe that violent criminals should be on electronic monitoring. They should not and we can work out an agreement with the legislators of okay, where do we draw the line?"

Burke said electronic monitoring was never intended to function as an alternative to detention for people accused of violent crimes.

Parolee burglar hits two NW Side homes wearing IDOC ankle monitor

Chicago (GSL) - Chicago's revolving-door "justice" system delivered another classic: 19-year-old Cortez Washington, who dodged real prison time in March on a felony gun case thanks to a sweetheart plea deal, allegedly went on a burglary spree in early June — while sporting his IDOC ankle monitor.

Prosecutors say he broke into two homes just blocks apart on the Northwest Side. In one, he stood over a sleeping couple before fleeing with their safe containing two Kimber handguns, passports, and jewelry. The next night he climbed through an unlocked window, got spotted, and ran — leaving behind clear video evidence of his distinctive "Gatorade" hand tattoo.



Cortez Washington.



Red Dot Arms: The process is the punishment

Chicago (GSL) - Red Dot Arms is getting crushed, and it's not because they broke the law. It's because this state's leaders have made the process itself the punishment.

Mike Rioux's family-owned shop in Lake Villa has been a federally licensed dealer since 2012. On February 13, 2020, they transferred a Smith & Wesson M&P 15 to a buyer who walked in with a valid Illinois FOID card. The Illinois State Police ran the background check and gave the green light. Oh yeah, this is the same Illinois State Police who allegedly background checked the FOID holder [scumbag's name redacted] and issued him a shiny FOID card. This despite all manner of reasons why he had no business with a gun.

Two and a half years later that same rifle was used in the Highland Park parade massacre. You know, the one that happened in one of Pritzker's "Gun Free" zones.

Every state and federal requirement was followed during the purchase. The ATF later praised the shop's cooperation in the aftermath of the murder spree committed by a lunatic. Not only did the ATF investigate thoroughly, but so did every Illinois government agency looking to make Red Dot the fall guy for an utter failure of the myriad of gun control measures in the Land of Lincoln. They found nothing. No violations. Nothing.

Worth mentioning again: that parade was a "gun free zone" under law, meaning the good guys couldn't carry there. That didn't stop the scumbag lunatic though. It just made the event a free-fire zone with minimal risk of return fire from attendees.

And now Red Dot is buried under roughly 25 lawsuits filed by Everytown, the Brady Center, and big plaintiffs' firms. The claim isn't that the transfer was illegal. The claim is that the shop should have somehow known better and refused a sale the state itself had approved.

So what exactly was the shop supposed to do—discriminate based on looks? That would be a fast track to sanctions and a lawsuit from the Attorney General's office for discrimination, not to mention the cancel-culture pile-on.

But this is America. The Second Amendment is a constitutional right, not a privilege contingent on having the "right" appearance. That kind of subjective gatekeeping

is exactly what produced the Black Codes after the Civil War, the old racially targeted Army-Navy restrictions, and countless other laws designed to keep the "less desirables" of the moment from exercising their 2A rights.

Anyway, back to Red Dot: His insurance walked ran away. The legal bills keep stacking up. Discovery, depositions, experts, motion after motion. Three years in and they're still funding the defense out of their own pocket. That's how these nuisance suits work. Nuisance suit plaintiffs don't have to win on the merits. They just bleed the defendant dry until he can't fight anymore.

Mike is still fighting. Respect for that. But let's be honest: it's a losing battle under the current rules of engagement in Illinois. The best realistic hope is that a judge eventually sanctions the plaintiffs for abusive litigation. That's an epic longshot. Especially in a state where the federal courts can't read Supreme Court precedent.

Frankly, the cleaner move may be to declare bankruptcy, shut the doors, and reopen in a state that still treats lawful commerce in arms as something other than a target. Somewhere that values freedom a whole lot more than Illinois does.

Some people say this could happen to any gun shop. They're right. That's the world we live in. Until the courts start aggressively enforcing the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act the way Congress intended, and until judges start punishing those filing these junk lawsuits instead of indulging them, more small dealers will get put through the same meat grinder.

If you want to help Red Dot stay alive long enough to keep fighting, the legal defense fund is here: <https://www.givesendgo.com/help-protect-red-dot-arms-from-anti-gun->



Join Guns Save Life today.



Membership application on back page of GunNews

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.

Whether you're a seasoned shooter or a first-timer, you'll build real skills in a safe, welcoming environment. Kids 11 and under shoot free with a paid adult, teens 12-17 get in for just \$10, and adults for \$25. Wrap up the day with a friendly 10-round .22 competition to see how much you've improved.

Zancha's

Guns & Ammo INC.



Over 950
firearms in
stock!

Reloading
Supplies

Garrett &
Minelab Metal
Detectors in
stock!

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

IL Concealed
Carry Classes
& Renewal
Classes

Buck, Case &
Cobratec knives
in stock!

Fishing &
Hunting Licenses

PREPARED AMERICAN

ILLINOIS CARRY ALERT • AUGUST 5, 2026

Exclusive: New Illinois Bill Makes Concealed Carry Valid For All 50 States

The anti-gun lobby spent millions to keep this quiet. Here's how Americans in Illinois are qualifying online in minutes — before the enrollment window closes.

Frank D. • Washington Desk • August 5, 2026



DO YOU QUALIFY IN ILLINOIS?

What's Your Age?

Tap your age below to start the free 60-second eligibility check:

21-34

35-44

45-54

55-64

65-74

75+

Meet law-abiding adults qualify. Private & secure

INTERNET SCAM ALERT:

A one-way ticket to prison

by John Boch (GSL) - A pack of internet grifters is running ads targeting Illinois gun owners right now, suggesting an Illinois CCL will let you carry in all 50 states, that the entire process can be finished online in 15 minutes, and that you'll have a "permit" in days.

Sites like preparedamerican.org wave free holsters, free kits, and fake headlines about some mythical nationwide rule. At best it's deceptive. Others might call it pure, unadulterated fraud.

There is no national concealed carry permit. As of this writing, an Illinois CCL is good in about 30 states—not all fifty. Illinois recognizes zero out-of-state permits. Anyone telling you otherwise is either brain-dead or a deliberate liar who doesn't care if you get locked in a cage.

Scammers would sell their own children a "nationwide hunting license" if they thought it would clear another credit card. They are bottom-feeding, soul-selling, money-grubbing parasites who exist solely to exploit the trusting and the poorly informed.

Illinois law demands 16 hours of real, in-person training—live classroom and live-fire qualification. Not Zoom. Not a quiz you take on your phone while half-watching TV and shoveling chips into your

pie hole. The rules explicitly ban online or even video "instruction."

These scammers promise the opposite because they're betting some folks are too lazy, too trusting, or too desperate to check the actual statute. They're counting on ignorance the same way a carry counts on suckers at the fair—except this carnival game ends with friendship bracelets, a trip to jail and a felony conviction.

These throwaway websites hide their owners behind privacy services like the cockroaches they are, score like toxic waste on every scam detector, and leave you holding a worthless PDF. Carry with it and the first cop who asks for your license will take a look at it and have a chuckle before they cuff you and stuff you.

Meanwhile, scammers will count their cash, laugh, and move on to the next mark. They don't care if your kids visit you through glass. They don't care if your name ends up on a prohibited list. You're just another sucker to them.

While we're on the subject of stupid ways to get yourself arrested: Concealed Carry Badges are a fantastic way to earn a (felony) charge for impersonating a police officer. Don't carry one. Don't order one. Don't be that idiot. Real cops notice them instantly, and the

conversation that follows is *never* pleasant. You're not law enforcement. Stop trying to look like it.

Want actual training instead of this digital con? Look for legit classes with multiple experienced instructors, few if any power point slides, and ample shooting and gun handling beyond the required 30-round qualification. The best classes will teach avoiding conflict, home safety and how to navigate the legal system after a use of force. Fortunately many of the corner-cutting "bare minimum" classes are out of business. But do your research, folks. It's your life and freedom at stake.

Real preparation that keeps you alive and free.

Do not click the scammer ads. Do not hand these bottom-feeding, soul-selling parasites a single dollar or a single piece of personal data. Use a legitimate ISP-approved instructor and the official Illinois State Police portal. Check reciprocity with sources like handgunlaw.us that aren't trying to rob you blind and set you up for prison.

The Second Amendment already has enough open enemies. We don't need these grifters pretending to defend it while they pick your pocket and hand you a one-way ticket to a cell.

Stay sharp. Stay legal. Stay harder to kill.



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

From pear-shaped dad to harder-to-kill: How Testosterone Replacement Therapy turned a tired, out-of-shape 50-something into a guy who can actually keep up with twin boys

TRT Update

by John Boch
(GSL) –Honest confession time. When the twin boys showed up at age 51, Father Time didn't just knock on my door—he kicked it in, and parked his butt on my back. Keeping up with the kids felt like chasing toddlers while wearing lead boots.

Then I saw that heartbreaking DocMorris “Take Care of Yourself” Christmas ad: the grandfather who spent a year training just so he could proudly hoist his little granddaughter to put the star on the tree.



That one hit different.

So I went to the gym. And the gym, by itself, politely told me to go pound sand. I got nowhere.

Then I ran into one of our own GSL family members who looked like he'd been swapped out for a better model since I saw him last. Overweight, out-of-shape guy a year or two before; now lean and muscular, sharp, well-dressed, a confidence-radiating GQ specimen - complete with a gun. “Whoa. What happened to you?”

Paul didn't hedge. His secret was TRT—Testosterone Replacement Therapy. Thank you, Paul. You may have just lengthened more lives than you know.



Paul dates attractive ladies now, too.

I checked the symptoms. Overweight. Pear-shaped upper body. Low energy. Even lower libido. Mental fog. Intermittent depression. Couldn't lose weight. Couldn't gain muscle. Life, in short, sucked. Classic low-T checklist.

My regular doctor confirmed it: testosterone was low. Just not low enough for insurance to care. I have a great doc... he actually admitted he wasn't an expert at hormone therapy. He recommended seeking out a private specialty practice.

Here's the part a lot of people miss: not all general practitioners are savvy about hormone replacement—for men or women. Some openly discourage it based on bad information that is thirty years out of date. Screw that. You don't have to fire your GP. Just stop expecting a generalist to be current on specialized hormone work. You want the experienced specialist with the latest training to do heart surgery on you. Same rule applies to hormones. Go to a men's health practice run by people who actually live and breathe this field.

I researched practices and walked into Life Plus MD in Bloomington, paid the \$300 consult, got more blood work, and started weekly testosterone injections after the results came back. The ongoing cost—drugs plus the medical pros who know what they're doing—runs about \$175 a month. Best money I've ever spent. Period.

The results, without the sugarcoating

In under a year I dropped roughly 40 pounds (224 down to the mid-180s), lost five inches off the waist, and said goodbye to a pair of man-boobs I never asked for and sure as hell don't miss. Soon the gym stopped feeling like punishment and started feeling like progress.

At my two-year anniversary I was sitting at 175 pounds and about 12% body fat, actively chasing the six-pack that had been on the bucket list for decades. Ten additional pounds doesn't sound like a big loss, but I had lost two *more* inches around my waist. And for someone in their upper 50s to have a 12% body fat... that is impressive.



Today, at my third anniversary, a few months shy of 60, I weigh in at just under 185 with 14% body fat (6' tall). Respectable. The resistance training has given me more muscle and strength than I ever had in my younger years. I'm not afraid to swim without a t-shirt (or put said photo in *GunNews*). Posture continues to improve, not decline with age. I still don't have the full six-pack yet, but the mirror no longer insults me.

How? Weekly injections plus a diet that finally stopped treating my body like a landfill. Fast food, sugared drinks, and serious drinking got the boot. Carb-heavy comfort food—pizza, pasta, donuts, candy, cookies—got sharply reduced but not banished to the shadow realm. I eat a lot of eggs, chicken and turkey, beef, and pork. My mother would be proud: I'm finally eating the vegetables she used to threaten me with. They fill the stomach and keep the hunger demons at bay.

Protein is non-negotiable now—180 to 200 grams a day. You cannot build muscle without it. If you're losing weight and short on protein, your body will cheerfully cannibalize the muscle you already have. Protein shakes become your new best friend. Creatine, Vitamin D oil and a multivitamin round out my primary supplements.

A quick public service announcement for the GLP-1 and GLP-2 crowd (Ozempic, tirzepatide and similar): if you're not lifting and not eating enough protein, a third or more of the weight you lose will be muscle and bone. That's not a win. That's just becoming a lighter, weaker version of the same soft target. I've flirted with microdosing tirzepatide myself. The price tag kept me honest.

Downsides and side effects.

Two side effects I've noticed: oilier skin on head/face and thinking about sex like a teenager. I've always had oily skin, but it's a bigger thing now. What else? TRT tends to thicken your blood a bit (hence why you get your blood tested at regular intervals) and I had a pint taken off me earlier this year for the first time to keep me optimized. No big deal... a little stick, ten minutes later it's done and you're on your way.

Training that actually works

Muscle building started in late 2023—four days a week, 30–45 minutes. I watched the trainers, identified the best ones, and started paying them in April 2024. Turns out for the most part I didn't know what I didn't know. Moving less weight with excellent technique beats ego-lifting heavy weight with garbage form every single time. Injuries are expensive and delay progress.

These days a solid third or more of every

Continued on page 20.



Works great in other industrial applications as well

CRYO: Tempering barrels for tighter groups, higher velocities and longer life

(GSL) - Stephanie Springfield from 300 Below joined Guns Save Life members in Decatur and delivered a clear, practical presentation on what deep cryogenic processing can—and cannot—do for firearms, knives, brake components, and other metal parts. She also brought thirty or forty ammo boxes packed with goodies from the company. Those boxes were a huge hit with the crowd that approached eighty people.

300 Below, based right here in Decatur, is the oldest commercial cryogenic processing companies in the business, operating since 1966. They freeze metal to minus 300 degrees Fahrenheit in a computer-controlled, dry process, then carefully bring it back up through controlled tempering cycles. The company serves eight major industries, including defense and aerospace—sectors that demand results and perfection, not a marketing hype. Their work has earned multiple DoD and USAF research contracts aimed at improving military firearms accuracy and extending the life of critical components.



Stephanie Springfield from 300 Below.

The science is straightforward. Manufacturing leaves residual stress in metal. Firing a gun repeatedly adds heat and friction that can cause barrels to warp or “walk.” Cryogenic treatment rearranges the molecular structure, creating a denser, smoother surface. The result: reduced stress, lower friction, better heat dissipation, increased accuracy and improved resilience.

On new barrels, shooters commonly see tighter groups—company data and independent testing claim up to 50 percent better accuracy—and modest velocity gains of 50–60 feet per second. Barrels last longer (up to 300 percent in some military-funded testing), clean more easily, and show less wear. There are no dimensional changes. The process is permanent and one-time.

Springfield was clear about the limits. Cryo will not restore worn-out metal to like-new condition. A shot-out barrel remains a shot-out barrel. Old metal in otherwise good shape responds well, but seriously degraded parts are a waste of money. Handguns run about \$90; long guns cost a little more.

Rock River Arms has put the process to work on all the barrels for one of its long-range rifle calibers—practical endorsement from a major manufacturer that values consistency.

The same treatment benefits knives (better edge retention, sharper blade and toughness), brake rotors (up to 250 percent longer life with less warping), tooling, and a wide range of industrial parts. Defense and aerospace customers use it because failure is not an option.

Springfield also highlighted 300 Below's Pristine carbon cleaning solution. It is a non-toxic, concentrated cleaner that does wonders getting rid of carbon. Dilute it, apply it, and stubborn carbon deposits come off far more easily than with many conventional solvents. Non-toxic, effective, and practical for regular maintenance. Just 1 ounce per gallon!

The presentation stayed light when an audience member asked about cryo for people. Springfield deadpanned that you cannot cryo your wife after she's died. Someone in the crowd helpfully noted you have to do it before they're dead. The room laughed.

For Guns Save Life members, the take-away is practical. A more accurate, longer-lasting barrel is one more tool that helps you stay effective under stress. Pair it with a cleaner that actually cuts carbon without harsh chemicals, and your gear stays ready. Whether you're building a precision rifle, maintaining a defensive handgun, or simply wanting your equipment to outlast abuse, cryogenic treatment and products like Pristine offer measurable improvement.

300 Below has processed hundreds of thousands of barrels and millions of pounds of metal for clients who cannot afford failure. If tighter groups, easier cleaning, and extended service life matter to you, the process is worth a serious look—especially on new or high-quality barrels. Contact them in Decatur or visit 300below.com for details, current pricing, and that Pristine cleaner.

State Line Rifle Association

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

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

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

StateLineRifle.com
see us on Facebook



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

When You're Forced to Fight:

Three Essential Principles to PREVAIL

by John Boch
(GSL) — At Guns Save Life, we emphasize that the best fight is the one you never have. Situational awareness spots trouble early so you can avoid it. If that fails, we push verbal de-escalation, creating distance, and using obstacles. And then there's always the Nike defense—walking or running away.

Yet sometimes those options vanish. An attacker closes the gap, traps you, and makes his intentions obvious. In that moment, flashy techniques won't save you. Just like shooting, the fundamentals decide who walks away and who waits for a coroner's van.

The first and most critical step is **acceptance**. Street violence is usually opportunistic. Bad things happen to good people for no good reason. Get over it. Break the freeze. Freezing doesn't work—not for a housewife, not for a cop, not for the guy who whines "I never thought it would happen to me!" "Why me?" has zero survival value. That internal monologue is basically a gift to the bad guy.

Attackers read body language the way a wolf sizes up a limping deer. Fear, hesitation, or the classic deer-in-the-headlights look tells them you're a soft target.

Accept that physical force is now required and flip the switch from a polite, passive person to savage violence.

The second principle is **total commitment**. Half-measures will get you hurt, crippled, or killed. Once the decision is made, you don't fight politely. You fight like someone trying to ruin the other guy's entire bloodline.

Eyes are fair game—gouge them out. Groin is fair game too—crush, twist, or tear whatever you can reach. If a knife is involved, arteries become priority targets. Open one and let the attacker watch his own blood squirt. If he stares at the spurting mess in shock, use the free moment to drive your blade into his throat or solar plexus for good measure. "Keep the tip, pal."

Expect to get covered in blood. If you're savage enough most of it will belong to him. The goal is simple: make the attacker regret the day he picked you, create an opening, and leave. Anything less is just negotiating with someone who already decided you were prey.



Learning the proper application of violence is for women too. Here, she extracted herself from a headlock with a simulated an eye gouge followed by a throat punch to crush the windpipe. Be savage.

Improvised weapons are excellent force multipliers. If you have a choice, grab something heavy and hard that will break bones. A shattered arm or collapsed orbital socket does wonders for an attacker's enthusiasm. It's tough for a bad guy to keep throwing punches or swinging a knife when one arm is dangling useless and an eyeball is hanging by a thread. Suddenly priorities change.

The alternative is the soyboy approach. That kind of response advertises weakness. Predators feed on it.

True commitment shows in posture, movement, and presence. Confidence—or the lack of it—is obvious from ten feet away. Predators can smell hesitation the way sharks smell blood. Fully commit. Make the experience so barbaric and horrific that any friends the attacker brought along run for their lives. That creates the opening you

need to break contact and leave.

The platform doesn't matter—pistol, rifle, shotgun, or empty hands. Once the fight is on, you finish it or you risk becoming the one finished.

The third essential element is **breathing**. Under a sudden adrenaline dump, most people unconsciously hold their breath. A few seconds of explosive movement later, the oxygen debt hits and performance collapses. So breathe. Deliberately. Oxygen keeps your muscles working after the initial surge fades. Controlled breathing also fights the tunnel vision and auditory exclusion that come with extreme stress, giving you a better chance to see what's happening and make the next decision. Sound familiar from your defensive shooting classes? It should. The same physiological realities apply whether the tool in your hand is a gun, a pipe wrench or a broken bottle. Accept. Commit. Breathe. Then finish it and get out.



Martial arts training (Krav featured here) help inculcate mindset and breathing, as well as violence of movement.

These three principles—acceptance, commitment, and breathing—are fundamentally about mindset. Physical skills and training matter. They condition your responses and give you options under pressure. But none of that helps if you freeze, hesitate, or look like prey. A rapid internal shift from shock to decisive, vigorous violence can change the entire dynamic of a confrontation. Get your mind right first. The body will follow.



Young people should learn these skills too.

At Guns Save Life, we work to educate our readers on practical tactics and strategies to avoid victimization whenever possible. We also stress the importance of knowing how to prevail if avoidance and de-escalation fail. Preparing the mind for that possibility is as critical as any other aspect of personal protection. The goal is never to seek out violence, but to prevail against it if it cannot be avoided.



The world isn't all rainbows and unicorns.

Buy a generator.

Or feed your fridge & freezer to the raccoons.

by John Boch
(GSL) - As a resident, I saw first hand how Bloomington-Normal got the full "welcome to the Midwest, here's your free natural disaster" package on Thursday, August 13.

Straight-line winds of 80–100+ mph tore through like a drunk bull in a china shop accompanied by Biblical rains. The place looked like a... disaster. Better yet, tens of thousands of students were trying to move into college dorms! Welcome to school!



Tens of thousands of homes and businesses went dark. Grocers, gas stations, restaurants sat dark—suddenly tombs for slowly rotting produce, along with spoiled meat and dairy products. Basements flooded in under an hour thanks to powerless sump pumps, wrecking finished rooms, furnaces, washers, dryers and water heaters. And the water kept coming as we got upwards of 9" of rain over the course of two days.

No power also meant no lights and no power tools to help complete emergency repairs before the next storm hit later that night and then the next. Three days later nearly 2,500 homes were still dark. Now soggy carpet, padding and ruined furnishings have joined tree limbs on the curb waiting for pickup.

Coming back from Mattoon's GSL meeting I hunted for an open gas station like it was 1973. Entire neighborhoods sat black. Almost zero generators running. I actually felt dumb for assuming many if not most homeowners had one. Silly me. I thought homeowners understood that electricity is not a God-given right.

Folks will drop \$600–\$800 on a snow blower they use twice a year, or more on a fancy grill for Instagram steaks and burgers.

But a generator that keeps the fridges and freezers cold and the sump pump alive? "Eh, I don't need one of those." Thousands of those households just learned "it never happens" is not a plan. It's misery for you and yours.



Here's the kicker: a solid 3500–4000W inverter generator now sells for \$600-800. That's probably less than your insurance deductible. A smaller 2000W inverter generator costs about \$400 these days, with tax! Add 10 additional gallons of stabilized fuel and you've bought power (and the better life it brings to your family) for a few days while repairs are made.

Why this isn't optional gear

- Food's spoiled in 24 hours. That generator keeps the cold foods cold and frozen foods colder.
- Sump pump. Without juice you get an indoor lake and a very sad insurance claim if you have coverage.
- Lights, phones, CPAPs, and meds don't care about your "we'll tough it out" speech.
- Your spouse and kids get irritable when hot, miserable and hungry.
- No power tools means you sit and wait for Round Two like a chump.
- Modern inverters are portable, quiet and clean—they won't wake the block or fry your electronics.

The people who already had a generator kept their food, basements, and their dignity. Everyone else got the full misery package as Eric North wrote last month about his power outage experience in the burbs.

Buy the darn generator. Stock the stabilized fuel. Exercise it once a quarter. Then when the next derecho shows up, you can drink a cold beverage under working lights with a dry basement while the unprepared fight it out for that last generator at Home Depot.

Or don't.

The raccoons are patient.



279 North Front St. | Macon, IL 62544



Indoor Range & Simulator!



Retail Store:

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

Services:

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

Classes and Events:

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

Hours:

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

217-764-5678
WWW.THEBULLETTRAP.COM



Post Office gun prohibition gutted for certain people

(GSL) - The Department of Justice dismissed its appeal in *Firearms Policy Coalition v. Blanche* on July 23, 2026, leaving in place Chief Judge Reed O'Connor's permanent injunction from the Northern District of Texas.

The ruling covers the individual plaintiffs and all present and future members of the **Firearms Policy Coalition (FPC)** and the **Second Amendment Foundation (SAF)**. The federal government may not enforce the challenged post office firearm restrictions—18 U.S.C. § 930(a) and 39 C.F.R. § 232.1(l)—against them when they possess or carry firearms in an “ordinary” United States Post Office or on surrounding postal property.

Anyone who is not currently a member can join FPC or SAF and become covered, since the injunction protects all present and future members. Prior membership when the lawsuit was filed is not required.

An “ordinary” post office generally means a typical standalone neighborhood location. It excludes post offices on military bases or restricted-access areas, and those inside multi-function federal buildings where firearm carry is otherwise prohibited.



The injunction is not universal. Non-members remain subject to the federal ban, which is still on the books. The protection applies only to the challenged federal provisions and does not override state laws, other federal restrictions, or rules against criminal conduct.

In short, FPC and SAF members (and the named plaintiffs) are protected at ordinary post offices nationwide. Non-members can join either group to gain the same coverage.

NFA gun registration struck down for certain people

by John Boch

(GSL) - A federal judge in Texas ruled that key parts of the National Firearms Act (NFA) can no longer be enforced against certain people and groups for suppressors, short-barreled rifles, short-barreled shotguns, and “any other weapons.”

This largely doesn't affect Illinois residents, since most of these firearms are banned under state law. But if those bans fall to future challenges—or if you leave Illinois—you escape the state's restrictive gun rules. The 1934 NFA required registration, ATF approval, fingerprints, photos, and paperwork, upheld as a tax law with a \$200 fee. In 2025, Congress zeroed out that tax for most of these items starting in 2026. Machine guns and destructive devices keep the tax and full regulation.

Judge James Wesley Hendrix (Northern District of Texas) ruled that once the tax vanished, the remaining rules lost their constitutional basis. Congress had relied only on its taxing power, never properly on the Commerce Clause. Without revenue, the regulations exceed Congress's powers. He did not decide any Second Amendment issues.

The permanent injunction applies only to the plaintiffs, their members, the 15 plaintiff states and agencies, and customers of the commercial plaintiffs. Those covered parties need not complete NFA registration for future purchases or builds of the untaxed items, and the ATF cannot enforce the requirements against them.

It is not a nationwide ruling. Supreme Court limits bar broad “universal” injunctions covering non-parties. Machine guns stay

fully regulated.

The order was stayed seven days for a possible appeal, but the DOJ did not appeal. The ruling stands: for the covered parties, the paperwork and approval hurdles are blocked because the justifying tax is gone.

Who specifically is covered?



As if you needed another reason to move out of Illinois...

Associational / nonprofit plaintiffs (members covered):
Silencer Shop Foundation
Gun Owners of America, Inc. (GOA)
Gun Owners Foundation
Firearms Regulatory Accountability Coalition, Inc. (FRAC)
Texas State Rifle Association
FPC Action Foundation
Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms (CCRKBA)

Commercial plaintiffs (their customers, current and future, are covered for transactions with them):
B&T USA, LLC
Palmetto State Armory, LLC
SilencerCo Weapons Research, LLC (SilencerCo)
Hot Shots Custom, LLC

Local Junior Blasts Onto the World Stage: Mackinaw's Jadon Nafziger Headed to Korea for Para Olympic World Cup

(GSL) - Hold onto your earmuffs, Central Illinois — one of our own is about to make some serious noise on the international stage.



Jadon Nafziger. Congrats!

Sixteen-year-old Jadon Nafziger of Mackinaw has officially earned a spot on the USA's Para Olympic International shooting team and will travel to Korea this fall to compete in the World Cup. This isn't just another match. It's the start of the long road toward selecting the 2028 U.S. Para Olympic team, and Jadon is right in the mix.

Jadon got his start the old-fashioned way: at Central Illinois Precision Shoot-

ing in Bloomington. What began as local practice sessions quickly turned into a full-family commitment of early mornings, late nights, and countless hours on the range. The results spoke for themselves. Strong showings at club, regional, and national competitions caught the eye of USA Shooting's talent scouts at their Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs.

From there, the international stage came calling. Jadon's global career kicked off with a Junior World Cup in Peru. This past spring, he and the Nafziger team headed to Dubai for another World Cup. He didn't just show up — he medaled in both events. Not bad for a teenager from small-town Illinois.

Jadon competes in two precision disciplines: air rifle (.177 caliber at 10 meters) and smallbore rifle (.22 caliber at 50 meters). His ranking fluctuates from match to match, but he's consistently sitting in the top four or five on the U.S. Para Olympic team. That's an incredible achievement for a 16-year-old going toe-to-toe with the nation's best.

What started as a local kid grinding away on a Central Illinois range is now a rising force with real Olympic potential. If things keep trending this way, 2028 could put Illinois — and international shooting sports — squarely under the Olympic spotlight.

Watch this space. Jadon Nafziger is just getting started.

Concealed carry gives the would-be assailant the maximum opportunity to make a critical error in their victim selection process.

-- Russ from Clinton, IL

279 North Front St. | Macon, IL 62544

Indoor Range & Simulator!

Retail Store:

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

Services:

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

Classes and Events:

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

Hours:

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

217-764-5678
WWW.THEBULLETTRAP.COM

GunNews Magazine - 14 - September 2026

Armed American

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

Good guys with guns

Idaho good guy, off-duty trooper stop mass killer

(Shooting News Weekly) - Well, the summer doldrums have been less doldrum-y this week. The 5.7×28mm cartridge—and fire-arms chambered for it—is having a moment, thanks to the courage of a full-time caregiver. “When gunshots rang out at a Twin Falls In-N-Out, this Idaho man shot back” read the headline in the Idaho Statesman. And thanks to social media, most are at least partly familiar with the story.

On Saturday, a mass shooting at the In-N-Out Burger in Twin Falls ended shortly after it began when a good guy with a gun stepped up to engage a bad guy. With a gun.



Good guy Jordan Salinas.

Upon hearing shots fired and seeing customers flee the burger joint, Jordan Salinas, 35, fell back on his training. He drew his suppressed FN Five-seveN from his shoulder holster and went through the four-step process: observe, orient, decide, act.



When he identified the active shooter and determined it was time to act, Salinas leveled his gun at the shooter and fired back. When confronted by Salinas's incoming fire — along with that of an off-duty state trooper — the gunman retreated and then tapped out, shooting himself before Salinas and the trooper did it for him. Three people were killed with another seven injured, but most agree that had it not been for the courage of a man trained and lawfully carrying his firearm, the death toll would have been far worse.



Bold early morning intruder shot dead

Rochester, NY (WROC) — A Rochester homeowner shot and killed an intruder who police say was trying to break into his Avery Street home early Monday morning.

Rochester police responded around 4:15 a.m. to the 300 block of Avery Street near Emerson Street.

RPD Capt. Frank Umbrino said the homeowner was awakened by someone attempting to enter through the back door. When officers arrived, they were met by the homeowner and found the suspected intruder inside the kitchen.

The intruder was pronounced dead at the scene.



You bite me, I shoot you

IL CCW holder dispatches vicious dog after attack

Morton, IL (25News Now) - A juvenile in Morton is being treated for injuries at a hospital after being attacked by two dogs in Morton earlier Thursday.

Morton Police were called around 11:55 a.m. to the 500 block of South Fourth Avenue to help a Tazewell County Animal Control officer investigating two dogs running at large.

The animal control officer found the dogs actively attacking the juvenile, police said. A Village of Morton employee and a private citizen stopped to provide aid before the juvenile was taken to the hospital.

Police Chief Shawn Darche said that before officers arrived, the dog that attacked the juvenile charged at the aforementioned citizen. That citizen, a concealed carry license holder, discharged a firearm and fatally shot the dog.

The second dog involved was captured by animal control. The owner of the dogs was identified.

Angry customer brings shotgun instead of ID, gets shot DRT

(Law Enforcement Today) - A Utah gas station became the scene of decisive civilian action when an armed man entered carrying a shotgun. According to police statements reported by *Breitbart*, the individual—identified in coverage as Ofa'tangikivaha Angilau—walked into the crowded Riverton business with the weapon, creating an immediate and serious threat to customers and staff.



Before the man could discharge the shotgun, a bystander already present intervened. The citizen recognized the danger, acted swiftly, and fired, fatally wounding the armed individual and ending the threat. Authorities later confirmed the bystander had stopped the man from using the shotgun and that the shooting is being investigated as a defensive act.

The intervention prevented what could have become a mass-casualty event inside a public business. Local police have praised the clarity and effectiveness of the civilian response while continuing their review of the circumstances. No officers fired the fatal shots; the outcome rested on the armed citizen's timely decision to protect those around him.

This incident underscores how prepared bystanders can neutralize an active armed threat before it escalates further.

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.

Small-town lesson: Don't pull that crap here

Atlas, IL (GSL) - We've all heard stories about feckless armed robbers trying to stick up a cop bar and seeing countless guns pointed back at him. Well, folks, small town establishments can be a lot like a big city cop bar. This story is a few years old but you get the idea...

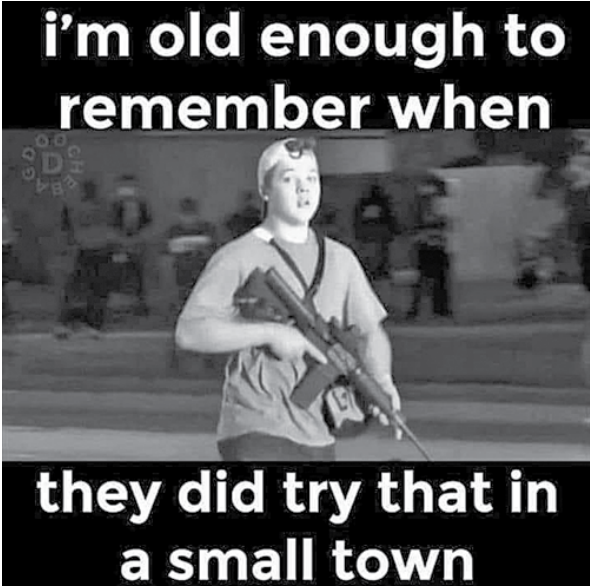
Christopher Yanczer walked into a quiet Pike County café thinking he had the upper hand. He pulled a gun and demanded money from the cashier. She told him no. He then threatened to shoot her.

That was nearly his last career mistake.

In the blink of an eye, employees and patrons swarmed him. No hesitation. What's more, plenty more of the patrons had produced their personal firearms ready to use ballistic therapy if needed.

There was no waiting for someone else to act. There was no “pretend I didn't see that” crap.

Instead, they piled on the would-be robber, pinned him to the floor, and held



him until police arrived.

What started as an armed stick-up ended with Yanczer learning the hard way that you don't pull that crap in a small town.

He came in waving threats. He left in handcuffs, courtesy of the very people he tried to intimidate. Small-town folks don't freeze when someone threatens their neighbors. They respond. Fast.

Here's a short, simple

message to every aspiring thug: if your plan involves walking into a small town business demanding cash, and threatening to shoot the person behind the counter, go back to the big city. Around here, the regulars serve more than coffee. They serve consequences.

And the local prosecutors and judges? They actually prosecute, then the judges send violent offenders off to prison, not home for hugs from grandma.

Percentage who carry continues to steadily increase

(CrimeResearch.org) - The CPRC hired McLaughlin & Associates to survey 1,000 general election voters on July 22nd, 2026 (cross tabs available here), regarding whether likely voters carry concealed handguns. In the survey, 15.7% carry all/most of the time, with another 15.2% carrying sometimes/rarely. The percent who carry all or most the time increased from 13.0% in December 2024 to 13.2% in May 2026 to 15.7% in July 2026. **But total percent who carry increased from 24.3% in December 2024 to 29.8% in May 2026 to 30.9% in July 2026. So the total who are carrying increased by 5.5 percentage points (from 24.3% to 29.8%).**



TERRANCE C. SULLIVAN, MANAGING BROKER

LYONS-SULLIVAN REALTY, INC.

321 W. MADISON STREET, PONTIAC, IL 61764

OFFICE 815-842-1400 | DIRECT 815-674-6299

LYONSSULLIVANREALTY.COM



Step back, look around... THEN GET EXCITED

by Guns Save Life

Let's be honest: if you spend enough time in the world of gun rights, it's easy to develop a permanent case of battle fatigue. Every week brings another legislative assault, another bureaucratic roadblock, another breathless headline screaming that the sky is falling. It's enough to make a person wonder if the whole thing is just one long, grinding holding action.

But every once in a while, it's worth stepping back from the daily trench warfare, and simply looking around. When you do, something surprising becomes clear: we are winning. Big time.

Not in every single fight. Not in every state. Not without scars. But compared to where this right stood not that long ago, the transformation is almost shocking. Before *Heller*, the Second Amendment had become for all practical purposes dead letter law. Judges, law professors and legislators treated it like a historical curiosity—something acknowledged in theory while brazenly ignoring in practice.

Then the lawsuits started. Ordinary people and a handful of stubborn organizations refused to accept the status quo. They took the long, expensive, often thankless road through the courts. And slowly, then suddenly, the landscape shifted. The individual right was affirmed. Scrutiny tightened. Lower courts were forced to stop treating the Second Amendment like a second-class provision. What was once dismissed as a relic is now a living, enforceable constitutional guarantee—black letter law.

That didn't happen by accident. It happened because people showed up, wrote checks, filed cases, and refused to quit. The plaintiffs and organizations who carried those fights deserve more than polite applause—they deserve recognition for accomplishing something that once looked nearly impossible.

The "new" NRA—some call it NRA 2.0—has been very instrumental in these court cases. This isn't your dad's NRA. This sure as hell isn't the NRA from Wayne LaPi-

erre's era. What's more, other organizations like the Second Amendment Foundation, Gun Owners of America, the Firearms Policy Coalition, and numerous others have been equally instrumental in turning the Second Amendment from "dead letter law" twenty years ago into black letter law today.

And this isn't just about guns. The same slow, grinding, occasionally miraculous process is how civil rights advance in this country. Free speech, due process, religious liberty, the right to be left alone—none of them stay secure by wishing really hard. They stay secure because people are willing to fight for them when it's inconvenient, expensive, and unpopular. The Second Amendment is simply the right that has been under the most sustained and creative assault in recent decades. Watching it claw its way back from near irrelevance should give every defender of liberty a jolt of encouragement.

So yes, the NFA remains a mess. State legislatures still dream up inventive new ways to harass lawful gun owners. The other side is not going to politely concede. But the direction of travel is unmistakable. The right to keep and bear arms has become stronger, the case law clearer, and the cultural taboo around firearms for self-defense is eroding. That is not nothing. That is progress.

Optimism isn't the same as naïveté. Hope isn't the same as complacency. The work continues. But after years of being told the cause was doomed, it is entirely reasonable—even healthy—to look at the ground that has been gained and feel a surge of genuine excitement.

The future of the Second Amendment, and of civil rights more broadly, is not written in stone. It is being written right now, case by case, state by state, citizen by citizen. And for the first time in a long time, the people writing it have reason to smile.

Step back. Look around. Then get excited. The fight is far from over, but the momentum is real.

MAIL CALL



Friends don't let friends sit out the election!

Conservatives keep getting bogged down in internal fights or refusing to vote because some Republican isn't seen as pure enough or for some, maybe too conservative for others. Meanwhile modern radical Democrats keep advancing a very different agenda: aggressive restrictions on semi-automatic rifles, standard-capacity magazines, and now they're even coming after 9mm pistols. Then there's soft-on-crime policies including no-cash bail and Soros-funded prosecutors who don't prosecute. Today's Dems want to defund or abolish police and prisons. They favor open-borders and oppose ICE just as vigorously. They embrace communist ideas and want to absorb radical Islamist elements. In some states, they've legislated abortion to birth.

Debating the finer points of conservatism and gun rights is healthy and necessary. But the only vehicle that can actually

block the more extreme version of the left is the Republican Party—flawed, compromised, and incomplete as it often is. So we must keep pushing our principles inside that party, and not stop participating altogether.

Once the nominees are chosen, the practical choice narrows: hold your nose and back candidates who deliver 50–75 percent of what you want, including some level of support for gun rights, or face an alternative that many see as a communist pagan death cult bent on dismantling the Second Amendment, packing the Supreme Court, eliminating the Electoral College and rewriting American culture.

There is no comfortable third option on the table. That is not a false dichotomy; it is simply the electoral reality as it stands.

Tom A.
Rockford, IL

Member benefits.

Greetings! My concealed carry instructor gave me a copy of *GunNews*. I'm interested in the benefits of GSL membership.

Specifically, could you tell me about the members-only Legal Defense Fund and discounts with some legal coverage providers?

Thank you.

Edmund P.
Nashville, IL

Editor responds: Mr. Ed, we offer \$500 towards your legal defense after an firearms-related arrest our board of directors deems improper or towards a member's legal defense in the aftermath of a defensive use of force involving a firearm.

As for discounts: We're down to one now, US Law Shield who waive the sign up fee for GSL members (and they give you two bonus months of coverage if you buy a year's coverage). USCCA did away with their 15% discount and we declined the 40% commission as our endorsements aren't for sale. And CCW Safe is considering offering something for our members.



Democrats Express Concern Over Increase In Gun Violence Against Active Shooters



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

When democracy turns to tyranny...



The armed citizen *still* gets to vote.



901 Detroit Ave Suite C Morton IL 61550

Mon-Fri 11-7, Sat 10-6

(309)291-5164

kamrange.com

Need a CCL class?

16-hour full class \$140

8-hour class \$85

3-hour renewal \$60

We offer classes monthly

Just want to shoot?

Lane fee \$19

Additional shooter \$11

Never a time limit!

You can shoot your own ammo

Need additional training?

Private instruction \$40

Memberships start at \$350/yr.

NRA Instructor Training

Need a firearm?

Over 500 guns in stock

New & Used

\$10 rentals/try before you buy

FREE rentals on Friday

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

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

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

Let us Help you Uphold your 2nd Amendment Right

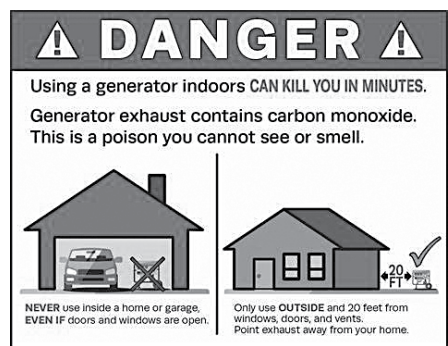
by John Boch
(GSL) - Congrats! You made it through Night One of a power outage. The inverter generator's purring quietly outside, the fridge and freezer are cold, and the sump pump and dehumidifier are keeping your basement bone dry. Your spouse has coffee and you got a few hours of decent sleep thanks to your CPAP. Compared to neighbors without generators, you're living like a king. Victory feels sweet.

Don't become a statistic. Here are the biggest Day Two (and beyond) screw-ups to avoid — and how to stay in the fight like the prepared American you are.

Give your gennie a minute or two to “warm up” and get stabilized once you start it. Remember to turn the choke off. Then plug in cords. *Then* start adding loads. In that order please. And don’t just “shut down” the unit while there are loads. That may not end well for your expensive devices/appliances. Read on, my friend.

Nothing says “hold my beer” like pouring gasoline onto a screaming-hot engine. Nobody *intends* to dump raw fuel onto hot engines, but you know what happens. Ever tried wrestling with those newfangled spouts in the dark? A momentary lapse of attention, or you slip. Or the tank overflows, and gas spills everywhere. If those vapors ignite, suddenly you and your backyard look like a *Tik Tok* video challenge gone poorly — minus the music but with way more hospital bills.

Fix: Turn off the loads. DON'T just unplug them. *Then* shut down the motor completely. Let it cool for a solid 15 minutes, and 30 is better. No exceptions. Especially at 2 a.m. when you're dead tired. (Pro-tip: Fuel before bedtime while you're awake and alert. Then again in the morning, when you're awake and alert.) Also very helpful: Buy a little battery powered fuel transfer pump from Harbor Freight. \$15. No more wrestling with those (*bleepety bleeping*) new-fangled spouts and slopping fuel from a heavy, five-gallon jug onto your generator, yourself and/or the ground.



Rain or snow starts falling and people suddenly think the generator needs to be tucked under an overhang or inside the garage with the overhead door cracked open. Then they get sleepy and don't wake up. Neither do their kids, their spouse or their pets. Carbon monoxide doesn't care about your good intentions — it'll kill you and your family silently while you congratulate yourself on keeping the machine dry.



NO! Don't do this! Never run a genset in your garage or just outside an open window.

Fix: Run it outside only. Downwind. At least 15-20 feet from any open doors or windows.

A little rain or snow won't hurt it. A little carbon monoxide will kill you.

Buy 12ga. drop cords. Or better yet, 10ga. cords for long runs (*over 100ft*). Yeah, they can be pricey, but your electronics will love you. Motors won't overheat from voltage sag and life will be better without greater risk of fire. *Win friends who don't know any better:* Give away your craptastic orange 16ga. cords to people you don't like.



In a rush to swap cords? You yank one out and jam another in while the generator's humming. Arcing happens when you do this along with other, unkind things. Sometimes you'll blow electronics to smithereens (*Raises hand... yeah, I've done it*). Or you can cause fires.

Fix: Shut down the loads, then unplug.
Bring devices online one at a time. Patience prevents pain, fire, and damaged/destroyed electronics.

Generators sip oil, especially under heavy load. Don't count on the low-oil shutoff. Check it daily. Change oil every 100 hours (or 25 hours for the first change with a new generator). Check it after that 15-30 minute pause *prior to refueling*. Treat your gennie like your favorite defensive rifle — maintenance and lubrication keeps it ready and running smoothly when your life depends on it.

In a word, don't. Know your unit's running and surge watts. Manage loads. You'll get the best fuel efficiency at 75% of rated running capacity (we've reported on this in *Gun-News* before). Running at 100% will shorten your generator's life. Meanwhile, "underloads" (using a 13,000 watt genset to run a CPAP and a box fan?) wastes a *lot* of fuel. 1600-3500W (running watts, not surge watts) portable inverter generators are a great size for most short-term emergency household or recreational use.

Fatigue makes us sloppy — the same way it can make you slow on the draw if trouble comes knocking. Get sleep and drink plenty of water. Concentration is the first thing to go when you're dehydrated. Add sleep deprivation to dehydration and you will become an accident waiting to happen (to yourself, mostly).

Stock spare oil of the proper weight, extra spark plugs, an air filter or two NOW. Enough to run your machine for a week or two.

You can store 10-20 gallons of stabilized fuel for your generator now, or you can hope you find a station that's pumping gas and doesn't have a two-block (or two hour) line for fuel if the outage is widespread or lasts more than a couple days.

Use PRI-G or Star Tron fuel stabilizers. They'll preserve gas for three plus years although it's smart to rotate every winter (because winter blend has more of the "good stuff" additives for easy starting).

The modern gas cans have a terrible nozzle,

but they seal tightly. That tight seal is what you want for storage. Solve the nozzle problem with a little \$15 battery-powered transfer pump from Harbor Freight.

Yes, propane doesn't go bad, and for those who have dual-fuel generators, it's a store-and-forget fuel source. (Just don't store them in your house/attached garage) Except you only get about 2.5kwh of electricity per gallon of LP gas, compared to about 5kwh for gasoline (using in inverter generator, efficiencies are lower with conventional generators). So your 20# portable tank of LP gas will give you about 12kwh of electricity. Plan accordingly.

It's day two and the folks without generators suddenly appreciate their value and utility. This only gets worse as the outage continues. Some ethically challenged perps from the neighborhood (sound carries a long way at night, folks) may hear your "steal me" beacon blocks away and decide to liberate your precious genset for their own use.



Layer your defenses: Avoid running it after dark unless you're present if it's not a very safe neighborhood. Lock your genset down using a cable lock to the hitch assembly of your SUV/truck or other fixed location even if it's a safe neighborhood. Lastly, a \$20 driveway alarm/motion sensor device (Harbor Freight, Menards or other home improvement store) placed nearby will alert you to anyone prowling around for extra peace of mind. Tape off the sensor window and paint it dark brown or whatever color to make its presence less obvious. Remove tape. Body disposal is on you.

Yes, you can safely use Ecoflow and similar power stations indoors (may be very handy for apartment dwellers). Basically they are a fancy battery (LiFePO4 in many cases) coupled to an power inverter in a pretty case

with a steep pricetag.



By day two though, unless you've been very miserly on your electrical consumption, you've burned through its battery. Even the 99-pound \$1800 3600W Power Station only has about a 3.6kwh capacity. That's enough to keep your refrigerator cold for a day or two, and run your CPAP, a fan and maybe a microwave now and then.

But without either a gas-powered generator or utility power to recharge it, you're soon going to be dead in the water. You can get a 4kwh expansion battery for an additional \$1800. It only weighs 72 pounds.



This is what it's all about... keeping your family safe and comfortable in the face of adversity.

Your generator is a tool of self-reliance, just like your firearms. Treat both with respect and they'll have your back when everything else fails.

Stay vigilant. Stay powered. And for crying out loud, don't blow yourself up on Day Two. You've got people counting on you who love you and need you.



Handcrafted Custom Knives

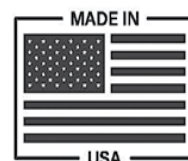
Dorian Mosack, Bladesmith
Army Veteran
2-time *Forged In Fire* Contestant

☎ 309.339.3224

 whiskeycityforge.bigcartel.com

f whiskey_city_forge_

 whiskey_city_forge_





Slide Release vs. Slingshot: Why are we still having this argument like it's a theological dispute?

by Damon Williams
GSL Member

(GSL) - In a recent training session with my church safety team, we were running an eight-round drill. Eight rounds in the gun. Miss a target, mandatory reload. Simple. Clean. No room for dogma.

I asked one of my guys, "Slide release or slingshot?"

He looked at me like I'd just suggested we pray to the slide stop. "My concealed carry instructor trained us never to use the slide stop as a release."

I blinked. "WHAT?!"

This is not the first time I've heard this sacred chant. Different instructor, same gospel: *Thou shalt not depress the slide stop, for it is holy and shall wear out if touched by mortal hands.* I'm getting real tired of the "my way is the only way and everyone else is a heretic" attitude that floats around the gun community like bad range air.

One student even told me his instructor claimed semi-auto slide stops will wear out if you dare use them as a release. Really?

Are there any gunsmiths in the audience who'd like to raise their hand and tell me how many "worn-out slide releases" have actually crossed their bench? I'll wait. *Crickets.* Exactly.

Let's look at two of America's favorite platforms: the 1911 and the Glock. On a 1911, removing the slide stop is part of field-stripping. It's designed to come out. On a Glock, swapping the slide stop means pulling the trigger pin. Worst-case scenario? Ten minutes of your life, five of which are spent watching a *YouTube* video while you mutter "why is this so simple."

If these parts were as fragile as the "never touch it" crowd claims, the aftermarket wouldn't be overflowing with extended slide releases. But it is. Because the claim is nonsense.

Debunked. Next.

Now the mechanics. Magazine runs dry. Slide locks back. You need to keep shooting. Drop the empty, slam a fresh one home... and then what?



Slide Release

Advantages: It's faster. Your support hand is already coming back to the grip. Your eyes are already finding the sights. The lever is right there under your thumb. Hit it and you're back in the fight while the other guy is still doing interpretive dance with the slide. **Disadvantages:** Timing. If you slap the release before the magazine is fully seated, nothing happens. Solution? You just slingshot it and move on with your life. It's not a moral failing. It's a training opportunity.

Some people clutch their pearls and say the slide release is a "fine motor skill" that will desert you under stress. Funny—so is the magazine release button, which is roughly the same size. Yet nobody tells you to start flinging magazines out with your teeth. On compact and subcompact guns the lever gets smaller and harder to find, sure. I'll grant that. And lefties have a learning curve because most guns were designed by right-handed people who apparently never met a south-paw. Still faster once you train it.



Slingshot

Advantages: Gross motor skill. Reliable. Feels manly. You get to rack the slide like you're in an action movie.

Disadvantages: It's slower. Your support hand has to leave the gun, grab the slide, yank, release, then find its way back to a proper grip while your sights are still wandering around looking for a home. Sweat, blood, or cold hands can make the slide feel like a greased pig. Elderly shooters or people with less upper-body strength sometimes struggle to overcome the spring at arm's length. And if you're wounded and working one-handed? Congratulations, the "gross motor skill" just became a real problem.

Untrained shooters also have a charming habit of dropping the gun toward their belt buckle while they perform the sacred rack, costing even more time. It's like watching someone reload in slow motion on purpose.

So Which One Wins?

Train. Figure it out for your gun, your hands, and your context. Build the muscle memory. Know the tool.

On a tiny pocket pistol with a recessed little lever that requires a search party and a flashlight? Defaulting to slingshot makes sense.

On a full-size competition gun where every tenth of a second matters and you're doing ten reloads in a stage? That slide release is buying you a full second over the guy still yanking on the slide like it owes him money. First place versus third place has been decided by less.

This is not theology. It's not purity testing. It's personal preference forged through repetition. Muscle memory doesn't care about your instructor's sacred cows. It cares about what you actually practiced until it became automatic.

Either method works if you've trained it. Neither method is "wrong."

Just stop treating a mechanical preference like a personality test. And for the love of all that is holy, stop claiming the slide stop is going to spontaneously disintegrate because you used it the way the designers intended. Now go train.

Cowboy Fast Draw!

by John Boch

(GSL) - Gary Stevens brought the high-speed world of the Cowboy Fast Draw Association (CFDA) to the Gun Owners of Sangamon County meeting, giving members a lively introduction to one of the most pure and challenging forms of Western shooting.

The CFDA is a non-profit organization dedicated to "safety first, fun second, and competition third." Its credo is simple: "The Cowboy Way in action and deed." Founded in 2002 and now operating as a 501(c)(3), the association has grown into the largest fast-draw organization in the world, issuing more than 7,500 membership numbers. Competitors use period-correct single-action revolvers and traditional Western holsters, drawing against electronic timers that measure times to the thousandth of a second.

The goal is straightforward: beat your opponent by hitting a steel target faster—usually best three or four out of a series. Misses do not count. A half-second draw is considered very respectable; the current record sits in the high .20s, around .28 seconds. As Stevens noted, slower shooters rarely miss, while the fastest often do. The real skill lies in balancing raw speed with accuracy.

Ammo is uniquely safe. Shooters load special .45 Long Colt cases with a 209 shotgun primer and a wax bullet. The primer alone drives the wax projectile at roughly 750 feet per second—fast enough to demand respect at close range, yet far safer than live ammunition if a round is accidentally discharged into a foot or leg. One colorful competitor who managed the feat twice now answers to the handle "Three Toes."

Aliases are part of the culture. Stevens himself is known as "The Rossiman" and serves on the leadership team of

the Prairie State Posse, Illinois' only CFDA-affiliated club, based in Chatham. An Indiana shooter competes under the memorable name "Hoosier Daddy." Good sportsmanship is non-negotiable. Just as in Cowboy Action Shooting, rude or unsportsmanlike behavior is quickly shown the door.



Stevens made it clear the game is pure fun mixed with genuine skill. Whether you are testing yourself against the clock or simply enjoying the camaraderie of like-minded Western shooters, Cowboy Fast Draw offers a unique blend of history, precision, and adrenaline. For those interested in trying it, the Prairie State Posse welcomes new members ready to chase that elusive sub-half-second draw the Cowboy Way.

Sullivan Gun Club

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



Bowling Pin Shoots

Reminder: Kids shoot free!

**Aug 8, Sep 12,
Oct 10, Nov 7**

subject to weather-related cancellations

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



Rimfire Shoots

Reminder: Kids shoot free!

**July 25, Aug 22, Sep 26,
Oct 24, Nov 21**

subject to weather-related cancellations

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

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

Matches start at 9a.m.

\$10 per firearm. Kids free.

Sign-in and warm up starting at 8a.m.

All dates are subject to the weather.

Follow us on Facebook for updates.

Give the gift of membership!

Gift Certss available year-round.

\$35 for individual membership.

\$60 for family membership.

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

Sullivan Gun Club, LLC

**1458 State Hwy 121
Sullivan IL 61951**

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



Storage Containers For Rent or Sale

Containers Available
in the following sizes:

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

Perfect for seed or chemical storage

MEL PRICE CONTAINERS

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

217 442-9092
prcml@yahoo.com

217 304-1722
melpricecontainers.com

TRT Update.

Continued from page 12.

session is stretching, balance, mobility, and corrective work. Then the weights. You don't need an hour a day to see dramatic changes once TRT is in the picture. But once you start seeing results, you tend to want more. That's not a bug. That's the feature.

Why this matters to Guns Save Life people

I write about this because I wish someone had grabbed me by the collar twenty years earlier and said, "Get your levels checked, dummy." And because I want our members living longer, stronger, and being harder to kill.

After previous pieces on this topic, scores of GSL guys have come up to me with the same story: "I'm losing weight, putting on muscle, sleeping better, feeling better, and loving it." A few even noted that blood sugar spikes calmed down dramatically. The details vary. The gratitude does not.

Yes, if you like the results you'll stay on it indefinitely—same as thyroid medication

or diabetes treatment. It's a cash expense for the doctor, the drugs, and the protein. Ask yourself what your life and your ability to protect the people you love are actually worth. Stronger, fitter people are simply harder to kill. That's not motivational poster talk. That's physics and biology.

For me, and potentially for plenty others, being able to keep up with the kids or grandkids is priceless. Being able to lift them up to ride on your shoulders feels rewarding.

A quick word for the ladies reading this: Menopause sucks. They politely call it "the change." *You do not have to surrender to it.* Get your hormones checked and if indicated, start proper hormone replacement therapy.

Protect your heart, lose the weight that wants to stick, restore your happiness, improve your romantic life, and actually enjoy the years ahead instead of just enduring them. The same outdated medical resistance exists on

the women's side. Find the specialists who know what they're doing.

Americans also still pour billions every year into supplements that might as well be labeled "snake oil with extra steps." If those products actually worked the way the labels claim, we would be the healthiest, happiest people on earth. Avoid the snake oil.

Other people jump straight to surgery or the newest expensive weight-loss shot and skip the part where they get stronger. Nothing's free in this world.

You only get one body. Take care of it.

All men's testosterone declines with age. It lowers your quality of life. You don't have to resign yourself to looking and feeling old. Get your hormone levels tested—men and women. Talk to experienced specialists who aren't still practicing 1980s medicine. Do the work. Live better. Enjoy life. Be harder to kill.

The Vital Health Benefits of TRT

Testosterone replacement therapy (TRT) is a game-changer for men suffering from low testosterone levels, also known as hypogonadism. This condition can *profoundly* impact physical and emotional health, affecting energy levels, mood, muscle mass and sexual function. In recent years, TRT has been recognized for its remarkable health benefits, making it an increasingly popular treatment option for men looking to regain their vitality and well-being. In this, we'll delve deeper into some of the vital health benefits of TRT.

1. Improved Energy Levels: One of the most notable benefits of TRT is the restoration of energy levels. Men suffering from low testosterone levels often experience fatigue, lethargy and a general lack of motivation. TRT helps to reverse these symptoms, increasing energy and vitality and enabling men to tackle daily activities with renewed vigor. (Check!)

2. Enhanced Mood: Testosterone plays a crucial role in regulating mood and emotional well-being. Low testosterone levels have been associated with depression, irritability, and mood swings. With TRT, men often report improved mood and reduced symptoms of depression, enabling them to take a more positive view of life. (Check!)



3. Increased Muscle Mass and Strength: Testosterone is a vital hormone for muscle development and maintenance. Men with low testosterone levels may experience muscle loss and reduced strength. When combined with proper exercise and diet, TRT can help stimulate muscle growth and improve strength, contributing to a more robust and active lifestyle. (Double check!)

4. Better Bone Density: Adequate testosterone levels are essential for maintaining healthy bone density. Low testosterone levels can reduce bone mass, making men more vulnerable to fractures and osteoporosis. TRT can help improve bone density, reduce the risk of bone-related problems and promote skeletal health. (Check!)

5. Improved Cognitive Function: Some studies have suggested that TRT can positively impact cognitive function. Memory, mental clarity, and concentration may improve with optimized testosterone levels. While further research is needed in this area, these potential cognitive benefits add to the overall benefits of TRT. (Oh yeah!)

6. Enhanced Libido & Sexual Function: Testosterone is a crucial hormone influencing sexual desire and performance in men. Men with low testosterone levels often experience decreased libido and sexual difficulties. TRT can rekindle the spark in the bedroom by increasing libido and improving erectile function, considerably boosting quality of life and intimate relationships. (Definitely.)

7. Cardiovascular Health: TRT can also have beneficial effects on cardiovascular health. Studies have shown that TRT can improve lipid profiles by reducing LDL cholesterol and triglycerides while increasing HDL cholesterol. These improvements in lipid levels may help reduce the risk of heart problems. (My bloodwork says check!)

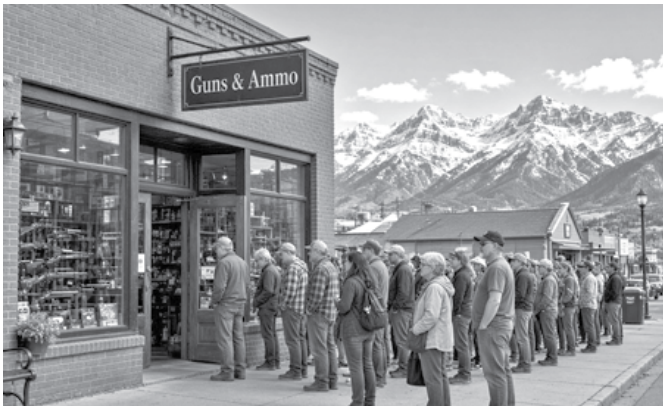
8. Weight Management: For men struggling with weight gain and obesity due to low testosterone levels, TRT can be a valuable tool for weight management. Testosterone helps to build lean muscle mass, increase the body's metabolic rate and facilitate fat loss when combined with regular exercise and a healthy diet. (Double check!)

9. Insulin Sensitivity: TRT has shown promising effects on insulin sensitivity. Improvements in insulin sensitivity may benefit men with diabetes or insulin resistance, potentially helping them to manage their blood sugar levels more effectively. (Unknown.)

Conclusion: Testosterone replacement therapy has demonstrated various health benefits for men with low testosterone levels. From increased energy and mood to improved muscle mass, bone density and sexual function, TRT can significantly improve a man's overall well-being and quality of life. However, it is essential to consult a qualified healthcare professional before starting hormone replacement therapy to obtain a personalized treatment plan that meets individual health needs and goals. With proper medical follow-up, TRT can be a powerful and transformative solution for men seeking to optimize their testosterone levels and regain vitality.

Colorado’s new gun law leads to massive spike in gun sales ahead of effective date

Colorado (GSL) - Senate Bill 25-003, signed by Gov. Jared Polis, took effect August 1, 2026. It generally bans the sale and purchase of many commonly owned semiautomatic rifles, shotguns, and certain handguns with detachable magazines unless buyers first obtain a sheriff-issued eligibility card and complete a mandatory in-person firearms safety course (4 or 12 hours depending on prior training), pass a written exam and practical shooting test with at least 90%, and pay associated fees (including a \$52 state record fee plus possible sheriff and instructor charges).



Faced with these new government hurdles, training requirements, and added costs, tens of thousands of Coloradans raced to buy the covered firearms while they could still do so under the prior rules. According to NSSF data cited in the article, Colorado completed 82,103 firearm background checks in July—up 264% from the 22,507 checks in July of the previous year. Other reports using Colorado Bureau of Investigation figures put the July total at roughly 59,000 checks, a roughly 195–300% increase over the prior year, with daily volumes sometimes reaching Black Friday levels.

Gun shops reported long lines, record monthly sales, and more than 100 customers per day at some locations. The surge reflected law-abiding buyers exercising their rights before the new permission-slip system made purchases slower, more expensive, and more bureaucratic.

10+ million American felons may be eligible
Federal firearm rights restoration pathway 30 days away...

(US DOJ) - As one of his first actions as Attorney General, Todd Blanche today finalized a federal regulation and launched a new process allowing eligible individuals who are prohibited from possessing firearms to apply for restoration of their federal firearm rights.

“The Second Amendment is not a second-class right, and the federal government should not permanently deprive Americans of a constitutional right without regard to whether they pose a danger to public safety,” said Attorney General Todd Blanche. “This rule establishes a rigorous, commonsense process that protects the public while giving deserving Americans a real path to restoration.”

For more than three decades, the statutory process Congress created under 18 U.S.C. § 925(c) was effectively unavailable to most individuals seeking relief from federal firearms disabilities. The final rule restores a functioning process for the individualized consideration Congress authorized and advances President Trump’s directive to protect the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding Americans.

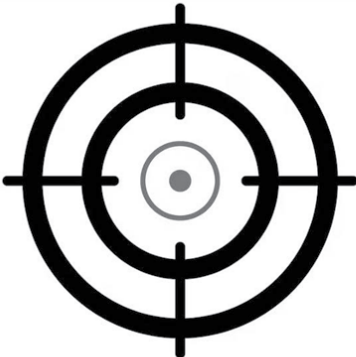
Under the final rule, restoration of firearm rights is neither automatic nor guaranteed. Each applicant must establish to the Attorney General’s satisfaction that the circumstances giving rise to the prohibition, together with the applicant’s record, reputation, and subsequent conduct, demonstrate that the applicant is not likely to act in a manner dangerous to public safety and that granting relief would not be contrary to the public interest. The Department will consider the facts and circumstances of each application, while maintaining strong presumptions against relief for individuals whose crimes, conduct, or status demonstrate heightened risks to public safety. Absent extraordinary circumstances, violent felons, registered sex offenders, illegal aliens, and other individuals who present an ongoing danger will remain presumptively ineligible for relief. Any relief granted under the rule removes only applicable federal firearms disabilities and does not override independent restrictions imposed by state law.

“I Shoot with You!”

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

Individuals and Families

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



Business

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

Want GunNews for your business or organization?

If you cannot secure a volunteer to bring your business, range or organization a bundle of GunNews from one of our distribution hubs, we can mail a priority mail medium box filled with about 50-55 copies of GunNews to you each month. All we ask is that you pay in advance for postage costs. These will arrive about six days after the third Tuesday of the month. Email jboch@gunssavelifelife.com for more information.

\$234 for 12 months.

WE DEFEND YOUR RIGHT TO DEFEND YOURSELF.
COMPLIMENTARY TAKE ONE

GUNNEWS

SECOND AMENDMENT NEWS AND MORE
PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY GUNS SAVE LIFE, INC. VOLUME 33, NUMBER 6 JUNE 2026
AFFILIATED WITH ILLINOIS GUN RIGHTS ALLIANCE, JPFO, NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION, ILLINOIS FEDERATION FOR OUTDOOR RESOURCES AND OTHERS

Advertising Opportunities

GSL currently prints about **20,050 copies** of GunNews, distributed primarily in Illinois to members and select distribution sites. We have members in 39+ states.

Description	Dimensions	Single (each)	4+ (each)	Annual
Full page	10.125"x15"	\$250	\$200	\$150
Half vertical	5" x 15"	\$150	\$125	\$100
Half horizontal	10.125" x 7.25"	\$150	\$125	\$100
Quarter vertical	5" x 7.25"	\$100	\$80	\$65
Quarter horizontal	2.5" x 15"	\$100	\$80	\$65
Eighth vertical	2.5" x 7"	\$65	\$50	\$40
Eighth horizontal	7" x 2.5"	\$65	\$50	\$40

Ad Submission Information

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

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

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



Gerald Arnholt • Financial Advisor

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



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

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

Calendar

GUN SHOWS...

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 fxrt1984@gmail.com or 708 921-6768.

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



NRA FREEDOM ACTION FOUNDATION
formerly the Friends of NRA



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.



We LOVE hate mail!
HATE MAIL!

Dear Rich Goodall:

Around 2100 BCE hunter gatherers began collecting wheat grain from plants that had heads that didn't drop their seeds upon harvest. They saved some of these seeds and planted them the next season and the first domestication of a plant started. Though at the time they knew nothing about genes.

In 1859 Darwin published his classic work On the Origin of Species. In 1866 Gregor Mendel published his work on plant hybrids. Both works weren't fully accepted at the time and Origin of Species has been grossly misunderstood. Both men were fully aware that certain traits were inheritable, though they didn't understand the full mechanism. Mendel's work became more accepted in 1925.

Then in the 1950s the Double Helix structure of DNA was discovered and led to the unraveling and identification of the structure of all living things.

With Darwin, survival of the fittest does NOT go to the meanest and toughest junk yard dog on the block, or to the person with the stockpile of guns and weapons

in his garage or basement, NOR to the nation with the most advanced and sophisticated technology. You should have learned this from an honest look at History and Science.

Survival of the fittest goes to the organisms that have the greatest genetic (DNA) and molecular diversity. AND this DIVERSITY gives the organism the greatest ability to adapt to changing times.

I was given a copy of your GunNews newspaper to look at. And I realized that it is full of the expression of your (and your supporters) greatest fears—that you are being replaced.

We also saw this with the white supremacists chanting at their marches—We will not be replaced. They are fully aware, though in denial that they and their beliefs and life style are being replaced by PROGRESSIVE, LIFE and GROWTH enhancing “Leftist” ideologies that recognize the value of honor, integrity, and that “might does NOT make right”, AND that DIVERSITY and WOKE culture are our nations greatest strengths.

AND unlike you and your supporters we actually accept the reality that ALL humans are created equal (though there is a great variation in abilities and interests) AND that they are endowed with the inalienable rights to Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness.

Your failure to adapt to changing times, your distrust (and white washing) of Science and History and current events are leading you on an accelerated path of self-extinction.

A concerned Citizen and REAL American Patriot. AND your nemesis, an educated, intelligent woman who knows that TRUE STRENGTH does not come from bluster and physical violence it comes from self-governing, self-control, self-discipline, self-restraint and the willingness to give up some rights for the benefit of the GREATER COMMON GOOD.

Oh I am not signing my name because I realize how threatened and vindictive folks like you and your followers can be when confronted with TRUTHS that you are unable to refute!

Coward refused to sign Champaign, IL

GSL LEADERSHIP DIRECTORY

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

John Boch Executive Director jboch@gunssavellife.com 217 649-3702	Keith Pippin keith.pippin@yahoo.com	LaSalle County Glenn Pratt pratman1776@yahoo.com 708 822-4735
OFFICERS Rich Goodall President casbrisco@yahoo.com 309-737-0974	Glenn Pratt pratman1776@yahoo.com 708 822-4735	Northwest Chicagoland Eric North ericnorth283@gmail.com 708 932-1636
John Coyne Vice-President johncoyne2010@gmail.com 847 361-6201	Dave Randolph bowfisher5@hotmail.com	Sangamon County Director Tim Wier timothywier@yahoo.com
Treasurer Joanne Chandler weims4me_us@yahoo.com	Ken Rishel krishel@gunssavellife.com	Decatur Bill Hutton billhutton2000@gmail.com
Tracy Bettinger Corporate Secretary 217 254-1772 sullivangunclub@yahoo.com	Charles L. Sykes charles@effectivefirearms.com	Danville John “Jack” Land johnfland1962@gmail.com 217 497-1866
Dale Lock Immediate Past President lockdale1953@gmail.com 217-670-9786	Tim Wier timothywier@yahoo.com	Quincy Kristen Garrett kristengarrett17@gmail.com 217 779-2675
DIRECTORS Chad Berck cberck@gmail.com 309 531-4851	REGIONAL Champaign County Dick Brandt rbrandt720@aol.com 217-778-3800	TEAM LEADERS GunNews Distribution Warren Drake 217 898-9602
Joel Gain joelgain37@yahoo.com 217 632-3267	Pontiac NOW HIRING!	GunNews Editor John Boch JBoch@gunssavellife.com 217 649-3702
Don Jensen djensen@jvnet.com	Charleston Co-Director Keith Pippin keith.pippin@yahoo.com 217 259-7420	Gun & Trade Shows Carlin Anderson canderson@uslawshield.com 217-371-4025
Howard Kaye FXRT1984@gmail.com 708 921-6768	Charleston Co-Director Justin Bawcum bawcum.justin@gmail.com 217-508-8459	Membership Services Andy McLaughlin Team Lead Mclaughlin.iii.1776@gmail.com
Kristen Garrett kristengarrett17@gmail.com 217 779-2675	Peoria Richard Parks richardsguns01@hotmail.com 309 645-4603	
	Chicagoand Alfreda Keith Keller fredaka9@comcast.net 708-800-5263	

Our diplomacy muscle is strained and resting
Our response.

So the self-proclaimed “educated, intelligent woman” and “REAL American Patriot” is too yellow to sign her name. Classic. How inspiring.

She spent two pages force-feeding Darwin and DNA through a blender until they came out as a lukewarm woke sermon, then bolted under the rock like a child-molesting pedophile who just heard the boots of police on her porch. Why hide if your sacred ideas are so destined to replace the rest of us knuckle-dragging bitter clingers—who still have the gall to love our country, our guns, and our God?

Judging by the handwriting, she's just another white hippie relic still cosplaying her 1960s protest glory days, complete with the same recycled slogans and the same inability to grow up. Fine. Maybe she was wearing her N95 mask while typing her missive. Either way, she'll be gumming tapioca and arguing with the night nurse about “systemic oppression” and “the patriarchy” in her final days while we keep putting America's freedom, liberty and national interests first—not last.

We've got a whole lot of problems in our society caused by “educated, intelligent women” like this one who swill cheap box wine, preside over a kingdom of cats, and issue moral decrees between episodes of The View. She demands the rest of us surrender our God-given rights for the “GREATER COMMON GOOD,” yet won't even risk her own name on a sheet of paper. That's not principle. That's not courage. It's cowardice.

She's no doubt cheered the cancellation of some, the stolen elections, the assassination of Charlie Kirk, and the attempted assassinations of President Trump. Now she's suddenly terrified the same treatment might wander her direction.

Survival of the fittest never meant throwing open the gates to every incompatible ideology and calling the host population's extinction “progress.” Societies that abandon borders, families, and the right to keep arms don't get replaced by chunky noble theorists in yoga pants and butt ugly turquoise jewelry.

Sign your name next time, “Patriot.” Or keep hiding. We can smell the fear, the mothballs, the litter box, and the soiled Depends from here.

It's not a pretty sight or smell — but it is an entertaining one.



Bring enough gun

Women fight off black bear in Wyoming

(GSL) - Two Wyoming women, four dogs, and one very bold black bear turned a peaceful Bighorn Mountains camping trip into a midnight horror show that would make any outdoorsman rethink the phrase “just a black bear.”

Shonna Kaye Dehl and Maggie Bassett had done everything right—clean camp, food locked up, experience under their belts.

Then, around 11 p.m., the first tent got hit. Hard. Maggie yelled. The dogs growled. The bear answered by ripping fabric like it was opening a Christmas present.

She grabbed her .38 Special and fired a warning shot at its feet. Nothing. The revolver that feels plenty stout for two-legged trouble suddenly looked like a pellet gun against a large, fearless boar that simply did not care. Twenty minutes of pure chaos followed—screaming, barking, circling, another shot—before the beast finally faded into the dark. The ladies took shelter in a vehicle. Mr. Bear came back later and shredded both tents for good measure.

Lesson delivered with claws: when the woods throw teeth at you, a .38 is better than a sharp stick... but only barely. As the old Springfield Armory ad said, “Bring enough gun.” Ladies, that 10mm Dehl carried? That’s the conversation starter. The .38 is the punchline you hope you never deliver.



Austin: Soros DA = 74% Higher Homicide Rate

(GSL) - The difference between a prosecutor who prosecutes and one who does not is stark. In Austin, Soros-funded District Attorney Jose Garza has delivered a 74% higher homicide rate in the first half of 2026 compared to 2019—while murders plunged nationwide by 18% from 2025 and 51% from the 2022 peak. Garza drops charges, reduces felonies, and lets cases die through delay, turning the justice system into a free pass for violent criminals.

Dallas tells the same story under its own Soros-backed DA, John Creuzot: homicides jumped 30% from the first half of 2025. Minneapolis and Norfolk, also run by Soros protégés, posted rising body counts while serious prosecutors elsewhere drove crime down. These soft-on-crime ideologues treat prosecution as optional and public safety as expendable. Citizens pay with their lives for the difference between prosecutors who fight crime and those bankrolled to look the other way. Governor Abbott is right—rogue DAs like these must be stripped of power before more blood is spilled.



Busted! Now former Deputy Police Commissioner Jennifer Lackard wearing friendship bracelets.

NY police official drove her thug son to drive-by gang shooting

NYC (NY Daily News) - Chase Lackard, 20, son of then-Mount Vernon Police Deputy Commissioner Jennifer Lackard, was arrested for shooting at rival “Slutty Gang” members outside a Bronx courthouse on June 29, 2026.

He had just appeared in court on a prior gun case from a 2024 clash in which NYPD officers shot him after he allegedly pointed a pistol at them. Prosecutors say he and his parents circled the courthouse, he exited then re-entered their van, and fired multiple shots from the vehicle; no one was hit. Text messages show his mother coaching the timing.

Jennifer (fired after arrest) and Chase face attempted murder and conspiracy charges; his father is also charged and at large. Chase was held without bail.



Do want! XM-913 50mm chain gun.

U.S. Army looking to 50mm chain gun for counter-drone work

Huntsville, AL (AviationWeek) —The U.S. Army wants to adapt its XM913 50mm cannon to counter drones as the service presses for cheaper options to take down the threats.

The service on Aug. 10 released a solicitation to integrate the gun into a system that can track and shoot down Group 1-3 uncrewed aircraft systems.

The Army selected the Picatinny Arsenal-designed XM913 chain gun for its Next Generation Combat Vehicle.

You can’t hate the MSM enough...

(GSL) - Human Events website actually published a story with this headline:

Berlin LGBTQ activist wishes white Christian had carried out deadly anti-gay terror attack, not Islamist

They’re not mad that a Muslim terrorist killed a woman and injured 29 others at a pride event. They’re mad because the perp wasn’t Christian. Maybe he can get a circumcision and we can pretend he’s Jewish.

New Orleans joins Seattle, Atlanta with AI in 911 systems

(GSL) - AI customer service bots already test our patience with endless loops, misunderstood requests, and robotic replies that miss obvious context. Now imagine that same technology sorting life-or-death 911 calls. New Orleans is rolling out AI Emergency Call Triage from Carbyne to handle incoming emergency lines—triaging high-priority cases to humans while auto-managing repeats and diverting lower ones. Seattle and Atlanta have similar systems.

The problem is fundamental: AI still struggles to accurately understand people. Real emergencies are chaotic. Callers scream, pant, speak through tears, use slang, or give fragmented

details under extreme stress. Accent, background noise, overlapping voices, or incomplete sentences routinely trip up even advanced models. A recent study found voice AIs generating false claims up to half the time.



Students choosing colleges by gun laws

The Great College Sort

(GSL) - College selection used to revolve around academics, cost, and campus life. Increasingly, it is driven by politics—and specifically by gun laws.



Surveys show campus carry and state firearm policies now rank among the top factors for many prospective students. One recent poll found 63 percent of college-bound teens said gun laws would have a moderate or significant impact on their choice. Of those most concerned, the overwhelming majority preferred restrictive policies. Some students openly report ruling out schools in Texas, Florida, and other

shall-issue or constitutional-carry states because they feel unsafe without strict gun control. Some limit applications entirely to blue states.

The sorting runs both ways. Other students and families deliberately seek out campuses and states that respect the right to keep and bear arms, including those that permit campus carry. For them, the ability to protect oneself is a feature, not a bug. They view “gun-free” zones as invitations to criminals rather than a make-believe safeguard. Some also prioritize schools with active shooting programs—competitive rifle, pistol, or shotgun teams—where firearms are treated as tools of sport and skill rather than symbols of danger.

The result is a clearer geographic and cultural divide. Students who prioritize feeling protected by government restrictions cluster in one set of institutions. Students who value self-reliance and shooting sports cluster in another. The “great sort” is no longer theoretical. It is already shaping enrollment patterns, one application at a time.

Why is the left so violent?

Anti-hunting radicals put \$10,000 bounty on Wyoming hunters

(GSL) - Some anti-hunting activists have decided that legal wolf hunting in Wyoming is a personal insult. After Yellowstone’s famous Mollie’s Pack wandered outside the park and into a legal hunt area, one influencer put up a \$10,000 bounty for the names of any hunters who take a wolf from the pack this fall.

This is not advocacy. It is fascist behavior. Offering cash for the private information of citizens engaged in a lawful activity is an attempt to intimidate and threaten people these activists politically disagree

with. Wyoming already protects hunter identities for a reason—because past experience showed what happens when names get handed to people who think animals matter more than human beings.



These same left-wing activists romanticize wolves while treating hunters as villains. Crossing the line from loud opinions into doxxing and thinly veiled threats of violence against armed men is a dangerous game. It’s a good way for the loudest lunatics to get themselves killed, just like the Pretti guy in Minnesota who decided trying to shoot ICE officers was a smart career move.

Wildlife is managed by population science, not by Facebook fan clubs and cash bounties on lawful hunters.

Pedestrians move faster with mountain lions nearby as well

Mountain lions improve California road safety, new study finds

(SF Gate) - California drivers hit as many as 100,000 deer each year by some estimates. Without wild cats, that tally could be even larger, according to new research.

In a study published Wednesday in the journal Current Biology, scientists found that the odds of a vehicle colliding with deer shrank by 67% in areas where mountain lions roam.

To explain this phenomenon, the researchers reason that the lions have a hunting advantage at forest edges, where trees meet a field or road. To avoid their lurking predators in these places, deer move into more remote habitat.



The best of X:

Turning lemons into lemonade

@SirEviscerate

Standing next to a wheelbarrow full of BBQ sauce

"Look, no one is arguing the zoo fire isn't a horrible tragedy..."

Three truths in religion

@SGTWipper1Each

There are three truths in religion:

- 1) Jewish people do not recognize Jesus as the Messiah.
- 2) Protestants do not recognize the Pope as the leader of the Christian faith.
- 3) Baptists don't recognize each other in the liquor store.



Tony Fauci's charming wife flipping the bird to the media. Note how she's not wearing her wedding ring. Maybe she just asked Tony about all the Hollywood starlets he was cozying up to in his diary and he answered, "On the advice of counsel..."



Join the Guns Save Life family today!

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

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

Sign up online at: **GunsSaveLife.com/join**

SIGN UP HERE!

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State and Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

(for urgent alerts only)

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

Membership:

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

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

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

Guns Save Life
PO Box 51
Savoy, IL 61874

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

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

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

