

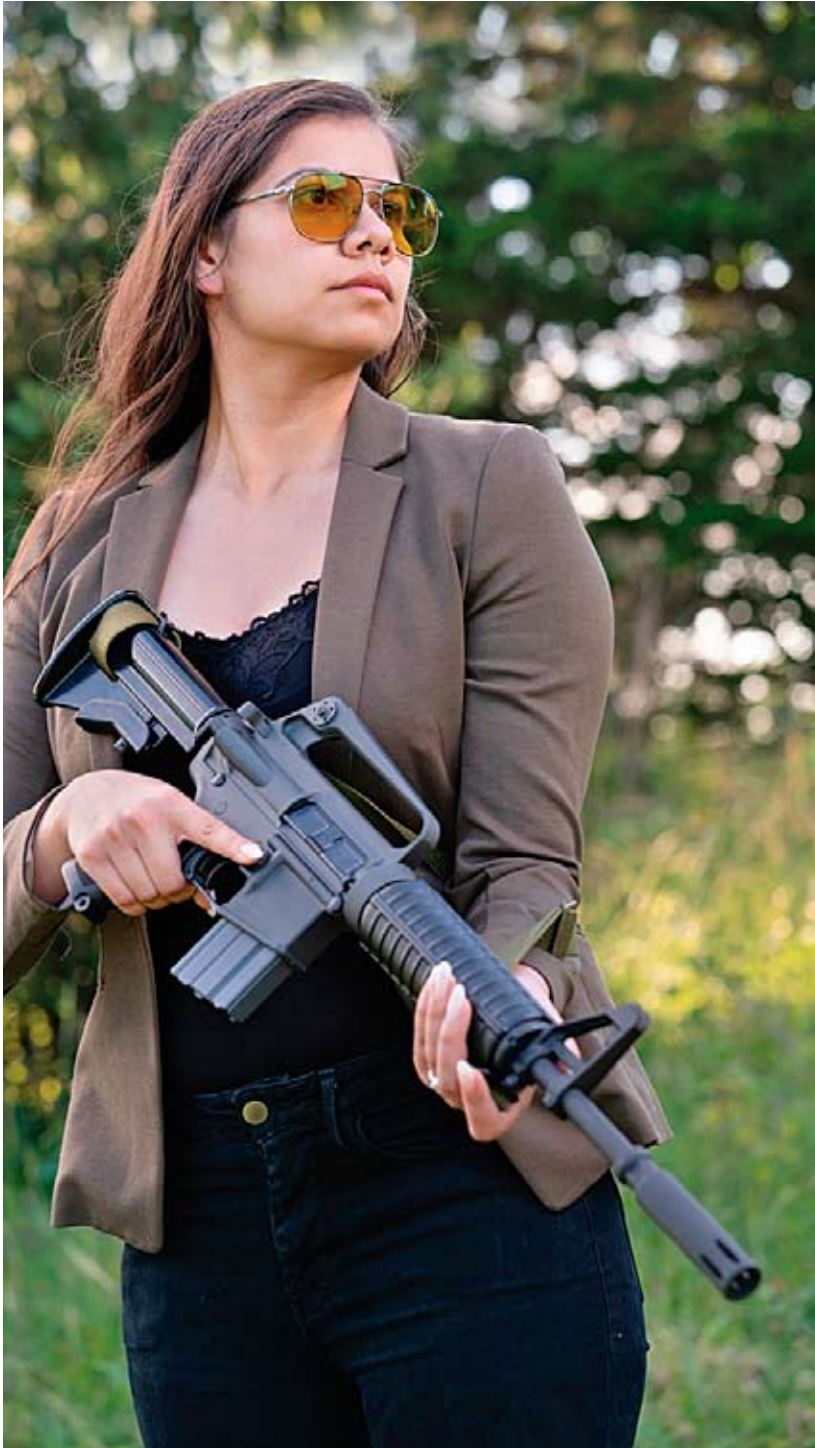


Image courtesy Oleg Volk.

DATA THEY DIDN'T WANT

- National Firearms Survey* shows:
- * 60% growth in people who carry firearms since '21
 - * More Americans currently own ARs
 - * Majority of Americans own 'regulated' magazines
 - * 2.2 MILLION defensive gun uses each year
 - * Minorities, women are among biggest buyers

(GSL) - Gun-control activists spent years demanding "better data" on firearms ownership. Georgetown professor William English gave it to them in 2021. They didn't like what he found.

They're going to like the new data even less.

In 2021, English published the *National Firearms Survey*, the most detailed look yet at who owns guns and why. It found defensive gun uses were common, semi-automatic rifles and standard-capacity magazines were widely owned for lawful reasons, and the usual stereotypes about gun owners did not hold. Activists attacked the methodology, the wording, and the author. English answered by running the survey again—this time addressing their complaints. The 2026 results are way worse for anti-gun talking points, not better.



Those "weapons of war" keep multiplying. Critics said the first survey inflated AR-15 numbers by counting people who ever owned one and by using language that swept in too many rifles. The new survey asked whether respondents *currently*

own an AR-15 or a similarly styled semiautomatic rifle with a pistol grip—the feature that appears in almost every "assault weapon" ban. Estimate: **26.4 million American adults own these guns**. That is higher than the 24.6 million the 2021 survey said had *ever* owned one, *after five years of "get them off the streets" campaigns*.

Magazines followed the same path. In 2021, about 39 million gun owners were estimated to have ever owned a magazine over 10 rounds (48 percent). In 2026, 44.5 million currently own one or more, and a slight majority of gun owners (50.5 percent) now do.

Defensive use was undercounted, not invented. The 2021 survey put civilian defensive gun uses at 1.67 million a year. Critics called that implausi-

Continued on page 22.

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Join GSL. Application here.
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October 2026

- **Quincy:** Last Wednesday: **October 28**, No Nov/Dec meetings
Eagles Club, 3737 N. Fifth Street, Quincy
- **Chicagoland:** Last Sunday: **September 27** (*check website*)
Main Street Exchange Pizza Bar, 25346 S. Dixie Highway, Crete
Exhibits and conversation here at 4:30pm. Program at 5:30pm.
- **Sangamon County:** **October 5**, November 2, December 7
Air Combat Museum, 835 S. Airport Dr., Springfield
- **Pontiac:** First Tuesday: **October 6**, November 3, December 1
Pontiac Sportsman's Club, 18663 4-H Park Road, Pontiac
- **Decatur:** First Wednesday: **October 7**, November 4, December 2
Coz's Pizza, 1405 East Village Parkway, Mt Zion (*Program at 6:45pm*)
- **Peoria:** First Thursday: **October 1**, November 5, December 3
Barrack's Banquet Center, 1224 Pioneer Parkway, Peoria
Dinner and conversation here at 5:30pm. Program at 6:30ish.
- **Danville:** Second Monday **October 12**, November 9, December 14
Ela's Restaurant, 1111 E. Voorhees St., Danville
- **Northwest Chicagoland:** Second Wed: (*check website*)
Prairie House Tavern, 2710 Main St., Buffalo Grove
Dinner and conversation here at 5:30pm. Program at 6pm-ish.
- **Mattoon:** Second Thursday: **October 8**, November 12, December 10
The American Legion Post 88, 1903 Maple Ave, Mattoon
- **LaSalle County:** Third Thursday: **October 15...** Nov. 19 (*check website*)
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



Dave Randolph lead us in Decatur as our fearless leader was absent.



Rick won a pair of guns at Pontiac.



Glenn Pratt, or LaSalle County Regional Director, with Bob who won a single-action revolver in August!



Bryan won a new deer rifle in Decatur.



History comes to life in Decatur Here's a rimfire rifle made about 125 years ago. You don't see these everyday.



Ed won the gun in Mattoon! He's all grins. Winning a gun is fun!



Jim Brown on a private gun sale purchase - in Indiana. "He took my money and handed me a rifle. That was it."



NICE TRUCK! GSL's name was front and center at the Grand Ridge Parade! Thanks to Glenn and all the rest who made it possible!

Post Office gun prohibition ended for SAF, FPC members

(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.

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 fire-arm carry is otherwise prohibited.



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.

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.**



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What I'll do as Illinois AG — And why I can win

At a Lincoln Day dinner, someone needled me for being a former Democrat. Easy answer: Chicago Democrats used to be halfway sane. Then they lost faith, freedom, and the idea that the Second Amendment is not a second-class right. That history isn't baggage. It's how I win.

January 11, 2027: I am sworn in as Illinois Attorney General. Day one I side with the plaintiffs in *Viramontes v. Cook County* — the Supreme Court case that decides whether Illinois's gun ban lives or dies. Day one I side with the plaintiffs in *Laurent v. Kelly*, the FOID challenge. Kwame Raoul will do neither. That's the November choice.

Nobody else on a statewide Republican ballot in a generation has my Cook County numbers. Against Toni Preckwinkle in 2022: 30 percent. Against Eileen O'Neill Burke in 2024: just over 28. Add the Libertarians who peeled Republican votes and it's 33 percent both times. No Libertarian in this race. Topinka and Rauner won statewide in that same 33–35 percent band. My Cook County floor is already in the win column.

Libertarians aren't theoretical. Justin Tucker, a Cook County LP official, is a plaintiff in *Laurent*. Sheriff candidate Brad Sandefur endorsed me. I earned those votes as Chicago's 2nd Ward alderman before I was gerrymandered out for being independent. Downstate Republicans don't have that following inside Cook. I do. That's the math that beats Raoul.

Guns Save Life already knows this fight. You're in *Barnett v. Raoul* and have been in court over FOID since 2019. Raoul dropped his name as defendant in 2020 and kept defending the law anyway. I use the AG's discretion the other way: stop defending it.

Judge McGlynn struck down PICA in November 2024. Raoul appealed that night. If I'd held the office, no appeal —

PICA already dead. The Seventh Circuit revived it nine days after the Supreme Court took *Viramontes*. Cook County's ordinance is the same ban. Raoul will file another amicus defending it. I won't. No brief for Cook County. No brief for any Second Amendment infringement. If *Viramontes* is still open January 11, I brief for the plaintiffs.



Bob Fioretti. Candidate for Illinois Attorney General.

FOID is next. *Laurent* says Illinois's permission slip violates the Second and Fourteenth Amendments. Raoul is defending it. I will not spend tax dollars treating a constitutional right like a license the state can yank.

Side with Cook County? No. Keep defending FOID? No. One more brief for one more ban? No. Defend Illinois gun owners? Yes.

2.4 million FOID holders live here — more than Raoul's 2.2 million votes in 2022. Courtrooms are slow. November is not. Get the guy at the range who never registered. That's how this leaves "maybe" and enters too-big-to-rig. The vote puts a defender in the building.

Bob Fioretti
Illinois

Was she high while conducting state business? If so, it explains a lot...

Anti-gun Dem. Rep. faces ethics probe for sex harassment & drug abuse allegations

(GSL) - Springfield's ethics problem isn't a rumor. It's a pattern.

State Rep. Amy Murri Briel, D-Ottawa, is accused by her former chief of staff of sexual comments about making staff a "prize," talk of an "older woman lover," passing Adderall, and abusing drugs—conducting state business while high on marijuana, including a joint then a constituent meeting and a THC vape in a taxpayer office.

Maybe this explains the poor public policy coming out of Springfield. The same lawmaker backs all manner of gun control schemes including gun and magazine bans and more. The staffer says the inspector general buried her complaint. Briel calls it a MAGA smear already tossed. Release the report.



Rep. Amy Murri Briel at a meeting.

Voters get lectures from a caucus that protects its own. Competence doesn't grow in a haze. Springfield keeps proving it prefers the haze.



Join GSL, because IL doesn't give you a second chance to be ready.

A locked door is not a plan. A pistol in the safe is inventory. What keeps a home invasion from becoming a funeral — and a good shoot from becoming a second disaster — is information, people, and a paper trail you can actually use.

That is what Guns Save Life is for.

Every month, GSL chapters meet across the Land of Lincoln. Dinner is optional. The program is not. You get speakers and subject matter experts who have been there, done that — plus news and analysis you will not get from the evening news or a Springfield press release. Meetings are free and open to the public. Membership is how we keep the lights on and the magazine in the mailbox.

And yes: members get *GunNews* delivered to the house every month. At least when the Post Office wants to deliver it. Twenty-four pages packed with Illinois-centric reporting.

This October issue is why that mailbox matters.

A Freeport mother shot a 13-year-old thug who forced her door with a hunting knife and tried to gut her son "like a hog." She stopped the attack. Then the system bagged her gun as evidence, sat her in an interrogation room, and sent her home disarmed while the invader's family organized a "Justice for Jasiyah" rally and talked revenge. GSL stood behind her.

GSL's John Boch gave her a replacement pistol, ammo, a holster. The local police are giving her extra patrols. If we could do that for her, imagine what we could do for you. We're doing it each month on the pages of *GunNews* so you avoid common mistakes other people make - like giving statements to the police in the aftermath of using deadly force.

This same issue tells you what a *Viramontes* win actually does to your AR-, your magazines, and your dealer. Oral arguments are December 2. A holding that AR-platform rifles are arms in common use does not have to wait for the General Assembly to "incorporate" it. The ban becomes legally indefensible the morning the opinion drops. Springfield will still sulk. Dealers will still want cover. Magazines may be the leftover fight if the Court writes tight. You will not get that map from a national cable segment. You will get it here — what dies immediately, what takes an injunction, and why "drive over at lunch and pick up a new AR" is not the plan but buying a new safe is.

That is the pattern. Post Office carry for SAF and FPC members. Did you know that already?

Shops that invent "laws" Springfield never passed to make life more difficult for young adults and others. Hospital parking garages are not safe spaces.

A family plan that works when the phones and lights go down. How to prepare for bad times in good times and to not make the mistakes of others.

Annual membership is \$40. Life membership is \$1,000 (\$500 if you are 65 or older). Members get the paper, the meetings, and access to a members-only legal defense fund when a justifiable use of force meets an unjust arrest.

Join at GunsSaveLife.com/join, or clip the form on the back page and mail it to PO Box 51, Savoy, IL 61874.

We defend your right to defend yourself. Show up. Get the paper. Don't wait for a punk with a knife at your door to wish you had.

GunNews distribution hubs

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

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

Dwight: Rick's Automotive in Dwight.

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

Rantoul: Corky's Storage on south end of Rantoul. Unit #67. Call or text John Boch (217 649-3702) or Warren Drake (217 898-9602) for the lock combination.

Decatur: Rat's Whole Place motorcycle repair in Decatur.

Bloomington: John Boch. 2208 Patriot's Pointe, Bloomington. Call or text first. 217 649-3702.

UPDATES

Executive Director's Report
by John Boch

Litigation.

Viramontes oral argument is Wednesday, December 2. It will be a hoot. The U.S. Solicitor General asked the Court for ten minutes to argue for the Second Amendment and against these gun bans. An *amicus* brief is nice. An appearance is huge. The United States government is coming down solidly on the pro-gun side.

Elections have consequences. Do you think Kamala's AG would do the same?

We already have 43 *amici* supporting the plaintiffs. Briefs for Cook County and Connecticut start landing in October. This is for all the marbles. *Viramontes* is the Cook County ordinance case, consolidated with Connecticut's ban. PICA is the statewide clone.

A Texas judge also ruled the NFA's suppressor and short-barreled rifle registration unconstitutional — for members of certain organizations and purchasers at certain stores. The list was in *GunNews* last month and on the website.

Chicago.

Chicago is just shy of 300 homicides this year. That's more to date this year than 34 *entire* states tallied in the *entire* last year. In America where crime has consequences and gun ownership is not treated as a plague they do not have Chicago-style body counts. Funny how that works.

We're still giddy about the Post Office ruling. See page 2.

The FBI recorded the biggest violent-crime drop in 90 years in 2025. Increasing gun rights for most of the nation (and getting rid of criminal illegal aliens) has caused such a steep decline in violent crime. The dark-money funded gun control industry forecast just the opposite. Repeatedly.

New York City just posted its safest summer on record. Baltimore is near a homicide low. Four years ago the sky was supposed to fall after *Bruen*. It didn't.

Everytown launched "Train Smart," a class that teaches you how not to shoot yourself and how dangerous guns supposedly are. In a year they are bragging about 700 students. Nationwide. That is less than one person per state per month. They can keep the lecture. We'll keep the rights.

AFTERMATH IN FREEPORT.

A lot of you asked what happened after last month's story: the woman who shot a 13-year-old in her living room as he tried to stab her own 13-year-old son—and the handgun I put in her hands afterward.

Most of it is on page 13 of "Justice for Jasiyah." Since that ran at Guns Save Life and Shooting News Weekly for a national audience, the sequel arrived. It only makes the gift—pistol, ammo, holster—look smarter, kinder and perfectly placed.

Treat all of this as alleged. It's what we've been told.

The home-invader's family took a week-ish Florida vacation and rolled back into town Monday, September 7. Three nights later, Jasiyah—we've given him the street name Turd Boy—teamed up with a 20-year-old who calls himself Baby Stone. Real name: Geonte Milton. He'd already been popped in late June with a loaded gun in the car. "Geonte" apparently didn't have the marketing punch of "Baby."

They allegedly cruised Jillian's house first, ready to shoot it up if she and the kids were home. They weren't. Yes, Jasiyah didn't have the guts to come through the front door this time. He was going to punch holes in the walls from the street. Real brave. Not.

So the brain trust moved on to a relative of hers who *was* home—with her own children. Dozens and dozens of rounds went into that house.

Freeport police (great job, guys!) got there fast and ran down Turd Boy. He got hurt resisting arrest (pass tissues, please) and now sits on fresh charges stacked on the home-invasion and knife case. Geonte ran.

Jasiyah is supposed to leave detention briefly, ankle monitor on, for taxpayer-funded surgery late this month to repair damage incurred with his gunshot wound. After that, Jillian has been told, juvenile prison is a likely destination. Cops still want a word with Baby Stone.

A mother protected her boy once. She never dreamed the next visit would come through the drywall.

Either way, she isn't empty-handed anymore.



HUGE!

US Solicitor General wants to argue against gun & magazine bans in SCOTUS' December oral arguments in *Viramontes*

(GSL) - The United States wants a microphone on December 2.

Solicitor General D. John Sauer has asked the Supreme Court for ten minutes of oral argument in the consolidated AR-15 cases—*Viramontes v. Cook County* and *Grant v. Higgins*—so the federal government can tell the justices, in person, that categorical bans on America's most popular rifle violate the Second Amendment. Mark Smith of *Four Boxes Diner* is treating that request as the tell. An *amicus* brief is a letter. Standing at the lectern is a fight.

The Court has already set one hour for December 2. Sauer's proposal is simple: twenty minutes for the gun-owner petitioners, ten for the United States, thirty for Cook County and Connecticut. The challengers consented. The jurisdictions trying to keep the bans have not been reported as eager partners. The Court has not yet granted the motion. If it does, the federal government will not be a spectator in the biggest Second Amendment argument of the term.

That matters because the last several administrations used the Solicitor General's office to *defend* gun control. This one is asking to *attack* it. Sauer has already filed a merits *amicus* brief arguing that a firearms restriction survives only if it fits the nation's historical tradition, and that tradition does not allow a ban on arms in common use for lawful purposes. The AR-15, the brief says, is "the most popular rifle in the

country." Possession of it cannot be made a crime in Connecticut or Cook County without breaking the Constitution.

Smith's point is larger than two local statutes. If the Court holds that the platform is protected as a functional rifle—semi-automatic operation, detachable magazine, ordinary furniture—then the next dodge dies with it. Ban the same gun by listing features. Ban the magazines that make the rifle work as designed. Call the result "reasonable regulation."

The United States is already warning the justices not to write an opinion so narrow that politicians can outlaw the rifle by another name. Magazines are not a side issue in that fight. They are how an AR-15 is an AR-15.

Twenty-seven states have told the Court the same thing: legislatures do not get to decide that citizens do not "need" a common arm. Survey data already in the record puts tens of millions of these rifles in civilian hands. "Dangerous and unusual" is a conjunctive test. Common arms fail the second half. *Heller* said so. *Bruen* said how to apply it. Sauer wants ten minutes to say it out loud while the other side is standing there.

December 2 will not decide magazines by caption. It can decide the method that decides magazines next. That is why the Solicitor General wants the lectern—and why Smith is telling people to pay attention.



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.



Assuming SCOTUS rules in our favor next June, do you have insight into how that kills PICA?

What a Viramontes win means for your rifle — and your dealer

by John Boch

How does a SCOTUS win impact Illinois' PICA law? The short answer: it's a multi-faceted answer.

The honest answer is: a win in *Viramontes* kills the heart of PICA. It does not, by itself, delete every line of the statute from the Illinois compiled statutes at 10:01 a.m. the morning the opinion drops.

First, the map. *Viramontes v. Cook County* (consolidated with Connecticut's *Grant v. Higgins*) is the AR-15 case. Argument is December 2. A decision is expected by the end of June. The question before the Court is whether the Second and Fourteenth Amendments protect possession of AR-15-platform and similar semiautomatic rifles.

Cook County's ordinance is the case on the docket. PICA is the statewide clone of that same idea. The Seventh Circuit just propped PICA back up in *Barnett* on July 9. A Supreme Court holding that those rifles are protected arms does not "amend" PICA automatically. It does make PICA's core ban legally indefensible the minute the opinion is published.

How the death actually happens:

1. The constitutional rule is immediate. A Supreme Court holding is the supreme law of the land on the question decided. If the Court says these rifles are arms in common use and cannot be banned, Illinois does not get a legislative session to "incorporate" that into state law. The ban is already unconstitutional. Springfield can sulk, whine and issue countless press releases. It cannot lawfully keep arresting people for owning America's favorite rifle.

2. The paperwork is not immediate. PICA is a different statute than the Cook County ordinance. Pritzker and Raoul will claim magazines, feature tests, registration, and "dangerous and unusual" leftovers somehow survive. That is the game they'll play. Plaintiffs in the PICA cases will walk into the Southern District and the Seventh Circuit the same week with *Viramontes* in hand and demand an injunction. That filing is measured in days, not years. The delay is lawyers and stubborn officials, not a missing act of the General Assembly.

Judge McGlynn will not play games. The Seventh Circuit? That's another matter. But even if they do, read on...

3. Enforcement dies faster than the statute. This is the part that matters for real people like you and me. After a high-profile Supreme Court ruling that these rifles cannot be banned, a cop who cuffs someone for mere possession of an AR-

15 is betting his qualified immunity, his department's budget, and his personal lawsuit exposure on JB Pritzker's press release. The vast majority of LEOs will not want any part of that crap sandwich. Most state's attorneys outside the usual suspects will not touch it. Cook County is the primary "suspect." Unfortunately for them, they are a defendant in *Viramontes*. They will be staring straight at the holding.

4. Dealers are the slowest moving part. FFLs live in fear of ATF and state disciplinary boards. In downstate Illinois, formerly banned rifles will be on the counter fast — days once counsel signs off. Cook County and Chicago will take a little longer because every general counsel will want a piece of paper that says "you will not be prosecuted for the sale." Plan on a short, ugly lag in the collar counties, not a multi-year freeze. It'll happen at more aggressive dealers sooner.

5. Magazines may be the leftover fight. The question presented is rifles. If the opinion is written very tightly, PICA's magazine ban could limp along until the next case. If the Court writes like it means it, that provision falls with the rifle ban. Do not bet the store on magazine language until you read the actual opinion.

Practical answer for the rifle sitting at the shop and the safe at home: Do not treat opinion day as "drive over at lunch and pick up a new AR-." Treat it as the day the legal floor collapses and the injunction practice starts. If the shop is not eager to complete the transfer that's already begun long ago, that is a business decision, not a constitutional one. A win in June means the ban on that rifle is dead in principle. The last mile is an injunction or written non-enforcement, plus a dealer willing to complete the 4473.

Bottom line: Get the safe now. If the Court does what it should do, you will need the space. If Illinois plays the New York post-*Bruen* games for a few extra weeks, you still need the space. Either way the substitutes filling the safe today are not a reason to be unprepared.

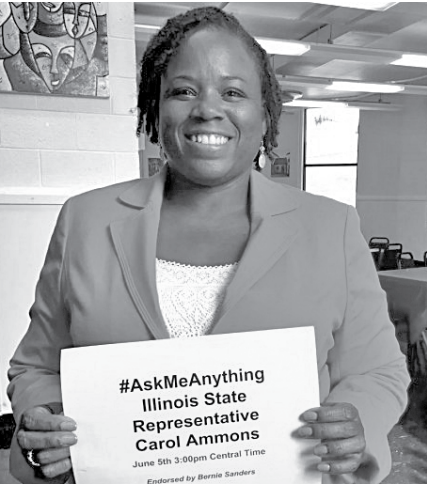
And yes: a whole lot of rifles that suffered tragic boating accidents during the PICA era will make miraculous recoveries once possession is no longer a crime. That is a joke about the politics of this ban. It is not legal advice to possess anything still prohibited today.

Bottom line: *Viramontes* does not require the Illinois legislature to repeal PICA for the AR ban to be dead. It does require follow-on paper to mop up PICA specifically, and dealers will want cover. The ban does not get a victory lap. The gamesmanship gets a short one.

The Ammons crime family? Don't think corrupt or criminal...

Ammons family anti-gun pols wants to delay trial because of election

Urbana, IL (GSL) - State Rep. Carol Ammons and Champaign County Clerk Aaron Ammons want their federal trial shoved past November so Aaron can keep his hands on the count. They face charges of wire fraud and obstruction. Prosecutors say Carol misused campaign cash and steered grant money to nonprofits employing their daughter. Now lawyers claim Election Day "conflicts" with his clerk duties.



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

That is not civic duty. That is a conflict of interest. Slimy. Predictable. Carol also voted to ban so-called assault weapons and treat law-abiding gun owners as the problem while her family faces federal charges. They can plead innocence on the date already set. Hopefully the feds tell him to pound sand.

Join Guns Save Life today.



Membership application on back page of GunNews

LOOKING FOR A PLACE TO SHOOT?

DeWitt County Sportsman's Club

Clinton, IL



BREAKFAST RETURNS IN OCT.!

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.





Stop voting for gun grabbers if you want to protect your gun rights!

A Reflection on Vote-by-Mail and the 2024 General Election in Illinois

By Nancy Hayes

“Elections belong to the people. It’s their decision.” — Abraham Lincoln

Lincoln was **absolutely** right: elections belong to the people. Joseph de Maistre put it another way: every country has the government it deserves. In Illinois, that truth is on display.

Problem #1: Supermajority/Democrats

Illinois voters keep returning the same majority, which keeps passing the same poor public policies on guns, education, spending, and taxes. High taxes, high spending, and an unfunded pension system will not change until citizens get involved locally and vote out politicians who will not stand for different policies—including on elections and vote-by-mail.

Problem #2: Election Season

The Constitution points to one day—the first Tuesday in November. Illinois runs an election season instead. Mail ballots go out September 24. Early voting starts October 7 in limited Cook County sites. The request deadline is October 29. Election Day is November 3, yet ballots postmarked by that date may be accepted through November 17. That is 55 days from first mailing to last accepted ballot—about 54 days of “season,” not one Election Day. Congressman Bost and Judicial Watch challenged this calendar in the U.S. Supreme Court.

Problem #3: VBM, Voter Rolls and USPS

The Public Interest Legal Foundation reports that in 2020 some 90 million mail ballots were sent; 1.1 million were undeliverable and 560,814 were rejected. PILF calls vote by mail “the WORST way to run an election.” Mass mail voting needs accurate rolls. ERIC, which Illinois uses, focuses on signing up eligible but unregistered voters. With automatic registration, rolls stay error-filled: ballots go to the wrong address, and voters receive more than one.

Illinois 2024 mail figures: 1,239,083 requested; 1,099,133 returned; 1,077,413 counted; 21,720 rejected. Nationally, **election officials do not know what happened to nearly 15 million mail ballots in 2020.** In 2022, United Sovereign Americans reported 4,144,125 Illinois votes, including 118,780 voters who did not exist and 349,230 invalid addresses.

Mass vote by mail requires highly accurate voter rolls. Illinois rolls contain hundreds of thousands of errors. **Voting in person is the most secure way to run an election and gives voters an opportunity to correct errors on their ballots.** Would you mail a \$50 bill through the USPS? Why trust the same system with your vote?

Lincoln brought absentee voting to Illinois so Civil War soldiers could vote—a legitimate reason. “No excuse” absentee voting and Pritzker’s permanent vote-by-mail multiplied integrity problems. In 2024, turnout averaged about 70 percent. That means **30% of those registered voters didn’t even bother to vote.** Do we want to follow California, Oregon, or Colorado into all-mail elections? Convenience outside the public eye raises fraud risk.

Until more voters study their own county mail data and stay involved, **Illinois is not going to change because the behavior of voters needs to change FIRST.** Educate others. Engage. Take back our elections. As Herman Cain said: Stay educated! Stay engaged! Stay inspired!

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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.

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Life in rural America is clean, safe, racially tolerant

Rural Americans already live in the safe, tolerant utopia Leftists claim to want

(GSL) - John Nolte’s opinion piece posted at *Breitbart* begins with this:

If I had to boil down the political wisdom I’ve learned over four decades of observing, studying, writing, and debating, it would be this...

Life in Rural America (where Republican Trump voters live and govern), is clean, safe, and racially tolerant. On the other hand, most of the places in America where life is dirty, polluted, dangerous, and violent, where people are plagued with racial hate and race riots, are cities populated by and governed by Democrats.

What’s more, if you remove Democrat-run cities from our national statistics, you will find an overall America that is overwhelmingly peaceful, safe, clean, and racially tolerant.

From there, Nolte’s central claim is that problems Democrats and allied media attribute to Republicans, such as racism, so-called gun violence (which is really gang violence), and environmental neglect, are far more severe in places Republicans do not control.

Nolte draws on personal experience in rural North Carolina, describing an interracial marriage and mixed-race neighbors that have faced no hostility. He notes widespread gun ownership without corresponding shootings and clean waterways, streets, and forests. Hate-crime data from 2019 is used to contrast low rates in his cluster of rural counties with higher rates in progressive cities such as Seattle, Washington, D.C., San Francisco, and Berkeley. The piece contends that minorities, including a small Asian population, live more safely among a large white

majority in rural areas than in urban Democratic strongholds, undercutting the idea that rural whites are the primary source of racial animus.

On violence, Nolte lists high-murder and high-violent-crime cities and notes that most have been governed by Democrats for decades. He compares those figures with far lower rates in his own county and nearby small towns, even where poverty is higher than in Baltimore. Density is dismissed as an explanation, given that some compact rural and small-city neighborhoods remain relatively safe. Drug use and poverty exist in rural areas, he writes, but without the accompanying gangs, carjackings, riots, homelessness, and street violence seen in many large cities. Environmental quality is presented as another contrast: rural landscapes are described as green and well-kept while some urban areas are portrayed as polluted.

The essay’s overall pattern is a consistent inversion of the usual blame narrative. Crises of crime, hate, and blight, Nolte argues, cluster where Democrats set policy and form the electoral majority; rural conservative communities, despite being stereotyped as backward or intolerant, display lower incidence of those problems. He concludes that people are entitled to the outcomes of their political choices and that rural Trump voters have little incentive to accept responsibility for conditions they neither created nor live under. The tone is polemical, using blunt language and personal anecdote alongside official statistics to press a cultural and political contrast rather than a comprehensive national analysis.

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In regione caecorum rex est luscus

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

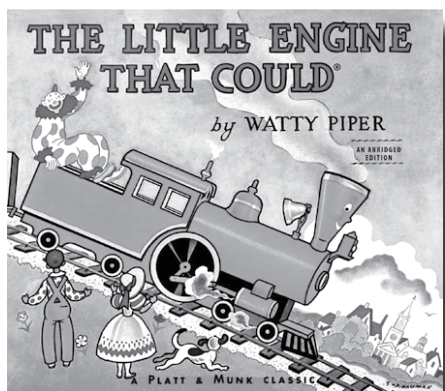
The Little Engine That Could (and also might have to shoot a bad guy)

Practice confidence



(GSL) - Too many folks complain that they simply are not as fast, big, strong, smart, rich, good-looking – etc., etc., etc., – as their competition. Some of that may be true. Nobody ever confused me with being a great wide receiver on the Bears, a future Tom Cruise, or a candidate for the Nobel Prize for Science! But we still have confidence.

When it comes to defending yourself, confidence can go a long way, even if you aren't the biggest, baddest hombre in the neighborhood. In fact, guys who say they're really tough usually aren't. The old American folktale, *The Little Engine That Could*, taught kids the value of optimism and hard work. You know it by one phrase: "I think I can!"



A long, heavy train must be pulled over a high mountain, but its locomotive breaks down. Larger locomotives, who are given human personalities, are asked to pull the train. Almost every one refuses, most because they think they are too important. In desperation, a small engine agrees to try. And lo-and-behold, this little engine slowly, but surely, succeeds in pulling the train over that mountain while repeating his motto: "I think I can" over and over.

How does this apply in defensive shooting? Forget caliber and ammunition arguments. Discussions of these are fun and interesting for another day. But not today. Today, we talk practice. No matter what firearm and ammunition type, you are going to need to practice. And keep practicing, because what you are doing in every session is developing muscle memory.

Muscle memory is your ability to move and perform without thinking about it. Muscle memory comes through repetition and practice – doing the same task over and over. Throwing a ball, playing a musical instrument. Your brain stores the memory, but your muscles increase the amount of muscle fiber nuclei within these "trained" muscle cells. When you go a long time without "re-training," that ability goes away. When you first start, you have to think about doing it. Thinking makes you slower. Slower folks in combat tend to lose.

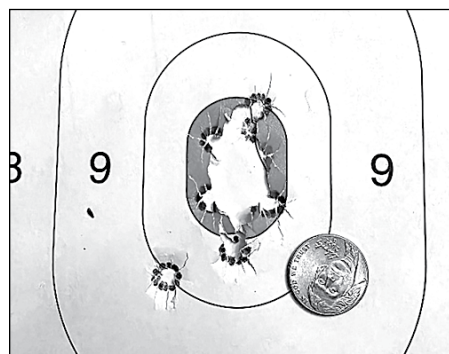
As you practice more, you won't need to think as much about the steps in order to complete it. Drawing the weapon safely, gripping the weapon, sight alignment

and picture, trigger control, breathing, and immediate action drills if the weapon misfires. All the while, you will be training and building confidence. Self-defense shooting centers on an unshakable belief that you will safely fire first, hit and incapacitate the bad guy, before he kills you. You KNOW you will hit your target – the dangerous bad guy – center of mass. No head shots; they're too "iffy" because the head is a much-smaller target, and it can be "bobbing and weaving" making it more difficult to hit. Making anything more difficult – by definition – makes you LESS confident. So try to avoid that urge. And no wasting ammo; there could be another threat. Let John Wick shoot four, maybe more, per bad guy!

Seeing tight shot-groups builds confidence, which encourages even more practice. As repetitions burn themselves into your hard-wiring, distances can be increased. Don't get in a hurry. Don't shoot more than your individual concentration limit per session. Better to just fire 25 rounds well at a session, than rush 50 half-ass, which undoubtedly will lead to bad habits.

Practicing, and developing muscle memory concerning accurate shooting, is often counter-intuitive. Too many shooters start with targets too far away. Start at very close range [Ed.: like 3 yards]. Dan at The Bullet Trap (They're always glad to look at your targets and give you an expert opinion on your shooting!) constantly looks at my used targets and "pretends" to see powder burns on the paper, indicative of maybe shots from a few inches away!!

While I'm certainly not that close, depending on the pistol, I never fire further than 30 feet away, most often at 21 feet, but occasionally even at 15 feet. Why? First, because it is easier to see normal dispersion patterns of the ammunition in your particular firearm. Some weapon/ ammo combinations are just more accurate than others, no matter how much you practice. Being aware of that is the real key.



That's a nickel, not a quarter...

Firing at these ranges boosts my confidence level. Use the half-size human silhouette targets (Thompson B27Q-Red Half-Size, and Thompson B27IMZ Half-Size) rather than round bulls-eyes because they'll help train center of mass, plus the half-size targets will appear further away which also boosts confidence – when I can count 20 rounds inside less than a 2 inch circle center of mass, that is a real confidence-booster. And I want to replicate that, so I go to the range often, which is exactly what you want to do too. To keep that muscle memory and confidence front and center. If you think you can, you will!

They marketed a gated Islamic community.
Then they called it a rumor.

Defend LaSalle draws the Line

(GSL) - The two leaders of Defend LaSalle came to Guns Save Life's LaSalle County meeting at Jamie's Outpost in Utica with a simple message: rural Illinois is not a blank canvas for a gated, faith-branded colony. Their target is the shuttered Fox River Resort—about 165 acres and 332 villa-style units just west of Norway, near Sheridan—which Pennsylvania-based Vairt and its V Resort Living brand tried to recast as a permanent Islamic community, complete with mosque, school, halal dining, and Sharia-compliant co-ownership pitches.



Michelle Peterson and Molly Kremski from Defend LaSalle at the LaSalle GSL meeting.

Norway is a speck. Sheridan itself is a village of roughly 2,400 people, a figure padded by the prison. Marketing and opponents alike talked about packing in as many as 2,000 long-term residents. That is not a "resort refresh." It is a new town dropped onto two-lane roads, volunteer fire and EMS, and sewer and water systems never built for a dense, year-round enclave.

State Sen. Sue Rezin told the county board the infrastructure cannot carry it—and she flagged another problem: the site sits within about 25 miles of the LaSalle nuclear plant (LaSalle Clean Energy Center) and a National Guard training center.

Federal CFIUS rules already let Washington review certain foreign real-estate deals near listed military sites; Illinois

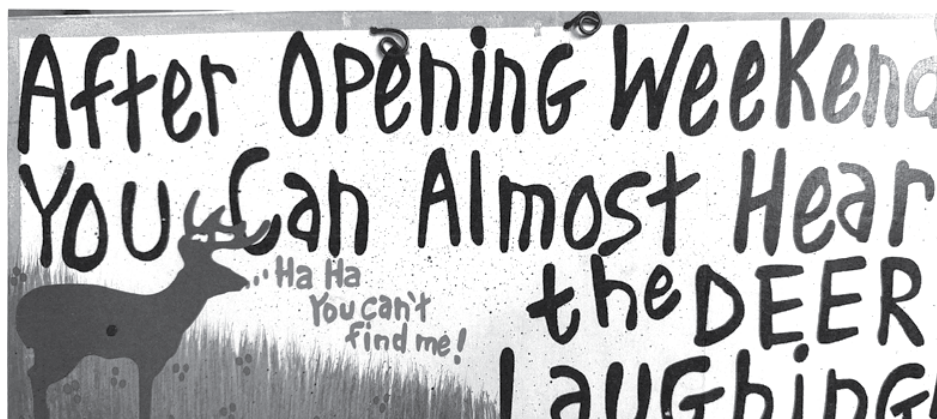
lawmakers have pushed 10- and 25-mile bans on foreign-principal ownership near military bases and critical infrastructure. This is exactly the kind of deal those rules exist to scrutinize.



The developers later insisted it was never "Muslim-only" and would obey U.S. and Illinois law. That walk-back came after the original pitch leaked: gated living built around Islamic family life, worship, and Sharia-compliant finance. Materials were softened or pulled once the county exploded. Hundreds packed a July board meeting. Zoning still treats the land as a resort. Permanent condos, apartments, a mosque campus, or a tax-exempt "church" campus would need hearings the public can kill. A religious conversion would also punch a hole in the property-tax base that pays for the sheriff, roads, and schools the newcomers would use.

Then there is the sales pitch that ran ahead of the deed. Vairt's CEO publicly claimed the company had "officially acquired" the resort and marketed units, fractional shares, and a faith-centered community before closing. In July, Fox River Resort Club and Silverleaf Resorts sued in Cook County to declare the purchase agreement dead and bar Vairt from taking the property, citing unauthorized advertising. That is not neighborly investment. It is trying to sell a future the seller and the county never approved.

Defend LaSalle's fight is zoning, density, taxes, and whether a foreign-linked developer can pre-sell a parallel community in farm country and dare locals to call it bigotry. Americans can worship freely. They do not have to accept a purpose-built enclave that rewrites a township by brochure. Keep the pressure on the county board. No rezoning, no silent tax holiday, no sale finalized in the dark.





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“You Better Get Ready For... War”: Socialists call for “War In The Streets” & the end of capitalism, destruction of Dem party

by Jonathan Turley
(ZeroHedge) - “You better get ready for ... war.” Across the country, radicals are openly planning for the next stage of their movement, and notably, the Democratic establishment is not part of their plans. **Despite the talk of a “Big Tent Party,” socialists are riding high on a surge of support and talking purges and revolution.**

In Chicago, radicals gathered for a conference on Marxism during what many view as the heyday of socialism in the United States. The Democratic Socialists of America is now larger and more powerful than at any time in our history. Socialist candidates are winning elections across the country as Democratic establishment figures from Sen. Chuck Schumer (D., N.Y.) to Gov. Gavin Newsom pander to the movement.



Not exactly overwhelming turnout in Chicago. Furthermore, it's not a very diverse crowd.

Speakers in Chicago used the conference to push supporters to the next stage in the movement, including some openly calling for violence and the end to capitalism.



Prof. Butch Ware. “Democrats must be destroyed.” Advocates “war in the streets.” Of course, he won’t be the one on the front lines. He’ll let the useful idiots fight and die.

University of California Santa Barbara History Professor Butch Ware said Democrats “must be destroyed” and urged attendees to be ready for “war in the streets.”

Notably, in postings on X, Ware has said that candidates such as New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani and Senate nominee Abdul El-Sayed are too restrained and are being pushed by the establishment “to contain radicalism.”

The professor “of Africa and Islam” whose faculty page is appropriately found under “bware” is the latest radical to dismiss the “Big Tent Party” rhetoric of establishment figures like Schumer. He declared, “The Democrats cannot be reasoned with. They must be destroyed.” There is little subtlety in the message, Ware has explained: “You cannot call yourself a revolutionary and not be talking about training with weapons.”

It is another example of the delusion that establishment Democrats have

that they will be able to use these radicals to destroy their political enemies but not themselves.

After one election victory, socialists chanted “You’re Next!” when House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries’s image came on big-screen televisions.

Hasan Piker has called for a purging of moderates from the Democratic Party.

Just last week, Darializa Avila Chevalier declared, “A big tent doesn’t pay your rent, lower your grocery bill, or take on the corporations bleeding our country dry. Democratic socialism does.”



Hasan Piker.

In a video posted to X, **Professor Ware called for violence, warning followers that “some of these clickety-clack revolutionaries have never been in a f*cking gunfight.”** He menacingly added, “Y’all ain’t nowhere near ready for a war in the streets. You better get ready for both kinds of war if you stay ready, you ain’t got to get ready.”

This is just the latest example of the type of hate-spewing radical that university departments want to teach in higher education. While purging virtually all Republicans, conservatives, and libertarians from departments, faculty candidates cannot be too radical enough to secure positions on colleges and universities. UCSB pays Professor Ware over \$211k to spread this type of lunacy.

Notably, this is the same university that saw a professor lead her students in physically assaulting pro-life advocates on campus years ago. Despite pleading guilty to criminal assault, she was not fired and later honored by the University of Oregon for her inspiring leadership.

In other events around the country such as “Socialism 2026 Conference,” City University of New York Professor Ruth Gilmore said in a video, “It’s capitalism we’re after,... There isn’t a capitalism that is somehow not racial. There isn’t a capitalism that does not produce and reproduce all kinds of sexual and gender boundaries.”

At my alma mater, University of Chicago professor Eman Abdelhadi, the half-sister of Michigan Democratic Senate candidate Abdul El-Sayed, has denounced the university and explained that she is only teaching there to bring down the system.

One year after the massacre, Professor Abdelhadi offered an “October 7th blessing” over an attack that murdered,

raped, and tortured innocent men, women, and children. She was previously arrested for spitting on officers.

She added “I hope you know that we have a lot of work ahead of us and that we need each other to do that work. We have an imperative to not just imagine a better future, but to build one together. I’ll see you on the streets.”

What is so striking is that these radicals are not hiding their agenda or their hostility toward the Democratic Establishment. William Lawrence, who is running for Michigan’s 7th Congressional District, previously called for the end of borders, the nation-state, capitalism, and told a leading moderate Democrat to “hurry up and die.”

In the meantime, some Democrats are admitting that, after using the socialists to retake power, they will marginalize them in actual governing decisions. Rep. Laura Gillen (D-NY) just explained that they will have to block the “crazy” DSA stuff from actually getting to the floor for a vote.

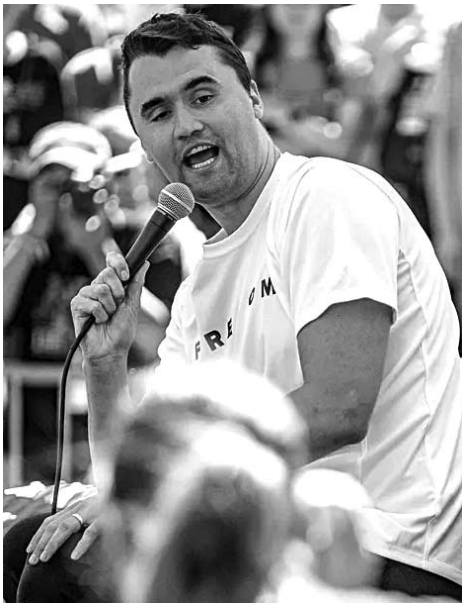
In *Rage and the Republic*, I discuss how these Democratic leaders are following the same self-destructive delusions of other establishment figures in history who thought that they could use mobs against their opponents while hoping that they could survive.

Figures like Newsom have even campaigned on denouncing capitalism as “not working” as candidates like Texas Democratic Senatorial candidate James Talarico have called to “dismantle” capitalism. Figures like former Vice President Kamala Harris have dismissed loyalty to our core institutions such as the Supreme Court as mere “nostalgia.”



It will not work. These figures are nothing more than “clickety-clack revolutionaries” who convince no one inside or outside the movement. By putting their elections above every other consideration, Democratic leaders are willing to endanger core institutions, values, and even capitalism itself to reacquire power. In so doing, they are embracing the very “mobocracy” that the Founders warned us against in laying the foundations of our constitutional system.

Jonathan Turley is a law professor and the New York Times best-selling author of “Rage and the Republic: The Unfinished Story of the American Revolution.”



Charlie Kirk moments before he was assassinated last September.

Free speech on campus a year after Charlie Kirk

Nearly a third of college students believe violence to suppress opposing views is acceptable

(GSL) - A year after Charlie Kirk was shot dead at a Utah Valley University debate, FIRE’s Sean Stevens and Robert Shibley find campus speech slightly less grim—and still rotten at the core. The slogan “words are violence” did not die with Kirk. It licensed codes, shout-downs, and deplatforming. It also left a large bloc unmoved by an actual murder.

About 30 percent of students still say violence to stop a campus speaker can be acceptable, at least rarely—down only a few points from last year’s peak and far above 2020’s 18 percent. After the assassination, conservative and moderate students became less willing to excuse shout-downs, blockades, or force. Liberal students did not. Their comfort with those tactics held or ticked up. Nine in ten undergraduates still agree that “words can be violence,” a premise that turns a disagreeable lecture into a justification for disruption—and, for a shocking minority, for fists, projectiles, or worse. That is the scandal: an on-campus political killing did not teach the left that bullets are not an argument.

Kirk is now among the hardest subjects to discuss. Conservatives self-censor more in class, in public spaces, and online. Some schools then punished faculty for comments about the dead man, proving administrators still treat the wrong opinions as the real emergency. When one side recasts speech as assault and barely flinches at a corpse, “debate” is a euphemism. A republic that cannot condemn political violence without an ideological asterisk is already halfway to the street fight.

It isn’t so hot for the 2nd Amendment either

Illinois gets an F for college free speech

(The Center Square) – A new report gives Illinois colleges and universities poor grades for free speech.

The Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression gave Illinois an F in the 2027 College Free Speech Rankings. The state also received an F for political tolerance and a D- for administrative support.



Judge jails deputies for doing their jobs

Cook County Judge John Lyke's courtroom puts hugs for murder defendants ahead of courtroom security

Chicago (GSL) - In Courtroom 208 at 26th and California, Judge John Lyke runs a different kind of justice. Murder defendants — including men accused of killing cops — get the cuffs off, hugs from family in front of the gallery, and even unsupervised meetings in a side room. Deputies who hesitate get threatened with jail. Last week, two of them were locked up.

The union for courtroom deputies says Lyke detained two Cook County sheriff's deputies after they refused to immediately uncuff 21-year-old Omarion Tolefree, charged with first-degree murder in the 2022 killing of Paris Royal. Tolefree is classified "high risk movement." Sheriff's rules say a supervisor must approve before restraints come off. The deputies asked for their sergeant. Lyke ordered them out of the way, then had them taken into custody when they did not move fast enough. He later hauled them back out, accused them of "contemptuous and contumacious" conduct, and dropped it after they apologized.

CWB Chicago reports Lyke has threatened at least four other deputies over the same practice in the last two years — including out-of-county officers who had never seen his courtroom rules. In February 2025 he yelled at deputies to leave Julius Thomas, a murder defendant heading for 50 years, alone with family and a lawyer in a jury room. When they cited their orders to stay, Lyke said he did not "give a damn" what their boss told them.

The hug policy is not new. In April 2023, Steven Montano — charged with murdering Chicago Police Officer Andres Vazquez Lasso near a schoolyard — was allowed to embrace relatives in open court. A retired officer who watched said he wanted to

vomit. Montano's father would not let go. Deputies had to pull them apart.



Judge Lyke, a thug's best friend.

Sheriff's staff worry about the obvious: a fight, a weapon, or papers soaked in drugs passed in a hug. Cook County just got a handle on jail overdoses. The Sheriff's Office called Lyke's treatment of deputies "completely unacceptable" and said he shows "little concern" for courtroom safety. Chief Judge Charles Beach issued a bland statement about "partnership" and "applicable procedures."

This is the same Cook County system that put seven-time felon Alphonso Talley on electronic monitoring. Weeks later Talley allegedly murdered one Chicago officer and gravely wounded another.

Illinois gun owners already know the script: law-abiding people wait months for FOID cards while judges lecture deputies for following security rules written in blood. Victims' families sit in the gallery and watch the man accused of killing their cop get a hug. The people whose job is to keep that courtroom from becoming another crime scene get a trip to the lockup.

If the robe outranks the badge in Cook County, remember who is left holding the bag when the next high-risk defendant decides a hug is not enough.



Welcome to Chicago: America's largest open-air shooting gallery

Chicago (CWB Chicago) - One man was killed and 6 other people, including a 14-year-old boy, were wounded when multiple gunmen opened fire Sunday afternoon on a crowd in Humboldt Park, police said. More than 70 shots were fired and, according to a preliminary report, a vehicle found at the scene was involved in a separate drive-by shooting on the West Side earlier this week.



Not again!

Aspiring rapper Blood-Hound Q50 shot down at 3am in Fuller Park

Chicago (CWB Chicago) - Six gunmen fired more than 50 shots in an ambush that killed Chicago drill rapper Blood-Hound Q50 at a Fuller Park gas station early Sunday, according to a preliminary Chicago police report. No arrests have been made. The up-and-coming performer, born Mikquale Cooper, was 22.

He was seated in the driver's seat of a white 2019 Tesla at the BP station at 4248 South Wentworth Avenue when two carloads of gunmen targeted him just before 4 a.m. According to CPD, the shooters pulled alongside Cooper's car, and gunmen from both vehicles opened fire.

The gunmen then fled in both vehicles, a black Acura sedan and a silver Honda Accord, heading onto the southbound Dan Ryan, police said. An officer who reviewed surveillance video said four of the shooters wore all-black clothing. One wore a green hoodie, and another wore a black hoodie.

A gun was recovered from Cooper, according to a law enforcement source.



Thug should have been caged but instead was free to victimize innocents

Murderous thug gets 40 years... finally

Chicago (CWB Chicago) - A judge this week sentenced a man to 40 years in prison for murdering a beloved Hyde Park bartender while he had three felony cases pending in juvenile court, two involving illegal gun possession and one involving armed carjacking.

But Keante McShan, 23, may have even more prison time ahead of him. Court records show he is preparing to enter a plea next week in an unrelated kidnapping case.

No arrests, of course. No suspects.

'Biggest' shooting spree to date this year is more gang violence

Chicago (GSL) - Chicago's weekend gathering in Washington Park left one man dead and fourteen wounded—the city's largest mass shooting of the year. Interim Supt. Fred Waller called it "somewhat targeted." That's the new slogan.



Thirty-six casings on the ground. Sources on scene say half or more went into the dead man. A dozen-plus wounds is not a stray. The other fourteen were collateral. Masked shooters, a possible switch, return fire from the crowd. That is gang violence, not "gun violence." The gun didn't pick a reunion and empty a magazine into one target.

The papers dress it up. The city opens a resource center. Officials talk around gangs because naming them is politically expensive. Gangs, after all, are political contributors and campaign workers for Chicago pols. If they will not say what this is, they are not going to stop it.

Got to take the rare good news stories where you can find them

FEEL GOOD STORY: Slow learner career criminal feasts on just desserts

Chicago (GSL) - William Garrett is 60 years old and has 15 felony convictions. Theft. Burglary. Decades of the same sad little hustle. You would think he would have learned better. But he's not the brightest bulb in the sewer.

One weekend in September in West Pullman he walked into a rehab job, pointed a Glock pistol at four construction workers half his age, and told them to hit their knees. He stuffed all manner of expensive tools into a backpack like he was shopping at Harbor Freight with a coupon from 1997.

Then he ran. They watched him dump the gun in the bushes. Turns out it was an air pistol.



Mr. Garrett after the swelling kicked in.

Then the men who actually work for a living chased the fossil down an alley and beat the stupid

out of him. Cops found him on his back in a yard, face cut, head leaking. On the way down he bit a 25-year-old in the hand. That is probably when he earned the second round of love-taps. Hopefully they knocked out the last of his summer teeth—you know the kind. Some are there. Some aren't.

Home invasion. Four armed robberies. Judge locked him up. Thirty years of convictions and he still picked a house full of guys who lift lumber for a living and brought a pellet gun to the interview. That isn't crime. That's a very slow learner feasting on just desserts.

Join Guns Save Life today.



Membership application on back page of GunNews



There probably should NOT be room for everyone in the gun rights community

(GSL) - The Second Amendment is a God-given right that belongs to every American—no matter the zip code or the ballot they cast. That does not mean every radical clique gets a seat in the gun rights community.

The Socialist Rifle Association and its fellow travelers treat the 2A as a revolutionary club, not a shield for self-defense. They do not want armed citizens. They want armed cadres. Their own words give the game away: they are not for "guns for everyone." They want to arm the people who stand to gain from the end of capitalism and disarm everyone who stands in their way.

That is not gun culture.

That is a death squad with a manifesto.

They romanticize political murder. They talk of putting dissenters "up against the wall." They treat Charlie Kirk and Donald Trump not as opponents to defeat at the ballot box, but as enemies to be eliminated. If you cannot win the argument, you reach for the rifle. That is the cowardice of people who know their ideas cannot survive contact with reality.

They wrap themselves in anti-fascist slogans while practicing the oldest fascist move in the book: identify the enemy class, then justify lethal force against it. Red flags or black flags, the method is the same. Intimidation first.

Execution if "persuasion" fails.

Responsible gun owners train, follow the law, and treat the firearm as a last resort against tyranny or crime. These groups treat it as a first resort against people who vote differently. They have no place among us. Letting them in does not broaden the tent. It poisons it.

The Second Amendment exists to protect individual liberty and to check government overreach. It does not exist to help ideological misfits hunt their neighbors. Anyone who wants to use it that way is not a fellow defender of the right. They are the kind of tyrant the right was written to stop.

You do not let a bully with a gun train you to look at the floor.

No Badge, No Pass: How to effect a policy change without raising your voice

by John Boch
East Peoria, IL (GSL) - On August 15, I walked into the Walmart in East Peoria looking for church shoes for the boys. I found a man playing cop instead.

Just inside the front doors stood a young guy in olive pants, uniform boots, and a black T-shirt. Strapped to his thigh was a large Glock in an open rig. No badge. No "SECURITY" on the shirt. No name tape. No spare mags. No handcuffs, no radio or any other typical LEO accoutrements.

He did not give off a cop vibe. He gave off a vibe of a man who liked the costume. As if the big gun made him feel like a bigger man.

I asked the obvious question.

"Whoa, dude. Nice rig you got there. You a cop?"

"Yeah, I'm a cop," he said. Then: "Who are you?"

Nice combative answer. When a stranger is carrying a duty pistol on his thigh in a grocery store, the public does not owe him an autobiography. When asked, he owes the public identification. This is Illinois, not (checks notes) dozens of other states where open carry is legal and welcome.

"Can I see your badge? Or at least what agency do you work for?" I asked.

"I don't have to show you a badge. Why you want to know? What's it to you?"

That is when the conversation stopped being casual. A man with a gun who claims he's a cop and refuses to say who pays him is not "security." He is a problem. I told him so. When I see someone dressed like that, toting a gun like that, with no badge, I think I am looking at someone playing cop.

He did not back down. I offered to have the real police come sort it out. He told me to go ahead and call. So I did. 911 is easy to remember.

He was, apparently, real police. That made it worse, not better.

After I bought the shoes, I asked for and talked to Walmart management. Their line was remarkable even by corporate standards. Walmart policy, they said, was that cops working armed security should not display a badge, because

they were not working in their official capacity as police.

So put them in something that says security, I said.

The highest-ranking person I could get—loss prevention—said that was against store policy too. Policy against a badge. Policy against looking like security. Policy, apparently, in favor of a combative man with a Glock and a bad attitude. What could possibly go wrong?

While I waited for the manager, the same armed fellow came back. "They" wanted me out, he said, pointing at the door.

I smiled. "YOU ain't got the horsepower to trespass me if I'm not shoplifting. You ready to show me that badge yet?"

He muttered something and walked off. That is what happens when a man is used to winning arguments with a holstered gun instead of a sentence.

The next day I made a couple calls.

Tazewell County Sheriff's public information officer listened, then laughed out loud. "He's not one of ours."

East Peoria's PIO, a sergeant, was equally pleasant and jovial. Not one of theirs either—but he shared more. The deputy chief of East Peoria saw the 911 call, may have listened to it, and called Walmart's security people himself. The PIO described the conversation as "spirited."

In the end the deputy chief made the rule simple to avoid future 911 calls about an armed man refusing to identify at Walmart: anyone working armed security at that East Peoria Walmart will wear a badge or wear security attire. Corporate policy be damned. He emailed the entire roster at East Peoria PD.

I still do not know the gun-toting man's name or his agency. The store would not give that to me. That part is unfinished business. The part that matters already changed.

This is the lesson, and it is not complicated: Bullies come in all walks of life. Some even wear a uniform. Some of them even have a shield. Others may have a corporate handbook in the classic verbal judo technique known as "referring to

a higher authority."

At least one of them wears a thigh rig and a chip on his shoulder. Meeting any of them with violence is how you become the story instead of the citizen who fixed the problem.

A phone call works. A calm question works. A follow-up to the people who actually have rank works. Polite objection is not weakness. It is the adult version of force. You document. You ask. You escalate up the food chain. You do not let a bully with a gun train you to look at the floor.



An average person can get results. Do not let a police impersonator—or a real cop with no people skills and no visible authority—intimidate you from asking reasonable questions.

We can think of multiple instances of armed security shooting people who didn't need shooting in Chicago. Or worse yet felons pretending to be police while working security (and shooting people). Seeing someone dressed like this in Central Illinois who is unable or unwilling to produce a badge while dressed in plain clothes is not the norm. Nor should it become the norm until we all can do it legally if we so choose.

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‘Half-Sack’: Why I’m still not a fan of Appendix Carry

by John Boch
(GSL/SNW) - Appendix carry continues to enjoy a following. Younger and newer shooters love it. Instagram instructors love it. Keyboard commandos who bought a \$90 Kydex taco and a *YouTube* degree love it. People who think skill comes shrink-wrapped next to the beef jerky at Bass Pro love it.

I still don’t.



Not because I’m a fossil who refuses new tricks. Not because I can’t conceal a compact at 1 o’clock with Appendix. But because the muzzle is pointed at the parts of you that keep you walking, talking, and having fun.

If you screw up the holstering process — and people do, including people who teach this stuff for a living — the *best-case scenario* is a ruined sex life, a whole lot of discomfort and a very expensive conversation with a trauma surgeon. The more likely one is a hole in your femoral artery and a very short remaining lifespan to reflect on your decision to Appendix carry.

I’ll say it again for the people already thinking “But I train!”: If you mess up while holstering Appendix, you are in serious trouble. You will not get a cool scar on your ass for chicks to dig. Instead you will get a high-velocity reminder that Rules 1 & 2 exist for a reason.

Yes, Appendix carry conceals well. Yes, the draw can be stupid fast. It’s accessible while driving or sitting almost anywhere. With the right body and the right rig, it can even be comfortable. None of that changes the geometry, the physics or the anatomy.

The gun is still looking right at your femoral and your family jewels. Other carry positions point at less important real estate. It’s true that scars are like tats with better stories. A mistake at 4 o’clock and you may get yourself a scar. Maybe a limp for a while. A mistake at 12 o’clock you may give yourself a funeral and your family and friends a really sad day.

At least the funeral can be open casket.

Practice until you can’t get it wrong, the advocates say. Fine. Now do it after you’ve just shot someone who was trying to knife you in an alley. Your hands are shaking. The adrenaline dump turns

your fine motor skills into a drunk piano recital. Sirens are coming. Bystanders are screaming, or worse yet fighting with you because you shot their ne’er-do-well relative or friend.

You still going to execute that perfect, eyes-on, slow-is-smooth re-holster process? Or are you going to survive the attack, only to lose the gunfight with yourself?

I’ve seen the “I’m careful” crowd. I also know of a highly trained instructor — someone who teaches this — put a hollow point into her own hip crease after a long training day because she was distracted and talking while she holstered.

The round traveled down, rupturing the femoral in three places. She only lived because a room full of combat medics and other medically-trained folks who actually know trauma medicine put not one, but two CAT tourniquets on her *in under thirty seconds* and they met an ambulance a few short minutes later. She still needed emergency surgery and a whole lot of blood. She nearly died.

Here’s a thing...you aren’t gonna have those combat medics and pros if you pop yourself by accident or through negligence. Most of us will be in a parking lot, a range with spotty cell service, or a dark street with no one who’s carrying a tourniquet next to their energy drink.

Here’s another one.



‘Half-Sack’
During a professional firearms training session, YouTuber and first responder “North Wind Aerial” suffered a serious negligent discharge while drawing a Glock from an Appendix holster. From the trainer’s start signal to the shot, less than half a second passed. The round fired while the pistol was still in or just leaving the holster. It punched through the holster, his penis, scrotum, left testicle and the seam of his jeans.

Ouch. It hurt to type that.

He lost roughly a liter of blood and was rushed into surgery, where the damaged left testicle was removed. Urinary tract injury required a catheter for weeks. Fire-department colleagues nicknamed him “Half-Sack” - something he’ll never live

Continued on page 21.

October is Fire Safety Month

Know how to use the fire extinguisher you already own

(GSL) - October is Fire Safety Month. Most homes have an extinguisher. Fewer people know which kind they have, how to use it, or whether it will still work.

Match the tool to the fire type:

- Class A: Wood, paper, cloth — anything that leaves ash.
- Class B: Flammable liquids — grease, gas, solvents.
- Class C: Live electricity.
- Class D: Combustible metals such as magnesium.

Water units are for Class A only (about 2½ gallons). Do not put water on electricity or grease or life will get very exciting for you.

CO2 is best on electrical fires and will not coat electronics. It can knock down A or B fires, but the fire may flash back when the gas lifts.

ABC dry-chem handles A, B, and C. The powder is corrosive and bad to breathe, and really nasty to exposed electronics.

Make sure it will still work!
A couple times each year — when you change clocks and detector batteries — check the gauge (green), hose, and for corrosion. Invert a dry-chem unit and listen for the powder to shift. If it doesn’t, tap it with a rubber mallet. Packed agent will not discharge.

Fluff vehicle extinguishers monthly. Vibration packs them fast. Shake one upside down before you spray.



Proper usage:
PASS: **P**ull the pin. **A**im at the base, not the flames. **S**queeze. **S**weep back and forth.

Use short bursts from about 10 feet (about 5 feet with CO2) and adjust accordingly.

People first
Get everyone out. Call the fire department before you fight the fire. Never let the fire get between you and the exit. When you think Mr. Fire is out, back away in case it reflash.

Lay a used cylinder on its side, out of the way. A broken valve on a charged bottle can turn it into a missile — especially cheap plastic heads.

Even if you put out the fire, still call the department. They confirm the fire is dead and write the report your insurer will want.



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‘Justice for Jasiyah’ Mom organizes rally for her thug son after he FAFO’d

by John Boch
Freeport, IL (GSL) - A single working mother called me on a Monday morning in early August. She’d shot a home invader who tried to stab her 13-year-old son to death in her own living room. She had my attention.

A few minutes before 5 p.m. on a Wednesday, August 5th, town bullies found her kids. One bully, 13-year-old Jasiyah, had a large hunting knife and kept telling her boy, “I promise you that I’m gonna kill you.” Then: “I’m gonna show you why they call me Knife Boy, bro.” A bystander heard him add that he was going to “gut you like a hog.”



Jasiyah with his knife on his scooter a few minutes before he got shot.

The kids ran home. They got inside. Before they could lock the door, Knife Boy charged, put his shoulder into it, and forced it open. He stormed in, blade first, hunting the homeowner’s son.

Three others followed: Jasiyah’s younger brother, a 14-year-old girl, and Jasiyah’s 40-year-old mother. Some families go for ice cream. This family treated armed home invasion with murderous intent like a family fun night at Chuck E Cheese’s.

Jasiyah rushed in brandishing the blade like he’d just graduated from the YouTube University of Bad Decisions and lunged for the kid. Mom got her gun. She warned him. He sneered and lunged. She warned him again. He talked trash and lunged once more. She shot him. Once.

Then she did what almost nobody does. She tried to keep the armed invader who had just tried to kill her child from bleeding out. That’s not weakness. That’s a mother who still had more humanity than the entire quartet that kicked her door in.

Chaos followed. Most everyone ran. Knife Boy’s mother kept battering the homeowner’s 13-year-old daughter. Pandemonium outside. Freeport PD arrived promptly a minute or two later. They took over bleeding control, asked what happened, and did the unglamorous work of sorting a bloody mess in a family home.

They cuffed the homeowner, took her gun as evidence, and sat her in an interrogation room after she declined questions without an attorney. Four hours later they released her with no charges and no statement.

The local PD showed up fast, they didn’t let the scene turn into a second crime scene, and for the most part they didn’t pretend a mother defending her son in her own house was the villain. That part of the aftermath actually mattered.

Then the sequel started. Friends and family of the failed stabber talked revenge. The homeowner found herself disarmed, exhausted, and not sleeping. She went into hiding. That’s when she reached out. Her mom had given her my name.

I asked if the police had taken her gun. I already knew.

“How did you know?”

“You got another one?”

“No.”

A pause. “You want one?”

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

“You’re kidding, right? I mean... you don’t even know me.” I could hear it in her voice as it started to crack. *Please let this be real and not a joke.*



The homeowner’s new gun, courtesy of GSL and John Boch.

I told her she was a perfect candidate for one of those occasional Guns Save Life drawing guns I win at meetings. I ran the private transfer, tossed in two boxes of Winchester Law Enforcement ammo, bought her a holster, and on the 73rd hour—Illinois makes you wait 72—handed her a bag at Freedom Sports Shop in El Paso. For me it felt like an errand. For her it was the difference between cowering in fear and standing tall again.

The aftermath continues: ‘Justice for Jasiyah’
The pack that tried to murder a child in his own house did not slink off. On Facebook, Knife Boy’s mommy organized a pity parade: “Justice for Jasiyah.” On the streets they talked blood vengeance.

“Justice.” For the kid who showed up with a hunting knife and forced his way into his intended target’s home.

Amanda Wenger is a felon with a long Stephenson County record. She joined her knife-wielding son in invading another woman’s residence and battering the homeowner’s 13-year-old daughter. Days later she was lobbying the prosecutor to charge the homeowner for defending her own child.

The rally cry is all “peaceful,” “lawful,” and “our children deserve to be safe.” The same household whose idea of safety was violently and tumultuously invading another’s home armed with a big-assed knife. With murderous intent.



Jasiyah, 13, and dad Julius on July 4th. Like father, like son. Note the matching ankle monitors.

You might be asking about dear old dad. He’s a career thug and part-time sperm donor. There’s a July 4 photo of Jasiyah and his father, Julius Pendleton, wearing matching ankle monitors.

Later that night dad got drunk, felt “disrespected,” pulled a .45, and played tough guy. More sober adults took the gun away. Julius still wanted to fight. He wanted his (illegally possessed and carried) gun back.

So they gave it back to him—bullets first.

They shot him nine times - *with a .45 ACP pistol*. Like a cockroach, he lived. Consolation prize: he’s now in a wheelchair. He had the monitor because last October he led cops on a 120-mph chase across the Iowa-Illinois line and stacked charges, including felon in possession of gun and plenty more. Illinois’s soft-on-crime habit had him out in time for Independence Day photos and a pinkie promise to behave.

These are the people asking for “Justice for Jasiyah.”

It’s a hustle. The only decent adult in this trainwreck is the mother who put a hole in the armed threat and then tried to save the kid’s life. A working single mom. No record. FOID. Carry permit. She didn’t hunt anyone. She didn’t crash through a door. She didn’t promise to gut a seventh-

grader like a hog. She stopped the person who did all of that.



Amanda Wenger, Jasiyah’s mother, sent GSL a ChatGPT-generated Cease and Desist letter. See our response at GunsSaveLife.com.

Thanks to a Guns Save Life drawing ticket, she now has a gun to replace the one bagged as evidence after she used it to keep her son from being opened up like livestock. Ammo. A holster. She’s also now got a legal-defense policy courtesy of US Law Shield. And a second chance the system declined to hand her on a platter.

What’s more, the Freeport PD has stepped up to help. They’re running extra patrols past the homeowner’s residence and watching remotely as well. Prosecutors reportedly will charge Jasiyah with Home Invasion along with other crimes. The others that joined him that day will also likely face charges.

If Jasiyah and his scooter infantry come back to cash in on the murder threat, they may meet the back half of FAFO in a real way. The first free sample—hunting knife, shoulder through the door, Knife Boy shot—apparently wasn’t enough. The back half is a woman who’s already been forced to do this once, is armed again, and is finished bleeding on behalf of other people’s children.

Wenger can keep the hashtag. Julius can keep the chair. Jasiyah can keep the souvenir scar.

The homeowner gets to keep her kids. That’s the only justice in this story.



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DANGER LURKS: Hospitals aren't 'safe spaces'

by John Boch

Good hospitals — especially the big ones — keep armed officers on the property for a reason. A trauma center is not a yoga studio with better lighting. It is where the bleeding arrive, with “friends” in tow, and the people who shot them sometimes follow.

That includes smaller shops, not just Cook County. The photo above is Peoria’s OSF ER entrance under a police surge that would look routine on the South Side of Chicago but looks like an invasion downstate. Wounded gang-member shooters do not teleport into treatment bays alone. They bring fellow bangers. Sometimes other gangs’ wounded also show up with their hangers on. Before long you have an OK Corral reunion in the ER driveway - or in the ER waiting room.

If the “security” you see is a retiree in a windbreaker and a radio, or a harmless coed with a smile, you are your own backup plan. Stay behind cover.



If you see hospital security like this, you're likely on your own if things go sideways.

Hospitals sit in old neighborhoods more often than they sit in office parks. Even when the zip code is fine, predators can do the math: patients, staff, and visitors are herded into a building where carrying a gun is treated like a moral failure. Successful, productive, unarmed people in a hurry, at odd hours, walking to a car. That is not a mystery. That is a sweet menu.

Add the psych cases. Between the people who belong in a cell and the people who belong on a hold, you can get mugged, beaten, or shot in a place the brochures still call a campus.

Illinois has already written the examples. You do not have to invent them.



Police at murder scene at UI Medical Center's parking garage in Chicago.

At the UI Health’s Wood Street garage in the Illinois Medical District a mom, 34, was shot in the head on the third floor parking garage on the way to an appointment. An infant with her was not hit. A hospital garage. Midafternoon. Not a rumble at 2 a.m. in an alley.

Earlier, at Northwestern Memorial’s Streeterville garage: a young, female cardiologist steps into an elevator. Sean Popp follows her in and works her head over and beats her unconscious. Unprovoked, prosecutors said.

Security recognized him from the tapes — dozens of prior toss-outs from that campus, and an arrest sheet that read like a season pass. The garage elevator is ten seconds from the street and a long way from relative safety.

Inside the building is not automatically safer. April 2026, Endeavor Swedish Hospital on the Northwest Side: a man brought in **in police custody** produced a gun in the ER and shot two officers. One of them, John Bartholomew, died. The year before, a patient at Endeavor Evanston pulled a gun from a backpack and shot a security officer. Weapons screening is security theater more often than not. There are ways around it.

The lesson is not “never go to a hospital.” The lesson is stop pretending the parking structure and the ER waiting room is consecrated ground.

Garages are poorly lit on purpose or by neglect, full of pillars and ramps, and especially late at night are an all-you-can-rob buffet for bad guys.

If you are on the property: head up, phone down, keys out before you leave the elevator. Park under a light if you can find one that works. Bring a tactical flashlight - and if you feel the need, a more potent tool. (Ahem.) Walk like you have someplace to be and someone waiting. If you are sitting in the ER with a relative, watch the door the same way you would watch a bar at last call. Nod to the officers who are actually armed. They are not décor.

Avoidance beats a speech. You came for a loved one or health care, not a eulogy.



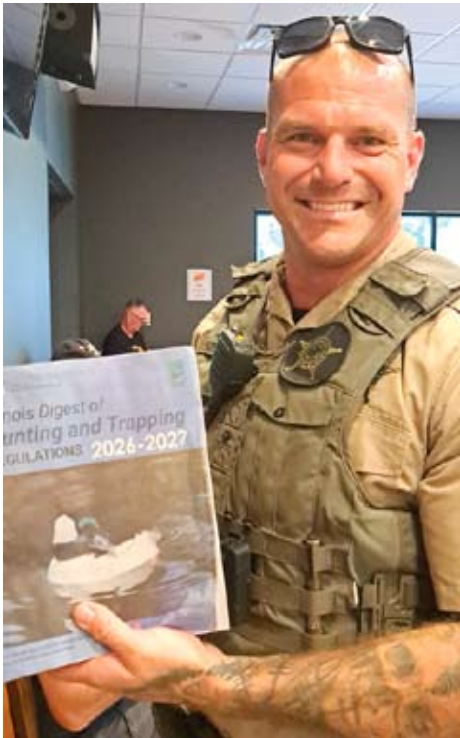
Shots fired outside of a Chicagoland ER entrance.

IDNR Conservation Cop in Decatur

Bobcats, Crow and Bears

by John Boch

Conservation Police Officer Noah Workman rolled into the Decatur Guns Save Life meeting like a man who grew up in DeWitt County, now works DeWitt County for IDNR, and relocates mailboxes at speed while running blacked-out after spotlighters. He told that story on himself. The room laughed. Instant credibility.



Noah Workman.

The rifle news

Starting January 1, 2027, qualifying centerfire rifles may hold three rounds total—magazine and chamber combined—for firearm deer season. Plug or otherwise disable anything that holds more. Same old caliber rules: .30-class bottleneck with a case no longer than 1.4 inches, or straight-walled .30 or bigger, factory loads making at least 500 foot-pounds at the muzzle. No FMJs.

This year’s firearm dates—November 20–22 and December 3–6, 2026—are still

single-shot rifles. Believe the booklet, not the guy at the gas station.

Workman also plugged the *Illinois Digest of Hunting and Trapping Regulations* like a man who has explained page 17 at 5:40 a.m. one too many times. Free at retailers and on the IDNR site. Thicker than your last excuse. Cheaper than a ticket.

Night work, bobcats, crow and bears

Spotlighter patrol is not a recruiting video. Workman chased lights, drove dark, and discovered that rural mailboxes don’t always dent your F150’s cow- and deer-catcher. Self-deprecation followed. The audience approved.

He doesn’t like walking onto a property while people are hunting just to peek at tags. “It’s easier to wait for them to walk out. Everyone’s happier that way.” Translation: fewer irritated hunters, fewer “I thought you were a deer” speeches.

He spent four years telling everyone who would listen there were no bobcats. Then the cats multiplied, a season opened, and he ate crow. Now the rumor mill has a black bear in the Clinton Lake neighborhood. Illinois has no bear population (they said that about bobcats too). There might be a tourist bear or two, they claim. Don’t shoot tourists unless they’re about to eat you or your kid. Call IDNR either way.

The verdict

Workman took a pile of questions from a friendly room and never treated the crowd like future defendants. Do this: hunt 2026 with a single-shot. Mark 2027 on the calendar. Read the *Hunter Digest*. Don’t spotlight - even if you’re not hunting. Don’t invent extra seasons. And if a CPO waits at the gate instead of crashing your stand, thank him. He’s trying to keep the hunters, the officers, and at least one mailbox in one piece.

Come back anytime, Noah. We’ll save you a chair and a spare mailbox.



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Gun stops intruder where laws fail

Chesnee, SC (GSL) - A 19-year-old forced his way through a locked back door into an occupied Chesnee, South Carolina home around 2 a.m. Sunday. Xavier Felix Rivera-Goucher of Campobello was a stranger to the two residents inside.

They woke to find him in the house. The homeowner armed himself. When the intruder confronted him, the homeowner shot him multiple times. A neighbor heard at least two shots. Deputies found Rivera-Goucher dead. No one in the home knew him.

Officials have filed no charges and say they expect none.



Bedroom window isn't the senior citizen lane

St. David, AZ (GSL) - In Saint David, Arizona, a homeowner with two small children heard noises last week and checked his cameras. He saw a 67-year-old man breaking a bedroom window and trying to climb in. The homeowner fired. The man collapsed outside the window and died despite medical efforts.



Jabari Thomas is looking at felony murder in Florida.

Turning banana pudding into felony murder

(GSL) - In Miami Gardens, two young men tried to rob a food-delivery driver at gunpoint over an order of banana pudding. The driver had other plans. He drew his own gun and ended the stickup.

Twenty-year-old Demetrius Travis took multiple rounds, including two or three to the chest and one to the face, and died. The Mogadishu drill wins again. His partner, 19-year-old Jabari Thomas, ran instead of helping render aid, then got scooped up in Miramar.

Thomas now sits without bond on felony murder charges. In Florida, if your partner dies during the felony you both started, you can still wear the homicide.

The driver stayed, cooperated, and went home. One robber in the morgue. One in a cage. An armed citizen turned a pudding run into a cautionary tale.



TX Armed robber has death wish, gets it

Cedar Hill, TX (GSL/SNW) - You want to die in Texas? Walk into a bank with a knife and threaten the nice woman behind the counter.

This isn't Chicago. Or New York City. A whole lot of Texans carry guns, and people are generally kind, even before you consider that many of them carry. So when a knife-wielding thug tried to rob the Chase Bank in Cedar Hill Monday morning, he was already committing a series of poor life choices. A customer saw the blade, heard the threat and decided he wasn't going to see a teller hurt or killed over a cash drawer. Not on his watch. He drew and shot the robber.

The would-be holdup man stumbled out of the bank, leaking. Police found him in the parking lot clinging to whatever was left of the plan. He died shortly after, along with his dreams of spending other people's money.



He didn't get the memo about an armed society is a polite society

Stand Your Ground at Walmart in Florida

N. Lauderdale, FL (GSL) - A Florida woman will not be charged after fatally shooting a man in a North Lauderdale Walmart parking lot during a June 30 fight over a space. Broward prosecutors said Melissa Payne is immune under Florida's stand-your-ground law.

Payne was driving a Chevrolet Malibu with her niece and the niece's infant when she and Bart DiGuglielmo, 62, both went for the same spot. After a brief stalemate, he left his Kia in the travel lane, grabbed a cart, and walked into the store. She remained parked in the disputed space. About 90 seconds later he returned, visibly angry. Witnesses heard him threaten to mess up her car. He then drove off and returned to park behind her so she could not pull out.

He walked back toward her vehicle. Payne got out with a phone in one hand and a gun in the other and warned him that if he kept coming she would shoot. Video shows him advancing as she backed away. He motioned as if to key or damage her car. He turned, then came at her again. She fired once, striking him in the abdomen. He later died.



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.

Hearing a loud crash downstairs at 2am is far less scary if your hand isn't empty



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Firearms Transaction Record

WARNING: You may not receive a firearm if prohibited by Federal or State law. The information you provide will be used to determine whether you are prohibited from receiving a firearm. Certain violations of the Gun Control Act, 18 U.S.C. 921 et. seq., are punishable by up to 10 years imprisonment and/or up to a \$250,000 fine.

Transferee's/Seller's Transaction Serial Number (If any)

Read the Notices, Instructions, and Definitions on this form. Prepare in original only at the licensed premises ("licensed premises" includes business temporarily conducted from a qualifying gun show or event in the same State in which the licensed premises is located) unless the transaction qualifies under 18 U.S.C. 922(c). All entries must be handwritten in ink. "PLEASE PRINT."

Section A - Must Be Completed Personally By Transferee/Buyer

1. Transferee's/Buyer's Full Name (If legal name contains an initial only, record "IO" after the initial. If no middle initial or name, record "NMN")
Last Name (Including suffix (e.g., Jr, Sr, II, III))
First Name
Middle Name

2. Current State of Residence and Address (U.S. Postal abbreviations are acceptable. Cannot be a post office box.)
Number and Street Address
City
County
State
ZIP Code

3. Place of Birth
U.S. City and State
-OR-
Foreign Country

4. Height
Ft. _____
In. _____

5. Weight (Lbs.)

6. Sex
☐ Male
☐ Female

7. Birth Date
Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

Stricter than Springfield: Dealing with gun shops, ranges that invent their own ‘laws’

Illinois already layers FOID cards, universal checks, and a 72-hour wait onto every lawful gun sale. That is the statute. Sadly, there are some shops then invent extra obstacles to exercising the 2A and treat them as gospel.

The wait is 72 hours from the moment buyer and seller agree to the purchase—not “business days,” not “after we call it in,” and not a clock that pauses for Saturday, Sunday, or a holiday. Stretching it is a house rule, not the law.

The Illinois State Police say a FOID eCard may be used to buy firearms and ammunition. A dealer may refuse the image. That is their choice. It is also a reason to walk out. Same for ranges that bar under-21 shooters who are otherwise eligible. Some demand a physical card before anyone steps onto the line. Statute already provides a range-supervision exception. Inventing a stricter one is not compliance; it is policy.

Then there are the chains and some local gun shops. Walmart, Bass Pro—here’s looking at you, specifically—that run an online FOID check on every box of ammo even when the card in your hand still has a printed expiration date and is valid on its face. Illinois State Police told dealers they do not have to do that for those cards. Logging every ammo sale into a state portal is not required by statute. It is a corporate policy that hands Springfield a shopping list it is not entitled to. It is none of ISP’s damn business that you bought ammunition.

Worst are the countertop lawyers who announce that no one under 18—or 21—may possess a firearm even unloaded and cased. That is not what the code says. Minors and young adults can possess and transport under defined conditions, including parental FOID sponsorship and proper casing. Misstating the law to paying customers is not caution. It is arrogance.

Guns Save Life exists for a reason. Our mission is simple: we defend your right to defend yourself. That fight runs in two directions. One is against politicians and activists who would strip you of your firearms and of the right to use them when your life is on the line. The other is against people who claim to be on our side—and shops that fly the 2A flag—while making lawful ownership more burdensome than Springfield already made it. Extra waits, phantom age bans, picture-FOID refusals, and unnecessary ammo database hits do the other side’s work for them.

Stores that pile onerous extras onto an already punitive regime should not be argued with. They should be left empty. Take the time, the money, and the business to a shop that knows the difference between the statute and its own made-up rules. If you know these places, do not debate them. Vote with your feet—and stand with people who actually defend the right to defend yourself.

GunNews Magazine

The monthly journal of
Guns Save Life

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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

Who wants to tell her?

MAIL CALL

Trial of the century

Mercifully, America’s latest “Trial of the Century” has ground to a halt, and Judge Sullivan has finally declared a “mistrial” after 5 weeks of testimony and 40 hours of jury deliberation. The jury was hopelessly deadlocked 11-1 in favor of acquittal of Lindsay Clancy. So, what the hell went wrong here?

It seems the only sane person in Plymouth, Mass., somehow slipped past the defense during jury selection, and gummed up an otherwise slam-dunk acquittal of a crazy woman who murdered her three children.

I don’t get it. The trial was held merely to decide if Lindsay Clancy was sane enough to appreciate the criminality of the act of a mother strangling the life of her helpless sleeping children.

The fact that Lindsay had sufficient self-awareness and control to wait until her husband left the house before acting was insufficient to convince 11 of the jurors that any criminality was involved in the strangulation deaths of her three kids.

It is cases like this one that bring out our society’s cultural nutbags. According to PBS, 300 hundred women showed up at the trial to support Lindsay Clancy.

These are the same folks who advocate for gun control, child genital mutilation, euthanasia, abortion, and elimination of the death penalty, while worshiping martyrs like George Floyd, Luigi Mangione, OJ Simpson, Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, and Ted Kennedy.

I suspect any retrial will likely be a bench trial on some lesser charge before the same sympathetic judge who presided over the first trial. If the trial taught us anything, it’s that if you’re a crazy, homicidal woman living in Plymouth, Mass., relax, you’re among friends. However, the poor bastard who dared to toss the monkey wrench into the feminist acquittal machinery remains in hiding.

Gary Hetherington
Springfield, Illinois

Greetings from an old member!

I am sure you a dancing with this news from the US Supreme Court. I used to belong to GSL. 10 years ago I retired and moved to TEXAS. I was born and raised in the south side of Chicago. We owe you and the others who staid in the fight to force SCOUS to rule in accordance Constitution. Thank you!

Robert Ewers
Texas

Thank you John & GSL

I have been remiss on not sending this in sooner. I always look forward to getting a copy to read and distribute them at my store thanks to an acquaintance that brings them to me from the Peoria GSL meetings.

I have also made contributions to the two defense funds listed in “This is For All the Marbles” article. We must be successful in this endeavor.

Anyway, thank you John and the others who contribute content for putting your heart and soul into GunNews and Guns Save Life. Keep up the great work! (The article on Church Security was timely as we look to up our game on the security team at Crossroads Global Methodist in Washington.)

Ron Riggins
Peoria

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September is National Preparedness Month

Make the Plan Now



by John Boch
(GSL) - Kits get the glory. Canned chili and stew, extra ammo, a generator that may or may not start. Fine. None of that matters if your family members are scattered and nobody knows where to walk. FEMA's 2026 theme is "Americans Stand Ready." Standing ready starts with a written plan, not a tote bin.

Most families plan as if the emergency will happen at 7 p.m. on a Saturday when everyone is already home. That is the easy case. The hard case is a Tuesday: you are at work, the kids/grandkids are at school, your spouse is across town, the interstates are parking lots, and the cell network is a busy signal.

Ask the questions now, out loud, at the kitchen table.

If you cannot get home from work, where do you go?
Not "home if possible." A specific place. Two sorts of places: rally points and retreats. Examples of rally points where you can meet up: A church parking lot or a public park everyone can find in the dark. Bonus points for parks with some shelter. Perhaps it's a particular exit off I-55, I-80 or I-57 with a gas station and a roof. Maybe it's a truck stop with restrooms and showers.

Retreats serve as places you can stay for more than a day or two. You might have even pre-positioned food, medicine, supplies and other gear there. A friend's

house in the next town or next county. A relative's home on the other side of the river.

Pick your primary rally point and a backup. Write the addresses. Ditto for retreats. If the kids are old enough to walk or bike, they get the same list. Call the school this month and ask how their reunification procedure actually works. Do not learn it in a parking lot full of panicked parents.

Same conversation for a spouse. Who leaves first? Who waits an hour? If one of you is stuck in the city and the other is already west of the cornfields, what is the decision rule? Guessing in the moment is how families spend six hours driving toward each other on the same closed highway.



How will you talk when the phones die?
Texts sometimes sneak through when voice calls fail. An out-of-state contact — a cousin in Iowa, a brother in Missouri — is still the old trick that works: local circuits jam; long-distance sometimes does not. Everyone carries that number on paper, not in a phone that is at 4% battery remaining.

Radios beat smoke signals. Prayers are fine; they are not a comms plan. Blister-pack FRS toys from the big-box store are good for the backyard and neighborhood. For anything more, go with a programmed handheld on MURS (no license) or GMRS (a cheap, no-test, ten-year license) that will talk when the towers are dark. Make sure you have two in each vehicle, one at the house. If you have a GMRS license, locate local repeaters that can allow you to contact help ten, twenty or thirty plus miles away.

Test them on a Sunday so the first time you key the mic is not during an ice storm. Guns Save Life has covered this before: cheap radios are dual-use gear, same as a rain barrel in the back yard.



Planning
A plan that lives only in your head is a wish. Put a light get-home bag in the vehicle you actually drive: sturdy shoes, a printed map of your commute, a liter of water, a compact first-aid kit, a headlamp, a charged power bank, and enough cash for a tank of gas and a cheap motel if the cards go down. Avoid Interstates - a few dead cars will turn it into a parking lot. Have printed maps. Know two surface-street routes home and one route to the rally point that never touches the interstate. If you work downtown or in a plant on the far side of a river, walk the first mile of that route once so you know where the bottlenecks are.



Kids.
Kids need simpler instructions than adults. "If Mom or Dad does not pick you up, go with Mrs. Hansen" is better than a speech. Laminate a card for the backpack: home address, parents' numbers, out-of-state contact, rally point, and the family password so a stranger cannot talk them into a car. Daycare and after-school programs are often the weak link; they lock down

or evacuate to a church two blocks over and never tell you until you are already circling the building. Know the plan and make sure authorized peeps can pick up the kiddos.



Pets are not an afterthought. Who grabs the crate? Where does the dog go if you cannot get home for 24 hours? A neighbor with a key beats a prayer and a smashed window.

Talk to two neighbors this month. Not a group chat — two people you would trust with a house key. If radios are in the mix, agree on a channel and a check-in time. The mesh does not have to be fancy. It has to exist before the power is out.

Write it down.
One page. Rally points, routes, out-of-area number, radio channel, school pickup names, who grabs the dog. Copy in every car and every backpack. Practice once before winter. Drive the backup route on a Saturday. Have the kids walk from school to the first rally point with you trailing in the truck. Time it. Then update the page when someone changes jobs or schools.

A safe full of rifles does not reunite a family stuck on opposite sides of a closed interstate. A plan on paper does. Think about it this month. Then write it down before the weather, the grid, or the traffic does the thinking for you.

Ready.gov has a free fillable family plan form. Use it, or write your own. Either way, put ink on paper.

THE SOFT BIGOTRY OF LOW EXPECTATIONS:
How dare we expect blacks and Latinos to pay their fines in a timely manner!

Rep. Slaughter's gift: ignore the ticket, keep the license

(GSL) — Illinois made it much harder to lose your license over unpaid minor traffic tickets. That is the real change. We know this is kind of old news, but it's worth a reminder...

In 2025, a bill Rep. Justin Slaughter (D-Chicago) helped carry stopped the state from suspending licenses for missing court on fine-only traffic tickets. Skip the date on a petty speeding citation and the court can still convict you in your absence and tack on costs. What it is not supposed to

do anymore is ask the Secretary of State to pull your license for that no-show. And you won't get arrested at your next interaction with police.

You still owe the money. Stack five or more unpaid speeding tickets, or five or more unpaid red-light camera tickets, and SOS can still send a suspension notice. Short of that, the license itself is no longer the collection agency.

Slaughter and other sponsors said the old rule was

unfair to black and Latino drivers who need a car to work. Using a license as a bill collector was a blunt tool.

The bill still has an author, and the tradeoff still has a body count. It emboldens people who already drive like the rules are optional.

That is how you buy more wrecks, including fatal ones. Put that on Slaughter. He wrote the easier out. He does not get to disown the predictable result.



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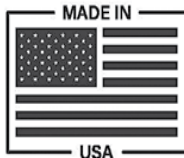
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Bullet casting: Is it a bygone pastime?

by Damon Williams
GSL Member

(GSL) - Way back when I had two grade-school kids, a mortgage, a car payment, a stack of credit-card statements that glowed in the dark, I had a standing appointment with the next payday. Competitive shooting on that budget was like trying to race a lawnmower at Daytona. Instead of buying another gun I couldn't afford, I decided to make my own bullets. How hard could it be? Famous last words.



Back then I could cash in aluminum cans, grab an old bathroom scale and a five-gallon bucket, and hit every service station and tire shop in town. Wheel weights were fourteen cents a pound. A full bucket gave me about a hundred pounds of lead and ten pounds of steel clips for fourteen or fifteen bucks. That was a year's supply of projectiles. Even better, the alloy was already perfect—tin and antimony mixed in just right. Nature's own factory load.

I'd plug in the pot, pull on a respirator, and remind myself that the gray dust coating my treasure was mostly asbestos. As the lead melted, the steel clips floated up like unwanted relatives at Thanksgiving. I'd skim them off with a fork. Then came the beeswax candle: a couple of drops on the surface, a little flame, a little stir, and the impurities would rise so I could spoon them off. Suddenly I was in the freedom-seed business.

Over the years I collected moulds the way some people collect regrets—different weights, different calibers. The two-cavity ones eventually gave way to six-cavity upgrades. Production sped up. Pride increased. My garage started to smell like a combination foundry and candle shop.

I cast everything I shot competitively for about ten years. Then I did the math. After comparing my time against the extra cost of store-bought bullets—and after my

paycheck had finally grown up—I was saving about three dollars an hour. That's not a hobby. That's a part-time job with worse benefits and more chances to set your eyebrows on fire. So I started ordering bullets like a civilized person. Still, when the budget got tight or I needed a weird caliber I wasn't willing to buy five hundred of, I'd fire up the pot again. It was cheap therapy that also went bang.

Then 2012 arrived. An executive order banished lead wheel weights. Zinc took their place. One quarter-ounce zinc weight in a ten-pound pot of lead will turn the whole batch into a useless metallic brick. The cheap, perfect alloy vanished overnight. Range scrap is free if you enjoy crawling around on your knees like a prospector who lost a bet. Lead pipes, X-ray shielding, and old sash weights still turn up, but they're too soft for serious smokeless loads. Thrift-store pewter, however, is tin and antimony in convenient knickknack form. Mix that with pure lead and you can play mad scientist until you get something that won't smear all over your barrel.



The real test came during the COVID ammo drought. My son bought a 45-70. There wasn't a single loaded round or even a box of bullets for sale anywhere. We horse-traded some once-fired brass. I had powder and primers. Bullets? Dad still had a dusty 405-grain single-cavity mould from a departed friend. We fired up the old pot, poured a few, and suddenly the rifle had something to eat. Not elegant. Effective.

Fond memories. Practical two decades later? That's your call. The pot still works. The stories still get better every time the smoke clears. And if the world ever runs short of factory ammo again, at least you'll know which dad to call.



September is Preparedness Month!

Gasoline is freedom/liquid gold

Gasoline is the quiet part of preparedness that people skip until the pumps go dark and every station is either dark without power or has a handwritten "NO GAS" sign taped to the glass. Food and water keep you alive. Liquid gold keeps you mobile, the freezer cold, the basement dry, and the saw running when a tree is across the house, drive or road. It is also one of the few barter items that needs no sales pitch. When the lights are out, nobody gives a hoot about Venmo. Especially if the internet is down.

The trick is keeping gas from turning into varnish. Modern jugs help. They seal tight and do not weep fumes into the shed the way the old red metal cans did in the summer heat. If you hate modern nozzles—and most people do—Harbor Freight sells a battery-powered transfer pump for about fifteen dollars. The pump does the work. It keeps gas spills to a minimum. Your driveway

and shoes won't smell like a refinery.

Treat the fuel. PRI-G in a tightly sealed can will keep gasoline useful for years, not months. Figure three to five if you do it right. Hit it again about every eighteen months and you are not rolling the dice. Label the jug with the date you filled it. Untreated gas is good for three months and some would argue that time-frame.

Better still, treat winter-blend gasoline. Summer-blend production ends September 15. Give stations about thirty days after that to flush the summer juice out of their tanks, then buy. Winter blend has more of the volatile "good stuff" and is less eager to go stale in storage.

Ideally, store the cans in an unattached garage or shed. Don't put them in the house and definitely not next to the water heater. Rotate every couple of years by running the oldest

fuel through the car. The engine does not care that the gas is two years old if you treated it. You get a fresh fill and a verification that the stash still works.

What you are buying is not a hobby. It is freedom. Freedom to leave when staying put is suicide. Freedom from sitting in a disaster line at a gas station for hours just to beg for \$20 in gas or maybe ten gallons if you're lucky. It's freedom to run a generator after a storm so the food does not thaw and the sump pump keeps the basement dry - to say nothing of powering clean-up. Freedom to fire up a chainsaw and other recovery tools instead of waiting like a chump for a crew that may not come - or the next line of storms to make things worse. Spare fuel is a ticket, a tool, and a barter item. Treat it, date it, park it outside the living space, and stop pretending the filling stations will always be open when you need them.

Sullivan Gun Club

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



Bowling Pin Shoots

Reminder: Kids shoot free!

Oct 10, Nov 7

subject to weather-related cancellations

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Rimfire Shoots

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Derecho: The Wind of Mass Destruction

By James C. Jones
Munster, IN (GSL/Abridged) - Tornadoes at least have the courtesy to show up as a funnel. Hurricanes send a save-the-date. A derecho just arrives and mows the map.

The word is Spanish for “straight ahead.”

In 1888, physicist Gustavus Hinrichs borrowed it for the linear wind wreckage he was mapping in Iowa. Picture F-1 or F-2 tornado winds—up to 120 mph—except the path is 30 miles wide and hundreds of miles long. No funnel to photograph. Just a wall of air that snaps poles, yanks trees out by the roots, and turns infrastructure into kindling. Then it rains. Sometimes the embedded tornadoes finish the job.



In the late morning of August 11th, the South suburbs of Chicago into northwest Indiana experienced a “derecho.”

Forecasts had mentioned storms and even muttered “derecho,” but not this.

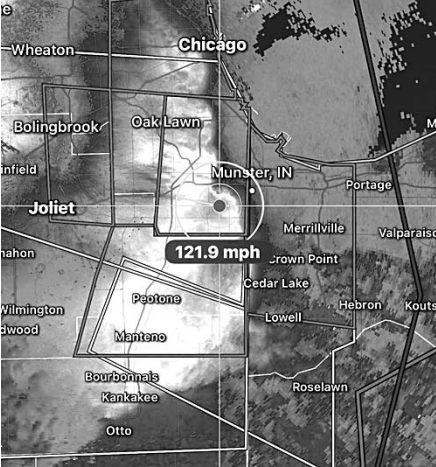
The region was still picking up after more than 65 tornadoes. Sirens. Basement. Weather radio. A little rain. Distant thunder. Then a roar like a freight train running through the living room and the sound of everything outdoors coming apart.

Lights flickered, died, flickered, then stayed dead. When it went quiet I came upstairs. Fence flattened. Streets blocked by whole trees. Lines down on every block. Ninety-five percent of three counties dark—most of us for six to twelve days.

Day one optimism: “They’ll have power tomorrow.” Nightfall honesty: long-haul mode. Fridge was a loss. Freezer I fought for. A neighbor’s generator bought

me time until I could get mine out of a jammed garage. Gas stations for miles were closed, dry, or hour-long lines. I paid neighbors for fuel and called it even.

We lived by candle, Kindle, and a solar pack that charged phones, lanterns, and one hour of local news. Day two the grocery store opened—with ice. Camp coolers, canned goods, stove-top burners on my gas stove that wouldn’t light without electricity, an old percolator. Hot water still worked. Laundry was a basement sink and a clothesline on the few decent days. Everything took longer. Everything hurt more. None of it was impossible.



What the wind taught me

- Don’t wait. Full tanks. Stocked pantry, meds, paper goods. Live like the lights die tomorrow.
- Be actually prepared. Tactical lights, NOAA radio, solar battery, a generator you can reach. Gas generators work—until fuel vanishes and the guy next door is refueling at 3 a.m. for two weeks. Solar is quiet.
- Neighbors beat gear. They cleared streets, checked on the old, brought a meal, cleaned my gutters.
- Reset fast. Restock, repair, upgrade.

Yesterday’s storm is tomorrow’s drill.

Stay calm and triage. What mattered at breakfast is optional after lunch. We sat on the porch in the dark and talked to people we usually wave at. Disasters are rude. They are also excellent teachers—if you let them be.

James C. Jones is founder of Live Free USA and author of six survival books. survivorji@aol.com

Guns Save Life Election Notice

Guns Save Life is entering its election cycle and is publishing the nominating committee’s slate. There is one vacancy: corporate secretary. Any member in good standing who wants to run for that office should contact Rich Goodall or John Boch. The secretary’s work is modest—taking minutes at the monthly Zoom meetings and handling a small amount of related paperwork.

Anyone who wants to challenge any other office should notify Rich

Goodall by October 5th. If no additional candidates are filed, members will vote at the October meetings to accept the nominating committee slate as presented.



The proposed officers are John Coyne for president, Tim Weir for vice president, and Tracy Bettinger for treasurer. The

secretary seat remains open. Rich Goodall continues as immediate past president, a non-elected position.

Two director seats are for two-year terms: Chad Berck (Seat 1) and Rick Ticken (Seat 2). Nine additional director seats are for one-year terms: David Randolph, Don Jensen, Howard Kaye, Richard Parks, Eric North, Keith Pippin, Glenn Pratt, Charles Sykes, and Kristin Garrett (Seats 3 through 11).

Are you preparing for the wrong things?

by John Boch
(GSL) - At Guns Save Life, we educate and empower people. We ask them to consider the things most people refuse to think about. Denial is easier. It costs nothing today. It also leaves practitioners empty-handed when the problem arrives.

Preparation is more than buying a gun to answer a potential threat. A firearm in the safe is inventory. A firearm you can put on a threat in seconds is readiness. Those are not the same thing.

You have guns, ammo and six months of food. You have antibiotics, a generator, and a plan for the day the grid dies and the stores stay closed for weeks. None of that is foolish. It forces you to think about water, calories, security, and medical care when the systems that normally supply them are gone for a week or three.

The gap is what happens *right now*.



Everyday carry is a thing.

If a knife-wielding thug named Jasiyah kicks in the front door and goes after your grandchild, can you stop him *right now*? Or is the pistol that would matter still locked up because everyday carry felt like a statement instead of a habit?

Power fails after a storm. The generator is buried behind stored supplies and junk in the garage. Can you get it out, prepped and running before your sump pump exhausts your UPS power supply (*you do have a backup power supply on your sump pump, right?*) and the basement floods?

You prepared for a weeks without grocery stores yet you can't access the power cord to your fridge, freezer or microwave to hook up an extension cord and resume some semblance of normalcy with a generator for a day or two? Or can't start your gas range with a match? If this is you, you're doing preparedness wrong.



There's a generator and stored fuel in there somewhere. We promise. Is this your garage?

Can you get it out, prepped and running before the basement floods and everything gets ruined?

You have a trauma bag that looks like it belongs on a fire truck or ambulance. Yet you do not have an Israeli bandage handy after the chainsaw slips and opens your leg in the backyard.



Can you access an Israeli Battle Dressing one-handed in your home and garage?

Most people will not look at this squarely. They will buy guns, stack the ammo, med gear, comms, and all sorts of stuff and tell themselves they are ready because the receipt says so. Don't outsource skills to a receipt. Buying a tool is not the same as having skills and experience to own the problem using those tools. And having those tools readily accessible.

Readiness is being able to act decisively in the first few seconds or minutes of a problem that did not send a calendar invite.

Everyday carry is not a costume for the range. A generator prepped and ready to go - one that you can reach in the dark - is readiness. A bandage or tourniquet you can access with one hand while bleeding or squirting is preparedness. Skills and accessibility matter more than the pile of preps.

What about the neighbor? The one you don't even know their name. Sure, you have a post-emergency team in your head: family, close friends. Yet you do not know which neighbor has a chainsaw, a radio, medical skills or a toddler who will be screaming when the tree comes down. Or which neighbor that will be a major liability. Collapse plans are great. Real emergency response and recovery starts first with your house, then the house next door. Then your family and friends *if* you can get to them.

Prepare for the worst if that is what keeps you honest. Then look at the week you actually live. Storm damage. A fall off a ladder. A stranger in the house. A bad laceration. Those events do not require a bunker. They require a gun that is on you, medical gear that is not in a tote, a way to get the generator running before the basement floods, and the willingness to practice all of it before you need it.

The really bad time may never come. A bad day comes more often than we would like. Be ready for both ideally, but the more likely scenario should get most of your attention. That is what meaningful preparation looks like.



Water prep...

John Boch drew the short straw at GSL Pontiac when featured speaker Terry Riccolo couldn't deliver his presentation on water for health reasons. Boch talked about the one household staple people treat like furniture until the tap doesn't flow.

The timing was not a thought experiment. Over the past year, federal agencies and water-industry groups have tied a spreading campaign against America's drinking-water and wastewater plants to Iranian-linked hackers. Utilities in multiple states have reported intrusions. Some operations went manual. Some towns got boil-water orders. You can live without streaming TV, a fresh manicure, and half the stuff in your garage. You cannot live without water. If the municipal plant is hacked, flooded, poisoned, or merely "please stand by," the family without a plan is about to learn what "urgent" means from the wrong end.

What's more, even four to six hours without water will degrade your ability to concentrate. Two days without water will leave you ready to drink someone else's urine out of a shoe.

Boch's prescription was simple enough to fit on a 3x5 card: Have ways to filter it, treat it, store it, or boil it. The mission is potable water and not dying of the trots/dehydration. Civilization is a thin layer of plumbing.

A decent filter is the daily driver. Gravity, pump, or ceramic units knock down silt, protozoa, and a lot of bacteria in swamp water. Carbon makes it taste better. If your idea of "prepared" is a Brita pitcher and optimism, you are bringing a napkin to a flood.

Chemical treatment is the kit that lives in a drawer until the sirens start. Unscented regular bleach, iodine, or chlorine-dioxide tablets will disinfect clear water if you measure, wait, and resist the urge to freestyle. Cloudy water needs settling or pre-filtering first; chemicals hate murk the way politicians hate accountability. Do not use scented bleach, splash-less gimmicks,

or whatever neon bottle is under the sink for the toilet. Pool shock can treat bulk water cheaply if you use the right product and follow real disinfection guidance. Bonus tip: treated water is an excellent goodwill item to share when safe water isn't readily available.

Storage is how you avoid becoming the person sprinting to Walmart after the shelves have already been decimated. Food-grade jugs, cool and dark, dated and rotated, buy you time. Bottled water (the 5 gallon variety) works. So does tap water in clean containers with a little unscented bleach and a date on the lid. A couple of cases of bottled water per person covers the first two or three ugly days for a few bucks. If you can shut the house inlet and kill the water-heater element you will have another 40 to 60 gallons sitting there like a steel piggy bank, waiting for you to access it from the drain valve at the bottom of the tank. Suddenly the first week is not a prayer. It is logistics.

Boiling is Grandpa's method, and it still works. Make Holy Water by boiling the hell right out of it, but no need to overdo it. Yes, heat will murder the bugs that turn your week into a bathroom marathon. It will not remove chemicals. It *will* devour precious fuel though. Treat boiling as the last-ditch option, not the lifestyle.



None of this replaces a working utility. It does mean you are not a spectator if Tehran's keyboard jockeys, a flood, or a terrorist cell takes your local water plant offline. Have a method. Have a stash. Try it once before the notice hits your phone and your stomach starts taking votes.

Half-Sack: Still not a fan of Appendix Carry

Continued from page 12.

down. Despite 15-plus years of firearms experience, the incident happened during a timed draw under training pressure.

He posted a frank video about a week later, mixing medical detail with dry humor. The video became his most-viewed upload. He has stated he will keep making drone and first-responder content rather than chase the incident's attention, while sharing recovery updates.

The usual workarounds don't survive contact with reality. "I take the holster out of my pants every time." Sure you do — until you don't. "I'll just set the gun down after a shooting." Great plan until you need it again in the next thirty seconds. "It's safer than other methods." Keep telling yourself that while the muzzle stays

pointed at the one artery that can empty you in under two minutes.

I have seriously considered Appendix carry. The speed and the concealment are very real. I still won't do it. My life, and the lives of the people who would have to mop me up are worth more than a slightly faster draw from concealment. A scar across the glute is an inconvenience. A self-inflicted femoral hit is probably lights out.

Carry however you want. It's your choice. Just don't pretend the risk is imaginary because your last 500 dry reps went fine. Murphy doesn't care about your Instagram holster pics. He only cares that the muzzle was pointed at the one part of you that doesn't bounce back.

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\$288 for 12 months.

Calendar



GUN SHOWS...

September
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.

October
Oct. 4 & 5: Central IL Gun Collectors New Berlin. Sangamon County Fairgrounds, New Berlin, IL. Patrick Keen oldcarbines@gmail.com.
Oct. 12: Kane County Sportsman's Show, Kane County Fairgrounds, St Charles, IL. Mick Stout (815) 217-2266
October 25-26: Belleville Gun & Knife Show, Belle-Clair Fairgrounds, Belleville, IL. Pope Creek Shows. Mark Craft 309 582-6268.
Oct 25 & 26: Sauk Trail Gun Show, Bureau County Fairgrounds, Princeton, IL. Dan Fritz 309 689-1934.

GUN CLUBS

Foosland Sportsman's Club
Second Tuesdays: 6p Tuesday night trap shoots
Fourth Saturday: Trapshoot starting at 10 AM. All open to the public.
Second Sunday: Annie Shoot/.22 steel plate shoot.

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

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

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

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

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



NRA FREEDOM ACTION FOUNDATION

formerly the Friends of NRA
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, Carrollton
October 18: Macon County, Decatur
October 24: Capital Area, Chatham

For more info, visit FriendsOfNRA.org.

September is National Preparedness Month
Unsexy battery preparedness

Preparedness isn't sexy. And Batteries are the decidedly Rodney Dangerfield of unsexy preparedness items. Nobody thinks about them until the remote dies, the mouse stops, or the smoke detector starts that 3 a.m. chirp. In fair weather they are junk-drawer filler for many families. After a storm they are light, radio, tools, and the difference between "we've got this" and fumbling around a dark house like a crappy sitcom, helplessly waiting for a second round of storm damage like a chump. Nobody wants to be a chump.

So take action. Be a hero, not a zero. Start with the cheap stuff. Alkalines still run most flashlights, headlamps, clock radios, lanterns, toys the kids will not surrender, and a pile of odds and ends you forgot you owned. Buy them in bulk.



Amazon warehouse packs and the house brands at Walmart/Sam's Club will do the job. Name-brand cells are not magic. Someone has to pay for the Super Bowl ads, and it does not have to be you. Stock AA and AAA first. Add 9-volts for detectors and crap you forgot that use them, then C and D even if you don't still have lanterns and lights that drink those. Write the purchase month and year on the pack and rotate the oldest into daily use.

Walk the house with your voltmeter to check alkaline batteries. I usually discard any under 1.5v, but you do you. You're also inspecting for leaking batteries in these quarterly sweeps. If it's

a seldom used device, take the batteries out, put them in a ziplock bag with the device as save yourself a leaking battery disaster.

While doing this, charge those Lithium-ion packs are in cordless drills, two-way radios, saws, vacs, phone power banks, camera lights, and a lot of "tactical" flashlights that brag until they sit dead in a drawer. Once a quarter, run the circuit: house, garage, trunk and glove box. Charge the tool batteries, the headlamps, the radios, the jump pack in the trunk. Li-ion batteries that sit empty for months can sulk and refuse to wake up. For kits you rarely touch, a partial charge in a cool, dry place beats a hero charge in July and a brick in January.



Keep a small "use first" kit by the door: headlamp, AA/AAA brick, 9-volts, one phone power bank. Put fresh batteries in the smoke detectors when you change clocks instead of playing chicken with the chirp. Keep an eye on your battery box so your spouse/kids don't use them all when you're not looking.

Batteries are not an exciting part of adulthood. But they are part of acting like an adult. They are how every other tool you stored still works when the wall outlets become wall decorations. Buy the bulk pack, date it, charge the good stuff four times a year, and stop learning this lesson at midnight - or when your jump pack won't start your car because it was last charged three years ago...

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DATA THEY DIDN'T WANT

Continued from front page.

ble and blamed "leading" questions and a definition that included incidents where a gun was only mentioned. The redesigned survey produced **2.2 million** a year. Part of the jump comes from asking about animal attacks, which made up more than 8 percent of reports. The direction of the error was the opposite of what critics claimed.

Carry culture is winning. Seventy percent of gun owners now say there are at least some circumstances in which they carry a handgun for self-defense, up from 56 percent. The survey estimates 33.6 million "public carriers"—people with a permit in locations that require it, and without for those locations who don't require a license, who carry for defense at least sometimes. That is a **60 percent increase in five years.**

The calendar explains a lot of it. Since July 2021, 12 states covering more than 117 million people have passed permitless carry. The Supreme Court's 2022 *Bruen* decision opened carry in states that had treated it as a privilege for the well-connected. Pair that with the crime spike of the early 2020s and a lot of Americans decided the holster was not optional.

The gun-owner club is less white-and-male than the posters. The new survey told people to count only guns they

personally own—not a spouse's. Female ownership as a share of gun owners still rose 3.5 percentage points. The "she just listed her husband's guns" theory did not survive contact with the new questionnaire.



Yes, black folks are buying guns. As are other minorities.

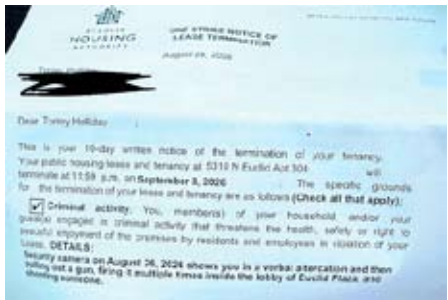
Activists could have shrugged after 2021 and moved on. They demanded a rematch. English ran it again, tightened the questions they hated, and the numbers moved further against the ban-and-confiscate script: more rifles, more magazines, more defensive uses, more people carrying, and a broader slice of America doing all of it.

Be careful what you ask for. Sometimes you get the data.



Cartel drone use down 75% after military smokes a few in late August

McAllen, Texas (CBS News) — Less than two weeks after the military first used a high-energy laser weapon system to down suspicious drones, military officials told CBS News there has been a roughly 75% decrease in the number of drones probing the southern border in the Rio Grande Valley.



Welcome to 'public housing'

Shoot a robber, get evicted

St. Louis (Fox2) — A man in a wheelchair says he is being evicted for defending himself. It involves a shooting at Euclid Plaza Apartments under the St. Louis Housing Authority. Police and prosecutors call Torrey Holliday a robbery victim.

Holliday says rental management terminated his lease.

"I woke up the next morning, they not even trying to ask me, 'Am I alright? What happened? Is it ok?' Nothing," he said. "All they hit me with was a big (bleep) package saying, 'You got to be out.'"



Top 10 states for household gun ownership across the U.S.

(Infodex) -

Montana — 66.3%
Wyoming — 66.2%
Alaska — 64.5%
Idaho — 60.1%
West Virginia — 58.5%
Arkansas — 57.2%
Mississippi — 55.8%
Alabama — 55.5%
South Dakota — 55.3%
North Dakota — 55.1%

And then there's Illinois at #44 — 27.8%



Third-world 'immigrants' account for 46% of violent crime in German state

(ZeroHedge) - Non-German suspects account for nearly half of all violent crime in the German state of Bavaria, with the anti-immigration Alternative for Germany (AfD) party now calling for remigration for all criminal migrant suspects.

The Interior Ministry data was released in response to a request from AfD state parliament member Martin Böhm. It revealed that police recorded 20,367 suspects in violent offenses in 2025 and about 47 percent did not have German citizenship.

You don't say...

Sweden discovers that deporting 'immigrant' gangsters reduces crime

(GSL) - Sweden has found that removing a small number of prolific offenders—especially foreign gang members—sharply cuts violent crime. After Ulf Kristersson's 2022 coalition pledged to deport non-citizen criminals, shootings fell about 80% from their 2022 peak, bombings dropped, and one month even recorded no shootings. Authorities also increased police funding, wiretaps, and efforts against youth gang recruitment, while cutting asylum numbers to a four-decade low.

In 2022 Sweden had 361 shootings, 62 deaths, and 90 bombings amid migrant-gang violence that officials only began tracking as bombings in 2018. The author argues the same logic applies everywhere: lock up or deport the few who drive most felonies and victimization collapses—if prosecutors and judges cooperate.

WHAT A FARCE: Less than one person per state, per month - mostly ONLINE!

Everytown touts failed 'Train Smart' program...

(TrainSmart) - One year ago, Train SMART launched as an ambitious new project to bring the military's proven principles of training, safety, and accountability to the world of civilian firearms training. Our mission was deceptively simple: foster a community of safe, highly disciplined gun owners dedicated to those same principles — training, safety, and accountability — and empower them to serve as respected role models in their communities and champions of responsible gun ownership...

Since we launched last September, over 700 students from 45 different states have enrolled in our online courses...

'Transformative' Programming': Boston's progressive policing dreams run into reality (and a sword)

(GSL/SNW) - While Boston's ultra-woke, far left Mayor Michelle Wu was on the city council back in 2020 when she pushed to peel so-called "non-violent" mental health 911 calls over to social workers who ride alongside cops. Since then, she's de-funded the police and re-directed tens of millions in funding to sending social workers to respond to 911 calls.



Welcome to Boston's Social Worker Ride-Along program. (Not an AI) photo from Boston Police.

Spoiler alert: It isn't working. Co-response, they call it. Divert from policing. Connect to care. The slogans have not survived contact with reality.

Earlier this year, a man called 911 claiming armed people were after him. Officers found him behind a locked door, so they did what Mayor Michelle Wu's city has spent years congratulating itself for: they sent a mental-health clinician to respond. So they could "talk it out" with a mental case.

After forty-five minutes of conversation, the door swung open. The "patient" raised his sword and attacked. The social worker was knocked to the ground. A cop was stabbed. And the "patient" rode some lightning before other cops conducted a multi-round ballistics test on him.

He died. The "patient" wasn't in need of a wellness brochure or a good cry. He was in need of force, lethal as it happened, to stop his rampage and protect innocent life.

FBI: 2025 had biggest violent-crime drop in 90 years

(Axios) - The U.S. violent crime rate plunged 9.7% last year — the largest annual drop since the FBI's national estimates began in 1936 — according to the bureau's data released Friday and reviewed by Axios.

Why it matters: The FBI's 2025 report indicated that the post-pandemic declines in violent crime accelerated sharply last year in communities of all sizes across the U.S. (That drop appeared to continue during the first half of this year, a separate Axios analysis of big cities' violent crime data found last week.)

Among the declines cited by the FBI:

- Murder and nonnegligent manslaughter dropped 18.1%.
- Robbery fell 18.5%, rape 7.6% and aggravated assault

7.2%.

- Meanwhile, the U.S. murder rate decreased 18.5% to 4.1 per 100,000 residents, tying 1955 and 1956 for the lowest rate since FBI national estimates began.



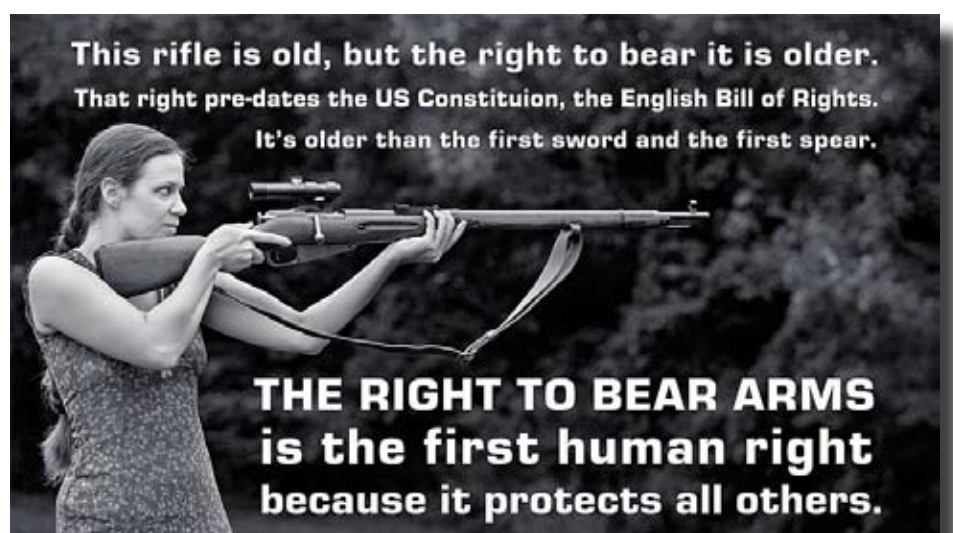
Property crime declined 12.4%, led by drops in motor vehicle theft (22.7%), burglary (15.8%) and larceny-theft (9.8%).

Zoom in: The decline in crime was unusually broad, touching every

population group in the FBI's violent-crime data — from the largest cities to small cities, suburbs and rural counties, an Axios analysis found.

Cities with 500,000 to 999,999 people had the biggest decrease, 15.3%, including drops of 27.4% in murder, 22.8% in robbery and 12.6% in aggravated assault. The report is the FBI's final one for 2025 crime, but the national figures remain statistical estimates. The FBI estimates missing data to produce nationally representative figures.

17,075 law enforcement agencies submitted 2025 data, covering more than 96% of the U.S. population. Every city agency serving at least 1 million residents submitted a full 12 months.





California achieves world’s first crime rate of zero after legalizing all crime

Sacramento, CA (Babylon Bee) — In what officials have hailed as a historic first, California has become the first state to achieve a crime rate of zero after passing legislation to make all crimes completely legal.

“This is a great moment for our state,” Governor Gavin Newsom said. “No other state in the nation’s history has successfully brought the crime rate down to nothing. California is once again leading the way!”



Golf can be a hazardous sport

@MediocreJoker85
A man limps into the emergency room with a black eye, a broken arm, and a bad limp.

The doctor asks, “What happened to you?”

The man replies, “Well, my wife and I just retired, and we decided we should take up a hobby together. We figured we’d give golf a try.”

The doctor asks, “So... were you hit by a golf cart?”

“No,” the man says. “We both teed off on the first hole, but our shots went way off course and landed in a farmer’s field next to the golf course.”

“I climbed over the fence to look for the balls and was met by a very angry farmer.”



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