WE DEFEND YOUR RIGHT
TO DEFEND YOURSELF.
Complimentary. Take One.

GunNews

Second Amendment news and more **Published monthly by GUNS SAVE LIFE, Inc.** **Volume 33, Number 11 November 2026**
Affiliated with Illinois Gun Rights Alliance, JPFO, National Rifle Association, Illinois Federation for Outdoor Resources and others



Image courtesy Oleg Volk.

VOTE

(GSL) - Gun owners and our family and friends, listen up. That little FOID card in your wallet isn't a participation trophy from the Illinois State Police's backlog Olympics. It's a reminder that your rights hang by a thread in this state, and the only people who can cut that thread further are the ones who win elections.

Hunters, same deal. If you want to keep filling your freezer instead of filling out more forms and waiting months for the privilege, you need to vote. Ditto for those who love the great outdoors, including anglers (men and women) and farmers. Vote your rights. Vote your guns.



And not just you. Drag your buddies with you—the ones who own guns, know the difference between a FOID and a fantasy, and understand that a sheriff or state's attorney in their county can do more damage to their daily life than whatever's happening in Washington.

Skip the people who still think Chicago's gang violence is caused by law-abiding FOID holders downstate. Bring the people who get it: friends, family, the guy at the range who actually knows what PICA is. Local offices matter most. Those are the ones that decide whether a self-defense case in your county gets treated like justice or a political show trial.



Macon County Sheriff Jim Root.

Your vote actually matters. Just ask Jim Root, the GSL regular who ran for Macon County Sheriff. The Democrat allegedly won by one vote. After a recount, Root won. The loser then refused to leave office for two years while the courts sorted it out and finally certified the results. One stinkin' vote decided who wears the badge in Decatur. That's not a theory or a campaign slogan. That's Illinois, where every race can turn on a handful of ballots and the losing side sometimes treats the courthouse like a hostage situation. By the way, Jim Root's running this cycle.

People keep asking what they can do for the current administration's anti-globalist, pro-American agenda. Here's the most immediate answer: vote in the midterms, and make sure a dozen of your right-thinking friends do the same. Midterms usually reward the side that's angrier and more organized—the

Continued on page 20.

Meeting Changes

Note the calendar for changes in meetings with the holidays. Be sure to go out and vote early and often on Tuesday, November 3rd. If not before. We are working on a very special guest speaker for Peoria's November meeting. You won't want to miss the first person account of a homeowner who shot an intruder to save her son.

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November 2026

- **Quincy**: Last Wednesday: **No Nov/Dec meetings with holidays**
  Eagles Club, 3737 N. Fifth Street, Quincy
- **Chicagoland**: Last Sunday: **No Nov/Dec meetings** *(check website)*
  Brian's Place, 25665 S. Governors Hwy, Monee
  Exhibits and conversation here at 4:30pm. Program at 5:30pm.
- **Sangamon County**: **November 2**, December 7, January 4
  SCHEELS, 3801 S. MacArthur, Springfield
- **Pontiac**: First Tuesday: **November 3**, December 1, January 5
  Pontiac Sportsman's Club. 18663 4-H Park Road, Pontiac
- **Decatur**: First Wednesday: **November 4**, December 2, January 6
  Coz's Pizza, 1405 East Village Parkway, Mt Zion *(Program at 6:45pm)*
- **Peoria**: First Thursday: **November 5**, December 3, January 7
  Barrack's Banquet Center, 1224 Pioneer Parkway, Peoria
  Dinner and conversation here at 5:30pm. Program at 6:30ish.
- **Danville**: Second Monday **November 9**, December 14, January 11
  Ela's Restaurant, 1111 E. Voorhees St., Danville
- **Northwest Chicagoland**: Second Wed: **Nov. 11**, Dec. 9 *(check website)*
  Prairie House Tavern, 2710 Main St., Buffalo Grove
  Dinner and conversation here at 5:30pm. Program at 6pm-ish.
- **Mattoon**: Second Thursday: **November 12**, December 10, January 14
  The American Legion Post 88, 1903 Maple Ave, Mattoon
- **LaSalle County**: Third Thursday: **November 19** *No Dec., Jan. meetings*
  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



Champion shooter Darrell Cox, the former Coles Co. Sheriff, spoke at GSL's Mattoon meeting. Be brought some of his guns and gear.



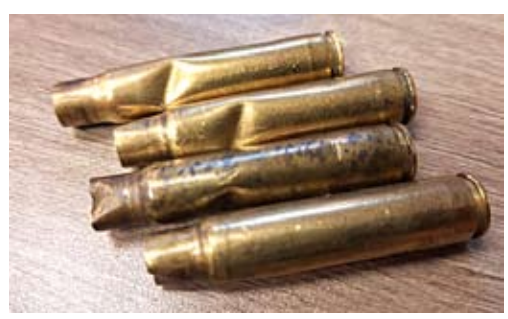
A stone knife made out of flint(?).



Blades were the tech time in Decatur. Here are reproduction knives from the first three Rambo movies.



Looks real enough to get you shot... Here's a wooden repro of a katana sword.



Mangled brass from the Egyptian "Hakeem" rifle. Hakeem means "Wise Man" in Arabic. Yeah, if that's a wise man, we would hate to see the average man rifle. We'll bring you more about this "Thumb Chopper" gun next month.



Yvonne won a 9mm in Decatur.



Hank Judd with a real baby Luger. It shoots 5+1 rounds of .380.



Mike won the very nice Rost Martin package at Pontiac. Thanks to Runnings for providing the gun!



John Boch in front of close to 85 in Decatur.

The Next Generation

Renlee will take your money

by Glenn Sanders

I am always warning the boys that come down to Sandridge Duck Club and Daycare, do not let Renlee Johnson sucker you into a Top Gun rifle shot bet. She has never lost a bet yet.



Today she spanked three of the boys and then proceeded to rub salt in their bruised boy ego wounds. She took a quarter and then put the one shot, one kill on it at 25 yards! Take note of her 6 o'clock hold position hit- just like she has been trained.



Not content, she then did the same thing with a *dime*. I drilled holes in them so she could make a necklace with them. 35 cents of bling and school is out of session for these boys.

If someone happens to find a small red duck, about 1 inch in size with a bullet hole in the head.... it was last seen airborne at a high rate of speed towards the bluff. That would be hers also.

Undefeated and still champion, bring cash.

Twin A's Nine-Ring Day

by John Boch

I took the boys out for their fourth or fifth range trip of the summer in early October. Twin A, seven years old, was on his second or third time firing a handgun—a Walther P22 that fits his small hands the way a tool should.



He's fired fewer than a hundred rounds from a handgun in his life. This was the first time I really coached him on the fundamentals: stance, grip, and a smooth press of the trigger. I hung a Shoot-N-C circle at four yards and told him to do his best.

He put nine of the ten into the circle. The last one was low left.

I've taught thousands of people over the years. I've seen grown men struggle to do what this kid just did. He paid attention. He did what he was told. He squeezed instead of yanked. The results showed up almost immediately.

Twin B loves shooting too, just quieter—CB caps and Colibri silent .22s for now with his blue Cricket rifle. He's cross-eye dominant and just now figuring out how rifle sights work with his eyes.



Twin B sees results of using sights!

Different kids, different paces. The goal is that both leave wanting to come back. And they do! Some people wait until their kids are older or more "ready." These two are ready now.

Nine of ten. Four yards. Third time shooting a pistol at seven years old. That's what good training looks like. I'll take that every day of the week. Appleseed is next year for him. Twin B? Who knows.

Cook County Judge orders transing Nazi misfit to keep getting his gender-transition injections while awaiting trial for attempted mass murder

Chicago (Blue Lives Matter) - This is nuts: A Cook County judge ordered 19-year-old Alexandros Paporakis held without bail for an alleged mass sh*oting plot at a Hindu temple... while also directing jail staff to continue his gender-transition hormone injections.

Alexandros Paporakis of Palatine faces charges of making a terr*rist threat and unlawful possession of a short-barreled rifle. Prosecutors say he drove to the Sri Venkateswara Swami Temple in Aurora on October 11 and told a coworker the weapon jammed when he tried to fire.

Investigators recovered an unserialized rifle, hundreds of rounds, Nazi materials, and a manifesto. In it he wrote that he was "a sociopathic white supremacist Neo Nazi filled with hatred, fantasizing about mass murder nearly every day."



Best Christmas present ever: ***FELONY PROTECTION***

Join SAF or FPC...
and carry in Post Offices

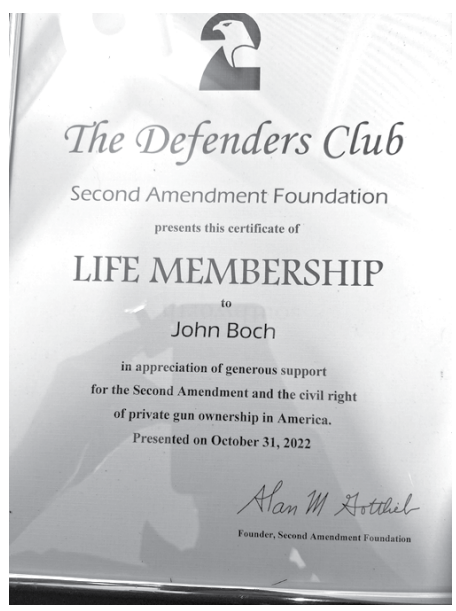
This Christmas, skip the socks and the fruitcake. Buy the gun owner in your life a membership in the Second Amendment Foundation ($25) or the Firearms Policy Coalition ($10) instead. It might be the only gift that actually lets them mail a letter, parcel or package without risking a federal felony.

A permanent federal injunction now blocks enforcement of the longstanding ban on carrying firearms in ordinary, stand-alone post offices and on surrounding postal property—including the parking lot. The catch? It only covers the individual plaintiffs and members of SAF and FPC, the organizations that brought the lawsuit and won.

Everyone else remains subject to the same statute and regulations. Join either group and the protection travels with you nationwide. Stay on the outside and the post office is still a "sensitive place" where peaceable citizens can be treated like criminals for buying stamps.

The government tried to narrow the relief to people who were already members when the case was filed. The court said no. Present and future members are covered. The appeal has been dropped. The injunction stands.

So for roughly the price of a couple boxes of ammo, you can give someone legal cover to carry where the federal government spent years pretending the Second Amendment does not apply. Membership has its privileges. In this case, one of them is not having to choose between the post office and your sidearm. Merry Christmas.







'No Kings' vs. Duck Hunters:
How are the crazies still in control of IL?
Hint: Because we aren't voting!

by Glenn Sanders

Thirty (30!) people show up for a No Kings dog and pony show. Media calls it a "resounding success." That is so cute.

1000+ gun owners show up at each one of 28 duck blind drawings. Crickets in media.

How in the hell are crazies still in control of this state? Get out and VOTE! No Excuses rally is November 3rd- or get it done at the courthouse before election day!



Stay informed. Stay engaged and involved. Join Guns Save Life!

(GSL) - *Gun rights in Illinois are not a* spectator sport. The people who treat them that way keep waking up to crazoes running our government, implementing new soft-on-crime laws, more gun restrictions on the people not committing crimes and the slow erosion of what they once took for granted. *GunNews* exists so you do not have to find out what happened after it has already happened to you—and so you have the tools to do something about it before the next deadline hits.

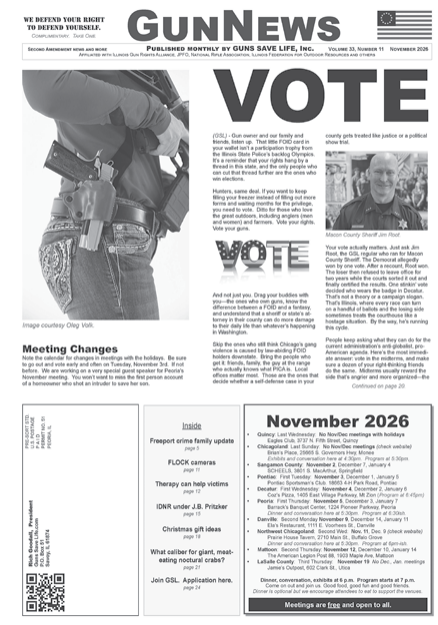
GSL's monthly journal puts the fight in your hands: legislative threats coming out of Springfield, court cases that will decide whether the most common rifles in America stay legal, real defensive gun uses that show what works when the threat is immediate, and the practical details that separate people who are prepared from people who are merely armed. Local meeting schedules, voting reminders, training insights, and the unvarnished reality of how soft-on-crime policies and activist prosecutors treat law-abiding citizens all land in one place. It is the briefing that keeps you current instead of constantly playing catch-up.

Showing up at meetings is also how you meet the best of the best. Business owners, entrepreneurs, lawyers, doctors, engineers, trainers, farmers, teachers, judges, cops, firefighters, mechanics and tradesmen, along with other everyday people who simply refuse to surrender their rights.

There is a truckload of real-world experience and hard-earned knowledge in the rooms at these meetings—people who have life experiences in a wide array of fields. There are people who have been there, done that defending themselves, running businesses, raising families, and standing up in the places where it counts. They are the kind of good people worth bringing into your circle if you are one yourself. Good people attract good people, and the connections you make at our meetings often last decades or more.

Staying informed is the minimum. Staying engaged means showing up at the meetings, talking to the right people, and refusing to let the other side own the field. Staying involved means adding your name, your voice, and your membership dues to an organization that has spent years in the rooms where these decisions get made. Guns Save Life does the work. *GunNews* keeps you current on it and introduces you to the people still willing to fight for it.

Join today. The fight for your rights does not pause between elections or court dates. Neither should you. Get the magazine in your mailbox every month, meet the people who still believe in defending themselves, and stay in the fight.


GUNNEWS
PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY GUNS SAVE LIFE, Inc.
VOTE
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Meetings are free and open to all.

Join Guns Save Life today.



Membership application on back page of GunNews

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.

Executive Director's Report

Concern #1: Election.

Executive Director's Report
by John Boch



Legislative
The Illinois General Assembly limps back to Springfield for the fall veto session on November 17–19, then again December 1–3. These are the warm-up acts. The real bloodletting—the stuff so radioactive even the Democrats don't want cameras on it—waits for the lame-duck session in early January. That's when JB and the supermajority pass the truly objectionable material, usually after midnight when the building is empty and the only people still awake are the ones who think more gun laws will magically stop the body count on the South Side. Welcome to radical Dem governance: if the public hates it, schedule it for the dead of night.



GSL's John Boch.

Litigation
Oral arguments in *Viramontes* are set for Wednesday, December 2. This is a landmark civil-rights case—maybe one of the last big ones. We've had the Supreme Court on slavery (*Dred Scott*), on poll taxes (*Harper v. Virginia*), on segregation (*Brown*). Now it's time for one on gun-control schemes that treat the most popular rifle in America like contraband.

The U.S. Solicitor General has asked the Court for ten minutes to argue *for* the Second Amendment and against these bans. An amicus brief is polite. An appearance by the United States government is a declaration. Elections have consequences, folks. We're already at 43 amicus briefs on the plaintiffs' side. The Cook County and Connecticut briefs start landing later this month. Popcorn recommended.

Chicago's gang violence homicide numbers
HeyJackass has the city's year-to-date body count at 356 as of mid-October. For context: 31 entire states recorded fewer homicides ***all of last year*** than Chicago has already logged this year. JB Pritzker has been out claiming Chicago isn't even in the top 30. Correct. They're not in the top 30. ***They're number one***—and have been for something like 17 years running. Google still tries to bury the number. Reality does not.

Fort Hood
Our old nemesis Nidal Hasan gets wheeled out in front of a firing squad at Fort Hood on December 3 at 1 p.m.—roughly the same hour he launched his personal jihad back in 2009. First military execution by firing squad since 1945. I'm confident certain people will need tissues when he takes his last breath. Good riddance.



Gallup
Latest Gallup "most important problem" poll: Guns/Gun Control clocks in at 0.5%. School shootings: literally zero. For comparison, 4% of Americans believe shape-shifting reptilians control the world by taking human form and seizing political power. More people are worried about lizard people than about your AR-15. Let that sink in the next time a legislator claims the public is demanding more gun control.

Get Out and Vote!!
Election Day is November 3. Online registration closed October 18, but grace-period registration is still available in person through Election Day itself. It's not too late. Bring a friend. Bring a family member. Drag the right-thinking people in your life to the polls.

We must vote. Sitting it out in protest, or because you think your vote doesn't matter, is how idiots vote the rest of us into socialism. Once that happens, you'll have to shoot your way out of it. Don't wait for the aftermath. Vote now.

Macon County State's Attorney Diane Couri:

SAFE-T Act folly

Macon County State's Attorney Diane Couri did not come to soft-pedal Springfield's handiwork. She walked the room through the so-called Pretrial Fairness Act the way a prosecutor walks a jury through a bad alibi: plainly, and without much mercy for the authors.



Diane Couri, Macon Co. State's Attorney.

Under the old bail system, the point was simple. Show up for court. Serious crimes drew serious bonds. Petty ones drew petty ones. Money was leverage, not a moral scorecard. Under the Pretrial Fairness Act, passed in a lame-duck, dead-of-night session and sold as reform, the presumption flipped. Everyone arrested is presumed eligible for release without posting a dime. Detention is the exception, and only for a short list of offenses that sometimes reads like it was drafted by people who have never met a defendant.

Couri's favorite illustration of the drafting: ***threaten*** to hurt or kill the state's attorney and you get held. Give her a knuckle sandwich, or worse, and you are *presumed eligible to walk*. The law demands clear and convincing evidence that someone is a danger, written in language elastic enough to mean almost anything. That ambiguity looks less like an accident than a feature of what Springfield calls criminal-justice reform, which in practice handcuffs police and prosecutors while the people who keep reoffending get another set of keys.

Prosecutors generally get one clean shot at a detention hearing. Release the defendant, watch him violate pretrial conditions over and over and over again and the only thing the State can do is have him sanctioned to 30 days in jail. If a defendant picks up a new case while on pretrial release, the burden is still on the state to show no conditions are appropriate and the defendant should be held. "Willful flight" is about as vague as it gets. Isolated missed court dates do not count. The statute wants a facts of intentional evasion, which is a high bar when the alternative is simply letting

The clock is worse. Detention hearings must be ready inside 48 hours or the defendant is released. That means prosecutors start before dawn building packets for 1:30 hearings that used to have a week of runway. Trials for detained defendants must generally happen inside 90 days or the charges fall. An appellate ruling later bought prosecutors an extra 120 days to process DNA, which is something, but it is not a system designed for real cases with real victims who move, hide, or simply cannot be found.

Couri described one already resolved: a man tied to multiple home invasions, including one in which he shot the victim. Prosecutors could not locate the victim in the first case in time to have a trial. After 90 days the law forced his release. He was picked up again shortly afterward on another charge. Surprise.

Sentencing offers no backstop. Reoffend after that first release and consecutive time is no longer required. Felony retail theft, release, shoplift again, release, get popped stealing from Walmart again, and the defendant is still looking at the same one-to-three years he would have faced on the first charge.

"Sometimes the judges don't have a choice but to release the bad guys," Couri said. "It's what the law or court precedent requires them to do." Her office is answering the only way left open: appealing the good cases to build good precedent, and leaving the bad ones alone so they do not become the rule. It is a hard job, made harder by the wizards of smart in Springfield who keep writing laws that treat working families as the problem and repeat offenders as the clients.

She did emphasize that it was up to all of us to turn out and vote. She encouraged folks to take their kids and grandkids to let them see what voting is all about and instill a desire to participate in the election process when they're young.



GSL
GunsSaveLife.com

WE DEFEND YOUR RIGHT TO DEFEND YOURSELF.

Guns Save Life's
LIFE MEMBERSHIP!

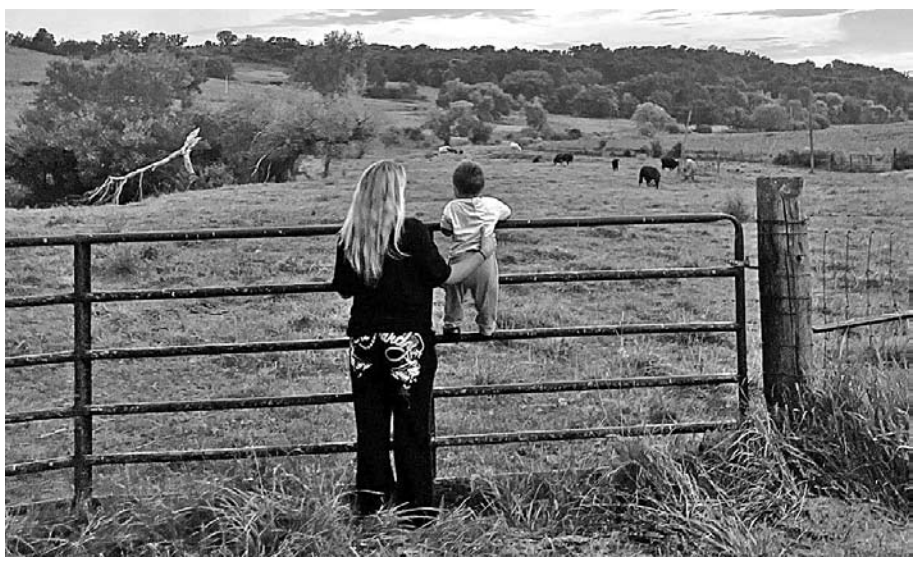
Guns Save Life is proud to announce our "Life Membership" for those who wish to show an exemplary level of support towards Guns Save Life and our mission defending your right to defend yourself.

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.

Illinois News



The homeowner, "Jillian" and her youngest on the family farm.

'Justice for Jasiyah' update...

Turd Boy, Baby Stone, and Wheels: Freeport crime family drama update

Freeport, IL (GSL) — Remember the mom who ended Jasiyah, aka "Knife Boy's," career as a living-room assassin? Here's the update.

Thirteen-year-old Jasiyah showed up at Jillian's house (name changed) with a hunting knife big enough to field-dress a deer after promising to "gut" Jillian's 13-year-old son "like a hog." He forced his way in. She warned him to stop. He taunted her and lunged again. She shot him. Jasiyah bled. A lot. Then, because she's not a monster, Jillian tried to keep him from bleeding out on her floor until the ambulance arrived.

Jasiyah's mother immediately went full professional victim on Facebook, launched a "JUSTICE FOR JASIYAH" group, and organized protests. She carefully left out the part where her son arrived with a big-assed knife and a murder plan. Think of it as a fundraiser with extra steps.

I helped Jillian, giving her a Ruger 9mm, laser, holster, and ammo that had been collecting dust in my safe. It hadn't been lost in a boating accident yet. She picked it up on hour 73. National attention followed on *Shooting News Weekly*.

Meanwhile, the thug's family took a Florida vacation. Then they came home.

Three nights later, Jasiyah—now permanently rebranded as **Turd Boy**—linked up with a 20-year-old genius who answers to "**Baby Stone**." Real name: Geonte Milton. "Baby Stone" apparently tested better in focus groups than "Geonte" or "Stoned Baby." Geonte already had a recent Freeport arrest for riding dirty in Freeport with a loaded gun.

Their sophisticated plan: cruise past Jillian's house and shoot it up if she and the kids were home. Nobody was home. So Turd Boy, who once had the stones to come through the front door with a knife, moved on to a relative's house. He wasn't crashing the door this time. Instead he'd just punch holes in the walls from the street and try to kill someone indiscriminately. Real warrior energy.

The relative's house *did* have people inside, including young kids. Turd Boy and Stoned Baby dumped dozens of rounds into it—probably holding their guns in one hand and their junk in the other. Freeport PD arrived quickly (great job guys!), ran down Turd Boy, and he got himself hurt while resisting arrest. Pass the tissues. Fresh charges stacked on the original home-invasion-attempted-murder-and-knife case. Geonte ran. If you see Baby Stone, Freeport PD would like a word.

Turd Boy spent time in juvenile detention, got a brief release so doctors could try to reconstruct what was left of his boy parts after the first shooting, and is expected to go to trial later in October. The short bus to juvenile prison is warming up.

Meanwhile, Dad has entered the chat from his new wheelchair. He's been on Facebook threatening to murder Jillian. How he got the wheelchair is a July 4th cautionary tale: he got drunk at a party, threatened people and got his gun taken away. Someone else shot him nine times with it. Yes, nine. With his own gun. And like a cockroach, he lived. He's now known, at least around here, as **Wheels**.

So the current threat assessment is a wheelchair-bound felon who has already proven he can lose control of his own firearm while intoxicated, talking tough on Facebook about rolling up on a woman who has already shot one of his relatives. If you're busy drinking, getting high, and dipping into Mom's drug inventory while she's trying to sell it, life is hard. Strategic planning, correct spelling, and proper punctuation of murder threats is *much* harder.

Jillian is getting by one day at a time. She's understandably scared—she knows these people know where she lives, and she's got kids to keep alive. She also has the means to handle the next problem, courtesy of the pistol Guns Save Life put in her hands, plus a legal defense policy. She's already demonstrated she can stop a knife-wielding 13-year-old who wanted to butcher her son. Any other ne'er-do-wells who want to test whether Mama Bear is still willing to perforate body parts should find a different hobby, or Darwin may prevail.

She's done it once. She can do it again. And this time she doesn't have to worry about affording a top-tier legal defense—which is more than Turd Boy, Stoned Baby, or Wheels can say.

Teen "Takeovers": They aren't new in Chicago

They <u>are</u> spreading across the nation in soft-on-crime locations

Chicago (GSL) - While California politicians clutch their pearls over the latest "teen takeover" chaos in upscale Newport Beach over Independence Day weekend, Illinois gun owners have been living with this for years. What's shocking in Commiefornia is old news in Chicago – and it's spreading to the suburbs and downstate.



Social media calls brought thousands of unruly juveniles to the pier, resulting in over 400 arrests, an officer hit by fireworks, blocked roads, fights, vandalism, and a looted grocery store. Officials admitted their preparations were "no match" for the mob.

Yawn. Chicago has endured these flash-mob disruptions for years – now bigger, more organized, and brazen. They overwhelm police, trash public spaces, block streets, damage cars, and create no-go zones. "Block parties" barricade roads, trapping residents while turning into gang violence.

Decades of soft-on-crime policies, fatherlessness, and a culture celebrating victimhood have predictable results. Strict gun control in Chicago proves disarming good people doesn't stop the bad ones.

Law-abiding Illinoisans know the truth: The only thing that stops a bad guy with a plan is a good guy who's prepared. Whether it's protecting your family during one of these "takeovers" or defending your home from spillover chaos, your Second Amendment rights are the ultimate equalizer.

Illinois set to lose second Congressional seat by 2030

(Illinois Policy Institute) - Illinois is on pace to lose its second congressional seat because of population loss under Gov. J.B. Pritzker.

Since Pritzker was elected in 2018, Illinois has lost more than 168,000 residents. In a recent poll of Illinois voters, more than half said they would leave the state if given the opportunity.

Of those who would leave, almost 69% cited taxes as a top one or two issue facing Illinois. In 2024, 95% of those leaving Illinois fled to states with lower tax burdens.

<u>LOOKING FOR A PLACE TO SHOOT?</u>

DeWitt County Sportsman's Club

Clinton, IL



1ST & 3RD SUNDAY

BREAKFAST

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.



You can vote your way into DSA socialism, but you'll have to shoot your way out of it.

Not voting has consequences

(GSL) - This election decides whether Illinois gun owners and outdoorsmen keep what they already have—or watch it get taken.

Loss aversion is the strongest motivator in human psychology. People fight harder to protect something they already possess than they ever will to gain something new. Right now you possess a FOID card, a hunting season, a pistol for the nightstand, carry licenses, and the legal ability to defend your home. The people who want more restrictions are counting on you treating those as permanent. They are not. Carry license application processing already averages three months. PICA remains in force. Magazine limits and red-flag expansions keep getting introduced.

The RIFL Act, blocked this session but still alive, would force firearm manufacturers to pay licensing fees equal to the state's calculated "public health costs" of gun injuries and deaths—regardless of who misused the gun. Those fees go into a special fund for "victims." In practice, law-abiding residents would pay hundreds of dollars more per firearm into a government slush fund that anti-gun organizations would help administer, all in the name of addressing "gun-" (really just gang-) violence. More radical, hard-core leftists getting elected will more more radical, hard-core leftist public policies that will make life harder for you and your family.

Nationally the same principle applies. In Illinois, 2.4 million FOID holders exist. If even a modest fraction of them and their hunting partners show up, plenty of local sheriffs, state's attorneys, and statehouse seats would likely flip to more pro-gun, more law-and-order office holders. One vote decided the Macon County Sheriff's race. The losing side then fought for two years to keep the office. **Your absence is not neutral. It is a gift to the side that already treats law-abiding owners as the problem.**

People on the fence usually tell themselves their single ballot won't matter. That is the exact calculation the other side is banking on. Anticipated regret cuts the other way: the hunter who stays home and later watches public land access shrink, or the FOID holder who skips the election and spends the next four years fighting a new fee or registry, will remember that choice. The cost of voting is an hour. The cost of staying home is measured in rights—and dollars—that do not come back easily.

Vote. Bring the people who hunt and shoot with you. Protect what you already own before someone else decides you no longer need it—or that you should pay extra for the privilege.

WITKOWSKI: Lame duck, a broken scorecard, and a case that matters

Josh Witkowski does not waste a room.

The Illinois Federation for Outdoor Resources lobbyist was the featured speaker at Guns Save Life's October meeting at SCHEELS in Springfield, in front of about a hundred members. He is known in the Capitol for lobbying that is effective and persuasive, which is a rarer combination than it ought to be. He also noted that part of what he carries into those halls is GSL. We sit on the IFOR board. When he is working the building, he is working for us.



Josh Witkowski.

He framed the next few months as three fights stacked on top of each other: the election, veto session, and then the lame-duck session. That last one, in the days before the new General Assembly is sworn in come January, is the wild west. Democrats hold a supermajority. A lame-duck supermajority with nothing left to lose is how bad bills become law while the rest of the state is taking the tree down.

Witkowski spent time on the Sangamon County sheriff's race, and he was not impressed with either side. Neither candidate articulated a solid pro-gun position. The Democrat's line was the old classic: the law is the law, and he would enforce it.

Witkowski had a list for that. Plenty of laws have been "enforced" by people who said the same thing, and later recognized as an embarrassment to the Constitution. The Fugitive Slave Act was the law, and federal officers enforced it against people who had already reached free soil. School segregation was the law after *Plessy*, and sheriffs and school boards enforced it for half a century until *Brown*. Bans on interracial marriage were the law until *Loving*. "The law is the law" is not a moral argument. It is a cop out. It has covered some of the worst official conduct in American history, and it is a poor answer from anyone who wants a badge as the highest law enforcement officer in the county in a place full of gun owners.

The grade sheet did not come off much better. Witkowski noted that Doris Turner is one of the more pro-gun members of the Democratic caucus, and the NRA has her at an F. Frank Lesko, a solidly pro-gun Republican running for that Senate seat, draws a question mark. Another Republican who has not been a friend of the Second Amendment walks around with an A. If the scorecard cannot tell a friend from a tourist, it is not much of a scorecard.

On the election itself, he would not pretend to a number he does not have. The makeup of the General Assembly could swing from a Republican gain of two seats to a Democratic gain of six. He thinks the likely end of that range is the ugly one: a sizable Democratic pickup, given what he called the utter ineptitude and borderline incompetence of the Illinois Republican Party. That is not a cheer for the other side. It is a warning about ours.

His point to the room was simpler than the spreadsheet. If pro-gun people show up and vote, the math can move. A lot of people have decided their vote does not count. Once they stay home on the strength of that feeling, they have made it true. Get out and vote. If we do not, we do not get to complain about what Springfield hands us in January.

And January is coming either way. Witkowski called the lame-duck session "guaranteed" to produce a lot of crap we are not going to like. Asked where the hope is, he did not point at a committee chairman. "Our best hope is *Viramontes*, hands down."

That is *Viramontes v. Cook County*, now at the U.S. Supreme Court. The question in front of the Court is whether the Second and Fourteenth Amendments protect the right to possess semi-automatic rifles. Argument is set for December 2. A win there does not adjourn the General Assembly. It does put a constitutional fence around the kind of ban Illinois Democrats have treated as settled law.

That was the evening. Three deadlines, a sheriff's race with no friend in it, a grade card that cannot read a voting record, and one case that might. The rest is on the people who were in the room, and the people who were not.

We'll be back next month!

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

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

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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

What's really important



(GSL) - If you're the first person in your family to read this, you probably have kids and grandkids, who are really good at all the modern technology, but may be a little short in understanding what is really important in Life. If that is the case, and you like some of the following, just hand them this in the GSL monthly newsletter and mention that old Desiderius was born in 1466, so has seen a thing or two that might be of interest.



The most important decision in your life is who you choose as your spouse. I don't care if it's as husband, wife, straight, gay, fluid or even when it takes six letters and a plus-sign to describe your outlook. You get this wrong, and life will not be so cheery; in fact some bad marriages are closer to a "living hell." Most folks don't like daily arguments. And when you do get a divorce, you'll see why so many divorce lawyers drive Mercedes S-Class Sedans and have a winter place down in Florida.

A close second is what you do in Life; your profession, job, etc. Some people say that "Life is tough and no one gets out alive." I prefer to say that Life is a journey, not a destination. Too often in the US, the "destination" is making a ton of money, and no doubt having more money is generally better than having less. But come clean. In all the cemeteries you have ever visited, have you even just once seen a tombstone that had a dollar ($) sign carved on it with a number to the right indicting how much dough this person made in their Life? I'm still waiting for even one "yes." So, *do what you love*, and you'll never "work" a day in your Life.

You're going to need to go to school, at least through high school. And the most important skill you will learn – without a doubt – is how to read proficiently.

Yes, you can listen to audio books. But once you learn how to read you'll never forget that, and as the years go by, you just need to learn new words here and there. We're obviously talking English; if you can also learn how to speak and read another language, you'll open up a whole new vista in Life.

And you need basic math. Not many folks are going to need algebra, or differential equations. On the other hand, if you cannot do basic math when people are watching, not only will you risk not getting correct change, but also people will unfairly think you are not smart. And you are smart, or you wouldn't be reading this column.

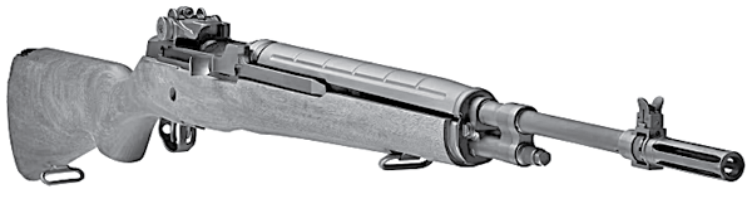
Going to college can be a great experience, but you can have a tremendous Life without it. What is college going to cost? How much will you have to go into debt to pay those costs? How long will it take to get out of your new big debt? Before you make your decision, watch everything you can featuring Mike Rowe, who shows that the cultural push for 4-year college degrees has created a significant skills gap, leaving *millions* of high-paying positions in fields like electrical work, welding, and data center maintenance unfilled.

Regardless of the profession you pursue, you'll likely have to interview for a job. Remember, everything you put on Facebook, the Internet in general, has the potential to be seen by your prospective employer. You will be asked: "Why are you applying for this job?" "Where do you want to be career-wise in five years?" You need to develop and memorize a 90-second "elevator speech." That means if you are at the place where you are applying for a job, or really anyplace else, and the big boss, or someone you recognize as important starts talking with you – and they ask you in the elevator who you are and what you want to do in Life, you can say that succinctly and that may well generate interest from that person. And that can't take more than 90 seconds…less if you can practice that.

And if you were in the military, mention that up front, even if you served as a private first class. With that, everyone knows you show up on time, understand giving and taking orders, can operate in uncertainty, were part of something bigger than yourself. A team player. In addition to reading, if you're interested in music, it can help you over Life's rough parts. In 1977, a young guy from Scotland was in France traveling around with a bunch of guys, doing nothing important and reflecting on Life, writing the song "Caledonia." It's major lines are: "I have moved and I've kept on moving. Proved the points that I needed proving. I've lost the friends that I needed losing. Found others on the way."

You'll find your own way.

When democracy turns to tyranny...



The armed citizen *still* gets to vote.

RIGHT TO BEAR
PURE PEACE OF MIND

Extensive coverage at an affordable price for peace of mind...

Right to Bear self-defense protection

by John Boch

(GSL) - When Frank Cannon, president of Right to Bear, sat down for an interview with me, one of the first words out of his mouth was "culture."

Not coverage limits. Not pricing tiers. Culture.

Founded in 2021 and headquartered in South Carolina, Right to Bear is one of the newer players in self-defense legal protection. It operates as a membership association rather than a traditional insurance company—a distinction that matters. Avoiding the word "insurance" sidesteps the regulatory thicket that forces some providers into layers of compliance theater. As a member organization, Right to Bear has more latitude on what it covers and when it doesn't.

That "when it doesn't" part is rare. Cannon says the organization has denied coverage in just three cases. One involved someone who signed up after the shooting already happened—nice try. The other two involved the classic cocktail of testosterone, ethanol (the drinking kind), and stupidity that didn't come close to righteous self-defense. Those denials are the exceptions, not the rule.

More about Right to Bear Culture

Right to Bear's version of culture is different. Cannon's guiding principle—"We kneel at the cross, we salute the flag, and we stand for the 2nd Amendment"—is not subtle, and it is not a marketing slogan from people who have never carried a gun in self-defense.

In practice, that culture shows up when a member is involved in a use-of-force incident. In addition to connecting the member with an attorney on the emergency hotline, Cannon is notified early and reaches out personally. He offers to pray with the member, talks through the possibility of PTSD, and reminds them the membership includes psychological support (up to 40 counseling sessions). He then continues checking in on the member in the weeks afterwards.

Got a problem on Christmas Day? An attorney still answers the emergency hotline. Right to Bear's team will hold your hand when you need it most. Members regularly thank Right to Bear staff for their great service and personal follow-through. It's all part of the culture there, Cannon says.

The organization maintains recommended attorneys in every state, including Illinois. Members can also bring their own attorney if that JD has criminal trial court experience. Expert witnesses are available and provided as needed – at no charge to members.

Right to Bear pays for civil trial defense but does not cover judgments if you lose. Cannon doesn't see that as a major gap and here's why: he says roughly half the states provide some form of immunity from civil judgements after a justified use of force (including Illinois). In the rest, the Right to Bear legal team says it has found no damage awards against those not charged or who were acquitted criminally.

Some competitors market civil judgment coverage as a headline feature. In the real world of righteous self-defense, those judgments simply don't materialize. Additional coverage for that scenario for those who just have to have it is expected after the first of the year.

The organization also covers appeals and provides lost-wage reimbursement while you're in court. Firearm replacement is available if the gun is seized. Red-flag/ERPO defense has a $25,000 attorney-fee cap. Unlike some competitors, Right to Bear covers members who receive compensation for carrying a gun—security work, church safety teams, and similar roles.

Why I Bought It

Weeks before this interview, I went looking for affordable coverage after my membership expired with another company. With Armed Citizen Legal Defense Network gone, I compared companies and products and liked this relative newcomer to the space. Then I learned that Lt. Col. Dave Grossman is a big fan of Right to Bear, along with William Kirk or Washington Gun Law, Jimmy Meeks, and Johnny Strickland. That got my attention.

For roughly $375 (discounts from full freight happen regularly) I got the annual family plan for me, my girlfriend, and my two kids—nationwide, full coverage. No wedding ring required. No upgrades to cover the boys. In a world where solid coverage is pushing $220+ per person for adults, that felt like real value. I spent my own money on it even though I could probably have gotten coverage comped. My endorsements and recommendations aren't for sale.

Cannon kept returning to the faith-based culture at Right to Bear. "We're there for them when they need it the most," he says. The organization recently announced a 50% lifetime membership discount for pastors and faith leaders who establish and maintain security teams at houses of worship or faith-based schools.

In a field where several solid options exist, Right to Bear distinguishes itself less by marketing slogans and more by a culture that treats members like family. That's on top of attorney of your choice access, personal follow-through, and a willingness to stand with the good guys and gals who use force lawfully. For many, that culture of support when the phone rings at the worst possible moment is the difference between a policy on paper and surviving the legal aftermath with one's sanity intact.



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Rocky S2V: the Land Cruiser of boots

by John Boch

I spent two decades in bargain boots. Fifty to eighty bucks on sale. Serviceable for three to six months, then the sole peeled, holes appeared in the upper, or something structural gave up without warning. Find another, buy another. Repeat. Forgettable, except for the ones that failed in the middle of a day you needed them.

Then I put on a pair of Rocky S2Vs. It felt like climbing out of a Ford Fusion and into a Toyota Land Cruiser. Not faster. Just built heavier, tighter, and with the obvious intention that it still be here in five or ten years. “Premium” is the word people reach for. It does not quite cover it. The leather, the Cordura, the stitched high-walled sole, the way they sit on the foot — these were built by people who had to live in them.



These are the vented S2Vs, the ones with Rocky’s S2V Sieve drains. Flash- and water-resistant leather. PTFE-coated 1000-denier Cordura. Triple-stitched. Stretch Lycra tongue. Dri-Lex liner. AirPort cushion footbed. Fiberglass shank. Roll-Stop ankle. Eight inches. About four pounds a pair. Made in the USA, Berry compliant, and coyote brown is OCP / AR 670-1 legal if that matters to you. If you are like me, it does not. What matters is that somebody fixed the usual boot complaints in one shoe.

List is $278. With tax you are looking at three hundred dollars. That is real money.

They look like military boots. Most people will not notice. The ones who have worn issued footwear will. If gray man is the mission, these are not it. A pile of wood will not care, and neither will the range or the trail. Your feet will.

The pleasant surprise is how they handle water. Jump in after a drowning kid or to save your dog. Misjudge the depth of water running across a road. That kind of wet. Rocky says you can soak them and walk them dry. I tried it, unheroically, with a bucket.

After two miles the insides were damp, not soaked. Halfway through I realized I was wearing cotton socks. That was on me. Cotton holds water. Wool or a synthetic blend would have given the drains a fairer test. The vents do what they are supposed to do: pump water out and pull air in as you walk. They do not trap a swamp the way a sealed waterproof boot does once you go over the top.

Everyday wet is simpler. Deep puddles are a non-event. The water-resistant leather and that high-walled Vibram keep it outside. Feet stayed warm and dry in the cold, and so do the socks if you picked the right ones. Hot days were the other surprise. Even in cotton, my feet stayed essentially dry. The Sieve vents and the Dri-Lex lining move moisture instead of advertising that they do.

Traction is better than “slip-resistant.” The Vibram cup sole is stitched to the upper, so unplanned disassembly is not happening short of an explosion. The lugs bite without packing full of mud and staying that way. The high wall plants you on wet pavement and loose ground. Roll-Stop is not a brochure word. The ankle sits in the sole instead of on top of it. You notice that on uneven ground, and you notice it more if an old sprain already makes you careful.

Fit is adjustable in a way cheap boots never are. Want them like a second skin? Pull the laces. The whole system tightens through with almost no fight. End of the day, same thing in reverse. Unlacing is not a wrestling match.

I have heard of guys who left the service and kept wearing these, off and on, for five or ten years. I believe it. Three hundred dollars is a lot if you are buying them. It is a bargain if Uncle Sam is. You wear them day after day, and at some point you stop thinking about them. That is the point. Bargain boots announce themselves when you put them on and again when you take them off. And often in between too. These do not.

Would I buy them? Yes. And I am frugal. If you are tired of the three-to-six-month funeral cycle, this is the upgrade. Wear real socks, not cotton, and they will do what Rocky says they will do if you swim in them. If three hundred dollars makes you flinch, price two or three pairs of sale-bin boots a year, times five years, plus the days they fail and cause headaches. If you need to disappear in a crowd of sheep, look elsewhere. If you want boots you can put on and forget until you take them off, buy the S2Vs.

Fair disclosure: Rocky sent me these to test-drive last winter. I did. This wasn’t a “wear ‘em two weeks and report.” They did not buy this review, and I have not been kind to all of their products in the past. This one is an honest winner.

Aside from getting these for yourself, think of the people who matter most. Want a Christmas gift they’ll actually use and appreciate? Skip the tie, Old Spice, and even the good bourbon. Get them a pair of these boots and remind that special person—every single day—how much you think they’re a hero. They will thank you and so will their feet every last day.

“Extreme incompetence is indistinguishable from sabotage.”



America has gotten safer as more women have become gun owners

(SNW - Condensed) - Women are reshaping American firearm ownership, with personal protection as a major driver. A September RAND Corporation analysis found women accounted for nearly half of new gun owners in recent years. General Social Survey data show adult women’s personal firearm ownership rose from 10 percent in 2018 to 16 percent in 2024. Their share of all firearm owners grew from 22 percent to 32 percent, while men’s rates stayed relatively stable.

The RAND report notes that since 2018, women in nearly every category of race, age, marital status, education, and income increased ownership. In most groups, women’s percentage gains exceeded men’s, often by 50 percent or more. Ownership among black women rose from about 7 percent (2014–2018) to over 11 percent (2021–2024). Among Hispanic women it more than doubled. Mothers were 1.5 times as likely as women without children to own firearms in 2021–2024, a change driven almost entirely by single mothers.

The trend is visible at ranges. The Bass Reeves Gun Club (founding chapter of the National African American Gun Association) has roughly 700 active members with growing interest from black women. Atlanta’s majority-black A Girl & A Gun chapter has nearly tripled in about two years, approaching 200 members. Chapter leader Daphne Enmon told Capital B Atlanta that women—predominantly black—join weekly and that buying a gun is only the start; safe, responsible use requires training. Some cite political instability and racial violence as motivations.

NSSF’s First-Time Gun Buyers study shows nearly three-quarters of first-time buyers in its 2021–2024 samples were women, up from slightly under half in 2020. RAND researchers found women emphasize self-protection more than men; prior victimization and fear of violent crime are especially important factors.

Examples include retired Georgia school principal Sana Sims, who bought her first firearm and joined NAAGA after her son was killed in a Baltimore drive-by, and California retailer and domestic-abuse survivor Geneva Solomon, who testified in 2023 that she had to become her own first responder (she died in 2024).

Women work late, travel alone, and raise families. Police cannot always arrive in time. Firearm ownership demands training, safe handling, responsible storage, and judgment—roles filled by programs such as NSSF’s First Shots (including its partnership with A Girl & A Gun). Retailers and ranges can offer quality instruction and build relationships with responsible owners.

Women filling training classes are taking responsibility for their own safety and that of their families rather than waiting for others. When seconds count, the right to self-defense belongs to them too. The RAND data show they are exercising it, and the gun-owning community welcomes them.



5.06:1

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

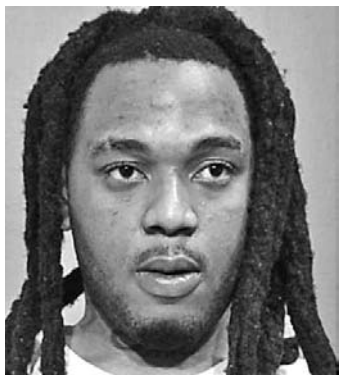
by John Lott

(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.



Chicago 'Violence Interrupter' tried to choke out, carjack a female Lyft driver

Chicago (GSL) - With a name like Angalwon, you know he was destined for greatness and voted most likely to succeed by his first grade class.



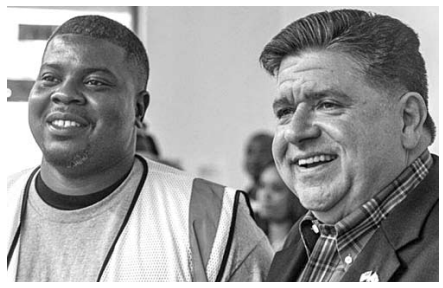
Angalwon Gilmore.

Angalwon Gilmore, 28, started his day at a Chicago CRED office flashing gang signs at the anti-violence center's own security cameras. Hours later he used a Lyft account registered as "Angawon CRED" to get a ride from that same building, then climbed into the back of a 33-year-old woman's 2013 Acura wearing a COVID mask and tried to carjack her.

Lyft's policy against drivers carrying tools for self-defense was no help. Angalwon yelled at her to change direction. When she complied to keep things from getting worse, he attacked from behind in the 6400 block of South Rhodes, wrapping his arm around her neck and trying to drag her into the back. The struggle lasted several minutes. She jammed a leg under the dash so he couldn't pull her free. He eventually bailed with her keys. She called 911, ended up with bruising, and needed medical attention.

Gilmore is detained on attempted vehicular hijacking, robbery, and aggravated battery. Phone data, Lyft records, the driver's photo-lineup identification, and a police report listing Chicago CRED as his employer tied him to the attack.

This is the predictable result of Governor JB Pritzker shoveling Illinois taxpayer money into community violence intervention nonprofits and "peacekeeper" programs like Chicago CRED, founded by Arne Duncan. These outfits take federal grants and private philanthropy, then hand stipends to men already deep in the street life and call it "interrupting violence."



Kellen McMiller and JB Pritzker at 'Peacekeeper' event. McMiller had FOUR active warrants from four states - including Cook County - for his arrest at the time this photo was taken.

The pattern keeps repeating. Jamari Edwards, a CeaseFire Chicago interrupter, got 22 years after armed carjackings that included shooting one victim in the leg. Kellen McMiller was photographed next to Pritzker at a Peacekeeper event just days before his murder charge in a Mag Mile Louis Vuitton smash-and-grab that killed a bystander; he had CRED FLIP ties and outstanding warrants. Chester Alexander swung on a Chicago cop and was found with suspected ecstasy. CeaseFire Illinois director Tio Hardiman was arrested in 2013 for punching and kicking his wife.

Gilmore used the cover of an anti-violence job and a rideshare account bearing the nonprofit's name to target a working woman. That is not outreach. It is a thug with a taxpayer-funded paycheck and a nonprofit logo. Paying men like this and calling it "prevention" is a scam that subsidizes them instead of reforming them.

Attorneys keep 40%

Chicago approves $260.8M wrongful conviction settlement; more coming

Chicago (GSL) - Chicago taxpayers just got hosed again - and more big-time hosings are en route. On October 14, the City Council unanimously approved a $260.8 million "global settlement" for 17 people whose murder convictions—tied to former CPD Detective Reynaldo Guevara—were later vacated. The payout, covering nearly 384 combined years in prison, works out to roughly $680,000 per year served. It will be paid in four roughly $65 million installments starting in 2027.

This is only half the story. City attorneys said "two more in the queue" will resolve only about half the outstanding Guevara cases; the other roughly 23 will almost certainly demand a similarly massive deal. All told, Chicago could end up paying half a billion to three-quarters of a billion dollars—or more—to people convicted of homicide whose cases were later undone. WTTW puts the running tab for Guevara-related lawsuits already at $472.8 million, with 25 cases still pending. The scandal has already eclipsed the Burge torture cases in total cost.



Chicago City Council applauds itself.

While Chicago empties its pockets for these cases, the same leadership continues restricting the rights of law-abiding gun owners who simply want to protect themselves.

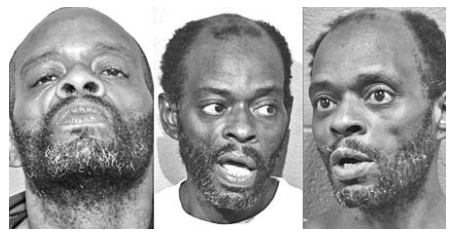
Punch cop, get out under SAFE-T Act to attempt double murder

Chicago (CWB Chicago) - A 40-year-old man who was released under Illinois' SAFE-T Act after allegedly punching a Chicago cop at a South Side Red Line station is now charged with attempted murder in a shooting that left two men badly injured last month.



Terry King.

Terry King is accused of shooting two men, ages 28 and 44, in the 800 block of East 79th Street around 7:45 p.m. on September 17, Chicago police said. During a detention hearing, prosecutors identified King as the gunman and said he stomped on one victim's head after the man collapsed onto the sidewalk.



Arrested 17 times in last two years, on pretrial release for two other cases

WELCOME TO CHICAGO: Career thug smashes elderly tourist's head with brick

Chicago (CWB Chicago)- "I stoned his ass!" Terry Strother told Chicago police as they handcuffed him after he allegedly struck a 77-year-old New Hampshire tourist in the head with a brick downtown last month. The 50-year-old repeat offender was on pretrial release in two cases at the time, just days after a judge refused prosecutors' request to revoke his release, court records show.

Welcome to Chicago: CPS teacher stabbed, critically injured in 'random' knife attack

Chicago (GSL) - On September 10th, a 50-year-old Chicago Public Schools teacher was stabbed repeatedly on a CTA bus by 32-year-old Jeromeyo Gibson. The teacher had boarded to head home when Gibson got on with a duffel bag.

Minutes later, Gibson pulled a 6-inch knife and attacked from behind, stabbing the victim twice in the neck and three times in the back before fleeing.

The incident was captured on bus video but was not publicly disclosed by Chicago police until a witness posted about it on social media.

Gibson then stole a running Chevrolet Malibu from a convenience store, dragging its 44-year-old owner to the ground, crashed the car shortly afterward, and was arrested nearby. During transport he told officers he had "stabbed an innocent White man." Gibson has prior felony convictions and is being held without bond on charges including attempted murder and vehicle theft.

CTA rules and Illinois law ban both knives and lawfully carried firearms on public transit, creating mobile "gun-free zones."

These policies disarm law-abiding riders while doing nothing to stop criminals.

WHY WE CARRY AND YOU SHOULD TOO

Uber Eats driver shot by young thug

You want to know why you should carry every day, everywhere in America's murder capital? Here you go.

A 22-year-old with no prior record ordered Buffalo Wild Wings under his own first name, then shot the Uber Eats driver for insisting on the required PIN, prosecutors say.



Jerrick Moore.

Jerrick Moore placed the order as "Jerrick M" and confronted the 48-year-old courier around 3:30 p.m. on September 16 in the 8400 block of South Euclid Avenue.

When the driver refused to hand over the food without verification, Moore stepped outside with an AR-style firearm, pursued him, and opened fire, striking him multiple times in the lower body and shattering the car's rear window. The driver's girlfriend ducked inside the vehicle as Moore tried—and failed—to rack the slide for another round. The victim needed six surgeries on his legs in the first eight days.

Police found the matching Uber Eats order on Moore's bed along with two other firearms. Moore faces attempted murder during a forcible felony and aggravated battery by discharging a firearm and is being held pending trial.

A routine chicken-wing delivery turned into an armed assault in broad daylight. In Chicago, that is not an outlier—it is the environment law-abiding people navigate every day. Carry accordingly.

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SLRA

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FLOCK

Big Brother on a pole

It is already logging every trip you make to the range or the gun store and a whole lot more.

(GSL) - These cameras do not merely read license plates. They build a "vehicle fingerprint" of every car that passes: make, model, color, dents, racks, and the bumper stickers that broadcast your politics and gun culture. NRA Lifetime Member. Glock. Come and Take It. GOA.



A single pass near a gun shop or shooting range records the plate, the stickers, the time, and the location. Repeat it and the system has your pattern of life. Travel to a match, gun show, or range in another county and the same network follows you across jurisdictions. FLOCK units already sit near gun stores and ranges in multiple states. Private ranges have ripped them down after customers objected; the company has sometimes claimed the contract still required them to stay up.



Condor pan-tilt-zoom cameras, already deployed in busy locations, go further. They detect people, auto-zoom, and support searches by clothing and description. Independent reporting has shown high-resolution tracking of pedestrians. FLOCK says its plate readers do not do facial recognition, yet third-party vendors are pitching facial-recognition layers on FLOCK footage, and the company has confirmed it is possible to search for humans in images from non-LPR cameras. Gun-culture apparel—range shirts, holster outlines, a manufacturer logo—becomes just another searchable attribute once the lens points at people.

In Illinois the same network is already being abused by the people who control it. Officers and supervisors have run hundreds of unauthorized searches to stalk ex-partners and acquaintances—nearly 250 in one McHenry County case, with felony charges following. Former officers from Itasca, West Chicago, and Joliet have been charged for unauthorized access. Will County and other agencies have suspended personnel and paused systems after personal-use queries. Entire departments have shared Illinois data in ways that violated state statutory limits.

Constitutional restrictions on warrantless location tracking are treated as optional. The 1983 *Knotts* "no privacy on public roads" precedent is still cited while dense, AI-powered networks create searchable movement histories that later Supreme Court decisions treat as searches. A federal court has already labeled this "indiscriminate mass surveillance."



The practical result for gun owners is a de facto registry without the paperwork. Who shows up at the local shop on Friday? Whose truck carries the NRA sticker and appears at the gun-show grounds? No formal firearms database is required. The cameras, stickers, apparel, and travel patterns do the work. Radio-signal add-ons that capture TPMS IDs and device broadcasts only tighten the net.

DeFlock Illinois and local chapters are mapping the cameras, posting signs that spell out what is collected, and pressing councils to cancel contracts. Cities and campuses have covered lenses when FLOCK refused removal. The company's response has been to expand capabilities, minimize documented misuse, and treat statutory and constitutional barriers as optional.



Benjamin Franklin warned that those who trade essential liberty for a little temporary safety deserve neither. FLOCK's network is that trade. Guns Save Life members know what happens when government keeps lists of who owns guns and who goes to the range. This is the list being built in plain sight. Contact your local officials. Demand the contracts be canceled. Support the groups mapping and opposing these cameras. Big Brother does not need a warrant when the cameras are already on every corner.



Flock tech in Mahomet, IL wants a civil war. Guess who's first on the list...

by John Boch

(GSL) - I pulled over on Route 47 just north of I-74 in Mahomet on July 8th and found myself talking to a Flock Safety installer who looked like he'd wandered out of a Portland protest and into rural Illinois by accident. Plain white van. Georgia plates. Counter-culture vibe strong enough to set off a metal detector at a Bernie rally. He was up on a pole working on one of those plate-reader cameras the company swears are only used to catch the bad guys.

He did not want to talk about who he worked for. When I asked if he was with Flock, he got cagey fast. Eventually he admitted it. Then he pivoted to the standard sales pitch: somewhere, a child molester got caught because of these cameras. Somewhere else, a murderer. Don't you want to help catch child molesters and murderers?

Classic redirect. The privacy of everyone who drives past the camera is apparently a small price to pay so long as the sales brochure has a couple of scary anecdotes in it.

Then the filter came off.

He launched into a full-throated rant that America needs a civil war to clean itself up. You can guess which side needs to be disarmed, run through re-education camps, or simply removed.

It was the normies — the ones who still think the Second Amendment and the Fourth Amendment are both worth defending. The ones who put America first.

I looked at him and said, "That's me you're talking about killing, buddy."

That's when he pulled out his phone and took my picture—me and the license plate. Classic intimidation play. I don't bully well.

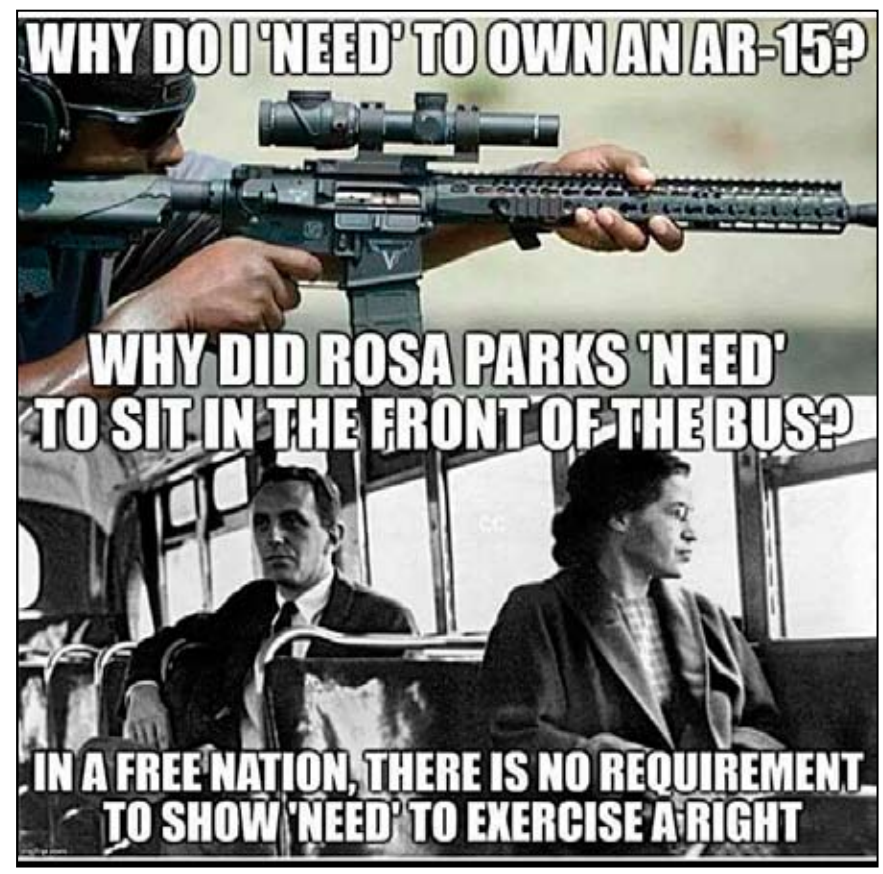
I told him that whenever he decided he was ready to take me out, he'd better be ready for a fight. Because I wasn't walking into any rail cars for "relocation" or "re-education."

He made sure I saw the photo. Somewhere in a Flock internal system, I'm now flagged as the guy who wouldn't play along. They'll no doubt add this story to that picture.

So the company that wants every police department in the country running their cameras has at least one technician who is openly calling for the violent overthrow of our government, the forcible disarmament of his political opponents, and the use of re-education camps. He was standing on a public roadside in Illinois doing it while he installed hardware that tracks the movements of ordinary people—and he didn't like being told that some of those ordinary people have no intention of cooperating.

Color me unimpressed.

Flock has spent years telling cities and counties these systems are narrow, carefully controlled tools that only catch the worst of the worst. The man wiring one of them into rural Illinois just told me that he's perfectly comfortable with political violence and violent overthrow of our government. If the people putting up the cameras are already fantasizing about which Americans need to be disarmed and removed, maybe the rest of us should pay closer attention to what those cameras are actually for.





Two Years Later:

Therapy really can help victims of violent attacks

by John Boch
(GSL/Shooting News Weekly (condensed)) - Two or three seconds is what the video shows. The part it doesn't show is how a man in a hurry decided I was the problem.

Saturday marks two years since I was passing a truck hauling postal vehicles on Interstate 55 near Pontiac. Cruise was set at 77. The pass took a few moments — long enough, apparently, to offend a white F-350 coming up from behind like physics was optional.

He covered a quarter mile and parked on my bumper. A few feet. Close enough that the grill filled the rear-view. Then the horn. Then the high beams. Honk. Flash. Honk. Flash. As if noise and light would make my Explorer sprout another twenty miles an hour.

I didn't brake-check him. At that speed it could kill us both. The second I cleared the hauler I tucked back into my lane and opened the left for the Ford. *Go. Be important elsewhere.*

He didn't.

The F-350 eased up beside me.
Two men in the cab, already cooked. Screaming. Gestures that needed no decoder ring. I gave them the dismissive wave, all five fingers, and stopped looking.

That was the opening they wanted. The white wall of truck started crowding my lane. Not a drift. A deliberate slide, with nothing ahead to avoid. Just me, and the decision that I shouldn't be on the pavement anymore.

I went over the right line, onto the rumble strip, then past it. Tires hunting for smooth pavement. Debris on the shoulder. Still they came. A new F-350 and a trailer behind it — enough mass to turn a man and a Ford into a ditch headline.

I wasn't going in the ditch. Not without a fight. I pushed back and we hit. Metal grinding. His trailer shifted maybe six inches. *So this is what a PIT feels like*. If he came again, I was going to roll that trailer for real.

He retreated. His shiny, new F-350 wasn't as shiny anymore.

My Explorer took about $8,500 worth of attitude. I already had 911 on the line before I stopped. Fifteen minutes later a state trooper was at my window, chuckling the way cops do when two grown men have told opposite stories about the same two seconds.

"They say *you* swerved into *them*. And there's two of them."



I told him I had a dashcam. He sighed like a man who'd heard that promise die on a dead battery. Then we sat in his car and watched the file.

It wasn't how I remembered it. The collision lasted a little over two and a half seconds. In my head it had taken ten or twenty. Time dilation. Tunnel vision. All the stuff I'd taught other people in countless classes for decades, now living in my nervous system. The video also showed what my pride already knew: men used a three-ton pickup as a weapon.

He copied the video, wanted a supervisor, and sent me on with a directive to stay safe. The words landed as supportive, not critical. I drove home with wind screaming through the bodywork and a mind that wouldn't shut up.

That night my then-wife was furious *[balance redacted because of divorce court]*.

The next morning I was a weather system. Rage that two men had tried to bully me off a 70-mile-an-hour interstate for finishing a pass. A sick euphoria that I was still walking. Hot flashes. Nausea when the movie replayed. *[More redacted.]* At the gym I broke down sobbing in the locker room.

I texted the local sheriff and an assistant chief: Who do you send cops to after they use deadly force? Who do you send victims to? Both, inside a minute, sent the same name. Emily Barker. Trauma and PTSD. Normal, Illinois.

Four hours, Monday at 6. Two hundred an hour. I sent her the dashcam so she wouldn't have to take my word for it.

We talked the incident down to the bone — the grill, the wave, the slide, the impact, the helplessness — and the bullying I'd taken as a kid, including a metal hanger across my throat on a school bus. She put me through alternating movements while I replayed the two seconds, over and over. The tension leaked out. She told me to go home, stay off anything that blunts the edges, and sleep. I would be raw for days.



I was. It came back with the insurance statement, and again when the other guy's company pretended he hadn't done anything. Then the Illinois State Police cited him. State Farm watched the video and stood behind me. His company got the video's link and rolled over. They paid for the repairs and asked how much therapy I would need. They would cover all of it. The silent witness on the windshield did what my memory and my marriage could not.

The vehicle owner's address came back to the French Consulate in St. Louis. The driver, a kid in his early twenties, wasn't the Consul.

Two years later the Explorer is fixed. I am mostly fixed. A tinge of PTSD remains, not much. I'm still out several thousand the universe hasn't refunded. I've moved past it.

[More redactions.] Surviving an attack shows you who will stand in the wreckage with you. My best friends did. *[Others]* didn't.

Treatment made me better. Not the greeting-card kind. The kind who knows a gun on your belt doesn't treat trauma the way a tourniquet treats a bleed.

A pass. A horn. A grill in the mirror. Two seconds of steel. A dashcam that told the truth. A four-hour night in Normal that started the repair in my head.

If someone tries to kill you, survive first. Then get the help that keeps you from living the rest of your life inside those two or three seconds.



And for the love of God, put a dashcam on your windshield.

[Editor's note: The unredacted, full version of this story can be found at ShootingNewsWeekly.com]

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www.highlandgunclub.com
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Asking for a friend...

BATF just stopped enforcing the NFA on SBRs, SBSs, AOWs, and suppressors. Can you have them in Illinois now?

by Michael Keleher
(GSL) - Short answer: No. It's still Illinois.

With last week's announcement, as near as anyone can tell, ATF and DOJ are no longer going to enforce the National Firearms Act of 1934 requirements to register and pay the $200 tax stamp on short-barreled rifles, short-barreled shotguns, any other weapons (AOWs), and suppressors.

I've already had several people ask me the obvious follow-up: "So… does that mean I can finally have one in Illinois?"

It is confusing. The feds just changed their enforcement posture, but that has to be balanced against state law. And Illinois law has not changed.

Here's the short version of how we got here. The NFA rules got shaken up this summer after a narrow court interpretation of the tax-and-register scheme. When the Trump administration said the feds would no longer require the $200 stamp on suppressors, SBRs, and the rest, the issue landed in front of a judge who applied basic logic: if the entire regulatory structure is built on a tax, and you no longer have to pay the tax, then the underlying registration requirement no longer holds. Trump then told DOJ not to appeal. Last week ATF followed suit and said it would no longer require tax stamps or registration for these items, and would not pursue people who skip them.

The law is still on the books. They're just choosing not to enforce it. Unusual, but we'll take it.

That should clear the way nationwide, right? You should be able to build or possess these items even in Illinois?

Again: no. It's still Illinois.

Illinois has long-standing state statutes that prohibit civilians from building, possessing, purchasing, or bringing in suppressors, SBRs, and SBSs. Courts have generally allowed states to maintain stricter gun laws than the federal floor, and Illinois has enthusiastically used that authority. Recent cases around the country are chipping away at restrictive state laws, but Illinois continues to operate under the "our laws are smarterer than everybody else's dumb laws" doctrine.

Under current Illinois criminal statutes (720 ILCS 5/24-1), civilians are still prohibited from possessing or manufacturing:
- **Suppressors** — completely banned under 720 ILCS 5/24-1(a)(6). Class 3 felony: 2–5 years in prison and up to a $25,000 fine.
- **Short-barreled rifles** (SBRs) — banned for civilians, with narrow exemptions only for Curio & Relic collectors or historical reenactors.
- **Short-barreled shotguns** (SBSs) — banned for civilians.

These state bans apply regardless of federal registration status and regardless of ATF's current enforcement discretion.

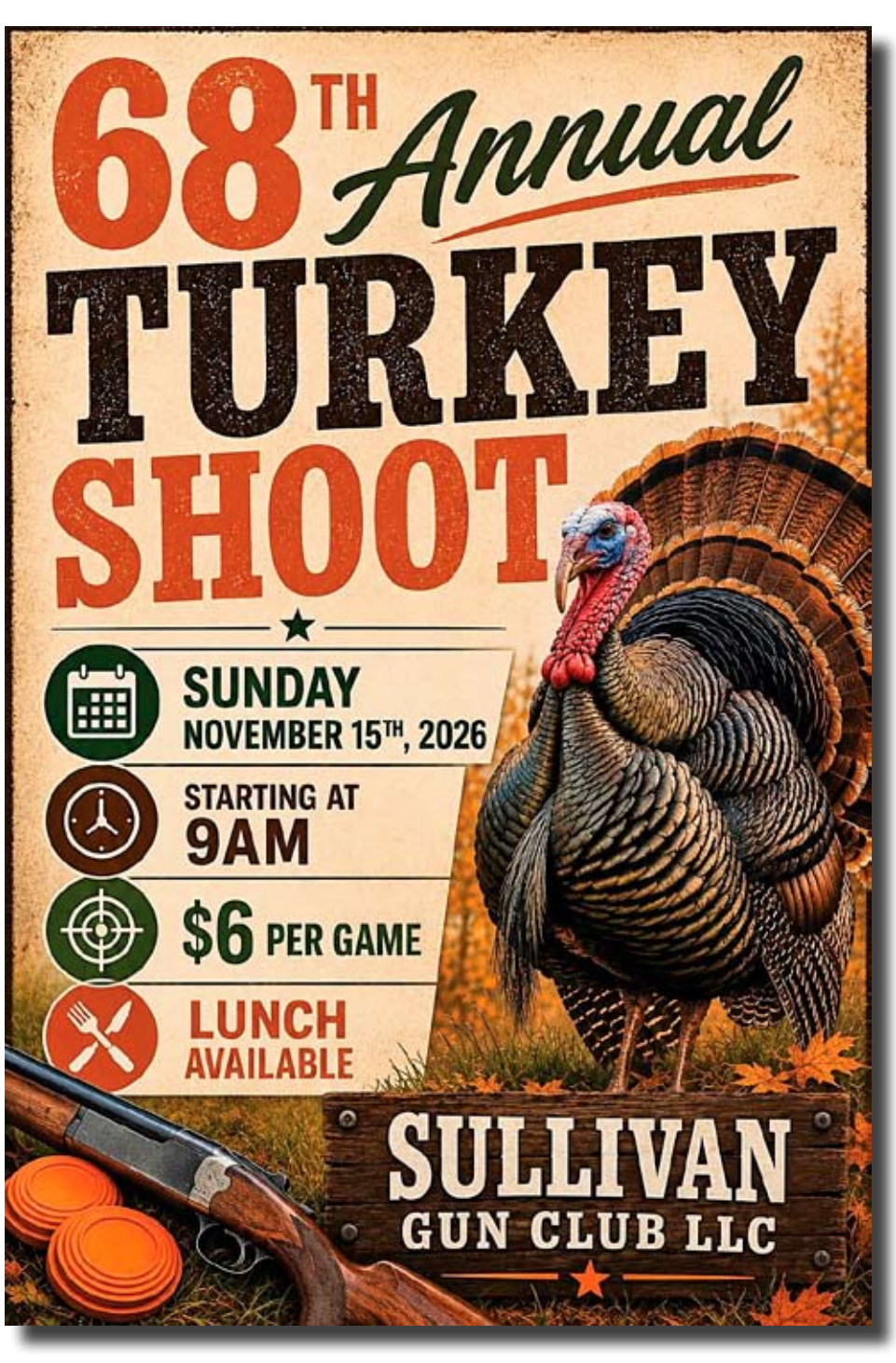


Historically, Chicago-based legislators banned suppressors because—brace yourself—if they were legal, criminals might screw them onto their illegal guns before they illegally shoot people. Think of all the lives that have been saved in Chicago because murderers were prevented from adding a muffler. The short-barreled rifle and shotgun bans? Those date to 1930s gangster-era thinking and haven't been seriously revisited.

This new ATF announcement is a win for Second Amendment rights in most of the country. It does not help residents of the usual suspects: Illinois, New York, California, Hawaii, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Rhode Island, and Delaware—states that have historically been controlled by Democrats and that continue to treat lawful gun owners as the problem.

Several pro-gun organizations have already pledged to challenge these state-level bans. That will take time and

Continued on page 20.







Need a place to shoot in southwest Illinois?

Highland Pistol & Rifle Club

by Bill Schroeder

A mile and a half east of Highland, on Bellm Road, sits the Highland Pistol and Rifle Club. It opened in 1932. The rifles have changed. The excuses for missing has not.

Whatever you shoot, they have already built a place for it. Indoors, nine lanes run to 50 feet with turning targets, the kind that expose themselves and then change their mind. Rimfire pistol and rifle are welcome. So are the centerfire pistol and revolver calibers people actually shoot in competition, provided you are feeding them lead, not jacketed bullets. The backstop has opinions.



Outside, the 100-yard range takes most rifle and pistol calibers. Leave the .50 BMG and the full-auto at home. The club is old, not tired of its berm. There are 25- and 50-yard lines, turning targets at 25, and a covered concrete firing line with real benches. It is handicapped accessible, which is more than can be said for a lot of ranges that still treat a wheelchair like a zoning violation. Handgun shooters who want to run jacketed ammo get their own bunker at the north end, 50 feet, no negotiations.

Trap shooters get five fields, all of them voice-command. Yell “pull” like you mean it, Tuesday through Sunday, noon to 6, members and non-members alike. Thursday night is league, all year, under LED lights bright enough to make midnight look like a bad alibi. There is a fan-cooled pavilion for the part where you explain that the wind took it. Skeet lives on the south side of the property, also voice-command, with paved stations and a pavilion that overlooks the field. Picnic benches included. Excuses optional.

Then there is the clubhouse, which is air-conditioned, seats more than 100, and can be rented when somebody decides a wedding reception needs better stories. Full-service bar, cold drinks, snacks, three big screens. On trap nights and other scheduled events the kitchen is open. A range with a working kitchen is a range that understands people.

The calendar is not a suggestion. Monday nights from after Labor Day to Memorial Day, airgun folks shoot metallic chickens, pigs, turkeys, and rams. Lead pellets only. A BB is not a pellet, and the chickens know the difference. Kids shoot cheaper. Eye protection is required, and they will hand you a pair if you showed up optimistic.

First Sunday is Old Military: a 100-yard, three-position, 40-round rifle match with guns that may be younger than the people shooting them. If prone is no longer a position you can get out of, they will work with you. The point is to have a good time, not to reenact a hip replacement. A 45-round pistol match runs with it at 25 yards. Bring the carry gun. It could use the practice.

First and third Wednesdays are .22 benchrest, mostly indoors, 25 rounds for score in 20 minutes, rests allowed so long as they are not bolted to each other in a cry for help. From April through October, the second Saturday is a 2700: three 90-round pistol matches, .22, then any centerfire from .32 to .45, then a .45. Slow fire at 50, timed and rapid at 25 on turning targets. No centerfire gun? Shoot the .22 and take the penalty like an adult. November through April the show moves indoors for 1800s, plus Olympic-style international pistol on the first Saturday, ending in March with sectionals.



And the kids. November through March, second Saturday, 4-H has the range for airgun and .22 pistol, equipment provided, ages 8 to 18 for air and 12 to 18 for the .22. Sign up through the extension office. That is how you get the next 92 years.

Details, scores and more are at highlandgunclub.com, on Facebook at highlandigunclub, or by phone at 618-654-5971. Tell them the chicken sent you.



THIS is your Illinois Dept. of Natural Resources under Governor Pritzker

by Glenn Sanders

(Facebook) - LaSalle Lake State Fish and Wildlife Area used to be one of the most popular and heavily used sites for fishing in the state. Now the fishing is so poor, the huge parking lot has one vehicle there.

The concession/bait shop is closed and you can view the sky when taking a dump in the restroom.

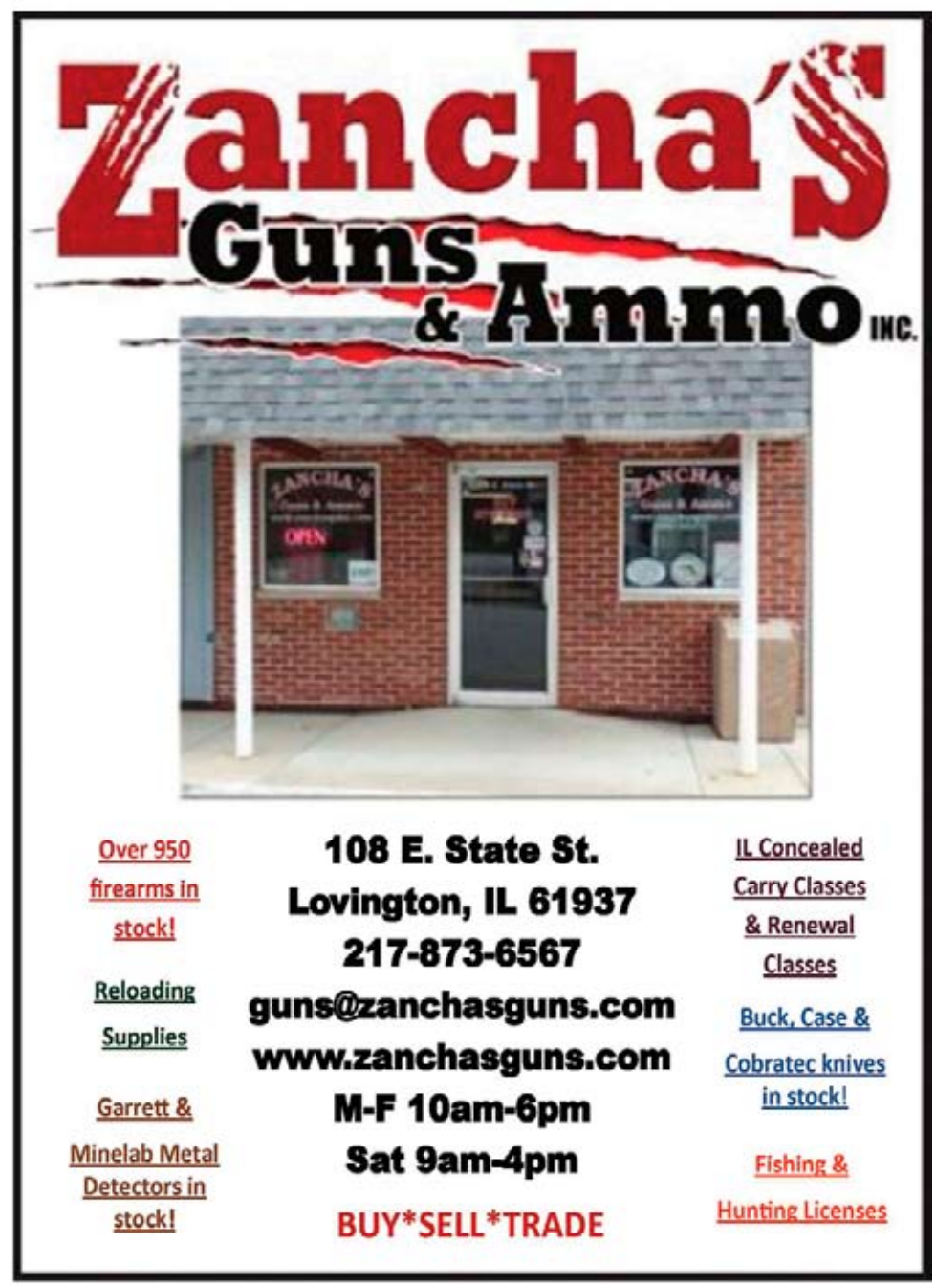
I guess you could always go over to Shabona State Park to fish..... oh, wait I forgot DNR gave that to the Indians. They did spend over a million dollars on a new shop building there. Can’t be giving away property without a lovely parting gift.

Sites all over the state have been neglected, while they keep collecting the 35 million dollars a year from the “Sustainability Tax,” that was supposed to only be used for park maintenance. Hey Lardass and DNR, where the hell is our money going?

If you think this is bad wait until I show you the youth camp cabins at Pere Marquette State Park.....

Everyone please continue to send me the pics and details when you see things like this in your parks and hunting areas. We have to keep shining a light on these parasites and cockroaches.







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Burglar vs. homeowner

Mesquite, TX (NBCDFW) - A suspected burglar is in custody after being shot by a resident of the Mesquite home being burgled.

Officers responded to a shooting at a home in the 2600 block of Brushwood Lane and found a man outside with a gunshot wound. After being provided first aid, the man was taken into custody on a burglary of a habitation charge and transported to a local hospital.

HEADSHOT: Masked him invader meets a woman who can shoot

Philadelphia (GSL) -- A 29-year-old man in a ski mask smashed a second-floor window, reached in, and let himself into a woman's apartment on Castor Avenue. She heard the glass, met him inside, and put a round in his head with her registered handgun. He was unarmed and dead within the hour.

Two thugs break in... only one gets out alive

Mempis (GSL) - In Memphis, Tennessee, Devonta Johnson and Zarian Sanders allegedly forced their way into an apartment, intending to see the mother of Johnson's child. They kicked open a barricaded front door, entered a bedroom, and began assaulting a male resident. During the attack, Johnson drew a handgun, prompting a struggle in which the resident fought for control of the weapon. The confrontation moved to the breezeway, where the resident shot Johnson, who died from his injuries.



FAFO: Vietnam vet style

SanFran home intruder gets shot, leaves dog behind

San Francisco (GSL) - A 73-year-old Vietnam War veteran shot a masked burglar who forced entry into his Sunset District home in San Francisco just after 5 a.m. Surveillance captured the suspect, dressed in black with a hoodie and face mask and accompanied by a large dog, pacing the block for about 40 minutes before drilling a hole in the first-floor wooden door and entering.

Asleep on the third floor, the veteran woke to noises, grabbed his handgun, and went downstairs. On the second floor he confronted the intruder, who grabbed him and knocked him to his hands and knees. Feeling threatened after the deep intrusion, he fired once and later said he believed he hit the man in the buttocks. The suspect fled toward Golden Gate Park, leaving blood-stained prints and the dog behind.

Police detained the injured man about three miles away. He was hospitalized with non-life-threatening injuries and faces burglary charges if confirmed. The veteran suffered only minor scrapes.

GSL
GunsSaveLife.com

Armed Citizen hero stops 16YO spree killer in a Bend, Oregon elementary school

Bend, OR (GSL) - The 16-year-old walked into Silver Rail Elementary in Bend, Oregon, carrying a Maverick 88 12-gauge shotgun and pure evil in his heart. He was a broken, dysfunctional social misfit—a former special-needs student who had already washed out of the place and came back hunting the softest targets he could find. Three children died that day, ages 5, 8, and 11. A 25-year-old teacher, Megan Lambert, was also killed. Among the wounded was a 7-year-old in a wheelchair—a child who could not run, could not hide, and could not fight back. That is the kind of target this sick bastard deliberately chose.

He began outside by firing at a passing truck. Then he threw the shotgun over the school fence, climbed after it, and blasted his way through locked doors near the playground. He headed straight for the special-education classroom, the room full of the most vulnerable kids in the building, and opened fire. Roughly 15 rounds tore through that room. He still had another 44 rounds of ammunition on him. This was not a confused teenager having a bad day. This was a predator who planned to keep killing until someone stopped him. Police later said he was not even enrolled in the district anymore. He simply picked the softest target he knew and went to work.

Outside, Kaylub Giamanco saw the commotion and the kid with the gun. He is a 36-year-old father of two girls who attend the school, a carpenter who happened to be on his lunch break. He did not keep driving. He did not pull over and film it. He grabbed the .40-caliber pistol he lawfully carried, followed the shooter onto the grounds, and went inside. A teacher had already thrown her phone at the killer and tackled him, fighting for control of the shotgun. Giamanco stepped into that classroom, saw the struggle, and shot the 16-year-old multiple times, killing him dead. Police arrived roughly three minutes after the first 911 call and found the threat already over.



The hero who put down the killer, Kaylub Giamanco and his wife.

That is what an armed citizen does when he sees a social misfit about to slaughter more children. He did not wait for permission. He did not debate policy. He put the threat down like a rabid dog. Oregon Governor Tina Kotek publicly praised the intervention as heroic. Even she understood that without that man and that gun, more families would be planning funerals today. The father himself has said he does not feel like a hero and wishes he had done more. The rest of us know better. He ended the killing.

Gun-free zones handed this predator his opportunity. The only thing that ended it was a good guy who refused to be a helpless bystander. The 16-year-old was a sick bastard who deserved exactly what he got. The father who killed him saved lives that would otherwise have been lost. That is the difference between a predator and a man who still has a job to do.



The killer, and it's not a Halloween costume. This guy was a creepy total misfit.





Bend School District one of just 25 that ban licensed concealed carry... nearly 175 districts allow it...

(CrimeResearch.com) - On Thursday, October 15, a gunman killed four people and critically wounded two others at Silver Rail Elementary School in Bend, Oregon. The district's gun policy deserves more attention: Bend–La Pine prohibits teachers with concealed handgun permits from carrying firearms at school. It was one of just 25 of Oregon's 197 school districts that had adopted a ban on licensed concealed carry. An armed bystander saw the attacker enter the school, followed him inside, and stopped the attack before police arrived. Federal law enforcement sources identified him as a concealed handgun permit holder. One said he "definitely prevented more deaths."



Hood Warfare 2: GROSS

The hottest game on Steam right now is Hood Warfare 2, a $5 multiplayer shooter that plays like a low-budget Call of Duty clone set in Chicago. Rival gangs battle for turf across maps of downtown, the suburbs, "The Trenches," and a mall. Modes include Chain Snatch—where you kill someone and collect their gold chain(s). You get to call in a "Snitch" or summon the homies in an SUV for a drive-by with the music blasting.

In a popular review, streamer Legends6K calls it "the new hood Call of Duty" and "out of pocket." He points out the heavy profanity, stereotypical character models and names, and nonstop slang about "blicking," "switching," and "holding it down."

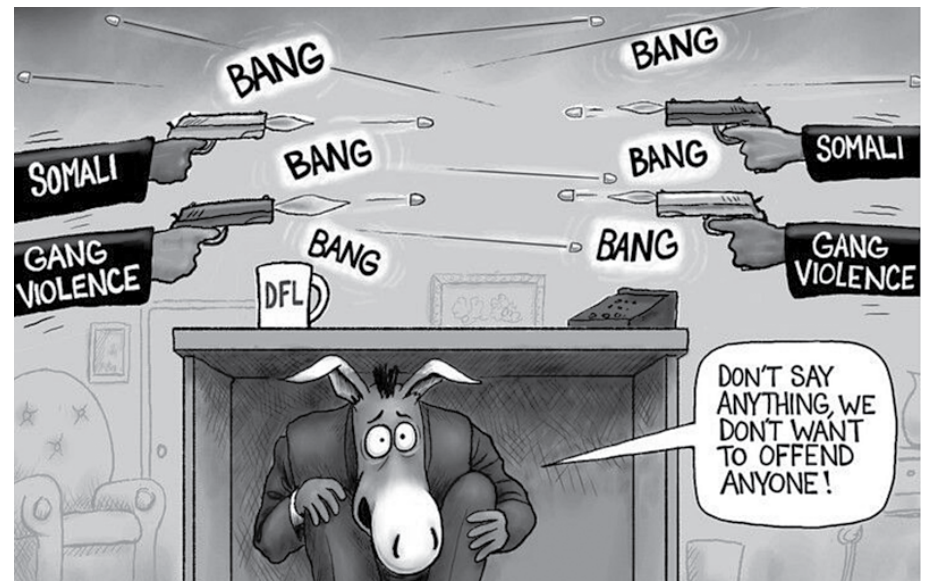
The game isn't necessarily racist in the way some online critics have claimed, but it leans hard into negative stereotypes of black culture reduced to chains, drive-bys, and constant gunfire. The humor is crude. The violence is cartoonish. And people are playing it by the tens, if not hundreds of thousands.

Sure, it's just a game. That's the easy line. In the real Chicago, though, it's gang violence—not "gun violence"—that drives the bloodshed and crime.

Politicians love the "gun violence" label because it deflects from their complicity unwillingness or inability to hold violent gangbangers accountable. The same crews that spin the block, hit licks, and light up rivals on actual city streets get treated as a social problem rather than a criminal one. Meanwhile, a game packages those exact behaviors as entertainment and sells it for the less than a burger at McDonald's.

When real-life street thugs decide to recreate those scenes, the people who pay the price aren't other players on Steam. They're the working families and law-abiding residents who just want to get to work and home safely. Responsible firearm ownership is a constitutional right and a practical tool for self-defense. What Hood Warfare 2 celebrates is the opposite: the criminal misuse of guns for turf, status, and street cred.

A disclaimer that the game is "fiction" doesn't change the content or its effect. When the moment's hottest shooter treats Chicago's gang problem as a joke and a gameplay loop, it softens the reality on the ground—and it makes it easier for officials to keep blaming the tool instead of the criminals themselves.



MAIL CALL



Cutting off the pecker doesn't cure the crazy

Letter to the Editor: Media Whitewash of the trans dad who shot up a high school hockey game

Depending on where one gets their news, you may or may not have heard about Roberta Esposito (a/k/a Robert Dorgan), who shot up a hockey game recently in Pawtucket, Rhode Island.

The New York Post reported: "The crazed gunman who killed two people and critically injured three others at a high-school hockey game in Rhode Island on Monday afternoon has been identified as a transgender dad who railed against anti-trans hate in family legal disputes and deranged social media rants."

Meanwhile, CNN reported the same incident vastly differently: "A youth hockey game was violently interrupted Monday when the sound of gunfire echoed inside a packed ice rink in Rhode Island, leaving at least two people dead and three others injured."



"Roberta" Dorgan.

In reality, "Roberta" was nuttier than a squirrel turd. Just like so many of his fellow "transgendered" colleagues, Roberta became suicidal only after becoming homicidal, joining an ever-expanding list of gender-benders gone berserk.

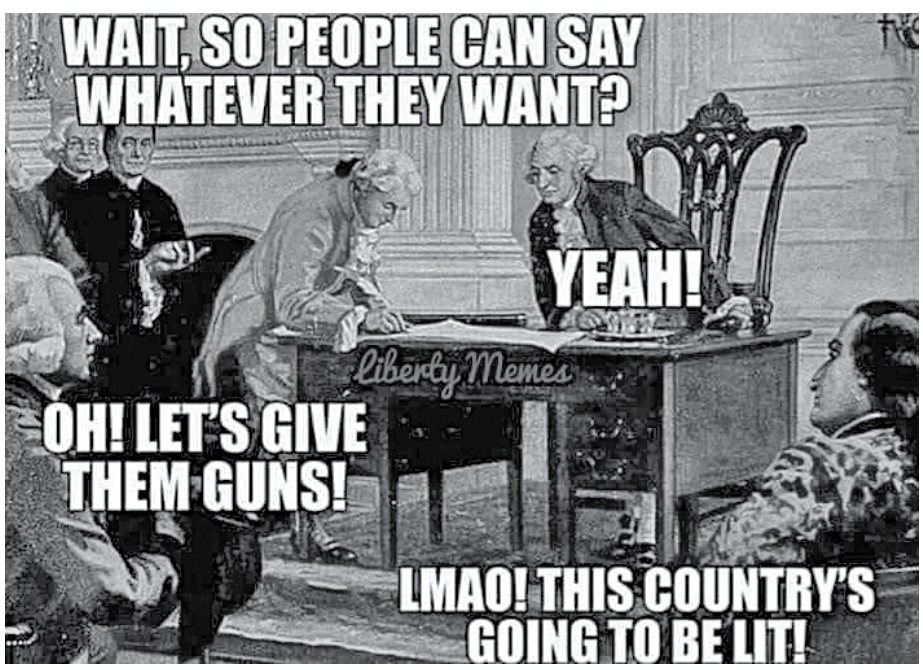
But why all the rage? It would seem Roberta was living the transgender dream after undergoing a lobotomy in his shorts, and running around town looking like "Chris Farley dressed up as Rosie O'Donnell playing the leader of a lesbian biker gang."

Scary, indeed! Progressives will argue to the grave that "gender reassignment surgery" is the cure for gender dysphoria and a basic human right.

However, cutting off one's pecker does nothing to defuse the ticking time bomb between the ears. It is stories like Roberta's that have made CNN "the least trusted name in news."

Roberta will grow a new pecker long before CNN regains any measure of journalistic credibility.

Gary Hetherington
Springfield, Illinois



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

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

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



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

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



Oregon hunters, farmers and fishermen owe animal rights wackos a debt of gratitude

By Chris Dorsey
(ShootingNewsWeekly) - Somebody ought to send Oregon's animal rights activists a thank-you note. In trying to outlaw hunting, fishing, and farming, they've made an excellent case for organizing the people they'd like to shut down.

Their Initiative Petition 28 would have removed animal cruelty exemptions covering those activities and routine livestock husbandry practices. To be clear, this wasn't a ban on growing wheat. But raising cattle for beef would have become a difficult business to maintain without the beef part.

The petition failed to qualify for Oregon's November 3, 2026, ballot. Organizers submitted more than 142,000 signatures; election officials determined that 104,262 were valid, short of the 117,173 required.

That's welcome news. Before anyone declares victory, though, consider the organizing effort behind a hundred thousand valid signatures. Signatures aren't votes, but they show the threat isn't limited to fundraising letters from hunting organizations.

Chief petitioner David Michelson has been frank about his intentions. He sees repeated campaigns as a way to change public opinion over time, even when an immediate victory looks unlikely. He's prepared to keep at it. Sportsmen and farmers would be wise to develop a strategy that lasts longer than the relief following another failed petition.

Britain offers a place to start. The Countryside Alliance formed in 1997, bringing together field sports, rural business and countryside organizations to defend interests that reached well beyond fox hunting. Its usefulness as a model ought to be obvious: You don't have to enjoy everything your neighbor does to object when somebody proposes outlawing his livelihood. Waiting until they get around to yours is an expensive way to learn that lesson.

As we pursue constitutional protections in more states, we need to advance the right to hunt, fish, and farm. Oregon already has a proposed amendment aimed at the 2028 ballot that brings those activities together, along with ranching and trapping. The language deserves careful scrutiny, but the wider approach makes sense. Agriculture shouldn't be an afterthought in this fight, brought in when a hunting organization needs another name on a letter.

Bring the farm bureaus, cattlemen, hunting groups and fishing organizations together before the next petition circulates. Pool their money, share their audiences and speak to the public throughout the year. A rancher shouldn't have to become a wildlife policy expert to recognize why a hunting ban matters to him. Oregon's activists have helpfully explained the connection.

They've also given us a better way to explain ourselves. Venison in a hunter's freezer, fish brought home for supper and beef raised on a family ranch all answer the same ordinary question: What's for dinner?

That's a conversation we should welcome. We can spend another generation arguing among ourselves about equipment and terminology, or we can explain why people should remain free to provide food through responsible hunting, fishing and farming.

Those protections should leave room for sound wildlife management, food safety rules and legitimate animal welfare standards. They should also welcome city residents who care about where their food comes from.

There's no acreage requirement to understand the difference between choosing not to eat meat and demanding that everyone else stop producing it.

So thank you, Mr. Michelson, and everyone who worked on IP28. Hunters, anglers, and farmers have good reason to defend one another. You've been kind enough to remind us of that.

Getting older isn't for wimps

Some hard-earned advice before you head out for your next hunting trip

by Jim Shepherd
(Shooting News Weekly) - Over a recent two-week stretch, I took four international flights, rode four trains, innumerable taxis and Ubers, and drove a rental car hundreds of kilometers (yes, kilometers) on narrow, twisty and totally unfamiliar roads. With the exception of the departure and return flights, that all happened outside the United States.

In the past, that could have been an excerpt from my typical monthly schedule. Travel was an essential of my job. Most was done spur-of-the-moment. Some was completely ad libbed. Sometimes, it was improvisation, others approached pure luck, or total lunacy.

But I made it work.



Today, racing to be the last guy on an ancient Aeroflot plane with grimy horsehair seats and engines dripping oil that will (maybe) depart on time despite a near blizzard has lost all the romantic appeal it may have once had. Recent travel was a more proof that I no no longer bounce, I tend to splatter.

Two European trips this year have changed how I travel. The first taught me that I was making it unnecessarily tough on myself, even for someone in reasonably decent health (for his age). That sobering realization and the subsequent modifications I've made lead me to offer of some unsolicited advice for anyone nearing my age and eagerly awaiting hunting season.

First, I get it. Hunting is a special, almost religious experience for most of us. My hunting memories cover nearly 70 seasons. The memories, unlike my vision, remain crisp and sharp. But if you're older and fail to adjust to having aged, the near-religious hunting experience could morph into a near-death encounter.

Every year, state fish and wildlife agencies send us releases recounting the rescues (ideal) or recovery (not good) of elderly hunters, anglers, and hikers who ignored what were probably clear signals they had lost a step or two.

Do everyone a favor and do some honest self-evaluation of your physical capacities. Before you clamber out of bed in the wee small hours of opening day and once again squeeze yourself into last season's mysteriously shrunken camo. Certainly before you hoist that twenty-three pound "day pack" of snacks and energy drinks onto your aching, arthritic shoulder and head to the safe to retrieve your rifle.

Before you do any of that, slow your roll. Get honest about your conditioning, or lack thereof. Especially if you plan on humping that load a mile or more back into the woods beyond where you'll be parking your ATV.

If you're running on mental memory in stead of physical reality, you're risking having your world fade to black rather than "watching the woods come alive."

You're probably closer to my level of conditioning than my friends who train year-round to go out West hunting. They apparently chase down elk and antelope, strangling them barehanded. The rest of us have zero business trying to do the things we (think we) remember doing as a youth.

In a nutshell, we're not kids anymore. And we don't need most of what we've stuffed into our pack. Toss the beef sticks, most of the protein bars and all the energy drinks. Replace them with a decent IFAK with a tourniquet and a satellite signaling device.

The IFAK can save your life in an emergency. The satellite device makes finding you easier if things go sideways.



A tale of two international journeys. The suitcase and backpack on the left were for a four-day trip. The suitcase and backpack on the right were for a fifteen-day international trip with no checked baggage.

Getting there was a long distance to travel to a truth you may be ignoring: doing the things you used to do won't be accomplished by adding another piece (or ten) of gear to your pack.

To enjoy — and survive — another hunting season, slow down and evaluate your actual capabilities. Not fearing the reaper is different from double-dog daring him to punch your ticket.

I'm carrying the lessons I learned by minimizing my load for business travel into my hunting and fishing travel, too. Direct flights, when possible, eliminate a lot of airport time and most of the concerns of lost luggage. When you're traveling with a hunting rifle or camera equipment, lost gear is a major concern.

Since few hunting destinations are near major travel hubs, allow more time for realistic flight connections. That makes your luggage and gear far more likely to be waiting for you at your final destination. Spending a few extra minutes with a cold beverage waiting to board a connection instead of racing down a concourse hoping to make is the better choice. It also allows time to visit the men's room.

Applying that to hunting means taking the easier, but slightly longer route to my hunting spot. The steeper, slippery more direct route might save me a few minutes, but a tumble down the hillside could mean hunting season's over before it starts.

None of us want to admit diminished capabilities, but denying them demonstrates… diminished capacities. My goal is to enjoy this hunting season without having to distribute more state agency releases about rescues and recoveries. So don't even get me going on tree stands.

Go. Hunt. Enjoy. And get home safely.

We'll keep you posted.



Christmas Gift Ideas

Hey, future heroes of the Christmas season. Those darn trees are already up in stores meaning Christmas is coming fast. If your dad, granddad, or that son who's already like a walking action movie already owns three of everything cool you might feel stuck. Don't. This year, step up and help Santa Claus out. Be the one who actually delivers something he'll use, laugh about, and maybe even brag about at the range.

And hey—while you're at it, you might spot something for the missus too. No shady sponsorships here. These aren't paid plugs from some corporate overlord. They're straight from the battle-tested reviews that have run in *GunNews* over the years. Options for the dad who has "everything," the one who lives like he's in a movie, and the rest of us mere mortals. No particular order, because life's too short for alphabetical anything. Let's go.

Dash Cam: The Rove R2-4K ($100ish)
Turn off the mic so he can mutter whatever he wants and kill the speed stamp so the recording doesn't rat him out to himself. This thing is a silent witness against road-rage psychos, creative fender-bender storytellers, and the occasional cop who insists that light was red when it was clearly "amber-adjacent." For about a hundred bucks, it can save him from jail time, a lawsuit, and that awkward family dinner where everyone suddenly remembers "the incident." Road Warrior insurance that actually fits in the windshield.

Cool Not-So-Dad Jeans: LA Police Gear's Core Flex Tactical Jeans (~$35)
These aren't your grandpa's baggy britches. They're normal-looking jeans with stealth-mode CCW pockets that swallow knives, lights, pens, phones, and whatever else Dad hoards like a squirrel prepping for the end times. They fit like they were made for humans, don't scream "operator," and might even earn an approving nod from the ladies for the cut. Low-profile, high-utility—perfect for those "gun-free" zones where looking tactical is the opposite of helpful.

A Proper Dinner: Whiskey Bill's Saloon and Liquor Emporium, Pana, IL
Drop a hundred bucks and take him (or send him) for steaks so good his taste buds drool for more, plus adult beverages and sides that aren't an afterthought. Pana isn't Chicago, which is the point—drive an hour or two, skip the gunfire and gang nonsense, and make a memory. Pro tip: swing by Locked & Loaded a half-mile away and stare at the ammo mountains. There are a few other gun shops in the area worth a stop on the way. He'll talk about this one for months. Where the heck is Pana? 30 miles south of Decatur.

NRA Membership ($45/year)
If Dad bailed during the LaPierre circus, tell him the clown car left the building. The good guys are steering now. Point him at NRA.org and let him rejoin the "Cool Kids Who Protect Rights" club—minus the drama. It's the gift that says "your rights still matter" without requiring him to sit through another meeting.

GSL Membership: Guns Save Life ($40)
For pocket change he gets GunNews in the mailbox. Join at GunsSaveLife.com or mail the form from the back of the magazine. It's like *Netflix* for gun people—real-world value, zero buffering, and none of the woke nonsense.

Home Surveillance: Weilailalife Wi-Fi Setup (~$200 for 4 HD cameras + 1TB)
Screwed up Chinglish name, but it works. Skip the bandwidth-hogging doorbell cams. This system runs its own dedicated Wi-Fi between the cameras and the recorder so the family's streaming doesn't choke. Hard-wire if you're feeling fancy; it still phones home through your router for app access. Setup is easier than most IKEA furniture and involves less swearing. *Pro hack:* tape those wall-wart power supplies with electrical tape if you're putting cameras outside. Rain-proof enough for the real world.



TRT Consultation (~$300 *A Balanced Life* in Morton, IL)
Is Dad fighting the belly, the muscle melt, the brain fog, the grumpiness, the zero energy, and the upper body that's starting to look more pear than powerhouse? Send him for a testosterone check. Combined with gym time and better eating, plenty of guys drop fat, add muscle, and start walking around like the old Enzyte Bob commercials. Longer life, better mood, and yes, the other benefits. (*Psst:* a similar consult makes an excellent gift for Mom. Especially if she's menopausal or post-menopausal, HRT makes a world of difference. Teamwork makes the dream work.)

Legal Defense Coverage ($200–600/year)
This one's a splurge that protects his assets and your sanity. Roughly $200 for Right to Bear, $300 for US Law Shield, $400 for USCCA base policy. We like all three. It's insurance against the prosecutor who doesn't care that the bad guy should have been locked up the last three times he was in court. The gift that says "I love you" and "please don't go broke defending yourself."

Good Ear Pro
If he's still using the old passive muffs, upgrade him. GSL's Dr. David Pike likes the **3M electronic units** (~$80, 26 dB NRR)—they amplify conversation and clamp down on gunfire. **Walker's Razor** (~$50) is compact for shotgun or home-defense use. Budget option for the piggy-bank crowd or the dad who mostly uses plugs: **Harbor Freight's Ranger muffs** (26 dB NRR, under $10). Unlike some Chinese stuff, these actually work.



Lead Wipes (100-pack ~$25 on Amazon)
High lead levels are linked to depression and, ahem, performance issues downstairs. That fact usually gets Dad's attention. Toss a pack in his range bag, another in the gun cases, and extras for the buddies. Hygienic, practical, and it keeps his blood cleaner and his mojo intact. Who knew range time came with a side of health hack?

Tactical Flashlights: Fenix TK20 or TK21 (~$125)
These put out an almost obscene amount of light, and the strobe function has been known to make people reconsider their life choices and barf. Two buttons on the tailcap: the big one lights up the night (and blinds bad guys); the little one is the "barf button" that gets drivers' attention, disorients idiots, and can signal aircraft if things get really weird. Pro tip: we are not responsible if he uses it at a football or basketball game to wreck a player's concentration. It works on bad guys the same way. Worth it.

Rocky Boots.
We've all owned boots that pinched, fell apart, or turned into soggy misery. Rocky's Ultra Ops entry-level boots (~$100) outperform a lot of other companies' top-tier stuff. The Mountain Combat Waterproof (~$180) is lighter and doesn't scream "tactical operator" while still doing the job. The S2V (~$275) is the Land Rover of boots—well-built, protective, stupidly comfortable, and it dries itself after a submerged swim within a couple miles of walking. He'll thank you in his mind every time he laces them up.



Rocky S2V boots. The Land Rover of footwear. (And a Torsion holster and Fenix flashlight!)

Ammo
For a few boxes or a case, hit your local gun shop so the guy behind the counter can still pay his light bill.

For real quantity, **Ammo To Go** is the online move. They've got piles of the stuff competitively priced (don't they all?) and, more importantly, actual test data on their site so you can see which defensive loads actually expand and which ones just make pretty commercials. Spoiler: some of the big-name, heavily advertised rounds perform about as well as a screen door on a submarine. Buy smart, shoot more.

Baofeng UV-5R
Buy two ($45 total) so he has someone to talk to. Better yet, charge and program them before wrapping! Stick with the AR-15 of handheld radios. Everything fits it, everything's cheap, and it works. Don't get suckered by the shiny new model that's ten grams lighter, and three times the price—accessories for the UV-5R are everywhere. Program it from your computer in about the time it takes to make coffee. You'll get solid 1–2 mile radio-to-radio range, easy. Upgrade the antenna and double that. Grab the $30 no-test GMRS license and suddenly you're talking into the next county. Maybe two counties away when you're in the right place. It's his new best friend if cell phones go down...

Retevis RT-95 Mobile Radio + Midland Antenna MXTA26
Drop the RT-95 (~$150) and a Midland MXTA26 high-gain antenna (~$75) in the truck or SUV. With that GMRS license, you're not limited to yelling at the guy in the next vehicle. Forty miles on a decent repeater is easy; eight-plus miles is realistic with the right setup. It's your "cell towers are toast, come help" button. Easy to program from a computer, talks to those cheap Baofengs from miles away, and turns your truck into a rolling base station. Because sometimes "I'll just call you" isn't an option. Great for hunting in the woods, or a host of other outdoor activities.

AirTags / SmartTags (~$25 name brand, ~$7 knockoffs)
Slap one on the grandkid's bike so you know whether he's actually at the park or three blocks over buying ice cream. Same for the hiking backpack, the motorcycle, the trailer, or anything else with a habit of growing legs. Useful if some lowlife decides your stuff looks better in his garage. Cheap insurance against "I swear it was right here."



Brave Concealment Torsion Holsters ($40ish)
Everyone and their brother claims they make the "best" holster. That's marketing. You want something that's comfortable, cheap, sturdy, and actually works. The Torsion checks the boxes. How comfortable? Statute of limitations has expired, so here's the story: I slept in one for two weeks straight in a children's hospital NICU. Half the price of most inside-the-waistband setups, it fits most of the common defensive pistols (and they're adding more). It stays on your belt, and more importantly, it keeps the gun in the holster so you don't donate it to the blue water in a porta-potty or lose it while changing at the gym. All Kydex means it doesn't soak up sweat, bacteria, or whatever funk you rolled in. Germophobe? It rinses clean. Simple, reliable, and priced like they actually want you to buy one.

Conclusion.
There you go. A pile of practical, battle-tested ideas that won't end up in a sock drawer by January. Help Santa out this year. Be the hero. Dad (or Granddad, or that grown son) will notice—and so will everyone else when he shows up looking, feeling, and shooting a little sharper. Merry Christmas.



Taurus Deputy: Review & comparison with the Taurus Gaucho

by Damon Williams
GSL Member
(GSL) - When I first wandered into Cowboy Action Shooting, everyone else was chasing Rugers like they were free beer. I ended up with a pair of 1960s German imports sold as Hawes Western Marshals or JP Sauer & Sohn, depending on which importer slapped a name on the box and hoped nobody noticed. They served me for over a decade until one broke a bolt spring. Replacement parts from the original maker? Might as well have asked for the Holy Grail. That forced the realization that if I wanted guns I could actually keep running, I needed modern ones with parts still available.

A friend had a pair of Taurus Gauchos his son wasn't using. Preferred length, preferred caliber, lifetime warranty, and a friends-and-family price that didn't require selling a kidney. Sold. All was right with the world—for about two years, until Taurus killed the Gaucho. The warranty still existed, sort of: if one broke beyond repair, they'd replace it with whatever they were making that week. I didn't want "whatever." I wanted a Gaucho. Imagine taking your favorite truck to the dealer and they hand you a minivan and say, "Close enough."

Competitors learn early that you need a backup for every primary gun, so I eventually bought a second pair. All was right again. Mostly.

About three years ago, Taurus tiptoed back into single actions with the Deputy. Same calibers (45 Colt or .357 Magnum) and similar barrel lengths. Only blued, with black checkered grips—no stainless. Still, the fact that a dead Gaucho would now be replaced by a Deputy under warranty made me curious how the two compared.

My friend Eddie Fritts—on the range we call him Fat Chance Bucko (SASS #92212), or just Bucko—found Deputies on sale at Rural King for $550 each. He ordered a pair; they arrived in under two weeks. He let me put them next to my Gauchos. The Deputy's grips are a bit wider, the black finish is rich and even, fit is precise, and the action gives four clean clicks. Both use a transfer-bar safety so you can carry six. Best of all, the Deputy ditched the Gaucho's silly key-operated hammer lock that nobody ever used. (Seriously, has anyone ever thought, "You know what this revolver needs? A key lock I can lose in the gravel"?)

I asked Bucko if I could run his Deputies on the clock. He said yes, which either means he trusts me or he just wanted free entertainment.

At the loading table, the first thing I noticed was that my .38 Special reloads—mixed brass—didn't play perfectly with the Deputies. Federal cases dragged ever so slightly on the recoil shield. Not enough for a normal person to notice, but in a game built on muscle memory, the slightest difference registers like a fire alarm. That drag, plus new-gun spring stiffness on a pair with only about 200 rounds through them, was noticeable while my brain was running on automatic. Competitors beat our guns like rented mules; we want butter-smooth actions and zero surprises.

Perspective check: I'm comparing a gun with 200 rounds to the muscle memory I've built with Gauchos that have eaten 13,000-plus rounds each over 18 years. Unfair? Completely. For all I know, my Gauchos were just as stiff when they were new, and we simply broke in together like an old married couple who finally learned to pick up dirty socks and not leave wet towels on the bed.

I ran the Deputies for three stages. The only hiccup came on the last round of a five-shot dump: my thumb slipped off the hammer and the cylinder didn't fully index. I finished the stroke and lost about half a second. That was me, not the gun—I was still running in "Gaucho mode" at speed and didn't give the Deputy the tiny extra pressure it wanted. My thumb, apparently, is loyal to a fault.

Bottom line: if a Gaucho dies and Taurus hands me a Deputy under warranty, I won't be disappointed. For a newer Cowboy Action shooter, or anyone who wants a solid single-action at a fair price and is willing to let it break in, the Deputy is a good choice. Experienced competitors may want to polish and spring-tune one. If my Gauchos are any indication, the Deputy should hold up just fine—and at least it won't make you hunt for a key you lost in 2011.

Join Guns Save Life today.



Membership application on back page of GunNews

Violent crime may be at historic lows, but guess where the anti-gun orgs still point the finger of blame

by Kostos Moros
It shouldn't surprise anyone that Everytown-backed March for Our Lives would be touting Malcolm Gladwell's latest, *An American Way of Killing*. Here's the blurb from the book . . .

The United States has far more homicides than any of its peers around the world. Why?

> *In this groundbreaking book, Malcolm Gladwell explores the American "peculiarity"—how the world's wealthiest country came to suffer from a problem typically only seen in the world's poorest countries...*

But this is pretty odd timing for a book like this, given that the recent massive expansion in carry rights in America was followed by homicide rates hitting record lows.

The truth is, America doesn't have a broad-based homicide or gun-related homicide problem. What it has is two things that need to be solved:

1. Increasingly rare, but shocking mass shootings. These are a modern phenomenon of the last couple decades. Before that, they occasionally happened, but were even more rare. While not a statistical threat given their rarity, they should still be dealt with — in a way that does not violate the Second Amendment, obviously — because of the effect they have on the national psyche in addition to the families they devastate.

2. Black-on-black homicides which explains over half of our homicide problem. If this issue were finally somehow resolved and the black community had a homicide rate equivalent to its share of the population, the US homicide rate would essentially match Canada's. Read my earlier article on the racial disparities in homicides here.

Here is the (still provisional) data for 2026 from the CDC on gun-related homicides. Thanks to the decline in homicides nationally, numbers are down across the board, but the disparities are still obvious.

Non-hispanic white Americans — who also are our most gun-owning demographic — have a gun-related homicide rate of 1.5 per 100,000. But for black Americans, it is 16.3 per 100,000.

That's the whole ballgame, folks. Want to do something to further reduce violent crime in America beyond its current historically low rate? Fix our busted inner cities and their broken culture.

Instead, though, the other side targets guns because focusing on the real issue exposes Democrat governments' failures. They've run those inner cities for decades, and they pushed the welfare and other policies that have wrecked black families (not to mention zero bail and defunded police departments).
It's like if you had a big drunk driving problem and your solution was to find creative ways to restrict car ownership.

Sullivan Gun Club

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



Bowling Pin Shoots
Reminder: Kids shoot free!
Nov 7
subject to weather-related cancellations
Rimfire rifle, rimfire pistol, centerfire revolver and pocket pistol classes



Rimfire Shoots
Reminder: Kids shoot free!
Nov 21
subject to weather-related cancellations
Sporter stock, sporter heavy, target, unlimited, .17 classes

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

Matches start at 9a.m.
$10 per firearm. Kids free.
Sign-in and warm up starting at 8a.m.
All dates are subject to the weather.
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Gun-Control Groups Dominate Midterm Fundraising, Spending

(The Reload) - The political arms of three leading gun-control groups have massively outraised and outspent those of the three largest gun-rights groups in the midterm election cycle, with new Federal Election Commission reports showing them at about a three-to-one advantage on both fronts. The spending gap also appears set to widen thanks to a similar advantage in what they have left in the bank.

The Everytown for Gun Safety, Giffords, and Brady Political Action Committees (PACs) have brought in nearly $18.8 million so far this cycle compared to a combined total of $5.8 million from the National Rifle Association (NRA), National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF), and National Association for Gun Rights. The gun-control groups have spent $9.7 million to this point, while the gun-rights groups have spent just $3.8 million. The gun-control group arsenal sits at just over $13 million still in the bank, and the gun-rights groups have $3.8 million still in their coffers as of the end of the most recent reporting period in August.

Everytown and Giffords have also recently announced plans to spend another $10 million each on ads in the coming midterm elections, while the gun-rigths groups haven’t publicized any comparable spending sprees.

The financial picture represents a complete reversal of fortune in the gun money fight, where the NRA used to regularly and single-handedly outraise all of the major gun-control groups combined.

VOTE!

Continued from front page.

party out of power shows up because they’re desperate. The cable news hacks and mainstream media types are already declaring Democrat victory from their Chicago studios, trying to further demoralize pro-gun voters. However, pro-gun Republican enthusiasm is matching or beating theirs. Enthusiastic voters show up. Apathetic ones explain to their grandkids why the local state’s attorney treats every self-defense case like a hate crime and why their FOID renewal took longer than a Chicago winter.

Remember Ann Selzer’s final Iowa poll before the 2024 election? The one every cable news talking head called the “gold standard”? In a state Trump had carried by ten points in both 2016 and 2020, she had Harris beating him by three. Trump won by thirteen—the biggest margin there since Nixon’s 1972 landslide. That’s a sixteen-point miss from the “Queen of Polling.” Most of the same prestigious outfits that swore Hillary Clinton would romp in an electoral landslide (she was so confident she campaigned in Texas at the end) and that Kamala would coast in 2024 are now predicting a Democrat midterm wave. The polling industry seems to make money not by being right, but by telling lies and pretending the math backs them up. They’ve got a lot in common with the “scientists” who told us we’d all be underwater by now from global warming and that the COVID shots were safe and effective. If you still believe Dr. Fauci that the virus didn’t come from a Wuhan lab, and if you think Greta Thunberg and Al Gore are brilliant climate scientists, you might believe the pollsters too.

Don’t. The people who want your FOID number, your magazine capacity, and your self-defense rights are counting on you staying home because the polls look bad. Prove them wrong. Vote, and bring the people who understand what this election means for Illinois gun owners. Local races first. Your freezer, your rights, and Jim Root’s old race all depend on it.

BATF just stopped enforcing the NFA on SBRs, SBSs, AOWs, and suppressors. Can you have them in Illinois now?

Continued from page 13.

money, one state at a time. The legislators are not going to self-correct, so don’t expect Illinois to change any time soon.

In the meantime, the practical answer remains the same: the feds may have stopped caring, but Illinois has not.

[Editor’s Note: I am not a lawyer, but I’d be leery that a future administration could retroactively begin enforcing these laws if they are still on the books...]

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AMELIA EARHART: What caliber for giant, nocturnal, meat-eating ten-pound crabs?

by John Boch

Welcome to Monster Island. quite possibly Amelia Earhart's last residence after her plane went down. Today it's known as Nikumaroro. It's the very remote Pacific atoll where Amelia Earhart and Fred Noonan are widely believed to have crash-landed in 1937 after missing their destination, Howland Island.



Like a horror movie from hell, it's crawling with coconut crabs—the world's largest land-dwelling invertebrates.



For her sake, I hope she had a shotgun or handgun on her plane. Alas, probably not. These monster crabs aren't the cute and cuddly tide-pool scuttlers you see at beach shops. Adult coconut crabs can span three feet from leg tip to leg tip, weigh ten pounds or more, climb trees, crack coconuts with pincers that generate more force than a human bite, and hunt live prey including rats and seabirds.

Current searchers working on the island from Purdue and the Archaeological Legacy Institute are sleeping aboard their ship every night because the crabs come out after dark in numbers that make camping ashore "impractical."

In plain English, these searchers would find themselves the prey if they camped out at night. Remember Michael Crichton's Congo book? Or Aliens? The island does not negotiate and it's not a work of fiction.

What's the best caliber for these armored bastards? For anyone actually moving around on the ground with these things underfoot, I'd reach for a 12-gauge riot gun and a "wonder-nine" of some sort as a sidearm. A rifle requires more deliberate aim,and a ten-pound, armor-clad arthropod with a low center of gravity doesn't present a clean vital zone at ten or fifteen yards when it's already closing.

This goes many times over if you're facing a platoon of hungry, crawly crabs. A riot gun doesn't require the same precision. At thirty feet or less, the pattern is still tight enough to wreck the body and legs while remaining forgiving of an imperfect sight picture or moving targets.



These crabs aren't fast, but they're persistent, heavily armored, and capable of delivering a crushing grip. You want something that can disrupt that armor and the animal behind it without needing a perfect shot. Just save the last round for yourself.

Big birdshot or buckshot would both work, depending on range and how much you want to wreck the animal. And it beats the hell out of a machete.

Imagine Earhart surviving after the Electra went down. The castaway theory has her and Noonan reaching Nikumaroro alive, then facing isolation, scarce water, and these crabs. If she was injured in the landing—or simply exhausted and alone once Noonan was gone—she would have been dealing with animals that hunt by smell, move at night, and can drag a carcass into a burrow.

Obviously there's no documented account of her fighting them off, but the island's ecology makes the problem plain. A wounded or weakened person on the beach or under the palms would have been of interest to every big crawler within scent range. Without a firearm, the tools available would have been sticks, rocks, or whatever could be scavenged from the plane…poor substitutes for a load of buckshot when dozens of three-foot, ten-pound crabs decide you're dinner.

Even if she had a firearm, she didn't have enough ammo to hold these things off for long. Seems like a very unpleasant way to die.

The modern search teams understand this well enough to sleep on the boat. If the castaway hypothesis is correct, Earhart didn't have that option. Yeesh.

Illinois Times: Go woke, go broke

(GSL) - Go woke. Go broke. Some people learn the first time. Others family trees look like wreaths.

The Illinois Times is a Springfield chapel that mistook an "alternative" weekly for a moral superpower. The already-left mainstream media that almost nobody trusts still isn't pure enough for them.

They'll tell you they cover stories objectively and responsibly. The product says otherwise. Three doctrines, one priest: the state is good, the public is the problem, and anyone who notices is a bigot with a coupon book.

Start with the ICE homily. Riverton police stop a criminal illegal Daniel Torrez Perez doing 15 over. Previously deported in 2023. Back. Has ICE warrant. Outstanding Illinois DUI warrant. They book him on the state charge. ICE picks him up. He pleads guilty to felony illegal reentry and goes back to Guatemala.

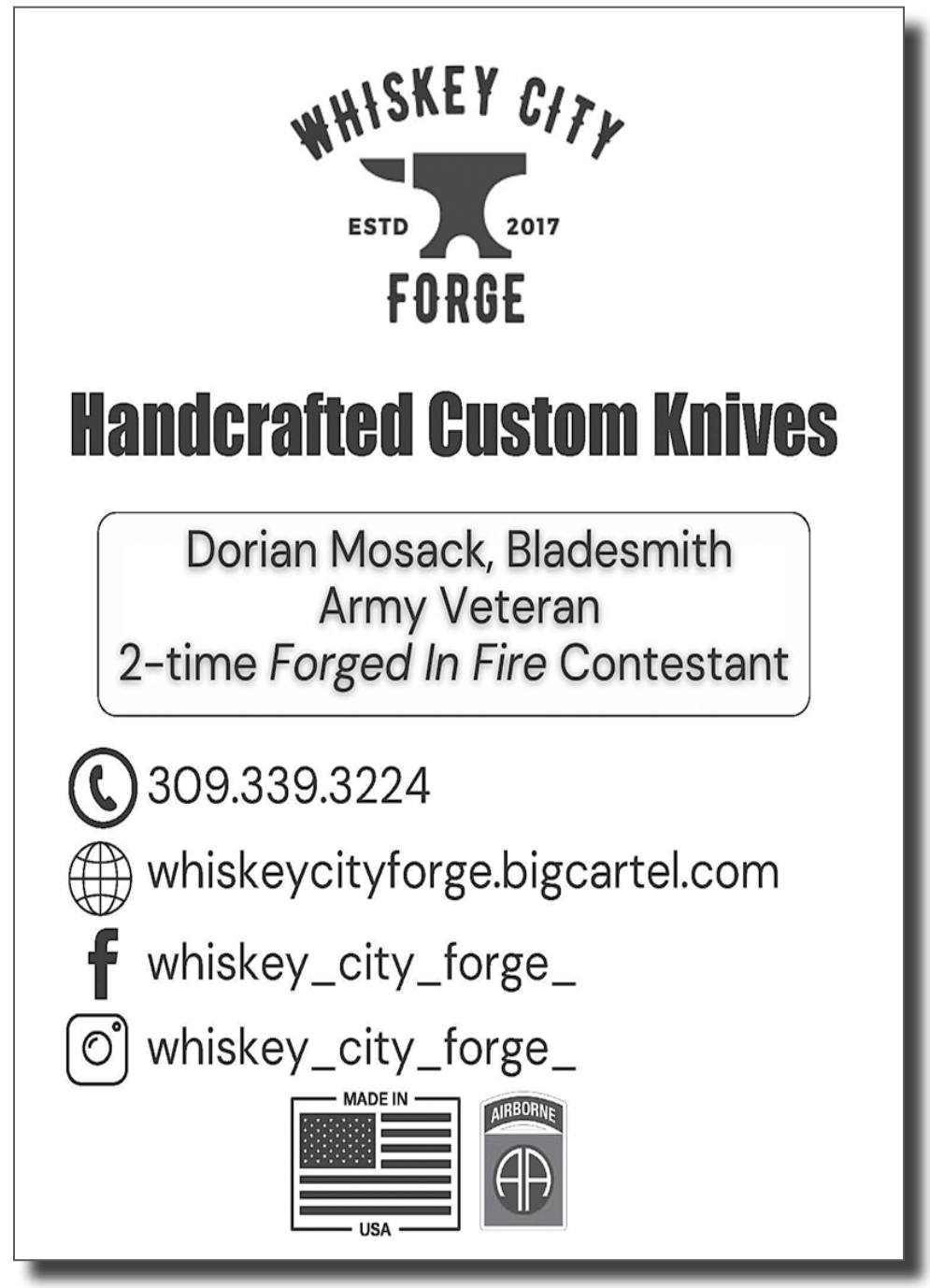
The Times and Injustice Watch call that "collaboration," as if getting rid of a hibitual drunk driving illegal was a war crime. The cops must mime so the sanctuary brand survives, then *The Times* finds the workaround and gasps.

Flip to guns. Wire copy on PICA, FOID, and "Karina's bill" is pure Springfield Democrats stenography. Opinion is the tell. Responsible storage or the law will make you. Australia as gospel. Gun bans as hygiene. A pediatric piece handing the mic to universal checks and "uncomfortable conversations" about whether the right to arms is "absolute." Durbin demanding military-style rifles outlawed. A poem sneering at the Second Amendment. Same geometry every time: the armed citizen is the problem. Gang bangers? Crickets. Illegal alien criminals? Nothing.

COVID was the dress rehearsal. They transmitted the catechism without a heretic in the choir. IDPH and CDC say every kid and teacher masks regardless of shots — print it. Colleges "strongly encouraged" to mandate the vaccine — print it. Hospital features blame the unvaccinated and the maskless for "prolonging the pandemic." Rich Miller treats conscience-act holdouts as rabble and a downstate mask TRO as "weird logic." Years later they're still the house organ for Pritzker issuing Illinois-only vaccine guidelines against RFK's CDC and joining a WHO outbreak network after Washington walked. A measles story even pins "vaccine skepticism" on people who noticed the COVID shot did not do what the posters promised. Mask, jab, comply — or you are the strain on the system.

That is not a newspaper. That is a limited-circulation radical-left bulletin produced by high-school-level "journalists" with a food section. They lecture the cop who answered the FBI, the FOID holder who read *Bruen*, and the parent who got tired of cloth theater, then wonder why the car dealers and the diners walked. They got woke and they're going broke. You cannot sell piety to a shrinking choir and call it "the capital city's source."

If they vanish, it will not be because ICE did its job. It will be because they confused a choir loft with a market — woke, broke, and still sure the problem is that somebody in Illinois still believes in borders, the right to keep and bear arms, and the right to tell a weekly to take the cloth off.



Calendar



GUN SHOWS...

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.

November

Nov. 1 & 2: Bloomington Gun & Knife Show. Interstate Center. Bloomington, IL. Pope Creek Shows. Mark Craft 309 582-6268.
Nov. 8 & 9: Crown Point Gun Show, Lake County Fairgrounds, Crown Point, IN. Central IN Gun Shows. (765) 855-3836.
Nov. 9: Kane County Sportsman's Show, Kane County Fairgrounds, St Charles, IL Mick Stout (815) 217-2266
Nov. 16: Midwest Militaria Military History & Collectibles Show, VFW Post 9545, New Lenox, IL. (9a-1p) Charles Gramberg 815 641 6411.
Nov. 22 & 23: Kankakee Gun Show, Kankakee County Fairgrounds Kankakee, IL. Mike (630) 363-3131.
Nov. 29 & 30: Central IL Gun Collectors New Berlin. Sangamon County Fairgrounds, New Berlin, IL. Patrick Keen oldcarbines@gmail.com.
Nov. 29 & 30: Sauk Trail Gun Show, Bureau County Fairgrounds, Princeton, IL. Dan Fritz 309 689-1934.

December

Dec. 6 & 7: Chillicothe Sportsman's Club, Chillecothe, IL. Steve Risinger (309) 208-1010.
Dec. 13 & 14: Kankakee Gun Show, Kankakee County Fairgrounds Kankakee, IL. Mike (630) 363-3131.
Dec. 14: Kane County Sportsman's Show, Kane County Fairgrounds, St Charles, IL Mick Stout (815) 217-2266.
Dec. 20 & 21: Crown Point Gun Show, Lake County Fairgrounds, Crown Point, IN. Central IN Gun Shows. (765) 855-3836.

GUN CLUBS

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

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

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

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

Crete Gun Club.
Monthly meetings at 7pm on the **First Monday**. 1962 W. Exchange, Crete, IL. Open to all. Contact Howard Kaye at fxrt1984@gmail.com or 708 921-6768.

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

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For more info, visit FriendsofNRA.org.

GSL LEADERSHIP DIRECTORY

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

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

OFFICERS

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

Tim Wier
Vice-President
timothywier@yahoo.com

Tracy Bettinger
Treasurer
217 254-1772
sullivangunclub@yahoo.com

Corporate Secretary
Currently vacant

Rich Goodall
Immediate Past President
rgoodall@myyahoo.com
309-737-0974

DIRECTORS

Chad Berck *(2028)*
cberck@gmail.com
309 531-4851

Joel Gain *(2027)*
joelgain37@yahoo.com
217 632-3267

Don Jensen *(2027)*
djensen@ivnet.com

Howard Kaye *(2027)*
FXRT1984@gmail.com
708 921-6768

Kristen Garrett *(2027)*
kristengarrett17@gmail.com
217 779-2675

Eric North *(2027)*
ericnorth283@gmail.com
708 932-1636

Keith Pippin *(2027)*
keith.pippin@yahoo.com

Glenn Pratt *(2027)*
pratman1776@yahoo.com
708 822-4735

Dave Randolph *(2027)*
bowfisher5@hotmail.com

Charles L. Sykes *(2027)*
charles@effectivefirearms.com

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Peoria
Richard Parks
richardsguns01@hotmail.com
309 645-4603

Chicagoland
Alfreda Keith Keller
fredaka9@comcast.net
708-800-5263

LaSalle County
Glenn Pratt
pratman1776@yahoo.com
708 822-4735

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

Sangamon County Director
Tim Wier
timothywier@yahoo.com

Decatur
Bill Hutton
billhutton2000@gmail.com

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

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

TEAM LEADERS
GunNews Distribution
Warren Drake
217 898-9602

GunNews Editor
John Boch
JBoch@gunssavelife.com
217 649-3702

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

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

DASH CAMS

by John Boch

Why in the heck are we writing about dashcams in a gun rights publication? Because defending yourself involves more than a gun. It's about layering your defenses and protecting yourself. If you drive like a decent human being, a dashcam is one of the cheapest forms of protection you can put in a car. It does not make you a better driver. It simply records what happened when someone else decides the rules do not apply to them.

I have used mine to establish the other driver's fault in two crashes. Without video, those become arguments with a cop on the side of the road or an insurance adjuster who would rather split the difference than sort out the truth. With video, the sequence was obvious: who had the light, who changed lanes, who failed to yield. The dispute ended.



It proved a road-rage incident once (see page 12). People act differently when they believe no one is watching. A camera on the glass removes that assumption and gives you something better than a verbal account... and they might have two or more words against you without the camera.

Once it recorded a domestic violence incident involving someone closing a garage door as I stood under it. That footage had nothing to do with my driving and everything to do with someone's anger and bad decision-making.

Yellow lights are a quieter benefit. Other drivers will swear you ran the red. A timestamped view of the signal and your position relative to the intersection settles that before it becomes a ticket or a claim against you.

The same goes for the car beside you that dings your door and leaves. That is the difference between eating a deductible or not. The camera is probably cheaper than a deductible.

Two settings matter more than the brand. Turn off the speed display. If you are a few miles over and someone hits you, you do not need your own camera volunteering that number. Turn off the audio. Recording a phone call or a conversation without consent can be unlawful, and a dashcam microphone does not know the difference between road noise and a private call. Video of the road is what you want. Your own voice on a hands-free call is not. This is why I'm not fan of the rear facing camera of the passenger compartment. You don't want a momentary manipulation of a phone while driving used against you.

Drive like a decent person. Set the camera so it protects you instead of volunteering against you. The people who already follow the rules are the ones who benefit most when the record is clear. Oh yeah, and if you have a teen driver in the house, a dash cam with the speed and audio recorded is almost a must-have. That way if junior's rocketing down Interstates at 120mph or otherwise driving like a lunatic, you can learn about it before they kill themselves or someone else.

I'm a fan of the Rove R2-4K. I have three. A great little camera selling for about $100 or a bit more. The newer ones have more features. Resolution and image quality is very good to excellent, including at night (which is where cheap units struggle).

I've had a couple of others with lower than 4k resolution (like 1024p) and the extra resolution makes a difference.

Carry a spare $10-15 card (and a reader that will allow your Micro SD card to be read by a full size SD card reader so the cop's computer can read the files) in your console so you can pull what's in the camera after an incident and still be recording with a fresh card. Cards usually last a year or so before they fail.

Mine loops over previously recorded video after about 4-5 hours. You don't want to overwrite something important. Other options allow you to turn off the screen after one minute so you don't blind passengers at night. The downside is that it's hard to see if it's still on and recording.



Don't feel like you're married to the Rove. If you want to see a nicely done review of multiple units that isn't some BS AI-generated sales pitch, visit MotorTrend's review titled, "Best Dash Cams for 2026: 9 Tested Picks Ranked by Real-World Performance". Here's a QR code for it.

Guns Save Life Election Results

Guns Save Life held it's election, accepting the Nominating Committee slate of candidate for this year's election cycle.

John Coyne. president, Tim Weir, vice president, and Tracy Bettinger, treasurer. The secretary seat remains open. Rich Goodall continues as immediate past president, a non-elected position.

Elected for two-year terms: Chad Berck (Seat 1) and Rick Tieken (Seat 2). Nine additional director were elected 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).

Gun, Crime & Freedom News



Unhinged, drunk leftist candidate Jaime West: ‘We have guns, too’

Fayette Co., IN (GSL) - Pro-tip: Don’t do interviews while you’re intoxicated. Unfortunately nobody gave Jaime West, the Democratic candidate for Fayette County Council District 4 in Indiana that valuable bit of advice. Voters in her county were treated a televised candidate forum that was more like open-mic night at a bar that had already closed. It was so bad that the “interview” went viral…and national.

Jaime West, owner of Queen Bee’s Cleaning LLC, slurred, rambled, and delivered a performance that multiple outlets—Fox News, the Daily Wire, The Post Millennial, The Sun, and the New York Post—described as drunk, slurry, unhinged, and a “car-crash interview.”

Viewers and commentators openly speculated the self-described environmentalist was “hammered,” “s— faced,” or “blistered,” pointing to the mumble, the wandering eyes, and the inability to stay on topic while declaring she would “fire all Republicans” and labeling MAGA supporters “racist” and “aren’t very intelligent at all.”

Low-IQ Somalian wanted to shoot up the Mall of America

Richfield, MN (GSL) - Sheikhdoon Abdullahi Mohamud spent nearly two years chatting up an FBI source about going to Somalia to play jihadi, then realized he was too broke to leave the Twin Cities. So he settled for trying to buy a gun from an undercover agent so he could shoot shoppers at the Mall of America because he thought Jews owned it. He got arrested the same day he handed over $600 for an inert rifle and some ammo, after sending a selfie video pledging allegiance to ISIS.

That’s the whole résumé: failed traveler, failed terrorist, currently in federal custody.

‘French Intifada’: Mayor calls for terror probes

Nice, France (Breitbart) - A leading French mayor has called for the government to open up terror investigations into the urban youth riots over the weekend, and to ban far-left militant groups like Antifa.

Éric Ciotti, the Mayor of Nice, France’s fifth largest city, said that the unrest seen throughout the country over the weekend, which included widespread attacks on police, mass looting, and arson attacks on government buildings, should be treated by prosecutors as terrorism, while warning that “Islamo-Leftism” is seeking “to overthrow” the Republic.



Pentagon working on energy weapons to deal with drones

(GSL) - The Pentagon is testing whether lasers and microwaves can defeat drone swarms, selecting four directed-energy systems for year-long trials at five U.S. bases starting later in 2026. AeroVironment’s Palletized High-Energy Laser, Boeing’s Compact Laser Weapon System, Kord Technologies’ Firefly, and Epirus’ Leonidas microwave will operate at Fort Bliss, Naval Base Kitsap, Fort Huachuca, Grand Forks AFB, and Whiteman AFB. Lasers target individuals; Leonidas disables multiple drones’ electronics.

Engagements cost $1 to $10 in electricity versus millions for interceptors, providing an economic edge for layered homeland defense, said Army Brig. Gen. Matt Ross.



France burns while BBC, CBS reports ‘mostly peaceful’ and ‘scuffles’

(GSL) - BBC and CBS downplayed France’s radical-left riots as “mostly peaceful” or mere “scuffles” while cities burned.

Mainstream media keep minimizing widespread leftist violence—much of it by third-world invaders exploiting the chaos—recycling soft language while destruction spreads.



Alligator kills fisherman

Lake Apopka, FL (Venatic) - In what is now Florida’s second fatal alligator attack of the year, a 71-year-old man was brutally killed while fishing Friday afternoon after a near 12-foot gator dragged him off the shoreline of Lake Apopka.

Nestled along the lake that sits about 15 miles northwest of Orlando, Steven Hamilton of Winter Garden was fishing at Dr. Bradford Memorial Park around 5 p.m. on Friday evening when the alligator emerged from the water, attacked him, and dragged him into the lake, according to the Winter Garden Police Department and the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission.

Ruger suspends some production

(GSL) - Ruger has suspended production of multiple long-standing firearm lines as part of its “Ruger 2030” product portfolio review, according to a distributor memo reported by Shooting News Weekly.

Effective immediately, the company is halting the LCR, SP101, GP100, and Bearcat revolvers, with all open distributor orders for those models cancelled. Additional current-generation lines will continue through final production runs for the rest of 2026 before suspension: the SR1911, LC Carbine, PC Charger, PC Carbine, LC Charger, Redhawk, Super Redhawk, Blackhawk, Super Blackhawk, Single-Series revolvers, Vaquero, No. 1, 77-Series rifles, Hawkeye, and Ruger Precision Rifle. Those models will be placed on allocation, and any unfilled orders will be cancelled once production ends.



Ruger says the affected products represent lower-volume or legacy families that account for less than 5 percent of current sales.

NYC can sleep safe now!

NYPD heroes pose with junk gun

The 120th Precinct just staged a victory photo with a battered Phoenix Arms .22 wrapped in purple tape and a magazine of rimfire ammo that wouldn’t reliably drop a raccoon. Officers Gautreaux and Maratea answered a “man with a gun” call, found someone carrying the cheapest semi-auto pistol that was being sold fifty years ago, and treated it like they’d just taken down a terror cell.



In Mayor Zohran Mamdani’s New York, this is what passes for heroism: two cops celebrating the seizure of a gun that’s less dangerous than the average kitchen knife while real predators walk free.

He has pushed red flag confiscation expansion, social-media fishing expeditions for permit applicants, and nationwide bans on the very rifles his own police department carry. He wants to ensure that the little people are defenseless.



Meanwhile he travels under a round-the-clock NYPD protective detail—multiple armed detectives, vehicles, and backup that follow him everywhere. When he threw his inauguration block party, the city pulled 350 to 400 officers off regular duty to keep him and his guests safe. The same administration that treats a loaded .22 as a public emergency has no problem surrounding its mayor with scores of heavily armed men.

A father’s love

Canadian bear attack thwarted by masculine father

Vancouver, BC (GSL) - In a quiet Maple Ridge backyard just outside Vancouver, an ordinary Sunday morning shattered into terror.

Three-year-old Anaiyah Lekei was playing on the deck when a black bear exploded from the treeline, slammed into her, and locked its jaws onto her neck. Her screams were the kind that freeze a parent’s blood—raw, desperate, and impossible to ignore.



Anaiyah Lekei.

Her father didn’t think. He ran. Barehanded, he tore the thrashing animal off his little girl even as it fought to keep its hold. The bear came back again. And again. With nothing left but instinct and a compound bow, he drew, aimed, and drove a bolt into the animal’s head. Only then did the bear break and crash away into the woods.

Anaiyah lay bleeding from deep lacerations to her neck and head, her small body marked with puncture wounds and scratches. Her mother and grandmother pressed towels to the wounds while waiting for the airlift that would race her to BC Children’s Hospital. After surgery, doctors say she is expected to recover.

In the space of seconds, a father’s love, courage, and one well-placed arrow stood between a child and the worst possible ending.



The difference between feel-good environmentalism and do good environmentalism



Palestinians finally granted their own country

Paris (Babylon Bee) — At long last, the Palestinian people finally have a land to truly call their own.

After decades of war, strife, and refusing other offers for sovereign territory, a new nation for Palestinians was at last established within the country formerly known as "France."









Three surgeons

@614clinton

(X) - Three surgeons were discussing who makes the best patients to operate on.

The first surgeon said, "Electricians are the best, everything inside is color-coded."

The second surgeon said, "No, I think librarians are, everything inside them is in alphabetical order."

The third surgeon shut them up when he said, "You're all wrong.

Politicians are the easiest to operate on. There's no guts, no heart, no brains, and no spine. Plus, the head and ass are interchangeable.







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