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TO DEFEND YOURSELF.**

COMPLIMENTARY. TAKE ONE.

GUNNEWS

CELEBRATING OUR
30th
ANNIVERSARY



SECOND AMENDMENT NEWS AND MORE

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY GUNS SAVE LIFE, INC.

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AFFILIATED WITH ILLINOIS GUN RIGHTS ALLIANCE, JPFO, NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION, ILLINOIS FEDERATION FOR OUTDOOR RESOURCES AND OTHERS



Join us at our regional monthly meetings for food, fellowship and a celebration of firearm rights.

IL AG FAILS IN COURT... OVER & OVER

(GSL) - Back in January, when the Illinois Senate voted to approve the new Illinois Firearms Ban Act, Senate President Don Harmon said, "We'll see you in court."

Sure enough, since the bill passed and Governor J.B. Pritzker signed it into law, there have been fourteen or more lawsuits filed to block the new law, including in both state and federal court.

At the very first court hearing in Effingham County, Kwame Raoul couldn't even break loose four of his then-450 assistant attorneys general to represent the four named defendants. Kwame lost in that court with that judge issuing a temporary injunction blocking the law for the named plaintiffs in attorney Tom DeVore's first lawsuit.

Things have only gone downhill from

there for the feckless Attorney General and his merry band of assistants.

Kwame lost again when he appealed his Effingham County loss to the Illinois Fifth District Appellate Court.

As of this writing, the Illinois Supreme Court has not responded for his request for an emergency hearing to block the preliminary injunction.

DeVore then filed in White County. Kwame lost there as well, literally phoning in an appearance via Zoom. Seems none of his junior staffers wanted to drive five-plus hours to the southern end of the state for the hearing.

Mr. DeVore then filed another action in Effingham County for even more individual plaintiffs.

In Macon County, Mr. Raoul failed yet again to defend the new gun ban. Dan Caulkins won a restraining order for his informal association of law-abiding gun owners.

In federal court, Kwame's attempt at judge shopping also failed as all of the cases are in the hands of Southern District Court Judge Stephen McGlynn.

Then when Kwame the Magnificent asked for an extension to the FFL-IL/Guns Save Life/GOA lawsuit, we objected. Judge McGlynn ruled in our favor as well, rejecting Kwame's motion.

Pity poor Kwame. Bless his heart. He and his attorneys are used to intimidating small business owners and individuals, not exceptionally talented legal teams who play in the major leagues of Second Amendment law.

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Join GSL.

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This issue in memory of David Costley.

March 2023

- **Sangamon County:** First Monday: **March 6**, April 3
SCHEELS, 3801 S. MacArthur, Springfield
- **Pontiac:** First Tuesday: **March 7**, April 4
Pontiac Sportsman's Club, 18663 4-H Park Road, Pontiac
- **Decatur:** First Wednesday: **March 1**, April 5
Coz's Pizza, 1405 East Village Parkway, Mt Zion
- **Peoria:** First Thursday: **March 2**, April 6
Barrack's Banquet Center, 1224 April 6. Pioneer Parkway, Peoria
- **Champaign County:** Second Tuesday: **March 14**, April 11
KC Hall, 1001 N. Ohio St., Rantoul
- **Northwest Chicagoland:** Second Wed: **March 8**, April 12
Golden Corral, 445 E. Palatine Road, Arlington Heights
**Meeting program starts at 6pm for this location...*
- **Charleston:** Second Thursday: **March 9**, April 13
U Hotel Conference Center, 920 West Lincoln Ave, Charleston
- **LaSalle County:** Second Thursday: **March 9**, April 13
Jamie's Outpost, 602 Clark St. Utica
- **Chicagoland:** Last Sunday: **February 26**, March 26, April 30
American Legion Post 1198, 1631 Western Ave. Chicago Heights
Exhibits and conversation here at 4:30pm. Program at 5:30pm.

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 venue.

Meetings are free and open to all.

Sights from GSL meetings across Illinois



At our Chicagoland meeting, our Regional Director Alfreda Keith Keller with our gun winner who is grinning after winning. Given the nature of Illinois worsening gun laws and the geographic region, we're just going to call him "Mr. C." Congrats sir!



Frank Campo with a "California legal" Springfield Saint AR-15. Ugh.



From the LaSalle meeting at Jamie's Outpost in Utica. We're family friendly!



From LaSalle County: (from left) Crystal Loughran, Theresa Schmidt, Senator Tom Bennett and GSL's John Boch.



Sue Darnall.



Coach Joe Miller.



Ron Beatty with a German "Soldier's Rifle"



David won the SCCY 9mm pistol at our Pontiac meeting. Congrats!



John won the Ruger target pistol at the LaSalle meeting and (I apologize... I lost the name) won the auction for the .22 ammo, proceeds for our legal team.



Our very own Rylie Passmore (pictured above with Coach Joe Miller) finished 13th in the nation at the US Army Junior National Air Rifle Championship

WAY TO GO RYLIE!

Each year the Army Marksmanship Unit (AMU) invites the top junior shooters from all over the US to compete in a National Air Rifle match at the Fort Benning Georgia. To get an invite, shooters have to compete in a 60-shot standing air rifle match. Competitors submit scores individually or as part of a 4-person team. The top 25 individuals and top 25 teams are then invited to Fort Benning for the Championship match.

The Central Illinois Precision Shooting team, coached by Joe Miller, placed 7th in the qualifying match and traveled to Fort Benning in January to compete head-to-head against the top junior shooters. The team consisted of Senior Dylan Gregory from Naperville, Junior Isabelle Gratz from Sigel, Junior Rylie Passmore from McLean, and Freshman Kenly Downey from Leroy.

The weekend started out with a bonus 50 meter outdoor 3 position small bore match. 96 shooters had to deal with some unpredictable winds and fired 20 shots in each position: kneeling, prone and standing, hoping to place in the top 8 to move onto the finals. Rylie Passmore put up a score

of 574 to place 5th and moved onto the final.

Finals are fun to watch and intense for the shooters and spectators. They are a timed series of events from standing, kneeling or prone. After each series of shooting the lowest two shooters are eliminated.

Rylie made it all the way to the final two. The scores were then reset to 0 and they had a shoot off and the first person to 16 points wins gold. It was back and forth including a couple ties. Rylie ended up getting silver (16-8) to Sophomore Tyler Wee of North Carolina. Isabella Baldwin, Senior from Tennessee, earned the bronze.

The next two days consisted of each competitor shooting two 60 shot standing air matches. Top 8 with the highest aggregate scores moved onto the final. After shooting 614.3 on day one and 619.2 on day two, Rylie placed 13th out of 112 shooters... and "junior" shooters include those up to age 21.

Not bad for a 16-year-old young lady from McLean, IL.

David Costley, 1954-2023



Urbana, IL - David Gather Leon Costley, 68, of Urbana has gone hunting with his beloved yellow lab, Gus. Dave passed away Tuesday (Feb. 14, 2023) at home, of natural causes.

Dave was a lifelong Urbana resident and a man who followed his passions. He became an auto mechanic in his 20s because of his love of cars and built and raced his own dragster. He began racing BMX bicycles and left mechanics to open Wild Thang Cycles, an Urbana cycling institution for over 20 years. When Dave revived his childhood hobbies of

shooting and hunting, he left bicycle retail and opened the store you know as Dave's Firearms while he and his wife became avid sporting clays shooters, traveling the Midwest to competitions.

Dave was a talented shooter who won and placed in numerous shooting competitions at the state and national level. A former cyclist, he also coached many competition athletes in both the cycling and took many new shooters under his wing. He was a father figure to many of the young men and women he'd coached over his 45-plus years in sports and provided both shooters, cyclists and skateboarders with a haven to call their second home.

[Editor: Dave Costley also helped Guns Save Life's predecessor organization grow and thrive while he served as a director in the late 1990s.]

Meeting Summaries

Chicagoland.

Alfreda Keith Keller, our **Chicagoland Regional Director**, called the meeting to order... our first in quite a while as we cancelled in November and December because of the holidays.

John Boch presented his **Executive Director's Notes**, which included a lot of information about litigation and more.

Our main speaker was nationally-known police and "civilian" firearms instructor **Brian Smith**. Smith has worked for about a half century in law enforcement, including a full career in Chicago Heights, and serving in a couple of other departments since "retiring." Training is another of his passions. He loves training good people in how to avoid becoming the victim of violent crime. As a cop he's found himself in eight shootings.



Brian Smith is a very talented and knowledgeable instructor who makes learning fun.

On this night, he brought some videos of real crimes caught on tape and then we discussed if deadly force was justified. Obviously few of them were crystal clear and that was just what he was trying to show - how well you can articulate the threat will make a big difference if you're charged or not, or convicted by a jury or not.

Some that were easier to evaluate involved the theft of property. It's never okay to use deadly force to protect property like your car. But if your kids or grandkids are in the back seat, then it becomes a defense of life instead of defense of property.

He urged everyone to evaluate every situation for ability, opportunity and intent (sometimes called jeopardy). All three must be present to justifiably use deadly force in self-defense.

We held our drawings and **Mr. C** won the SCCY 9mm pistol. (See page 2.) Congrats to him!

Decatur.

Regional Director Dave Randolph put together a superlative line-up for the February meeting at **Coz's Pizza in Mt. Zion**. Among his announcements: he wants to retire from the Regional Director role. We're looking for someone to take the position. It's not that hard and there's a great steering committee team there to help. Contact Dave or John Boch if you're interested.

Pastor Steve Holden, one of the **Illinois State Police chaplains**, delivered the invocation for the night to close to 135 in attendance.

From there, **The Bullet Trap's proprietor Dan Cooley** shared an **Industry update**. He's heartened by the restraining order issued in Tom DeVore's challenge and he expects more of the same. "I didn't think this would come to pass, but John Boch was right," he said with a chuckle, referring to the *Bruen*

Supreme Court precedent helping to nudge courts our way.

The new gun ban has crippled business by easily 50% or more. Not only that, but some suppliers/distributors are balking at sending product to Illinois as they are unsure exactly what is prohibited by the new law. Cooley anticipates shops going out of business soon if this continues for long without relief from the courts.



Dan Cooley.

Also worth mentioning, Cooley does a radio show every Tuesday on 100.9 FM at 7am and it's rebroadcast at noon.

The Honorable State Rep. Dan Caulkins joined us for a report from Springfield. Pretty much nothing has happened in Springfield and he gave a first-person account of what's happening with his lawsuit challenging the new gun ban with an association compared to a thousand or more named individual plaintiffs.

Caulkins raved over his attorney **Jerry Stocks** and his work improving upon Tom DeVore's brief. He also thanked Dan Cooley and the Bullet Trap for their assistance as well.

Following **John Boch's Executive Director's Update**, Dave Randolph had **Jeff Olson** auction off a bucket of peanut butter cookies made by **Joanne Chandler** to benefit our lawyers fund. **Jim Cleveland** had the winning bid (I think) of \$200. Congrats to him and while the cookies made it to the back of the packed room to Mr. Cleveland, they didn't make it out of the building.



Auctioning cookies for a good cause in front of a standing-room only crowd is serious business. Above, Jeff Olson does this thing.

Land of Lincoln Honor Flight (LOLHF) came out as our main speakers for the night. They talked about the tremendous program flying older veterans out to Washington D.C. to see the memorials, along with Arlington National Cemetery and the Smithsonian. The trip is entirely free for Vietnam and older vets.

Joan Bartolon heads up the LOLHF chapter and she and their **Veteran Coordinator Steve Wheeler** spoke. The organization has grown from flying a handful of World War II veterans to the nation's capital back in 2005 to flying thousands each year by chartering entire jets.

It's an all-volunteer charitable non-profit with less than a 1% overhead, and they get 100% of their funding from private individuals and corporate grants.

They do the single-day flights where they meet at the airport at 4a.m. and then return around 10pm that evening to hundreds of well-wishers welcoming them home as the heroes they are. It's a very long day, obviously, but the Honor Flight people pack a lot into the experience.



Steve Wheeler from the Land of Lincoln Honor Flight group.

OF NOTE: Guns Save Life has "reserved" their April 2024 plane for GSL members, our family members, friends, neighbors and anyone else for a "GSL Honor Flight." They're asking us to collect the applications and submit them together by May 2023. If you know someone, or are eligible yourself, please grab an application at one of our meetings or download one from the Land of Lincoln Honor Flight website or from the GSL website. Get them to your local regional director as soon as possible.

For more on this, turn to page 13. **We passed the hat to raise money for the Honor Flight people and collected \$918** for a very worthy cause.

Three or four of those in attendance rose and spoke about their experience going on a flight as a guardian for a veteran. Every one of them got choked up recalling the experience and they offered glowing, rave reviews, recommending it to everyone to go - either as the veterans or as a guardian for a veteran. "Everyone treats these veterans like royalty during these trips," one said.

Guardians have to pay their own ticket for the flights (currently about \$525-\$550ish) but the experience is truly priceless. Veterans can request a guardian. If the veteran doesn't have someone for whatever reason, Honor Flight does have "free agent" guardians who

will step up and help. If you want to be a "free agent" guardian, either for the GSL flight or in general, download the application and submit it to Honor Flight (or to GSL leadership).



For **Tech Time**, we featured a bunch of **air rifles**, including a few that were approaching 100 years old, and several imported models. Some of them were museum quality.

One of those who came put his Airsoft sniper rifle on the auction block to raise money for Honor Flight. It sold for \$260. GSL members are some of the most selfless, outstanding people out there.



Some of the samples brought including a couple of guns from the first half of the last century, including pistols and rifles along with reference materials.

Continued on page 18.

Can't make it to a meeting? Still want to win a gun?
Tickets are available!



You can't make it to a meeting, but you want a chance to win a gun for as little as \$4? Here's your chance! **And yes, we've had several mail-in ticket winners in the past few months.**

Indicate how many tickets you want for the gun you want (and city of drawing). Tickets are \$5 or 5 for \$20. Or 25 (plus a bonus) for \$100.

GSL's Treasurer Joanne Chandler will electronically notify the Regional Directors of the mail-in tickets sold for their meetings so they can get them into the drawing. If you're late, we'll return your check.

**Attn: Drawings
Guns Save Life
PO Box 8
Clinton, IL 61727**

GSL Monthly Gun Lineup!

Our monthly gun lineup is in a state of flux thanks to the new Illinois Firearms Ban Act.

You can however, send a check to buy one or more tickets at each of the upcoming monthly meetings.

We should have a handle on this by next month.

Charleston: Henry H001 .22 Lever Action .22 rifle

Springfield: Taurus .357 Tracker magnaported in Stainless.

The Latest on Litigation...

by John Boch

GSL Executive Director

Did you ever think there would be a time when the courts ruled that the Second Amendment means what it says? Last summer's landmark *New York State Rifle & Pistol Association v. Bruen* US Supreme Court decision effectively said just that.

Gone are the days of two-step interest-balancing tests where the state can curtail fundamental rights for perceived societal benefit.

It's a good thing *Bruen* came down when it did, but some gun-haters remain a little slow on the uptake. Sometimes they practice wishful thinking that the decision doesn't really mean what it says. Breaking up can be hard to do, especially when you're emotionally invested in gun control as the end-all, be-all solution to gang violence. Maybe gun grabbing tyrants will get some therapy to help them cope. Maybe they'll give up trying to take our freedoms away. Yeah, now there's some wishful thinking.



GSL's John Boch.

Jurisprudence For Idiots? Not everyone has great reading and critical thinking skills though. In fact, some folks are below average. Others have their skill sets dimmed by bigotry and bias.

If you ever see the book titled "*Jurisprudence for Dummies*" at a bookstore (or at Amazon) you might send a copy to US District Court Judge Virginia Kendall. The Northern District judge hates your gun rights so much she can't see straight.

Kendall ruled against Rhonda Ezell's case against Chicago's shooting range ban not once, but *twice*. Both times the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals whacked Lil' Ginny upside the head with a cluebat.

Despite that double spanking, Lil' Ginny remains extra-slow on the uptake when it comes to Second Amendment jurisprudence. But she can make a mighty fine word salad

though.

She recently ruled that Illinois' new Firearm Ban Act was in fact constitutional under *Bruen*. In a court order denying the motion by Law Weapons in Naperville, the hacktivist judge ignored *Bruen* and repeatedly cited the two-step balancing test in her analysis for justifying her decision.

In other words, she just couldn't break up with the true love of her life (aside from her cats): gun control.

She sidestepped *Bruen*. It's time for another spanking, Ginny. Bless your heart.

Her short-lived ruling might play well with the legacy media and big gun control's sugar daddies, but that lame mutt won't hunt when it comes to the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals or the US Supreme Court.

Judge Kendall's about to be a three-time loser on 2A jurisprudence. Ignoring precedent suggests she doesn't have the proper temperament to serve as *Judge Judy*, much less a federal court judge.

VISIT THE GSL WEBSITE.

God bless the folks who text or email me with news stories. Sometimes they are very much new to me and I'll run with them either locally at GSL or nationally at *The Truth About Guns* (my primary job).

I'd encourage folks to visit the Guns Save Life website at least two or three times each weekday for the latest on news and information.

GunsSaveLife.com

Share the stories that resonate with you on your social media platforms. Commenting on the stories also helps the website flourish.

Since the website's re-design and with a significant amount of content creation over the last six months, our traffic has grown from about a hundred visitors each day to about a thousand today. Obviously we would love to see that number grow to a few thousand each day or more.

Another spot on the Internet worth "subscribing" to is **Todd Vandermyde's "Freedom's Steel" channel on YouTube.**

(Go to YouTube.com and then in the search field, enter Freedom's Steel.) There's a reason people have long said, "In Todd We Trust."



In fairly short videos, he provides great analysis on court actions as well as legislation. The guy is brilliant.

More litigation updates... FOID challenge.

We await a decision from the Sangamon County Circuit Court (state court) in **Guns Save Life's lawsuit challenging the Constitutionality of the FOID Act.** All of the briefs on last-minute motions have been submitted. Our judge is probably spending more than a little time writing his decision, knowing it will be appealed either way.

He knows a well-written decision will withstand scrutiny at the Appellate Court and likely the Illinois Supreme Court as well. Likewise, if he applies the Judge Kendall's *Jurisprudence for Dummies*, he will be soundly thumped by the higher courts. And no judge likes to have his or her decisions overturned on appeal.

Our lawyers told me they hoped to have a decision by the end of February at the latest. Time will tell. Courts aren't known for moving quickly - to put it mildly.

Litigation updates... GSL's gun ban lawsuit.

About a quarter of a million thank-yous go out to all of you who have donated to our legal funds to pay our Illinois legal team along with the California legal beagles. We've got some great attorneys generating some outstanding court filings.

We filed our first federal lawsuit in late January. It's the FFL-IL/Guns Save Life/Gun Owners of America case. The NRA filed a few hours after we did with their own suit working with NSSF.

Our suit goes after the gun ban and the parts prohibitions, and we're using it as the foundation for subsequent filings to build on each one to go after other existing gun control schemes outside

of just the Illinois Firearm Ban Act.

Like all of you, I'm bouncing off the walls wanting the courts to move more quickly, but that's just not how things work.

Litigation Updates... State cases (Devore/ Caulkins)

I assigned **Tom DeVore** the nickname of "Bazooka" because he's been kicking butt and chewing bubble gum. And he's fresh outta bubble gum. That and he's blowing up Kwame Raoul's less-than-impressive legal team.

DeVore's secured several court wins for his plaintiffs and in each appearance, Kwame's legal team does worse, not better. Frankly, we expected a lot better from the AG's people.



Senate President Don Harmon said "we'll see you in

court" just before the Senate voted to approve the gun ban.

We've now seen Kwame's attorneys in court. They don't impress us much.



Meanwhile, **Rep. Dan Caulkins** (pictured above) launched a lawsuit in Macon County, IL, using DeVore's template and improving on it. Instead of listing hundreds of individual plaintiffs, Caulkins went with an unincorporated association. The association protects its members from intrusive (and abusive) discovery including court-mandated depositions that named plaintiffs would be required to submit to if requested by the State of Illinois.

I'll tell you from first-hand experience, those depositions can be grueling and unpleasant. On November 1st last year, I sat through a five-plus hour deposition with Kwame's lawyers and it was unpleasant. They badgered me, they tried to bully me, they wanted to know things that were none of their business.

They wanted a lot of information, some of it rather intrusive... including photographs and descriptions of every gun I have for self-defense purposes. They even wanted sales receipts, serial numbers and photographs of all of my gun safes.

Imagine every named plaintiff on DeVore's actions getting a deposition subpoena. They would be very unhappy campers.

Litigation: Our newest concern.

Our primary concern is that if DeVore and/or Caulkins push too hard, the Illinois courts will strike down the new gun ban law. If that happened, our federal court cases would be mooted out and the \$100,000+ we've spent so far would be for next to nothing.

We want to litigate the Second Amendment claim in federal court and gain a decision there that will set us up for future lawsuits against other existing gun control schemes in our state.

So all those folks wanting instant court proceedings so they can buy and sell America's favorite rifle and have magazines and all that... we would urge them to chill out and think long-term.

LOOKING FOR A PLACE TO SHOOT?

DeWitt County Sportsmans Club

Clinton, IL



BREAKFAST!

First & third Sundays at 8:30am!

>>>> Memberships Available. <<<<

Come join a growing, ever-improving club, with dual, 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 two (soon to be three) ranges, clubhouse, a **real publicly accessible restroom** and more. **Dues are currently \$60/year plus two work days (\$45 each on deposit, prepayment required). Over 65 dues are \$45 and no workdays.**

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



Fatherless children, dangerous cities

High rates of crime, single-parent homes largely overlap, data confirms.

(Just the News) - The U.S. is now home to 11 of the top 50 most dangerous cities in the world. All 11, as the piece noted, are governed by Democratic mayors. All 11 also have Democratic district attorneys.

- Children raised without a father are also more likely to abuse drugs and exhibit delinquent behaviors.



Permissive criminal justice policies are widely thought to be large factors driving such grim statistics. Dig a little deeper, however, and an even more important cause of the crime epidemic plaguing blue cities comes into sharp focus: Many of these cities are also home to a staggering percentage of single-parent households, the great majority of which are headed by single mothers...

As measured by a range of indicators, the impact of growing up in a fatherless home is simply devastating. As AFPI has emphasized:

- 85% of American children with behavioral disorders have been raised in fatherless homes.
- Fatherless children are three times more likely to be behind bars by the time they turn 30 than children raised in two-parent households.

If crime, incarceration and poverty rates are driven predominantly by racism, as left-wing, "antiracist" big-city mayors and DAs are wont to claim, then crime, poverty and incarceration rates should be lowest in the least racist cities, which would presumably be those blue cities left-wing "antiracists" themselves have long controlled. Instead, it is in blue-dominated, "antiracist" cities where crime, incarceration and poverty rates are highest.

Poor schools, fatherless children equal flourishing gangs and gang crime

ILLINOIS: Not a single student can do math at grade level in 53 schools. For reading, it's 30 schools...

(Wirepoints) - Spry Community Links High School, in the Heart of Little Village in Chicago, says its vision is to "provide a challenging and supportive environment... to enable our students to succeed in the 21st century." Number one on the school's focus list? "Increasing reading and math scores to or above grade level."

But a look at state data that tracks reading and math scores for each Illinois school reveals two frightening facts about Spry. Not a single one of its 88 kids at the school can read at grade level. It's the same for math. Zero kids are proficient.

Spry is one of 30 schools in Illinois where *not a*

single student can read at grade level. Twenty-two of those schools are part of the Chicago Public Schools and the other eight are outside Chicago.

The failure list in math is even longer. There are 53 schools statewide where *not one kid* is proficient in math.



Highland Park killer's father indicted

Waukegan, IL (AP) - An Illinois grand jury on Wednesday formally indicted the father of a man charged with fatally shooting seven people at a Fourth of July parade in suburban Chicago, the Lake County State's Attorney Office said.

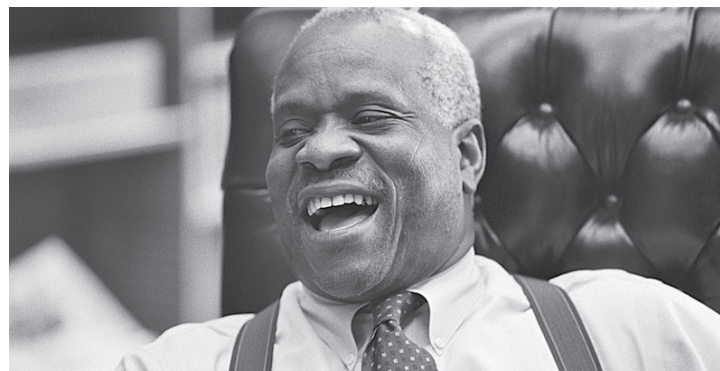
The indictment charges Robert Crimo Jr., 58, with seven counts of reckless conduct. Prosecutors have said he helped his son, *[scumbag's name redacted]*, obtain a gun license years before the shooting in Highland Park, even though the then-19-year-old had threatened violence.

Prosecutors ask IL Supreme Court to declare SAFE-T Act unconstitutional

(Cook County Record) - Sheriffs and prosecutors from 64 of the state's 102 counties, want the Illinois Supreme Court to rule the criminal justice reform SAFE-T Act should have gone before voters in a referendum, and unconstitutionally reduces the power of judges to protect the public from crime.

"The legislation presents numerous constitutional infirmities" and is an "unbridled overreach," the state's attorneys claimed in a new brief.

Arguments against the SAFE-T Act were filed Feb. 17 with the state high court by the state's attorneys, led in the action by James Rowe, of Kankakee County; James Glasgow, Will County; Jacqueline Lacy, Vermilion County; Patrick Kenneally, McHenry County; Eric Weis, Kendall County; and Dan Wright, Sangamon County. These prosecutors are representing the 64 counties.



Clarence Thomas, author of the Bruen decision from last summer.

Legislative bill rundown from Springfield

They still don't get what Bruen means...

by Mauseme (IllinoisCarry.com) - It's clear to everyone that their anti-gun schemes can't survive. Even those promoting Illinois' infringements have acknowledged that. For example, when challenged about the constitutionality of the Protect Illinois Communities Act, Senate President Harmon said that the US Supreme Court can change in an instant. Implicit in that statement is the knowledge that the law he sponsored cannot survive. At the same time, it wasn't the first instance of an anti-gunner expressing a death wish toward those that oppose them. It is, however, one of the most blatant, right up there with Michael Pflieger's renowned desire to "snuff" gun store owners.

Yet, they continue to accuse others of violence unrealized. They continue to file bills like HB1280 FOID - Denial & Revo-

lution - Stalking, proposing to prohibit gun ownership based on a misdemeanor, nonviolent act. They continue to point a finger of accusation at us, while every so often saying out loud their desires for their opponents' demise. They continue to look deep into their own dark hearts and, not liking what they see, project their warped sense of right and wrong on those that stand in the way of their desires.

Their never ending attack on our rights includes the same old misunderstandings. They think they can tax our rights in the form of HB1064 Use/Occ Tax - Firearms. They think they can limit our rights by requiring ammunition be sold only through an FFL as proposed in HB1057 Firearm Ammunition - Sales - FFL. In HB1062 Lost & Stolen Firearms - FOID Card, they think it's alright to make us a victim twice if one of our guns is stolen.



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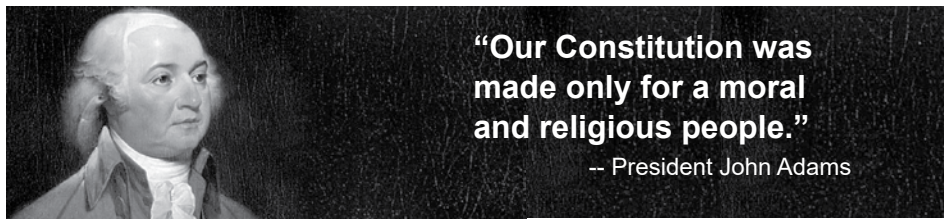
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Country Character



MOH recipient Mitchell Paige

by Justin Thyme, a GSL member

From the beginning of our country to the present time many great people have given of themselves to win, and then maintain, our freedoms, many to the fullest extent.

John Quincy Adams (1767 – 1848), son of John Adams – second president - was the sixth president of the United States. He stated, "Posterity, you will never know how much it has cost my generation to preserve your freedom. I hope you will make good use of it."

The cost is ongoing. Looking back from where we are now, we can find many citizens, having gone before us, who were instrumental in preserving our country. One example of exemplary bravery was Marine Platoon Sergeant Mitchell Paige.

Growing up, Paige attended a three-room

country school where the teacher started each morning with a Bible verse, the Pledge of Allegiance and where memorizing the great bedrock documents of America, such as the Gettysburg Address, was part of the curriculum. Paige held the



Mitchell Paige.

military and veterans in high regard and joined the Marines at age 18, walking and hitchhiking the 200 miles to the nearest recruiting station. Included in the lunch his mother packed was a note that read, "Trust in the Lord, son, and He will guide you always." These words remained forever in his mind and comforted him in times of fear.

As platoon sergeant, Paige required his Marines to field strip their water-cooled machine guns, their 1903 Springfield rifles, and

.45 caliber pistols to the point they could do it blind-folded. He did his best to keep his men prepared.

On October 26, 1942, at the Battle of Guadalcanal, Paige and his platoon faced about 2700 of the Japanese enemy. Defending the Henderson airfield was extremely important in the outcome of WWII. Paige and his platoon fought valiantly, with Paige single-handedly manning four machine guns. Following the destruction of the machine guns, and as the enemy overran the platoon, Paige led a bayonet attack, even though vastly outnumbered, and the enemy retreated.

After the battle while alone in a foxhole, bloody, burned and injured, Paige emptied his pack looking for something to tend to his own bleeding bayonet wound. His Bible fell out and as he picked it up, it opened to Proverbs 3:5-6, echoing his mother's words from the note in his lunch!

Upon being awarded the Medal of Honor for this action, Paige stated that the Medal belonged to all thirty-three Marines of his platoon.

This is not about Memorial Day or Veterans Day – this is about every day. Without devoted citizens like Mitchell Paige and his Marines we would not be free today. His fighting was with weapons of war. Our fighting is currently with a pen rather than a sword. Many of our citizens are being misled or deceived, albeit, some willingly. Many leaders and legislators have imbibed the Kool-Aid of a living constitution that changes to fit their agenda, weakening the original intention of a country founded on the principles of God-given liberty. The people need to be presented with the facts, including our leaders. Right now that is our battlefield, using the pen.

The sword however needs to remain sharp and ready. If the pen should fail the sword should prevail.

CRIME SCENE DO NOT CROSS

Yes, crime happens even in tiny towns like Chana, IL

Homeowner shoots suspect in Ogle County home invasion

Chana, IL (WTVO) — A suspect in a home invasion was shot by a resident in Chana early Sunday morning, according to police.

The Ogle County Sheriff's Office said deputies were called to a home in the 9000 block of E. Fowler Road around 1:11 a.m.

When police arrived, they found the offender had been shot in the lower abdomen by someone living at the residence, authorities said.

The man was taken to the Rochelle airport and flown to Saint Anthony's in Rockford via Life Flight helicopter.



PRO-LIFE BILLBOARD PROJECT

Landowners are needed to allow pro-life signs on their property.

These signs help those facing an unplanned pregnancy to find free, faith-based pregnancy centers as opposed to abortion clinics.

An entirely volunteer-led group called the Pro-Life Billboard Project installs 4 feet tall x 8 feet wide signs on private land. Locations alongside highways as well as busy state or county roads are preferred. Signs can also be attached to a barn or other type of building or added onto an already existing sign post. Similar to the GSL signs, but larger.

Locations within about one hour's drive of Champaign-Urbana are preferred due to logistical issues. However, sign installations further away are possible.

HELP SAVE LIVES!

Contact Renée Mullen

at 765-237-7500 (cell)

or 217-607-0811 (landline)

or via email at reneemullen1@comcast.net

Find us on Facebook at Pro-Life Billboard Project



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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

Non-lethal / Less-lethal Options

The numbers are pretty dismal. The U.S. Department of Justice reported over 1.03 million home invasions and 1.25 million cases of violent crime in 2022. Most do not get the press that they deserve. One that did involved University of Idaho students Kaylee Goncalves, 21, Madison Mogen, 21, Xana Kernodle, 20, and Ethan Chapin, 20, who were found stabbed to death in the early morning hours of November 13, 2022 inside a rental home near campus. A suspect has been arrested.

Most of the time, this column deals with the use of lethal means for self-defense – pistol or shotgun, caliber, type of ammunition and so forth. Then it's on to train, train, train and measures to take to try and not be in a situation that could go lethal in a hurry, such as being out on the town in the wee hours of the morning, under the influence of alcohol, or strolling the streets in high-risk areas, where you stick out as being a stranger or an easy target.

What about, however, if you are a priest or a nun? A person that the military would term a "conscientious objector"? Or just a person who wants to follow, "Thou shall not kill" at all costs? You have the right to hold those beliefs, and in many respects you are a better person than I am.

But what if you could use non-lethal defenses to protect yourself and those people near you who might also be vulnerable to harm by the bad guys – such as the very old, the very young, and anyone else who is sought out by criminals to hurt? Because there are such devices that in most cases – nothing is 100% certain – will not take a person's life.

In addition to being non-lethal, many of these options are compact, can be legally carried in more areas than can a firearm (but still not everywhere!) and require less training than does a firearm.

Pepper spray is the most common non-lethal self-defense weapon available. It is affordable, compact, and effective, and works for everyone, including law enforcement. Pepper spray,

which contains an extraordinarily powerful agent known as Oleoresin of Capsicum, delivers a potent yet non-lethal way to subdue a criminal by targeting eyesight.



It also causes significant pain to the bad guy. Pain, and other nasty side effects, are effective at granting a victim several minutes to defend themselves or flee an attacker. If you travel alone or at night, with or without a firearm, it is never a bad idea to have pepper spray easily accessible. Pepper Spray is legal in about 47 states, however a number of cities and states have pepper spray laws and restrictions on sizes, strengths, and the way you can purchase them. If you have a question about pepper spray laws in your jurisdiction, it is wise to check with your local city or state attorney's office.

Self-defense alarms and whistles bring attention to yourself and the situation. A few bystanders may move toward the sound of a loud whistle, whereas most people run the opposite direction to the sound of a gunshot. Criminals may want to avoid potential witnesses and some will cease their attack when an alarm goes off. The problem is that some will not cease and desist. Alarms and whistles are generally reasonably priced and can be taken almost anywhere without restriction. Consider these devices as backups, not stand-alones.



Tactical flashlights are very effective and practical for anyone traveling in the dark. First, of course, they obviously produce light which allows you to navigate safely in areas with which you are

unfamiliar. If you can avoid one twisted or broken ankle on a curb you did not see that light is worth its price. Sturdy, tactical flashlights are probably not going to produce a lethal blow against a criminal, although they possibly could, but can neutralize an attacker with a hard blow at the right area, giving you time to escape. Perhaps more effective is temporarily blinding your attacker. I have seen minimal lumens requirement at 100, 250, 300, 1,000 and even 3,000. Every salesperson, who has probably never actually used a flashlight to blind an attacker, will have his or her "take it to the bank" answer. Best bet: ask a law enforcement officer. My take would be the more lumens the better as long as the batteries don't run out of juice too fast. A 10,000-lumen flashlight with no power is now simply a club.

Finally there are stun devices that use electrical shock to immobilize an attacker. The two basic problems are first, a stun device could kill an attacker if the moons all align in order such as someone with a weak ticker.



Secondly, there are a ton of rules and laws out there concerning their possession and use, and who knows when a prosecutor will portray a stun device as lethal force?

Non-lethal self-defense is not the perfect option in keeping you safe. But if your conscience is your guide, and you want to avoid killing another human being, these defenses might be better than nothing, because our country and society need you around to show us our better nature.

'Zero Tolerance' is really 'any excuse' to revoke a license

Biden administration quietly launches jihad against gun dealers

(GOA) - In 2021, the Biden Administration announced a new "Zero Tolerance" policy for revoking the licenses of firearm sellers, known as Federal Firearms Licensees ("FFLs"). As part of this new policy, the ATF recently updated its "Federal Firearms Administrative Action Policy and Procedures" (ATF Order 5370.1E.)

Gun Owners of America obtained copies of this updated ATF order, revised under the Biden Administration in January of 2022, along with the prior version (ATF Order 5370.1D.) that existed under the Trump Administration. GOA is releasing both versions alongside this report. Based on a review of changes in ATF's policy, it is clear that the Biden Administration is seeking to weaponize ATF's bureaucracy against the entire Second Amendment industry. According to data published by ATF as analyzed by the Trace:[ii]

- New data shows ATF gun store revocations at highest rate in 16 years."
- "ATF revoked 92 licenses in 2022, the most since 2008."
- "The total more than triples the number of licenses revoked in 2021, when a similar number of dealers were inspected."
- "The total number of licenses revoked in 2022 exceeds years when two times as many stores were inspected."
- "Another 136 dealers received warning conferences, the steepest penalty inspectors can recommend without revocation."



The Biden Administration's new Zero Tolerance policy is overly harsh—seemingly intentionally so—on honest gun stores. In fact, between January and September of 2022, ATF field offices in Charlotte, Columbus, Houston, Louisville, New Orleans, and St. Paul revoked licenses more frequently than they issued "warning conferences"[iii]—a much less severe penalty that ATF's own manual deems is necessary to "assess the FFL's potential to achieve compliance and determine any potential risks to public safety and firearm traceability."[iv]

In other words, under the Biden Administration, ATF has changed its focus from regulating the gun industry to destroying it by whatever means possible—eliminating access to firearms by putting as many gun dealers as possible out of business.

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Stabilizing brace UPDATE

BATF publishes rule on pistol braces on January 30 starting the 120 day clock for compliance

(NRA-ILA) - On January 30, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives' (ATF) published the final rule [on "pistol braces."] The rule would subject essentially all firearms with attached stabilizing braces to the registration and taxation requirements of the National Firearms Act (NFA). **Owners now have 120 days to bring their firearms under compliance with the new rule.**



Since 2012, when Biden was serving as then-President Barack Obama's vice president, ATF has recognized that stabilizing braces serve a legitimate function, and the inclusion of a stabilizing brace on a pistol or other firearm does not automatically subject that firearm to the provisions of the National Firearms Act.

With the finalization of this rule, the Biden Administration is reversing over a decade of agency guidance and rulings that the firearms industry and law-abiding American gun owners have relied on when designing or acquiring firearms.

Top gun rights groups, two dozen states file court actions to stop ATF 'pistol brace' rule

(ZeroHedge) - America's largest gun rights advocacy groups are suing the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF's) new regulations on pistols with stabilizing braces. President Biden recently called these gun accessories "especially dangerous" weapons.

On Thursday, the National Rifle Association (NRA) filed a federal lawsuit in North Dakota that argues the ATF's new pistol brace rule is "arbitrary" and an "abuse of power," according to Fox News.

"The bureau is declaring that they will effectively decide on a case-by-case basis whether a firearm is subject to the NFA. Every American gun owner is in danger of potentially facing felony charges at the whim of these bureaucrats and without any new statute in place," said Jason Ouimet, executive director, NRA Institute for Legislative Action.

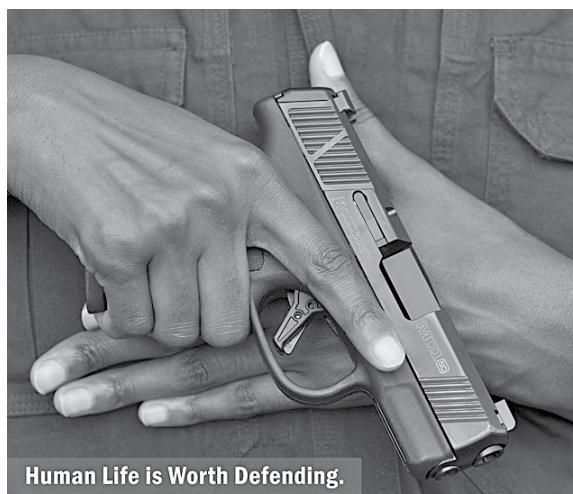
NRA is joined in the lawsuit by 25 states led by West Virginia Attorney General Patrick Morrisey and North Dakota Attorney General Drew Wrigley, including Alabama, Alaska,

Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Virginia, and Wyoming.



Simultaneously, Gun Owners of America (GOA), the Gun Owners Foundation (GOF), and Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton sued the ATF on the pistol brace rule, according to Breitbart.

GOA has told us that the ATF pistol brace rule "could result in serious criminal charges for owners of up to 40 million guns if they do not register their braced firearms with ATF."



Remaining LEGAL

by John Boch

So you have a braced "pistol." Welcome to the club. You have a host of options to remain legal. At the same time, you will need to act before the end of May, so you have plenty of time to weigh your options and to watch the court proceedings.

Ways to maintain "legal" status:

1. You can surrender your "braced" gun to law enforcement. That seems foolish.
2. You can destroy it. Strip all the parts off before you destroy the receiver and keep the chopped up parts.
3. Reconfigure the barrel so the rule doesn't apply. In English, that means replace your sub-16" barrel with a 16"+ barrel and you've got a rifle. Alternatively you can have a flash suppressor "welded" to the barrel bringing the total overall length to over 16 inches. Either of those moves your gun out of what's now being called a "short-barrelled rifle." Converting a pistol to a rifle is copacetic with F-troop. Converting a rifle to a handgun is worth 10 years in prison.
4. Remove the brace and any mounting hardware from the gun, restoring the firearm to its original configuration. That may be a good option for those who need compliance at the last minute.
5. Register the gun as an SBR with the ATF using something called the e-Form 1 online. **IMPORTANT:** To LEGALLY own a registered SBR in Illinois, you must either be a C&R FFL or a member of a re-enactment association FIRST. The eForm 1 application **MUST** be initiated within 120 days after January 30th. They ATF is waiving the \$200 fee for the tax stamp and I believe that you don't have to imprint your name and zip code on the receiver. That makes it pretty easy.

To keep your options open, I'd strongly recommend applying for a C&R FFL today. I applied for mine at the end of January and it arrived about three weeks later. The FFL gives me the option of registering with an e-Form 1.

For the time being, I'd urge everyone in Illinois to do nothing except get that Curios and Relics FFL license. Wait and see if this gets blocked by the courts before you take the plunge into the National Firearms Act world of "Short-barrelled rifles."

My plan, if nothing changes in terms of court injunctions, is to register / eForm 1 them around the first of May.

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YOU DON'T SAY...

Citizens increasingly turn to the Second Amendment as a result of Chicago's 'Defund the Police' movement, lack of prosecutions

(GSL/TTAG) - Some folks don't realize that in a civilized society, the police exist to protect the criminal class as much as to keep them in check. Because when government can't or won't stop criminal behavior, gun owners will step up and enforce the rule of law. Unlike the police, the little people are restrained only by common sense, not volumes of rules, procedures - and politics.

In Chicago, regular people try to live, work and raise their families in a cesspool of violence. Government leaders like Mayor Lori Lightfoot claim to support the law enforcement when it's politically expedient. The rest of the time they approve measures to defund the police by a hundred million dollars or more and reduce the number of cops actually on the street by 19% - over just four years.

Then there are the Soros-funded prosecutors who don't prosecute. Remember this story from the Chicago Sun-Times?

Prosecutors reject charges against 5 suspects in deadly gang-related gunfight in Austin: 'It's just like the Wild West'

We have a dirty little secret that the mainstream media outlets just can't seem to find the time to cover: residents are turning to the 2nd Amendment to protect themselves from the endemic crime in their locale. After all, when seconds count and police are just minutes away, a gun in the hand offers the best personal defense.

Average Americans know that the only thing that stops bad people with evil in their hearts is a good guy with a gun. Especially when cops are too few or unable to respond. Elected officials in big urban centers have made it clear that "social justice" and "progressive" politics take precedence over public safety or law and order. The more they abdicate their responsibilities, the more the average Joe and Jane will handle these situations for them.



Brazen bad guys don't respect the rule of law, or the police in Chicago. This photo was taken before Illinois legalized marijuana.

Wirepoints has more:

Ordinary Chicagoans have had it, and you can't blame them. They're sick and tired of being victimized by armed criminals and no one seems to be doing anything about it. Increasingly, Chicagoans are taking matters into their own hands. By shooting back, stabbing back, and defending themselves in any way they can. It's not going to stop as long as city and county officials let the chaos continue.

Chicago's 67,000 reported major crimes last year were 41 percent higher than in 2021 and already this year they're up 58 percent. For the 11th-year running, Chicago led the nation in murders in 2022 - with 697. Crime on public transit is also badly out of hand. Making things worse, major crime arrest rates in Chicago averaged just 5 percent. And 400,000 times in 2021 there were no police to respond to high-priority 911 calls. Time and again Chicago under Mayor Lori Lightfoot has resembled the Wild West. It's no wonder people are protecting themselves forcefully.



CHICAGOLAND NEWS

Lori Lightfoot claims she has a plan to cut crime, but it clearly isn't working

Chicago: Major crime reports up 104%

Chicago (CWB Chicago) — If you look up on a clear day in Chicago, you may see them overhead. No, those aren't incoming Chinese spy balloons. They're the latest crime statistics from the Chicago Police Department.

Last month, Lori Lightfoot released a campaign ad claiming that the incumbent mayor has a crime plan and that critics are nothing more than "haters." Yet, the city's numbers speak for themselves.

Car theft up 151% so far this year. Sexual assaults and robberies up 23% each. Theft up 33%. Of the seven major crime categories CPD tracks, only murder is down.

Everyone's pleased to see 16 fewer murders so far this year. But that's still 58% higher than right before the last mayoral election in 2019.

The police department's CompStat report, published Tuesday, shows major crime reports up a whopping 104% compared to this point in 2021; 67% compared to 2020; and 66% compared to 2019.

From Grant Park to Rogers Park and from Jefferson Park to Wicker Park, nearly all of the city's police districts are experiencing double-digit increases in major crime this year. One district is up a mind-blowing 114%.



Does Lightfoot's plan involve 20% fewer police on streets? Or telling businesses to stop accepting cash payments?

19% fewer Chicago cops on streets since Lightfoot took office in 2019

(Wirepoints) - Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot's recent campaign ad claims "she's put more police on the streets." But the city's own data shows that claim is simply not true. The number of beat cops has declined. Sworn police officers assigned to the city's 22 police districts for regular patrol duties are down 19 percent since Lightfoot took office in April of 2019.

Flashback: Mayor who pushed to defund police by \$80M pleads with feds to help with rampant crime

Chicago (WZTV) — Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot pleaded to the federal government for additional law enforcement resources on Monday to crack down on rampant crime, despite supporting measures to defund her city's police just last year.

Meanwhile, in Florida under Ron DeSantis, crime is at a 50-year low...

(Tampa Free Press) - Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis's policies have helped push crime in Florida to a 50-year low. The Florida Department of Law Enforcement recently released numbers for 2021, the most recent available.

the crime rate dropped 9.5%.

Within that subset, murders fell 14.2%, robberies dropped by 17.5%, aggravated assaults dipped by 1.6%, and burglaries declined by 15.1%...

Overall, the number of crimes was down 8.3% compared to 2020, and

"Other states endanger their citizens by making it easier to put criminals

back on the street. Here in Florida, we will continue to support and enact policies to protect our communities and keep Floridians safe," DeSantis said in a statement.

"Florida will remain the law and order state," DeSantis said.



He thought he had an easy victim. He thought wrong. Video at GunsSaveLife.com

Brazen thug attacks off-duty female cop

Chicago (GSL) - Back in January, a brazen thug in Chicago thought he was going to disarm an off-duty female cop physically much smaller than him. Surveillance video of the incident has now been released.

"Ah sh*t. You got me. I'm sorry sweetie. Dang, you shot me for real." Yet despite his wounds, he still tried to wrest control of the gun from her.

hands and their actions while you create distance and put obstacles between you and them...

"Bitch, give me the gun," the 39-year-old felon said to her as he grabbed for her gun.

"I told your dumb ass I'd kill you," she told him as she continued to fight him to retain the gun. At that point he wrestled her to the ground. So she shot his dumb ass again.

3. Anyone trying to disarm you is, in the eyes of the law, "armed." At that point, you're in a fight for your life. Deadly force is justified. Counter attack savagely until the threat ends.

Unfortunately for Leevon Smith, 39, she paid attention during her weapon retention training as a new police officer and she successfully retained her gun.

Five minutes after 911 calls went out, Chicago Fire showed up. Still no police despite the 911 callers no doubt telling dispatchers it was an off-duty cop involved shooting.

4. Don't be in a hurry to render aid by yourself to someone who just tried to murder you. Don't allow them a second chance to overpower you.

"I'll kill you," she warned her attacker.

The lawsuit filed on behalf of Smith's estate claims the officer, who isn't named in the suit, allegedly used "excessive and violent physical force."

"Oh, you about to kill me?" he replies, his voice dripping with arrogance and confidence that he could easily overpower a young woman and snatch her gun.

Smith died a two days later. Now his family's looking for a \$10 million ghetto lottery payout, claiming excessive force, alleging that her use of force was not necessary.

Despite the frivolous lawsuit, the video clearly shows a righteous shoot. The officer deserves high praise for her poise in fighting for her life. And for her restraint in not shooting the mope until slidlock while on the ground with him.

She fought back instinctively. "Watch this," she replied as she shot him in the gut.

Lots of lessons for us:
1. Try not to allow anyone acting suspiciously inside your reactionary gap.

"Ah sh*t. I'm sorry," he said. But he continued the attack, so she shot him again.

2. Ignore bad guys running their mouths pretending to surrender. Watch their



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'Progressive' Seattle PD chief warns victims:
'Don't take matters into your own hands'

Seattle joins long list of 'Progressive' Democrat-run cities with exploding crime

(ZeroHedge) - Seattle, WA, once known as a relatively quiet port town that became a haven for progressives seeking to avoid more dangerous metro areas like Los Angeles or San Francisco, is joining the long and unfortunate list of Democrat controlled cities suffering from exploding crime stats.



Much like Portland, OR, which has spiraled into severe decline in the past five years with a record high homicide rate and expanding homelessness, Seattle is witnessing an aggressive increase in drug related problems as well as violent crime and property theft. In 2022, the city was host to 49,557 instances of violent crime and property related crime; setting a 15 year high. Homicides also increased by 24% in 2022. Seattle police chief Adrian Diaz admits that crime has grown out of control in the area, but remains "optimistic."

Diaz warns residents not to "take matters into their own hands" when faced with criminals, but this is the position leftist politicians have forced citizens into as they continue to degrade economic stability and local security.

Seattle's Democratic leadership is famous for its efforts to support the "defund the police" movement - An extreme social justice doctrine borne out of Black Lives Matter fanaticism. In the process the city lost over 400 sworn SPD staff members in less than two years due to resignation or early retirement. Many city council members who originally joined with activists in calls to divert 50% of police funds to housing, roads and environmental projects have quietly reversed course as crime skyrockets.

High minded progressive ideals often do not hold up to social realities, causing even more damage in the process. Theory is not the same as application.

It's easy enough to examine the 2023 list of the most dangerous cities in America, including the top ten: Memphis, Detroit, Little Rock, Tacoma, Pueblo, St. Louis, Kansas City, Cleveland, Springfield and Rockford. All of them are run by Democrat mayors and majority Democrat city council members. In 2021-2022, of the 15 American cities with the highest homicide rates, Democrats controlled 11.

We have all heard about war zone metro regions like Chicago or Baltimore, but these places are only a part of a much bigger trend of leftist cities devolving into places most people prefer not to live. While Democrats often argue that many conservative states top the list of the most violent, what they don't mention is that the vast majority of those crimes are committed in Democrat managed cities that often try to defy state government policies (leftist cities that offer sanctuary protection for illegal immigrants are just one example).

Almost without fail, the worst towns in America are being run by Democrats, and Seattle is the latest that has fallen into chaos in recent years.

Join Guns Save Life today.



Membership application on back page.



Screen capture of the Chicago Public Schools web site homepage.

Chicago Public Schools still mum on number of murderers, child sex offenders and drug dealers working near kids

Chicago (GSL) - In mid-February, CWB Chicago wrote about an alleged drug-dealing, gun-selling murderer named Miguel Morales working as a "Safe Passage" guardian for Chicago Public School (CPS).

Appalled by CPS having a convicted murderer working as a "trusted adult" around school children each day, GSL's John Boch contacted the CPS Communications office and asked, in writing, how many drug dealers, child sex offenders and murderers they have working around kids. A week later they still had not answered the question.

Do the Chicago Public Schools background check their teachers, support staff and contract employees at all? Or do they just turn a blind eye to convictions for things like, oh, murder and child sex crimes just to fill open staff vacancies?

So how is it that a convicted murderer who spent two plus decades in prison slip through their vaunted background check process?

The answer? Because someone let him.

How many more people are like Mr. Morales, working around Chicago Public School kids with criminal histories of homicide, child sex crimes or drug dealing convictions?

Perhaps we're over-reacting a little. After all, the Illinois Policy Institute investigated and found 470 sexual complaints against Chicago Public School employees in just one year - 2022.

Obviously more than a few morally-, ethically- and criminally-challenged individuals are making it through the "background" investigation for CPS.



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*Proper planning prevents poor performance...
Panic has no survival value*

EARTHQUAKE!

by John Boch

You probably saw the news of the massive earthquake which struck Turkey early in February. It will take months to fully account for the loss of life and property and years to rebuild near that existing fault line.

You know who else lives near a major fault line known as the New Madrid? Those of us living in the Midwest and especially those in Southern Illinois. There's "only" a 50% chance of a magnitude 6.0-7.0 quake here in the next 50 years, and about a 10% chance of a much stronger event.

Either would cause serious damage to buildings, bridges and overpasses. A major tremor would likely cripple our infrastructure for weeks if not months. Clean running water and electricity will become quite the luxury for those near a strong earthquake.

With a modicum of preparedness, it doesn't matter if it's an earthquake, tornado, power grid interruptions or an epic winter storm, you have the ability to turn potentially life-threatening emergency into an inconvenience.

Obviously in an earthquake, your first priority is to "Duck & Cover" - and hold on tight. Try to get under sturdy tables or desks if possible, or an interior wall away from windows. Falling objects and debris cause more death and injuries than collapses in quakes. Do your best to remain as calm as possible during the shaking and in the immediate aftermath. Remember this if nothing else: *Panic has no survival value.*

In the immediate aftermath, turn off the gas valve on the exterior of your home if there's a leak and assess for other damages needing immediate attention. At the same time be prepared for and expect aftershocks.

If you're okay and the gas is shut off, then it's time to check on your neighbors, and if conditions allow it, your family and friends locally as well.

Work gloves and boots, plenty of clean drinking water, flashlights and a good attitude will get you started. A couple of MREs will keep you going, too. Oh yeah, and personal defense tools. But if you're reading *GunNews* you've probably got at least half a handle on that class of items.

Again, proper prior planning prevents poor performance. With prudent preparation and readiness, which includes learning survival skill sets, you won't have to rely on the government for food, water and security. Or shelter. You do not want to be a refugee.



Part of planning includes networking with like-minded, preparedness-oriented friends with whom you can lean on in an emergency. Specifically, you need good friends or relatives you can count on when the going gets tough and you really need them. At the same time they get to lean on you if needed, so be ready to reciprocate with help for them even if it's less than convenient for you.



Being "ready" for an emergency will not only help keep you safe, it can also help keep you away from long lines waiting for hand-outs and supplies.



Turkey's massive earthquake should serve as a reminder to all of us to evaluate our state of readiness for an emergency and make changes necessary to help facilitate the safety and security of our families.

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JOIN US: GSL Honor Flight slated for April 2024

Land of Lincoln Honor Flight's mission is to provide round trip transportation from Abraham Lincoln Capital Airport in Springfield, Illinois for veterans in order of their service (WWII, Korean Era and Vietnam Era) who wish to visit their memorials in Washington, D.C. This one day trip includes air and ground transportation, meals and snacks, t-shirt and cap, and other items provided completely free of charge to the veteran in honor of his/her service to our country.

Guns Save Life has reserved an entire Honor Flight out of Springfield through the Land of Lincoln Honor Flight. It will happen in April 2024 (final date is to be announced).

If you are a Vietnam-era veteran or older you are eligible to go free of charge. If you know any veterans who served during Vietnam or earlier, they are welcome to go at no charge as well.

If you or your veteran live outside the Land of Lincoln Honor Flight's Central Illinois region, you/they can still go with the "GSL" flight if you/they can travel to Springfield as part of our "group."



Download the application at the Land of Lincoln Honor Flight web site. Or pick them up at most GSL regional meetings.

LandofLincolnHonorFlight.org

Please submit completed applications to your local GSL Regional Directors, ideally before the end of May.

We have room for about 90-95 veterans and it's generally first come, first served.

Each of the veterans can request a specific guardian (spouses excluded). If the veterans don't have a friend or family member to accompany them, Honor Flight does have some "free agent" guardians.

If you would like to serve as a free agent guardian, complete the guardian application and submit it to your local regional director.

Guardians will have to pay their own ticket for the trip (about \$525), but the memories you will bring home from your role helping a veteran will last you forever and they are priceless.

This is for more than just GSL members... it's for our friends, our family members, our neighbors and others too. Land of Lincoln Honor Flight is basically using GSL to fill this flight.



THANK YOU PEORIA GUN BUYBACK!

'Gun Buyback' funds IDNR Wingshooting Clinic, Lincoln Heritage Pheasants Forever Young Guns in Charleston

(GSL) - Last November, the do-gooders in Peoria put together a "gun buy back event" to "Take Back Our Streets." While no gang bangers or other criminals turned in their Glock, Guns Save Life did participate and we walked away with several hundred dollars for youth shooting programs thanks to members who donated their junk guns for just such a program.

We're sponsoring the 2023 Introductory Wingshooting Clinic at the Middle Fork State Fish & Wildlife Area near Collison, IL on June 24 & 25, 2023. This event is now open to enrollment for ladies, kids and novice male shooters.



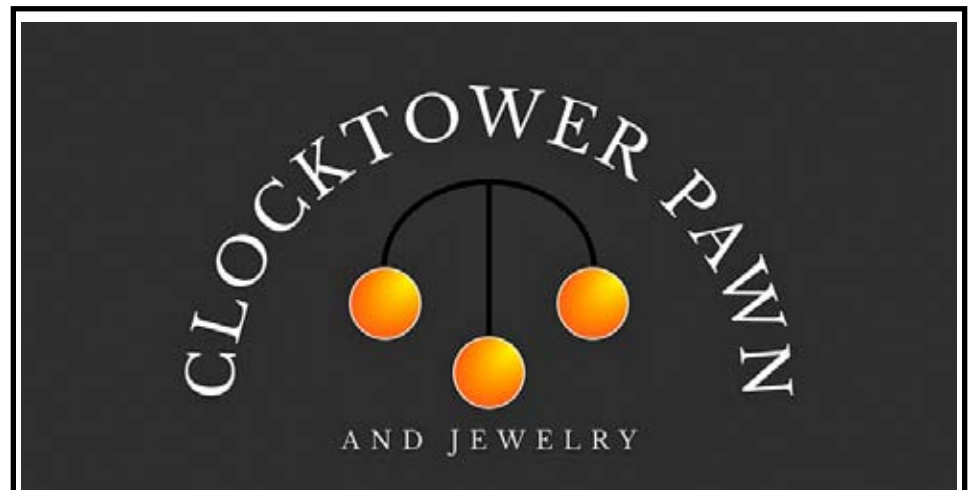
Also, we've sponsored the Lincoln Heritage Pheasants Forever Young Guns shooting team in Charleston, IL.



Since then, we've funded two very worthy youth (and women's) shooting programs with the loot gained from Peoria's foolish program.



Members of their team showed up at a recent Guns Save Life meeting in Charleston and introduced themselves to our members.



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Concealed Carry classes are available by instructor Ginger Danner-Duncan 111ccwtraining@gmail.com.

For further information send an email to eandc70@mail.com or call 309-452-8880. American Heritage Range is located in DeWitt County at 3991 Gabby Road in Waynesville, IL.



Calling all potheads:

No more gun purchases for marijuana users in Illinois effective July 1, 2023

(GSL) - Ladies and gentlemen who use marijuana recreationally or even medicinally in Illinois cannot buy firearms legally after July 1, 2023.

While federal law precludes marijuana users from buying from federally licensed gun stores, until now those individuals could buy from a private party in the Land of Lincoln.

However, thanks to the FOID Modernization Act that's about to change. Soon, all gun sales, either from a licensed dealer or a private individual, will have to go through a dealer.

The Illinois State Rifle Association helped negotiate the

FOID Modernization Act with Illinois (anti-gun) legislative leaders in exchange for "a seat at the table" for future negotiations on gun legislation. ISRA also changed their position from "opposed" to "neutral" on witness slips before the then-bill was voted out of committee and later passed into law.

Making this a more pressing issue for weed user, the new Illinois Firearms Ban Act moves up the effective date of ending private gun sales from January 1, 2024 under the FOID Modernization Act to July 1, 2023.

As of July 1, 2023, ALL gun sales, even private sales, *must* go through a dealer. As such, those who use

marijuana will be blocked from purchasing firearms for personal defense or for recreation.

HOPE ON THE HORIZON?

(Reuters) - A federal law prohibiting marijuana users from possessing firearms is unconstitutional, a federal judge in Oklahoma has concluded, citing last year's U.S. Supreme Court ruling that significantly expanded gun rights.

U.S. District Judge Patrick Wyrick... on Friday dismissed an indictment against a man charged in August with violating that ban, saying it infringed his right to bear arms under the U.S. Constitution's Second Amendment.



Open carry can get you killed

'Teen' snatches open carrier's gun from waistline, then shoots him dead

Atlanta, GA - A 17-year-old is accused of snatching a gun from a Dunkin' customer in Georgia and shooting him to death in the parking lot, according to local reports.

The teen, Lamarion Orr, was arrested Friday and charged with murder, 11 Alive reported. Police have identified the victim as 41-year-old Brian Dykes.

Witnesses told police that Orr saw a gun in Dykes' waistline and grabbed it from his pants just before 9 a.m. on Friday. Dykes reportedly chased Orr outside and a struggle ensued before the teen shot and killed Dykes.

Police reviewed surveillance footage to track down Orr at a nearby motel where he was arrested. He is charged with felony murder and robbery by sudden snatching, police said.



CCW holder Josh Dobbs.

HERO: Good guy with gun stops stabbing rampage

Union City, GA (Fox) - Union City Police are praising a neighbor they say stopped a man who stabbed three women early Saturday morning. The man being hailed a good Samaritan spoke exclusively with FOX 5 Atlanta after the incident.

"I just couldn't sit there and watch and hear what was going on," Josh Dobbs told FOX 5's Kim Leoffler.

Dobbs said he just jumped into action when he heard what he correctly assumed were a woman's screams coming from the Hidden Lake Apartments.

Police said it turned out that two women had already been attacked, and Dobbs would just happen to step outside when the suspect began to stab a third victim.

Every gun owner should make a pilgrimage to the massive NRA Convention *at least* once in their lifetime. This year it's right next door in Indianapolis.



NRA 2023 Annual Meetings slated for April 14-16 in Indianapolis

The 2023 Annual Meetings & Exhibits will take place at the Indiana Convention Center on April 14-16, 2023 in Indianapolis, Indiana. The Exhibit Hall is open all three days and will showcase over 14 acres of the latest guns and gear from the most popular companies in the Industry.

From entertainment to special events, it's all happening in Indy! Make plans now to join fellow Second Amendment patriots for a

freedom-filled weekend for the entire family!

Free for all NRA members and their families! Skip the lines! Have your admission badges shipped directly to you for FREE. You can pre-register for the event at NRAAM.org. Your complimentary badge(s) will give you full access to the exhibit hall for all three days.

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More gang violence ended by good guy

Would-be spree killer & gang member shot down by CCW holder in El Paso, TX mall

(FoxNews) - Police in El Paso, Texas say that a "licensed-to-carry" bystander shot the alleged gunman who is accused of killing one person and injuring another three.

The suspect, a 16-year-old Hispanic male, is accused of shooting the individuals after a "confrontation ensued" between two groups at Cielo Vista Mall on Wednesday evening at 5:05 p.m.



SWAT members at the mall ready to provide a proper welcome in case gangs returned.

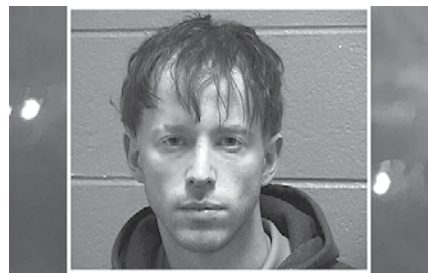
The El Paso Police Department said the confrontation eventually escalated into a "physical fight," and the 16-year-old pulled out a handgun, fatally shooting Angeles Zaragoza, 17, and injuring another 17-year-old and 15-year-old.

Police say that Emanuel Duran, 32, who is a licensed-to-carry holder, shot the suspect as he was pointing his gun toward the direction of more bystanders.

Dog park lunatic muzzled

Yakima, WA (GSL) - When an "erratic" aggressor in Yakima, Washington threatened a dog-owning concealed carry licensee along with his child recently at a local dog park... well, you don't need a Ouija board to see where things headed.

Daniel Ortega, 22, acted aggressively to multiple people before threatening the CCW holder and his child. The good guy with the gun reportedly tried to de-escalate and walk away, but Ortega didn't respond to verbal warnings. Ortega was then shot and killed.



Tyler Hamlin, gender studies grad.

Gender studies UIC grad turned burglar thwarted by homeowner and his gun

Chicago (GSL) - While gender studies degrees may be highly prized within universities, out here in the real world, gender and women's studies degrees don't take you far or open many doors to high-paying jobs. What's more, bringing nothing but a gender studies degree to a gunfight also seems like a good way of proving its worthlessness.

A recent break-in in Chicago's Wrigleyville neighborhood was the perfect case for proving that hypothesis. A homeowner with a surveillance camera system noticed a prowler lurking outside his home. When Mr. Homeowner checked his attached garage, he found 31-year-old Tyler Hamlin.

The armed homeowner held Hamlin — on probation and wanted under two active felony warrants — at gunpoint until police arrived. Given Mr. Hamlin's history of serial criminal activity and violence, the gun proved a wise decision.

The homeowner, identified as Niko Kara by CBS2 in Chicago said he was the only thing standing between the intruder and Kara's wife and 2-year-old little girl.



Misinformation drives poor public policy

- Americans over estimate number of violent crimes involving guns. It's not half of serious crimes, it's only 7.9%.
- 71% of Americans agree the best way to fight crime is to arrest violent criminals

By John R. Lott Jr.

(Real Clear Politics) - To President Biden, public health researchers, and the media, violent crime is all about guns. But a new survey finds that people are badly misinformed about how much violent crime involves guns. The average likely American voter is way off, thinking that over 46% of violent crimes involve guns. In fact, the true figure is less than 8%.

Not surprisingly, those who believe that most violent crime involves guns are more likely to view gun control as the solution...

But this "guns first" approach ignores a basic fact — over 92% of violent crimes in America do not involve firearms. Although Biden blames guns for the increase in violent crime, the latest data show that gun crimes fell dramatically...

The new McLaughlin & Associates survey of 1,000 likely voters from April 20 to 26 for the Crime Prevention Research Center shows how misinformed people are. People across the country, of all races and incomes, have wildly inaccurate beliefs about how frequently violent crime involves guns.

Even so, there are large differences across groups. The average Democrat estimates that 56.9% of violent crimes involve guns, whereas the typical Republican gave an answer of 37%...

Some respondents at least got it right that less than 20% of violent crime involves guns. Just 8% prioritized more gun laws, and 15% focused on stricter enforcement of existing laws. An overwhelming 71% thought the best way of fighting crime was to arrest violent criminals.

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Anarcho-politics: Your guns ensure your safety

The radical left and Democrat Socialists have refined their practice of anarcho-politics, or the politics of anarchy, in the past four years or so. George Soros has funded campaigns of many candidates and select incumbents with good results.

Today, anarcho-politicians have become endemic in blue state leadership (like Illinois) and in large blue cities (like Chicago). These "leaders" are at best authoritarians and in some cases are nothing more than would-be tyrants. They defund the police, their prosecutors don't prosecute and adherent judges don't hold criminals accountable.

Prosecutors reject charges against 5 suspects in deadly gang-related gunfight in Austin: 'It's just like the Wild West'

In areas run by these anarcho-politics, Antifa and Black Lives Matter operate with relative impunity. Meanwhile, those who fight back against the mob will get prosecuted aggressively.

Hitler had his Brownshirts, Hugo Chavez had his Collectivos. Mao had his Red Guard.

And the radical American left has Antifa/BLM.

Soros-funded prosecutors ignore crime while vigorously enforcing the law against normal citizens. Serious crimes go unsolved. Even if suspects are identified, many go unprosecuted and unpunished. Meanwhile the nurse in Chicago who puts three rounds in the chest of a would-be carjacker is arrested and loses her FOID and carry license. The same goes for the shopkeeper who stabs a robber in the throat in New York City. Or the customer who shoots down an armed robber in a Houston taco shop.



Meanwhile criminals become more brazen as their actions have little or no threat of consequences. And Antifa mobs become more brazen as well.

Anyone who tries to defend their home, business or families must be prosecuted so as to send a message that fighting back will not be tolerated. After all, if people start successfully standing up to Antifa, it would neuter Antifa as an anarcho-political weapon.

Make no mistake the gun bans make up a very important part of their plan. Radicals grow even more unhinged with each passing month... the latest involving the washed-up has-been Keith Olbermann calling for a civil war against gun rights and pro-gun states.

Would-be tyrants must disarm the little people so we cannot fight back against tyrants. Once disarmed, they'll try to exterminate their political opponents.

Doubt it? Look what authoritarian commies and fascists did in Cuba. And in Venezuela, Mexico, Russia, Cambodia, North Korea, China and Germany, just to name a few.

Never give up your guns.

Never.



Always carry a gun for self-defense.
In Chicago, *carry two.*

Murder spree at Michigan State University shows why we need to strike down laws against campus carry sooner rather than later

(GSL) - Pop quiz folks: In the colonial era, how many laws were on the books prohibiting guns at schools? Gun control advocates aren't going to be happy with the answer of "none."



A hundred years ago, guns in schools were commonplace, both for the students hunting and recreation before and after school as well as organized competition. How many murder sprees took place on school campuses back then?

Today we have volumes of gun control measures passed by legislators to "do something" with every new tragedy. These

laws merely disarm the law-abiding, leaving them more and more defenseless against terrorists, criminals and lunatics.

Laws prohibiting guns on college campuses for lawful self-defense will not survive court scrutiny in the post-*Bruen* world, no matter how many emotional outbursts gun control advocates bring to the table.

Those who can lawfully carry guns in public should be able to carry on college campuses. Because college students should be able to defend themselves from 43-year-old violent career criminals who decide they want to become famous for murdering a lot of innocent people with illegally-possessioned firearms.

Because if Bailey and Susy at MSU can carry a Shield plus in a carry rig on the back of their jeans, suddenly the Anthony McRae's of the world will find themselves facing armed resistance within moments, not minutes or an hour or more after they initiate their mayhem. And just maybe these cowards will suck start their guns at the outset instead of killing a bunch of innocents before they meet Jesus.

MAIL CALL

Kudos to GSL from a veteran whose pronouns are gun owner/oath keeper/voter

I was born and raised in Springfield, IL. I hunted, fished & trapped all over Illinois. I held an FOID card for many years and served in the US Army for over 20 years.

the duration of my visit. I recall numerous times unloading my guns, putting them in gun cases and placing it all out of reach from the driver's seat.

I retired from the Army out of Iraq in 2004. Whether I was living in Colorado or Arizona I enjoyed either concealed carry or constitutional carry. Until I returned to Illinois to visit. I had to surrender my rights before crossing the border and live as a largely defenseless victim for



Thank you.

Not only do we love your monthly publication, but really appreciate your hard work helping us retired folks hang on to our only outside the home hobby and the tools to perform it with a smile.

While we cannot send funding, I have no problem calling/emailing/snail mailing our poor misguided, misled, lovers of criminals currently in office.

Ted Proctor
Lake County, IL

Especially when I had Colorado tags, the worried I'd be profiled as running marijuana.

Bottom line sir, our country is in a sorry state of affairs. I identify as AMERICAN and my pronouns are gun owner/oath keeper/voter.

Thank you for your fine organization and keeping up the good fight.

SFC William Mangalavite
US Army retired
No longer in Illinois...

Remember when the colonists stood in line to register their muskets?



Me neither.



Keith Olbermann, completely unhinged: Civil War(!) is only way to stop mass shootings

(TTAG) - Keith Olberman was a sometime sports presenter, a sometime political talking head, and is now nothing but a chronically unemployed former media hack who could never manage to hold a job for long due to his, uh, prickly personality and spectacularly cantankerous asshole-ness.

Since there's no one left who's willing to take the risk of employing him again, he

now puts out a version of his old MSNBC show via podcast, no doubt reaching dozens of his formerly devoted fans.

Staring gravely into his iPhone, he pronounced that . . .

We are owned by guns. And therefore, there is only one way to stop the mass shootings. It is to suffocate the businesses that make billions of dol-

lars in profits off guns. To destroy the gun lobby, the death lobby, and the Republican party that defends those lobbies and those businesses.

And the only way to do that is an economic civil war. The blue states have all the money. They must starve the red states into submission, or another 600,000 Americans will be murdered in the next ten to twelve years.

Dear Hipsters, Millennials and Pansies (and Keith Olbermann)

by Todd Vandermyde
(originally published in 2016)

Dear Hillary Hipsters, Miley Millennials and Participation Trophy Pansies, you got me thinking with your talk of playing games with the electoral college and this talk of "armed" rebellion.

You expect us to take your talk of rebellion and revolution seriously? Yet you can't even figure out the simple things:

You don't know the difference between a clip and a magazine.

There is no pause button in a gunfight, this is not Call of Duty.

You want a safe place from mean words, we click off the safety and take on the devil himself.

A click (klick) to you is the sound of a light switch or remote, to us it's a measurement of the journey.

Coffee is not something that sounds like you're speaking Farsi when ordering it; Black, 2 sugars on the side.

You want to stifle speeches & speakers you disagree with, yet we bleed so you can burn the flag that covers our brothers' coffins.



Roughing it to you is a Motel 6 with a black & white TV and Dunkin Donuts coffee, oh you just wouldn't understand this one... two words — poncho liner

In 25 years no one will remember your name. 2500 years later we still talk of Leonidas.

Snap, Crackle & Pop is not a breakfast cereal, it's a reminder of the deeds we've done when we get out of bed.

Before you were jumping out of a school bus, many of us were jumping out of airplanes, helicopters and APCs often in third world nations.

Before GPS, we used a map, compass and a fist for the 5 terrain features.

You've spent your (short) life denouncing violence and war, we've spent our considerable longer life practicing & living it.

You supported gun bans, magazine bans (yes there is

a difference between a mag and a clip) secret lists, bans on carry and denounced the Second Amendment and the *Heller* decision as being outdated, we've been at the range practicing.

9mm vs. 45ACP is not a debate about metric vs. English.

Call of Duty is *not* training.

You've added extra holes to your body, while we spent years trying not to.

Many of us are like a round of 45ACP because old, fat and slow gets the job done.

Age and treachery will overcome youth and agility.



Now please, go back to your duck billed selfies, safe spaces and hashtag hysterics. The adults in the room want to discuss the Constitution, good whiskey, cigars and women.



Then-Gov. Andrew Cuomo was very fond of moms who demanded action... and more than a few who didn't.

Gun Control kills people

By D. Parker

(American Thinker) -

When will the fascist far left admits that it has blood on its collective hands and it's time to restore the people's common sense civil rights?

Did you notice that the national socialist media spent little time trying to exploit the recent mass shootings in the people's republic of California? Anti-liberty authoritarians of the fascist far left live to exploit other people's pain for their political gain...

According to moms looking for action in Everytown, California is the perfect model for their agenda, with every demand they've ever wanted on the books. And with the people disarmed, they were easily slaughtered, as always is the case with gun control.

You would think they would show some remorse for disarming the innocent and thereby increasing the carnage, but you would be wrong. Being a leftist means never having to say you're sorry. It's always someone else's fault when their policy proposals designed to enhance their power get people killed...

Let's just say it out loud: **gun control gets people killed.**

Depriving people of their means of self-defense does nothing to protect them. That should be bloody obvious to anyone with common sense.

But they have those who toss off simplistic rubbish such as "remove guns, and you will have zero or few deaths by gun..."

Have you noticed that leftists don't even believe in their most basic of policy proposals: the massacre zone (AKA "gun free" zone)?

They'll virtue-signal all day long about keeping guns from "sensitive places." But you had better believe they will have taxpayer-funded armed security wherever they reside. Meanwhile, they are perfectly happy to impose their massacre zones on the little people just because they care so much...

Gun control is based on a false premise: the ridiculous idea that "if no one has a gun, no one needs a gun."

The false promise is that if you give up your basic

human right of self-defense, you will still be safe because everyone else will supposedly follow the same silly rules.

Except that these mass shootings put the lie to that magical thinking. You would think that the gun-grabber lobby would undergo some self-reflection on this point, but that never seems to happen, does it?

They never question whether their massacre zones, persecuting the innocent, and trying to eviscerate our commonsense civil rights are putting people in danger. They simply come up with new hurdles to self-defense and make things even more dangerous for people, all in the name of "gun safety." It doesn't work and causes even more tragedies.

So why aren't they held accountable for all the carnage? And why do we still listen to them when they don't have our best interests at heart?

Why not just give liberty a try and stop interfering with the people's commonsense civil right to self-defense?

GunNews Magazine

The monthly journal of
Guns Save Life

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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

Meeting summaries

Continued from page 3.



From left, Beefy Bielfeldt, high bidder for the Airsoft gun, Bruce Hammerschmidt who won the 50/50 and Glenn Taylor who won the monthly "gun" drawing in Decatur.

We had the drawing for the 50/50 and **Bruce Hammerschmidt** won. **Glenn Taylor** won the **Mantix X training system** donated by **The Bullet Trap in Macon, IL**. Thanks to **Dan Cooley** for that!

Peoria.

Gov. J.B. Pritzker's kicking over the hornet's nest of gun owners brought what was probably a record crowd to **Barrack's Banquet Center**. In fact, they ran out of food by 6:10pm. **They're asking folks to either hit the link to pre-register (we'll try to put it at GSL as part of the meeting lineup post) or to call the facility at (309) 692-3990 so they can get a handle on the number of meals to prep.**

Richard Parks called the gathering of nearly 130 of the faithful to order. We're asking for volunteers to help pass out door prize tickets to people when they come in as well as sell gun drawing tickets. Alan and Wanda did a great job with it for a long time and they've retired. Please contact Richard Parks (see page 22).

John Boch ran through his **Executive Director's Report** and took questions.

Greater Peoria Honor Flight's Robert Reed came out as our main speaker. He did a terrific job covering the Honor Flight program taking veterans to our nation's capital to visit the memorials, along with Arlington National Cemetery and the Smithsonian. It's a long, one day flight and they're aggressively looking for Vietnam veterans and vets from prior conflicts to go. If you know someone, get them signed up to go. There's no charge for the veterans at all. "You bought the ticket with your service," Mr. Reed said.



Honor Flight's Robert Reed answers questions after the meeting.

Mr. Reed said that the Greater Peoria Honor Flight is booked out further than the GSL flight in April of 2024, so he recommended flying on the GSL flight to go sooner for those who can make it to Springfield for that flight. Otherwise, if you live in the Peoria region, they would love to have you.

He shared some of his own experiences and observations from going on the flights. It's

GunNews Magazine - 18 - March 2023

a moving experience, he told everyone. "A day you will always remember." A couple of members of the audience raised their hands and spoke as taking one as guardians. They got emotional just recalling it.

Turn to page 13 for more about the GSL Honor Flight set for April 2024.

We passed the hat for the Greater Peoria Honor Flight and our terrific audience donated \$1030 to the organization. (But wait, there's more... keep reading.)

The **Convention of the States** people came out as our other main speakers. Their Illinois leader **David Winters** talked as did **Bob Huntsacker**. In short, their goal is to call a convention under Article V of the United States Constitution. They've structured it to restrict it to proposing amendments that will impose fiscal restraints on the federal government, limit its power and jurisdiction, and impose term limits on its officials and members of Congress.

Obviously the big question on everyone's mind involves the 2nd Amendment. Their convention is limited on subject matter to those three topics. Anything outside of that would be ruled out of order, and if it became a free-for-all (or even if it didn't) any changes approved at the convention would still require approval by 34 state legislatures.

They're hustling to collect signatures, because they use those to help prod legislators to support passing the measure through the Illinois General Assembly.



David Winters, COS Leader.

It has bipartisan support. The COS people nationally have gotten it through one chamber in 28 states and both chambers in 19. They expect to pick up several more states his year and by 2026 or so to have the requisite 34+ states approving it. So stay tuned.

We would encourage our readers to take a look and sign it online at: ConventionOfStates.com

Bob Reed drew the 50/50 ticket and we swear it wasn't fixed like everything else in Illinois. He won. **He donated his roughly \$200 winnings to the Greater Peoria Honor Flight.** Our gun winner bought the ticket at either or Chicagoland meeting or one of the others up there. **Kevin O.** is the very happy winner of the S&W M&P pistol in flat dark earth from **Farm King in Canton, IL**. Thanks to them for making it happen.

Sangamon County.

We had a massive crowd at **SCHEELS** for our February GSL event, with probably close to 140 in attendance. **GSL's President Rich Goodall** opened the meeting and **John Boch** shared his **Executive Director's Report** and answered questions.



Lynn Wilson of **New Illinois** spoke about the efforts of that organization to incorporate a new 51st state outside of Cook County. They have their work cut out for them but they're optimistic they can make it happen.

For more on how you can help, visit their website NewIllinoisState.org.



Frank Campo.

We had a California transplant named **Frank Campo** as our **Tech Time** speaker and he brought a "California legal" **Springfield Saint AR-15** to show us an example of the crazy silly California gun control schemes.

For the record, he came to Illinois because of 13 grandkids, not because he was a fan of our dysfunctional state politics or gun grabbing pols...

Rod won the very nice **Henry .357** lever gun on a ticket he brought a previous month in Pontiac (or maybe by mail). Congrats to him.

Pontiac.

John Boch opened the Pontiac GSL regional meeting at the **Pontiac Sportsmen's Club**. Once again, they had great food. So come hungry.

Following his **Executive Director's Update** on what's happening in Illinois and beyond, John introduced his long-time friend **Sue Darnall**. She and her husband Ron own the **Darnall's GunWorks and Ranges in Bloomington**. For about 25 years they hosted the nation's longest-running **NRA Youth Shooting Camp for kids aged roughly 9-16**. Then the China flu hit and they lost momentum.

They're in a rebuilding mode now and plan to offer a single-day event at the end of June and again at the end of July. They're looking not only for young people to attend but also adults to help keep things running safely and smoothly. Contact Darnall's shop or visit the website for camper applications coming soon.

Sue noted how the new gun ban law has crippled their business by easily over 60% since January. It's the worst challenge they've faced but they are cautiously optimistic that the courts will strike it down.

Continued on page 19.

Sullivan Gun Club

2023 Events... Open to public



Bowling Pin Shoots

Mar 11th | April 1st
May 6th | June 10th
July 15th | August 12th
September 9th | October 14th
November 4th



Aspirin Shoots

March 25th | April 22nd
May 20th | June 24th
July 29th | August 26th
September 23rd | October 28th
November 18th

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

Matches start at 9a.m.

\$10 per firearm. Kids free.

All dates are subject to the weather.

Follow us on Facebook for updates.

Sullivan Gun Club, LLC

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Sullivan IL 61951

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Gift certificates available at Zancha's Guns & Ammo in Lovington. Or send a check to Sullivan Gun Club LLC c/o Tracy Bettinger PO Box 584 Lovington IL 61937.

Meeting summaries

Continued from page 18.

This year marks the **100th year of business** - four generations - for the gun shop which started in downtown Bloomington originally. Later this year they'll have an open house... hopefully after Pritzker's gun ban is invalidated.

We held our drawings and **David** won the **SCCY pistol**.

Northwest Chicagoland.

Our **NW Chicagoland Regional Director Marcus Melnick** kicked off the meeting. We welcomed 75 of the faithful and **John Coyne** delivered **John Boch's Executive Director's Report**.



Tim Grammins.

Our featured guest speaker was the amazing **Timothy Grammins**. He spoke as a citizen, but is a police officer (and CCL instructor) who was involved in a horrific shoot-out (and won). He played the 911 tapes, showed photos of the incident, and eloquently gave CCL advice

to not talk to the police (request an attorney), have your gun put away when the cops arrive, and have your hands up.

When police respond, they are going to a "shooting," and have no information on participants when they arrive. Their goal is to make the scene safe and if you're waving a gun around, it's not going to be a good day for you.

If his name and story doesn't ring a bell, he's the officer who shot an armed robber over a dozen times with .45 ACP JHP Gold Dots and the felon bank robber didn't go down until Grammins gave him three rounds in the face.

Tim now carries 145 rounds with him while on duty and he's had a number of articles written about his experience. Grammins' story of his tactics, training, and "never give up" mindset has made him practically a legend in police and training circles.

SPECIAL NOTE: The video of most of his presentation will be on the Guns Save Life website. It's powerful, exceptional and well worth the watch.

Our last speaker was **Abraham Avalos** from our sister organization, **State Line Rifle Association**, who urged members and non members to get involved in their local political process, find out who their reps are and what they stand for and to continue the fight to get like minded individual, from both sides of the aisle, elected to public office to fight for 2a rights.

Charleston.

Charleston Regional Co-Director Justin Bawcum opened the meeting... and we had boxes of chocolate for the ladies. **Keith Pippin** stood in for **John Boch**, sharing his **Executive Director's update** while John covered the LaSalle meeting.



Justin Bawcum in Charleston. Image by Melissa Harden.

Justin and Keith shared main speaker duties discussing various firearm training systems including the **SIRT pistols** (which help with form, manipulations and trigger discipline) and the **Mantis X system** which does a lot to analyze trigger pull, movement, etc. We're planning to offer time ahead of meetings for people to try out these systems to see if they like them.

Or staff got lucky this month. **Bob Mattox** took home \$118 in 50/50 cash and **Keith** won the main drawing for an **EAA Witness P** in .40 caliber.

Everyone was invited back for the next meeting on March 9th when we will offer a **Henry H001 .22 lever action**.

LaSalle.

Our **LaSalle County Regional Director Glenn Pratt** welcomed everyone back after a couple of months' hiatus. We're at a new location, **Jamie's Outpost in Utica** and it's great.

We had a huge crowd (thank you JB Pritzker) and **John Boch** delivered his **Executive Director's Notes**, live and in person. There were questions of course.

State Senator Tom Bennett served as our main speaker. He praised John Boch for everything he does for the cause of gun rights, and for the growing successes of Guns Save

Life continues to stack up.

Tom talked about our nation's rich history of individual gun ownership, including making guns at home. He contrasted that with the General Assembly in Springfield that has nothing but compassion for bad guys and contempt for gun owners.

Of course, with state's new "defund the police" and "affordable bail" laws crime has gone way up. On just the second day of session this year, his assistant had her car stolen in Springfield. Then the thieves called her and offered to "sell it" back to her.

Senator Bennett thanked the **LaSalle County Sheriff Adam Diss** (present in the audience) for his public stance refusing to enforce the new Illinois Firearm Ban Act. He also praised the county board for passing a sanctuary resolution.



Senator Tom Bennett with two of GSL's go-getters, Theresa Schmidt and Crystal Loughran.

At Guns Save Life, we encourage our members to get involved in politics up to and including running for public office. Freedom isn't a spectator sport. A couple of our LaSalle County members decided to step up and run for the local IVCC Board of Trustees. **Theresa Schmidt and Crystal Loughran** talked about their adventures and life experiences that prompted them to run for the IVCC Board. They also shared some of the good and bad they've seen since they announced.

They describe themselves as "normal" people and as such, "Grassroots approved." Education, not indoctrination is their theme.

Jennifer Ebner (who, by the way, won her

Continued on page 20.

Illinois Largest Hunting & Trade Shows

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2023 Schedule

Jan. 21-22 - Bloomington: Interstate Center
2301 West Market Street

Mar. 4-5 - Bloomington: Interstate Center
2301 West Market Street

Mar. 11-12 - Belleville: Belle-Clair Fairgrounds
200 South Belt East

Mar. 25-26 - Springfield: Illinois State Fairgrounds
Illinois Building - 801 East Sangamon Ave.

June 24-25 - Belleville: Belle-Clair Fairgrounds
200 South Belt East

Aug. 12-13 - Bloomington: Interstate Center
2301 West Market Street

Aug. 26-27 - Belleville: Belle-Clair Fairgrounds
200 South Belt East

Nov. 4-5 - Belleville: Belle-Clair Fairgrounds
200 South Belt East

All Shows: Saturday 9-4, Sunday 9-3

Admission \$7 per day or \$10 for both days

Jeff Edwards - Show Promoter - 618.367.3118

Email: 5570elj@gmail.com

Denise & Ron - Show Coordinators

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

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StateLineRifle.com

see us on Facebook



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

Meeting summaries

Continued from page 19.

insurgent campaign last fall for LaSalle County Clerk) spoke briefly about the upcoming Friends of NRA Dinner and the local BB gun club that shoots in one of government buildings in Peru. They have openings for more kids to participate. Contact her for more information.

"John" won the Ruger .22 target pistol.

Rantoul.

Mr. Dick Brandt called the meeting to order and announced that **we will NOT have food at the March meeting at the KC in Rantoul.** Then his wife **Libby** shared an invocation.

John Boch delivered his **Executive Director's Report.**

Coach Joe Miller served as our main speaker discussing the junior shooting program just an hour down the road in Bloomington. He's one of the main coaches at the **Central Illinois Precision Shooting range** located on **Darnall's** property in Bloomington. He showed some of their precision air rifles that pretty much can consistently put a pellet into the same hole every time at 10 meters. Coach Miller also shared how much technology has improved in the last fifty years. He showed state of the art in the 1970s vs. modern high end gun and the differences were obvious.

As for the kids it teaches responsibility, concentration and better academic performance. What's more, anyone who works hard can excel at the sport, including those with dis-

abilities. They've got one disabled young man who just finished first in his age group nationally as an example.



Joe Miller, left, and Jeff Simpson.

Four of their past shooters are attending college on shooting scholarships, and more are likely going to get offers in the coming years as well.

For tech time, one member brought a Saiga 7.62x39 AK-format rifle with a nice sniper optic on it.

Ron Beatty brought a "German Soldier's Gun" - basically an odd-ball caliber Mauser made after WWI in 8.15x46R. The Treaty of Versailles prohibited Germany from making military caliber firearms, so they made a rifle very similar to the Model 96 Mauser in a new caliber. Ron found it at a gun show and got it for a song.

Also, another member brought an Enfield P17 .30-06 rifle.

Darrell Smith won the 50/50 and donated his winnings back to GSL. **Ralph G.** won the **Ruger LCP Max pistol** from a ticket he bought at the Sangamon County meeting at SCHEELS. Congrats to him.



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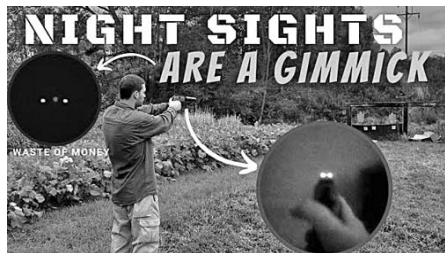


Caveat Emptor on YouTube 'Influencers' and content creators

(GSL) - On *YouTube*, all sorts of folks are out there trying to make a buck or three by offering content. Some is good. Much of it is not so much. Unfortunately, when it comes to information on guns and self-defense, bad information can get people killed.

Yes, a lot of folks have discovered you can monetize your *YouTube* accounts. It doesn't pay very much - a couple of hundred dollars for a hundred thousand views. It's kind of like real estate: a tiny few do very well, and the vast majority do not. But that doesn't stop them from trying.

Some channels, like that of our own Todd Vandermyde, the former NRA contract lobbyist for Illinois, offers niche content well within their wheelhouses. I'd highly recommend Vandermyde's **Freedom's Steel** if you want to stay on the cutting edge of what's happening.



On the other hand, others go outside of their wheelhouses with content to bait people into watching. One crossed my desk from "Prepared Airman." The topic: "I will never install Night sights ever again!"

It was 8 minutes and 45 seconds of my life I'll never get back. He starts off by saying "night sights are 100% a gimmick."

Okay, Francis. Lighten up.

Then he talks about "many keyboard warriors

and people who say they know things" being wrong about night sights.

So where does Mr. Talking Horse go from there? He recommends "saving money" by installing a battery-powered red-dot optic instead of wasting money with traditional tritium-powered night sights.

I'll share a spoiler to his video's message that will take you 10 seconds to read instead of 10 minutes to watch: "Red dot sights are better than night sights (which they are), so don't waste your money installing night sights on your pistols. Put on red dots instead."

Opinions are like rectums, everyone's got one and you know the rest.

Because every pistol's slide is configured for night sights (they're not), and because batteries never go dead or leak (they do) and electronics never fail. No, never.

Get night sights folks. Most deadly force encounters take place in low-light conditions, because bad guys prefer darkness! For everyday people they represent a huge game-changer in terms of how well they can make hits when the light grows dim. Far from a gimmick, they'll save your life, no matter what some young man standing in front of his basement workbench has to say.

Unless you're a high-speed, low-drag operator operating operationally with a team of fellow operators facing an enemy with night vision, run night sights on your guns. And if your likely adversary has night vision they probably have thermal, so you're screwed either way. Run night sights.

Maybe Mr. Airman's preparedness content is better than his dubious advice on night sights. I didn't stick around to find out. Time is valuable.

Guns Save Life forwards \$21,153 to legal fight at end of January. More coming soon.

Guns Save Life and our magnificent, selfless members donated \$21,153 to the fight against Gov. Pritzker's gun and magazine ban in courts during the month of January. The amount stands as over double our largest previous grant of roughly \$10,300 to the Central Illinois Precision Shooters' indoor range in Bloomington about ten years ago.

Furthermore we anticipate having collected another \$10,000 on legal donations since then. We'll formally approve sending those monies to either our Illinois legal team or the Chuck Michel's law firm in California, whichever needs it more at the end of February.

For those who say \$21,156 doesn't sound like a lot, but as a proportion of our annual operating budget, it represents a *huge outlay* for the small-but-mighty Guns Save Life.



Thank you to all who have helped in this endeavor. You're doing a great thing and we're going to get proven results with your donations. And we appreciate your trust and confidence in us to do the right thing.



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Calendar



GUN SHOWS...

March

Mar 4-5: Kankakee Gun Show, Kankakee County Fairgrounds Kankakee, IL. Mike (630) 363-3131.

Mar 4-5: Bloomington Gun Show, Interstate Center in Bloomington. Jeff Edwards 618 367-3118.

Mar 11-12: Aledo Gun & Knife Show, Mercer County Fairgrounds, Aledo, IL Mark Craft (309) 371-3593

Mar 12: Kane County Sportsman's Show, Kane County Fairgrounds, St Charles, IL Mick Stout (815) 217-2266

Mar 18-19: Peoria Gun & Knife Show, Peoria, IL (Exposition Gardens). Mark Craft 309 371-3593.

Mar 19: McHenry County Gun Show McHenry County Fairgrounds Woodstock, IL Donald Cichoski (815) 385-1982

Mar 25-26: Sauk Trail Gun Show, Bureau County Fairgrounds, Princeton, IL. Dan Fritz 309 689-1934.

7pm.

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

Crete Gun Club.

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

GUN CLUBS

Foosland Sportsman's Club Shooting opportunities open to the public at the Foosland Sportsman's Club. Contact Ron Beatty (217-417-3552) or pagan69@mchsi.com.

Second Tuesdays: 6p Tuesday night trap shoots

Second Sunday: Splatter board through March 13

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

Second Sunday starting in April: Annie Shoot/.22 steel plate shoot.

DeWitt County Sportsman's Club

Breakfast **first the third Sunday at 8:30a.m.** Open to the public.

Sullivan Gun Club LLC.

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



Project much, your honor?

Unhinged Oregon judge claims 'Second Amendment Sanctuaries' is embracing 'racist and white nationalist ideologies'

(FoxNews) - An Oregon judge accused sheriffs who, citing the Constitution, refuse to enforce federal and state gun control laws of embracing "racist and white nationalist ideologies."

The Oregon Court of Appeals on Wednesday ruled that local governments in the state cannot declare themselves Second Amendment sanctuaries and prohibit police from enforcing statewide gun laws. It was the first court defeat for the concept, which has been adopted by as many as 1,200 conservative local governments in response to Democrat-run cities and local jurisdictions that have declared themselves "sanctuary cities" and refuse to enforce federal immigration laws.

Some of these ordinances are symbolic, but the court reviewed a measure enacted in Columbia County that would have imposed thousands of dollars in fines on officials who attempt to enforce federal and state gun laws. It said the ordinance would "create a 'patchwork quilt' of firearms laws in Oregon, where firearms regulations that applied in some counties would not apply in Columbia County," which the court found would violate state law.

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

The Armed Women of America

3rd Wednesday (6:00-8:00p)
Christian County
Locked and Loaded, Pana, IL
twaw.christiancountyill@yahoo.com

2nd Thursday (6:30-8:30p)
Bloomington-Normal
CI Shooting Sports, Normal, IL

1st Wednesday (6:00-8:00p)
Champaign County
High Caliber Training Center, Urbana, IL

2nd Monday (6:30p-8:30p)
Chicago Western Suburbs
Range at 355, Bolingbrook, IL

One Monday each month,
email twawcookohare@gmail.com for date
Cook County O'Hare
Maxon's Shooters Supply & Indoor Range, Des Plaines, IL

3rd Monday (6:30-8:30p)
Kane County
GAT Guns, East Dundee, IL

2nd Tuesday (6:00-8:00p)
Lake County
5 Star Firearms in Zion, IL

Last Saturday of month
Kankakee County
ISRA Range in Bonfield, IL
twawkankakee@gmail.com

First Thursday (6-8pm)
Macon County
The Bullet Trap, Macon, IL
email twaw.maconco1@yahoo.com

Last Sunday (3:00-5:00p)
Metro East St. Louis
Town and Country Gun Club, Maryville, IL

First Tuesday (6:00-8:00p)
Metro Peoria / River City
TacShack, Peoria, IL

3rd Monday (6:00-8:00p)
Sangamon - Menard
MTM Arms, Athens, IL

3rd Thursday (6-8pm)
Effingham County
Accuracy Firearms

3rd Thursday (6:00-8:00p)
Pocahontas
Rampart Range, Pocahontas, IL

2nd Sunday (2:00-4:00p)
Little Egypt
Tombstone Gun Range & Training Center,
Marion, IL

2nd Tuesday (6:00-8:00p)
McHenry County
On Target Range, Crystal Lake, IL

3rd Thursday (6-8p)
McHenry County NORTH
Second Amendment Sports in McHenry, IL
mchenrynorthchapter@yahoo.com

2nd Tuesday (6:00-8:00p)
Winnebago County
KAP Guns, Lovespark, IL

First Tuesday 6-8p
Fox Valley
Fox Valley Shooting Range, Elgin, IL
foxvalleytwawsc@gmail.com

4th Friday (6:00-8:00p)
Quad Cities
Milan Rifle Club in Milan

PRO TIP: Don't sneak your gun into an MRI scanner

(Insider.com) - A lawyer in Brazil died after his gun was discharged by an MRI scanner and shot him.

Leandro Mathias de Novaes had taken his mother to get an MRI at the Laboratório Cura in São Paulo on January 18 when the freak accident took place, according to CNN Brasil.

The lawyer, 40, reportedly neglected to inform hospital staff about his concealed weapon, despite being instructed to remove all metal objects before entering the MRI room. The magnetic field from the MRI scanner pulled the firearm from his waistband, causing it to fire and shoot him in the stomach.



Don't use Discover cards at your local gun shop

(Reuters) - Discover Financial Services, a provider of credit cards, told Reuters it will allow its network to track purchases at gun retailers come April, making it the first among its peers to publicly give a date for moving ahead with the initiative, which is aimed at helping authorities probe gun-related crimes.



Constitutional Carry for ALL in North Dakota passes House UNANIMOUSLY

(GSL) - Rob Romano is reporting via Twitter that the North Dakota House unanimously passed a bill Monday, February 20th, to extend the state's Constitutional Carry law to non-residents, sending it to the Senate. The vote was 93-0, with one not voting.



NY Times & politicians can't understand why 'Gun-Free Zone' signs don't work

NYC (NYTimes) - [A]t about 5:30 p.m. Thursday, as workers were hurrying to catch trains home and tourists were ambling toward hotels and Broadway theaters, a 22-year-old Bronx man was fatally shot near a Shake Shack restaurant on Eighth Avenue at West 44th Street.

The shooting was the first since the creation of the expansive, signposted zone, the police said in a statement, and it immediately renewed questions about whether such a designation can truly protect the area.

Criminal negligence

Texas school superintendent leaves gun in elementary school bathroom stall

Rising Star, TX (KTAB/KRBC) - At least three weeks after the incident, the Rising Star ISD school board is addressing an incident in which a 3rd-grade student found an unattended firearm in the school bathroom. The gun belongs to Rising Star Superintendent Robby Stuteville.



Can you imagine what the FBI writes about gun owners?

FBI pulls document alleging some Catholics are White Nationalists

(Breitbart) - The FBI has pulled a leaked internal document announcing an investigation into "radical traditionalist" Catholics and their possible ties to the "far-right white nationalist movement" following vocal backlash.

FBI officials allegedly pressured agents to pad 'Domestic Extremism' stats

(Breitbart) - A whistleblower came forward with the name of a second FBI official who allegedly pressured agents to label cases as "domestic violent extremism" to boost case numbers, according to House Judiciary Committee Republicans.

FREE SPEECH FOR ME, BUT NOT FOR THEE:

'Tradition doesn't matter' as two Michigan State students paint over pro-campus carry message

East Lansing, MI (GSL) - So much for welcoming a diversity of viewpoints at American universities. A pair of Michigan State University students took it upon themselves to paint over pro-campus carry message located at "The Rock" on the MSU campus days after a criminal illegally carrying a gun killed three and wounded several others.



They admitted to defying "tradition" not to paint over the previous message, but they felt righteous in ignoring tradition because they couldn't allow a pro-self-defense message of "Allow us to defend ourselves & carry on campus" to be seen by students who had just been targeted by a killer.

State law and campus policy at MSU helped ensure no good guys or gals could have a gun to stop the bad man with evil in his heart.

One of them even acknowledged that they ignored tradition about painting over messages on "the Rock" in an interview with the campus newspaper. "Tradition is not to paint over it ... But tradition doesn't matter right now, what matters is are students grieving and taking their time."

Support wanes for banning America's favorite rifle

(The Reload) - 48 percent of registered voters said they oppose a nationwide ban on the sale of "assault weapons," while 47 percent said they support one, according to a Quinnipiac University poll. The poll, released on Thursday, found Republicans and independents opposed a ban while Democrats supported one.

Similarly, it found women wanted to see a sales ban while men did not.

Americans between 18 and 34 years old were most likely to oppose a ban, with 53 percent saying they don't want one, and respondents over 65 years old were the only age group to see majority support for a ban, with

54 percent in favor.

The poll also found support for an assault weapons ban has declined in recent months. Support for a sales prohibition fell five points since Quinnipiac asked the question in April 2021, and opposition rose the same amount.

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Making grandpa proud

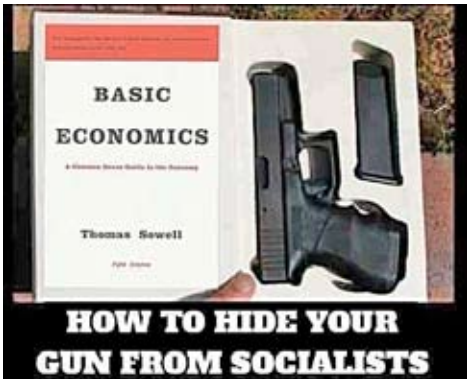
A proud grandpa sends in this photo of Miles, age 7, who shot his first shot with a small bore rifle at about 10 yards. Now we'll just have to work with him on that second rule of gun safety... keep your finger off the cotton-pickin' trigger until you've decided to shoot.



Here's Mason after his first time shooting an AR-platform rifle in .223.



Leaving you with a smile...



A bit of humor...

So I was at the VFW one night...

So I'm 76-years-old, standing at the bar at the VFW one night, minding my own business waiting to get a beer.

Someone came up behind me and grabbed my behind. While I didn't lose bowel or bladder control, I did hear a woman's voice. "You're kinda cute. You gotta phone

number?"

I turned and looked at the grinning woman. Even though she was younger than me, she was quite unattractive. I couldn't help but notice her "summer teeth" as she spoke. You know, some are there, and some aren't.

Weighing my options, I

asked her if she had a pen.

"Yeah, I've got a pen," she replied, still grinning like a fool.

"Good. You should get back in it before the farmer misses you."

Cost me 6 stitches... but getting old isn't for pansies.

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