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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



Countdown to CONFISCATION

After six weeks, still only a ~.1% compliance rate!

(Guns Save Life) - In a matter of weeks, the window for Illinois gun owners to register their banned self-defense firearms will have closed. Under Pritzker's so-called "Protect Illinois Communities Act," existing owners must register banned firearms, ammunition and accessories. As of this writing, the compliance rate stands at .1%.

While not all FOID holders own the most popular selling self-defense guns and related accessories, it seems reasonable to believe that some if not most own at least one. Hence why our state's abysmally low compliance rate stands out compared to other states that enacted registration schemes.

DO NOT REGISTER.

Guns Save Life recommends not to register firearms or ammunition at this time and we'll tell you

why: there's lots of downsides to registering and few, if any upsides.

If your FOID card becomes invalid for any reason, you must relinquish all registered items - and you can't get them back. It doesn't matter if the FOID lapsed because the renewal was slow-walked through the application process, or if an emergency order of protection was later ruled as unfounded.

Then there's the leaked plan from the Pritzker administration to "close the existing owner loop-hole" next year following a mass casualty incident. The Pritzker team has already mapped out promoting new "emergency" legislation to call in all of the banned items within 90 to 120 days. Those who registered guns but fail to surrender them will then face felony charges.

They might even have home visits from police sent to "bring them into compliance."

Most owners of verboten self-defense guns have simply decided to keep a low profile until the PICA law gets thrown out in court. Others are moving their firearms (and in a few cases, themselves as well) out of the Land of Lincoln. Then there are the folks burying their stuff or suffering tragic boating accidents.

Either way, after January 1, those caught possessing banned guns will face criminal charges and confiscation of their banned guns. Possession of two or more unregistered banned firearms is a serious felony. At that point, police may well confiscate all of the guns.

Merry Christmas! See our meeting updates page 2.

Sangamon County at the Air Combat Museum, NW Chicago on the FIRST Wednesday. Quincy & Chicagoland cancelled. See page 2 for complete Christmas holiday changes to our meeting lineup! Have a Merry Christmas and Happy Hanukkah as appropriate!

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December 2023

- **Quincy:** Last Wednesday: **November 29**, no December meeting, January 31 Eagles Club, 3535 N. Fifth Street, Quincy
- **Chicagoland:** Last Sunday: **Nov. & Dec. cancelled for holidays** American Legion Post 1198, 1631 Western Ave. Chicago Heights
Exhibits and conversation here at 4:30pm. Program at 5:30pm.
- **Sangamon County:** First Monday: **Dec. 4 at Air Combat Museum.** Jan cancelled Air Combat Museum, 835 S Airport Dr., Springfield
- **Pontiac:** First Tuesday: **December 5**, January 2 Pontiac Sportsman's Club, 18663 4-H Park Road, Pontiac
- **Decatur:** First Wednesday: **December 6**, January 3 Coz's Pizza, 1405 East Village Parkway, Mt Zion
- **Peoria:** First Thursday: **December 7**, January 4 Barrack's Banquet Center, 1224 April 6, Pioneer Parkway, Peoria
- **Danville:** Second Monday **December 11**, January 8 Ela's Restaurant, 1111 E. Voorhees St., Danville
- **Champaign County:** Second Tuesday: **December 12**, January 9 KC Hall, 1001 N. Ohio St., Rantoul
- **Northwest Chicagoland:** Normally Second Wed: **December 6**, Jan 10 Prairie House Tavern, 2710 Main St., Buffalo Grove
Dinner and conversation here at 5:30pm. Program at 6pm-ish.
- **Charleston:** Second Thursday: **December 14**, January 11 U Hotel Conference Center, 920 West Lincoln Ave, Charleston
- **LaSalle County:** Second Thursday: **December 14**, January cancelled Jamie's Outpost, 602 Clark St. Utica

Dinner, conversation, exhibits at 6 p.m. Program starts at 7 p.m.
Come on out and join us. Good food, good fun and good friends.

Dinner is optional but we encourage attendees to eat to support the venue.

Meetings are free and open to all.



AWESOME VENUE!

Our thanks to Mike George for making the Springfield Air Combat Museum available for our meetings in November and December. Bring your family and friends (and folding lawn chairs) for the December 4th meeting! Yes, this and every other plane there flies.

UPCOMING SCHEDULE CHANGES

December

Sangamon County GSL will take place at the Air Combat Museum, 835 S. Airport Dr. Springfield. Bring your friends and family to see this privately owned museum and its vintage aircraft. And enjoy a great meeting. SCHEELS is unavailable to us in November and December with the holidays. Bring a folding chair or lawn chair please, just in case.

Chicagoland. Our Chicagoland chapter will not meet in November or December because of the holidays.

Quincy. Our Quincy chapter will not meet on the last Wednesday in December because of Christmas/New Year's. We'll return in January!

NW Chicagoland. We will meet on the FIRST Wednesday in December because of a scheduling conflict on the 2nd Wednesday.



January.

Sangamon County GSL is cancelled as it falls on New Year's Day. Have a great Christmas and New Year's and we'll see you at SCHEELS on the first Monday in February.

LaSalle. We will have no meeting in January because Jamie's Outpost is closed. We will return, probably in the last week of February. Watch GunNews and the website for updates.



Kevin Wilson from SOAR - Save Our American Republic - speaks at LaSalle.



Bill McGee makes empty-handed defense look easy at the Danville meeting.



John B., left won the Henry .22 rifle in Rantoul. He's with our RD Dick Brandt.



Danville's RD Jack Land stands with Bill D. who won the Maverick 88 provided by BFF Firearms in Danville.



Pawprint Ministries brought a couple of their therapy dogs to our Rantoul meeting.



Rich Hirsch and John Boch at Peoria.



Larry L., left, won the Charter Arms .44 Special at the LaSalle meeting. He's pictured with Regional Director Glenn Pratt.



He wasn't at all excited about winning a ParaOrdnance P14-45 in Peoria! With Peoria's RD Richard Parks.



Yes, we have real guns at GSL meetings. (Dear Gov., we're getting away from putting names to them though.)



Dan Cooley shares thoughts on drawing from concealment, urging people to practice it before they need to do it for real.



JB won the gun - his sixth since we started there some years ago. Justin won the 50/50. Thanks to X-Ring Custom for providing the gun.



Dan S. won the Rock Island Armory .38 Special and R. H. won the ammo in Springfield.



Folks from Camp Callahan (no relation to Harry Callahan) talk about their camp for special needs individuals. They have a shooting range! Shooting sports are safe and fun.



In Decatur, this lucky gent won a RIA 12 gauge pump - featuring the "Universal Sound of Peace" when cycling the action.

Meeting Highlights

Quincy.

We had another great meeting with the representatives from Camp Callahan coming to talk to us about their summer programs providing an inclusive outdoors experience for individuals with physical and mental disabilities.



They highlighted their shooting range, the trials and many successes they have had over the years. They also rely upon and need community support, including volunteers and donations. Their volunteers report great satisfaction and fulfillment that comes from helping others.

Randy M won the CVA Scout in .450 Bushmaster! Thanks to GameMasters for making that happen.

Next month, for our November 29th meeting, we have invited current first assistant State's attorney (and 2024 States Attorney candidate) Todd Eylar along with Adams County Sheriff Tony Grootens to share with us how the SAFE-T Act and PICA will continue to negatively impact residents in our area.

Chicagoland.

Joe Tieri joined us as our primary speaker. He's a sergeant with a state-level police agency. As a gun owner and aficionado, he understands that gun control leads to tyranny. He knows FOID holders aren't the problem. At the same time he candidly admitted that most state-level law enforcement officers, if ordered, will enforce the new PICA gun and magazine ban over risking their jobs for looking the other way.

"We're just doing our job," he said. He added that treating the officers with respect will go a long way towards officer discretion. "I'll be as lenient as possible," he said.

Dennis White (contact email chef_2A@yahoo.com) joined us and discussed his efforts to launch a new organization called FAFO. Like many, he's sick of high crime. But unlike many, he's encouraging folks to stop voting for politicians who want to take the good guy guns out of the communities instead of taking out the criminals. He liked it to a social biker organization with guns instead of bikes.

Mr. Boch neglected to bring the previously sold gun drawing tickets, so we'll have TWO drawings in January! How sweet is that?

Decatur.

Pastor Steven Holden shared that he's on the leadership team of the "Wreaths Across America" event at Camp Butler in Springfield again this year. On December 16th, volunteers will place Christmas wreaths at thousands of the graves there. If you're available to help, come on out and arrive early... around 9-9:30am. Bring hot chocolate along with your kids.

Dan Cooley from The Bullet Trap discussed the importance of practicing your draw. Yes, many indoor ranges don't allow it, but you still need to practice drawing and firing.

For Tech Time we had a great collection of Colt "Snake Guns" and the history behind them.

Peoria.

See page 14 for the summary of the school safety and security presentation by Rich Hirsch.

Sangamon County.

We held our meeting at the fabulous Air Combat Museum in Springfield. The aircraft on display are all airworthy and fly from time to time. Our thanks to Mike George for making the venue available to us. (We only have about 100 chairs, so bring not only your friends, family and neighbors in December, but also folding lawn chairs.)



Mike George, seated, in front of a Mig-15 fuselage.

Our very own Kelvin Coburn spoke of his candidacy for the Illinois House in the 95th District. Coburn harshly criticized the State Police, not only for losing \$12M worth of equipment but having four people on the payroll who don't even work there.

Mark Hurley, a retired Col. from the US Air Force delivered a great presentation on the weaponization of "Artificial Intelligence." More on this on page 9.

Dan S. won the RIA .38 revolver and R.H. won the "second prize," a short case of .223 ammo donated by Wayda Arms of Springfield. We'll be seeing more from the Wayda peeps at a future meeting. One of the primaries who came to the Sangamon County event was called back to work before he could speak. He did leave that box of .223 though! Thank you!

Pontiac.

For our main speaker, we welcomed Livingston County State's Attorney Mike Regnier. He's the new and young local prosecutor who believes in giving people a chance or two, but if they "go back to the well of criminality" then they go upriver.



Livingston Co. State's Attorney Mike Regnier.

From his perspective, the so-called "SAFE-T Act" (or "No Cash Bail") is a nightmare. Putting it kindly he described it as "not geared to public safety."

Locally they're seeing most of the deten-

tion hearings result in holding arrestees until trial. He says this works well because those detained are highly motivated to get the case taken care of, while those released without bail are in no hurry to answer for their crimes.

Regnier also noted the arbitrary nature of what is detainable and what is not. For instance, revenge porn is detainable, but crimes like delivering dope, unlawful use of weapons and DUIs are generally not.

Of course the audience pressed him about prosecuting cases related to the PICA gun & magazine ban. While Regnier refused to issue a blanket "I'm not going to prosecute" statement, he did say that cases would be evaluated on their merits (or lack thereof). [Editor: Feel free to read between the lines.]

He pointed out that the law disarms good people in Illinois while many of the legislative leaders who enacted it are all protected by armed bodyguards.



Drinking to their success at governance. From left, Senate President Don Harmon, Gov. JB Pritzker and House Speaker Chris Welch.

Rick Martin won the \$300 gift certificate to Freedom Sport Shop in El Paso, IL. Congrats to him!

Northwest Chicagoland.

Our host venue had a scheduling conflict so we cancelled our November meeting. Our

steering committee team opted to move our December meeting up to the **FIRST WEDNESDAY in December** because of another conflict. We apologize for the change and will return to our regular schedule in January!

LaSalle.

Kevin Wilson from SOAR (Save our American Republic) introduced the organization to those present. It's a Christ-based patriot group committed to protecting and defending the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. They meet monthly and in recognition of Veteran's Day, they showed the 4-minute video titled, "I fought for you."

You can learn more at www.soarillinois.com or email them at SOARil@proton.me.

GSL's Executive Director put on his instructor's cap (with 25 years experience) and shared thoughts on Defensive Shooting. See page 8.

Larry L. won the .44 Special revolver and Mr. Gadget won the 50/50. He donated half of it back to GSL. Thank you, sir!

Danville.

We had a very healthy crowd at Ela's Restaurant. Come hungry, folks. The food is good.

Mr. Bill McGee from Hoopeston talked about empty-hand combatives from the perspective of a nationally-recognized Karate instructor. Despite his age (75) and his "short, fat and bald" build he's no pushover. And he enjoys teaching his students how to defend themselves from attack. McGee mentioned how there are about two dozen banned techniques in MMA sport fighting. Those are where he

Meeting Highlights continued on page 19.

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!

Chicago Jan: Taurus TX22 and Ruger Super Wrangler .22 Mag/.22LR
Chicago Feb: Ruger 10/22

Peoria Dec: TBD

Pontiac Dec: Henry .22 classic lever action

Decatur Dec: TBD

Rantoul Dec: TBD

Charleston Dec: Henry lever-action .22

Danville Dec.: Iver Johnson 12ga. side-by-side 28" shotgun

Sangamon Co. Dec: TBD.

NW Chicagoland Dec: Springfield Defender Legacy subcompact 9mm
NW Chicagoland Jan: Charles Daly 1911 Field Grade .45 ACP
NW Chicagoland Feb: Taurus 605 Polypro- tector .38

Executive Director's Report

Making some quality lemonade

by John Boch

Executive Director

When life gives you lemons, make lemonade or even better, a lemonade shake-up!



SAFE-T Act Lemonade

One of our members sent me a clipping from her local paper about a truck driver transporting 83 kilos of coke (the snorting variety, not the drinking sort) and a loaded handgun sans any licenses. Our member was upset that under the SAFE-T Act the local prosecutor's hands were tied and he had to release the drug mule.

I emailed her back assuring her that Mr. Drug Smuggler might have been released by police, but that he wouldn't make his court appearance.

Whoever owned the 83 kilos of coke will cast him a pair of concrete shoes and drop him into the nearest body of water.

See, the SAFE-T Act is saving taxpayers money already! That's one tasty lemonade shake-up.



Geneseo chapter coming?

Yes, the rumors that GSL's next chapter might happen in Geneseo are true. Paul Pardo called me and he and his merry band of gun aficionados believe they can pull off a new chapter in the epicenter of gun-making in our state. We're putting details together but look for something in late winter/early spring if all goes well. No worries, once we nail it down, we will publicize it vigorously.

Speaking of rumors...

There have been rumors about an incident at Bass Pro Shop in East Peoria. Supposedly a couple of young men smashed a display case and grabbed handfuls of handguns only to have their five-finger discount stopped cold by a couple of CCW holders drawing down on them. It never happened. Or if it did, law enforcement wasn't notified and nobody was arrested. It sounded like a heartwarming story to file under "try that in a small town." Alas, it's too good to be true.

Bloomington's Gun Buyback.

And speaking of tasty lemonade... Bloomington had a gun buyback, paying \$200 bucks for normal guns, \$400 for "ghosty" guns and \$500 for those scary black guns.

And while we publicly said we were out of guns, we still had five left. We sold one for \$200 for youth shooting programs. Our member who had four more guns for us had to leave after waiting four hours. Maybe next time. Thank you, do-gooders.



GSL's John Boch.

Hamas, Hezbollah and Sleepers

Open source reports say the US Government knows about 3800 Hamas and Hezbollah sleeper cell agents in our nation in part thanks to Joe Biden's open-borders policies. If even 10% heeded the call to action, that's a hundred 3- to 4-man teams across America.

They could cripple rail lines, pipelines and electrical transmission line towers in a few hours and then hit some soft targets like hospitals, schools, churches, and shopping malls. Remember the chaos that three cells in Mumbai, India created over a few days some years ago. America would be plunged into chaos.

They're here in Illinois already, not only in Chicago but downstate as well. This month I learned that two of the 9/11 hijackers who didn't fly that fateful day were attending Bradley University in Peoria before the FBI picked them up a couple of months later. "Radical" Muslim terrorists are here in Illinois - even Central IL.

You can't do a thing about the borders, but you can make sure you're prepared for emergencies and disasters, both natural and terrorist-made.

Keeping up with the courts.

We've seen a ton of activity from the courts these past few months. Here are some spots where you can keep up not only on Illinois cases, but big ones nation-wide.

Rob Romano on Twitter (@2Aupdates):

This guy is amazing on how well he tracks stuff from across the nation.

Washington Gun Law on YouTube: William Kirk covers the big stuff in a way that the average person can understand. Plus he's a GSL member...

Four Boxes Diner on YouTube: Mark Smith, a constitutional law attorney, not only covers cases, but he does deep dives into the legal analysis behind them. Good stuff.

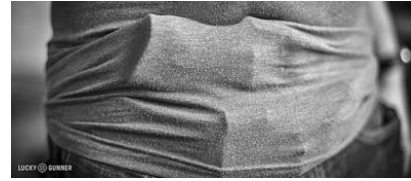
Join me December 16th in Springfield:

I'll be at the "Wreaths Across America" event at Camp Butler in Springfield. They're asking for volunteers to help place Christmas wreaths at thousands of the gravesites there. If you're available to help, come on out and arrive early... around 9-9:30am. Bring hot chocolate along with your kids. I'll have mine.

Concealed means concealed, Kemosabe

by John Boch

(GSL) - So my family and I enjoyed the ISU Homecoming parade in Normal. In a case of mere happenstance, we watched while sitting next to a 40-something dad and his adolescent daughter. What made him unusual? His "head on a swivel" situational awareness pinged my radar as we approached. Then I noticed the bulge on his hip. "Off duty cop" was my first thought.



Not the man at the ISU Homecoming parade, but you get the idea.

The "Crossbreed Holsters" baseball cap cinched it. Looking closer, his very unusual choice in a carry gun became readily apparent.

I'm not crystal clear on whether a permit was issued for the event, and therefore made it a prohibited location for CCW or not, but that dear old dad had a nice, K-frame S&W snub-nosed revolver (or maybe a Taurus 856) in an *outside-the-waistband* holster.

Over it, he wore an entirely too-short and too-snug hoodie. Much to my amusement, he tugged that hoodie down an average of once or twice every minute. It didn't take too many tugs before I knew he wasn't a cop. No cop I know touches his Roscoe or adjusts his cover garment over and over again to reassure himself that his piece remains hidden from view.

He must have been brand new to carrying.

If you're going to pack your heater on your belt, carry it in a comfortable *inside-the-waistband* holster. Leave the outside-the-waistband range holster (see below) in your range bag.



A FOBUS outside-the-waistband holster.

One way to grow acclimated to packing for the first time is to carry at home. If you have some anxiety about putting a loaded gun on your hip, take baby steps with an empty firearm.

If you can pull this off without others in your household recognizing that you've got a gun concealed about your person, you have taken a giant step closer to going unnoticed in public.

And while you might think everyone and their dog will sniff out your gun or its outline "printing" against your clothes, they won't. You could open carry a gun and probably half of the oblivious sheep wouldn't notice.

Whatever you carry, don't be touching it over-and-over. That's a classic rookie mistake.

LOOKING FOR A PLACE TO SHOOT?

DeWitt County Sportsmans Club

Clinton, IL



BREAKFAST! First and Third Sunday. 8:30a.m.

Now after-breakfast Turkey Shoots too!

JOIN US! Open to all.

>>>> Memberships Available. <<<<

Come join a growing, ever-improving club, with three independent ranges and permissive rules which allow shooters to practice from holsters, double-taps, movement and so forth. Centrally located on Route 10, six miles east of Clinton, IL (15423 State Highway 10). Great people and a warm atmosphere. Facilities include *three* ranges, clubhouse, a *real* publicly-accessible restroom and more. **Dues are currently \$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.





The state that would not comply with a new gun registration edict

99.9% of gun owners have not complied with registration

(GSL) - Illinois gun owners are over halfway through the window to register their banned self-defense firearms, ammunition and accessories with the ISP. With registration closing on December 31st, ISP reports that 99.9% of FOID cardholders have failed to register even a single item.

That's correct. Just .1% (point one percent) of gun owners have complied.

The Week 6 compliance numbers showed that just 3,439 individuals had registered one or more items. Put another way, 2,412,042 that have ignored the new law.

IL hunting isn't affected by PICA

(KSDK) - Recent statewide firearm restrictions, however, have brought into question exactly which guns hunters can use. Gov. JB Pritzker signed the Protect Illinois Communities Act (PICA) earlier this year, and after a federal appeals court recently upheld the law, it mandates restrictions on how assault weapons and other firearms can be sold and possessed in the state.



No, Illinois hunters aren't banned from using assault weapons as long as they are approved under the state's Wildlife Code.

Under PICA, hunters are permitted to use firearms classified by the law as "assault weapons" while hunting, as long as the guns are authorized under the Illinois Wildlife Code and have the appropriate licenses and permits usually required for hunting.

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources also specifies what firearms and ammunition are allowed in Illinois during deer and turkey hunting.

Any Illinois resident who owns a firearm considered an "assault weapon" under the restrictions must register it with the state by submitting an endorsement affidavit through their Firearm Owner's Identification Card account by Jan. 1, 2024.

However, PICA has an exemption for the hunting season. Hunters cannot be compelled to show proof of an endorsement affidavit while they are actively hunting or when they are traveling to and from hunting.

A total and complete public farce...

Public hearings on gun registration proved a disaster for State Police

(GSL) - The Illinois State Police held a series of three hearings to answer questions and provide specifics on implementation of the gun registration aspect of the Protect Illinois Communities Act. The hearings accomplished neither.

The hearings proved a disaster for ISP and not much better for the state's gun owners. ISP Attorney Suzanne Bond and a Captain were basically "the committee." And people had to register the day before in order to speak.



ISP Attorney Suzanne Bond.

Right out of the gate it became clear that at best, ISP wasn't taking this seriously. Others believe the ISP provided a giant "F-You" to gun owners at the direction of Pritzker's people. Either way, it was a disaster for State Police. The annoy-

ing buzz on the livestream video proved our first clue. Then at the third and final meeting in a packed community center, ISP didn't provide video streaming OR a sound system.



ISP attorney Suzanne Bond may as well as have been a parrot. She kept repeating the exact same answer over and over: "Answers to this question can be found on the ISP website on the Protect Illinois Communities Act page."

When questions got specific, she misstated facts more than once and asked for written questions to be addressed later. Some people pointed out they've been writing with these same questions for months without response.



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Country Character



Sometimes it's important to remember what we have to be thankful for...

What are we celebrating?

by Justin Thyme
a GSL member

The Christmas season has developed into a "spend too much," or more than we should season. Many spend months, if not more paying bills from Christmas. Because much is paid for with a credit card, the gifts now cost substantially more because of interest.

Why do we do all this? The original celebration was like this . . . after Jesus was born in Bethlehem, when Herod was king, wise men came to Jerusalem seeking the King of the Jews. They had seen his star when it rose and came to worship him. Upon hearing of the arrival of the new king, King Herod was quite concerned, not wanting to be displaced. Herod learned from the wise men when the star had appeared. He wished the wise men to bring him word so he could "worship" the king as well. However, Herod had an ulterior motive.

Upon arrival where Jesus lived, they fell down and worshipped him and offered gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. The wise men were warned in a dream not to return to Herod and went home another way. Also warned by an angel of the Lord in a dream, Joseph was instructed to take Jesus and his mother and go to Egypt because Herod wished to destroy the child.

When Herod realized he had been tricked, he was furious and had all the male children two years and younger in the region of Bethlehem killed to eliminate competition. In this account two things are very evident. God protected His Son Jesus so he could continue the plan of salvation. This is also a horrible account of King

Herod, one with too much power and an evil agenda. The full biblical account can be found in Matthew 1:18 – 2:18.

The events of horror perpetrated upon the people of Israel on October 7th of this year are not unprecedented. Though not the scope of tragedy of the Israeli – Hamas situation, the events in the region of Bethlehem were of a similar mode of operation. People with weapons attacking and killing people without the means with which to fight back. Innocent people had no way to stop the murder of their children. This is one reason why the Second Amendment is so important. Israel has no Second Amendment, but their gun control laws will continue to be liberalized in the coming months.

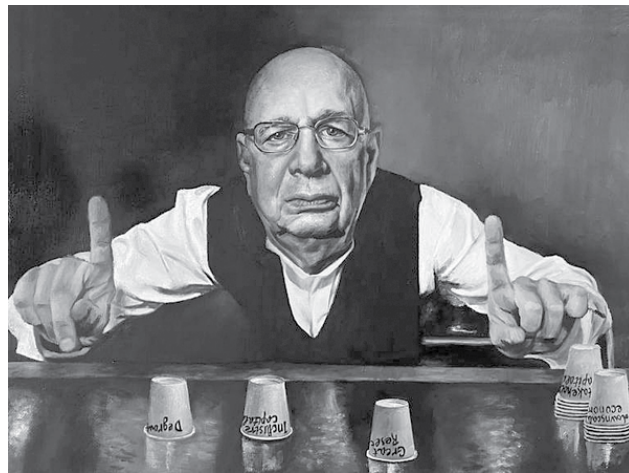
The celebration of Christmas has been ongoing for hundreds of years worldwide, sometimes secretly to avoid persecution. Through triumph and tragedy the celebration continues. Why is this? The event of Christmas, the birth of Jesus, is God in human form reaching out to mankind. In Luke 2:13, a multitude of angels proclaimed to the shepherds, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." (KJV)

Consider these lines from Christmas carols: "Silent Night, Holy Night, Son of God, Love' pure light, Radiant beams from thy Holy Face, with the dawn of redeeming grace. Jesus, Lord at Thy birth." From Hark the Herald Angels Sing: "...born that man no more may die. Born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth. The gift of salvation! Merry Christmas indeed!

2023 GSL Elections

At our meetings, our members voted by acclamation on the slate of candidates submitted by our Nominating Committee. The motions to accept the slate were approved for two-year terms.

President: Rich Goodall (from the Springfield area)
Vice-President: John Coyne (from Chicago)
Treasurer: Joanne Chandler (from Clinton)
Secretary: Lois Morton (from Champaign)
Director #1: Tim Weir (from Petersburg)
Director #2: Al Devlin (from Canton)



SPOILER ALERT: You'll have to sacrifice your freedom and comfort 'for the greater good'

EXPOSED: Klaus Schwab & WEF's secret blueprint to control every aspect of your life

(Breitbart) - Klaus Schwab took \$6,000 in seed money in 1971 and transformed the World Economic Forum (WEF) from a humble gathering of academics into the most exclusive club in the world. The WEF now rakes in \$390 million, annually.

Controlgarchs: Exposing the Billionaire Class, Their Secret Deals, and the Globalist Plot to Dominate Your Life follows the money beyond the politicians—and their petty squabbles in Washington—straight to top: Davos. It is in this tiny Alpine town that the jet-setting billionaires and shadowy bureaucrats are plotting out the next decade of our lives...

Controlgarchs pulls back the curtain and comprehensively reveals the dystopian

systems and tactics that the WEF is ratcheting up, including: implementing central bank digital currencies (CBDCs) and digital IDs; instituting "climate lockdowns" and rolling blackouts; banning gas vehicles and stoves and throttling thermostats; developing lab-grown meats, patented seeds, and insect-based proteins; expanding mandatory medical technologies; pushing artificial intelligence (AI) and transhumanism...

These are just a few of the shocking, freedom-crushing plans the WEF has begun to roll out. Other sectors subject to WEF-aligned takeover include housing (see "15 minute cities"), education (see AI advancing "social emotional learning"), information (see the crackdown on so-called "disinformation"), and more.



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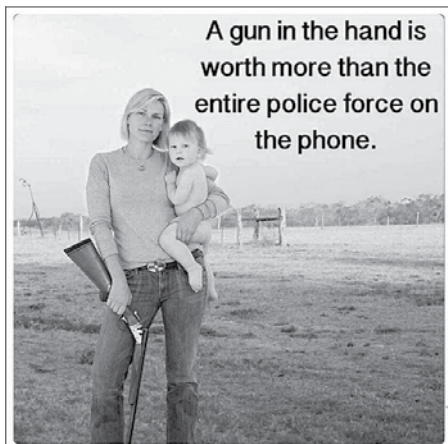


In regione caecorum rex est luscus

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

How many guns are there in America?

Most estimates of the number of guns in the United States are compiled by those who wish that the number was quite less, and so attempt to scare the public into supporting draconian restrictions on the 2nd Amendment. Thus, we need to take their "research" with a grain of salt.



The American Gun Facts website bemoans that: "The United States has a lot of guns, especially for a massive, peaceful, and prosperous country. In fact, about 1/3 of all the civilian guns in the world are in the hands of Americans." What they do not address is: What other country would you rather have more guns than the US? Iran? Russia? China? Providing some additional detail, they offer that 460 million firearms are owned by US Citizens, 1 million are owned by Police and 4.5 million are owned by the US military. What they do not address is: How many firearms are owned by non-citizens living in the US, many of whom are here illegally?



The website *Stacker*, while hesitating to provide many numbers, does their part concerning the 2nd Amendment debate with statements such as: "The Second Amendment is at odds with modern politics," and terming suicides involving guns as "self-murders." *The Hopkins Bloomberg Public Health* magazine, puts the figure of gun ownership at 393 million among civilians, and tries to explain "Americans' astonishing personal arsenal" having to do with the ever popular politics, racism and marketing, throwing in "the insurrectionist idea" for good measure. In April 2023, *CNN*, perhaps not wanting to scare its immense audience, would not provide an overall number of firearms in the US, but did state that there were 120.5 firearms per 100 civilians here. Doing some quick math, that equates to 410 million.

While the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms presents a comprehensive analysis of gun ownership, it did not address the total numbers of firearms in the country.

However, *The Trace* website took the ATF number of weapons manufactured in or imported from 1899-1945, applied something called the "Cook attrition rate," factored in the 2021 number of guns produced to the US market, put that all in a blender, and concluded the number is now 474 million. Overseas, the Switzerland-based "Small Arms Survey" pegged the number of guns here in 2018 at 393 million. Why are the Swiss bitching about us? Firearms regulation in Switzerland allows the acquisition of semi-automatic, and sometimes – with a may-issue permit – even fully automatic firearms, by Swiss citizens and foreigners with or without permanent residence. Bolt-action rifles do not require an acquisition permit, and can be acquired with just a background check. Switzerland has 8,814,019 people. It appears as though there are 2,332,000 firearms in Switzerland, but in 2021, there were only 42 murders in Switzerland. So much for "guns kill people."

There are two important factors that these, and almost every other survey fails to address. Concerning numbers, they all fail to adequately count foreign-made firearms legally brought home by returning veterans from World War I, World War II, and Vietnam being the most-prevalent. The return was all legal; and while obviously some of these weapons have been destroyed over time, many, many more are still "in the family" never tabulated by the media or by various governmental bureaucracies.

The most-important factor of all is a question: Why do Americans have so many guns? Some are recreational target shooters. Some are hunters. Some just collect guns. But perhaps the majority own firearms because they believe that the police cannot protect them. A respected police officer once put it very clearly to me: "The police cannot prevent you from being the victim of violent crime. The best we can do is to find the criminal who did it to you. Unfortunately, that may be after you are dead."

Add the fact, that many, many police departments have been reduced in size due to either benign economic reasons (there isn't enough money in the city budget to have more firefighters and police) or malicious motives (all "pigs" are bad, so get rid of them.) Then add in that no one really knows the magnitude of the flood of people pouring over the border like a human tsunami, but certainly some portion of border-crossers have violent, criminal natures and will obtain and use firearms illegally. And to top it off, some political hacks – who most-likely live in gated communities, possibly have security details, and may even own their own firearms (sometimes in violation of local ordinances) – are doing their damndest to take every gun they can away from every other citizen, which will put your safety, and life, in even greater peril.

So what is the correct answer to the question: How many firearms are in the US? The answer is:

Not Enough

LEGAL DEFENSE FUND

Legal Defense Fund Donations...

Folks, it looks like we're going to the US Supreme Court to fight for our right to purchase, possess and transport the most effective firearms for personal defense.

What's more, we will soon file another challenge to the registration component in Gov. Pritzker's PICA Gun & Magazine ban. We will once again seek injunctive relief to block the state from enforcing the law in its entirety.

We're urging people to donate directly to our legal teams to help make all of this possible.

To fund our Illinois litigation team:

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To help the national firm backstopping our IL team:

2ALC.org
Second Amendment Law Center
284C East Lake Mead Parkway
Suite 530
Henderson NV 89015
(tax deductible)

We still absolutely endorse and support FFL-IL and their fund for our Illinois attorneys, however donations to them are not tax deductible. Aurora Sportsmen's Club's SADEC gets 100% of donations to the same place only in a tax deductible fashion.

We would prefer folks send donations directly to the above funds. The easiest way for everyone involved is to make the donations online, but we've included mail addresses here for the non-computer savvy.

SEEKING VOLUNTEERS DEC. 16th: Wreaths Across America at Camp Butler in Springfield

Our own Pastor Steven Holden also serves on the leadership team of the "Wreaths Across America" event at Camp Butler in Springfield.

They're looking for additional volunteers for the December 16th event at Camp Butler National Cemetery. Volunteers will place Christmas wreaths at thousands of the graves there that morning. If you're available to help, come on out and arrive early... around 9-9:30am. Bring hot chocolate along with your kids.



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Boch: A crash course on defensive gun use

At the LaSalle GSL meeting, John Boch shared some thoughts on the defensive use of firearms in self-defense.

The firearm is a tool of last resort, even though some who don't know better will often reach for it almost instinctively when there are better (and sometimes more legal) options. Knowing and understanding the law and how courts and juries work when it comes to the judicious use of deadly force also helps. Remember that your jury will never be a dozen GSL members.

Using firearms responsibly and ethically for personal defense requires not only mental preparation for what you would do before, during and after an encounter, but also a willingness to use force and recognizing that again, deadly force is the last resort. "If any doubt exists, hold the firearm silent." Yes, Virginia, that means no warning shots.

Why is deadly force (in this case, the gun) a tool of last resort? Because LOTS of bad things happen in the aftermath of using deadly force. Yes, even for those who do so righteously. Sleep disturbances (spelled "nightmares") and the Mark of Cain are two of the most common. People look at you differently after you've killed someone, even if that offender had it coming. And if you kill an attacker who was "unarmed" despite a disparity of force, then low-information voters will say you should have just "shot him in the leg." Even if tried and acquitted, some people will say "you got away with murder."

There's also the potential for loss of one's job, friends, along with alienation from family and fellow church members.



As if that wasn't enough, the hits keep on coming with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, substance abuse (booze, prescription drugs as well as street pharma), sexual dysfunction (good news, they've got pills for that) and the stress. Financially, using force can be ruinous as well. Then there's retribution considerations from the attacker's friends and family. And fallout for your family members as well. For example, does your kid go to school with relatives of the perp? You might even have to relocate. You might even get prosecuted (and maybe even convicted).

People who don't know anything about "survival euphoria" might think you're happy that you killed that other person.

You get the idea and if you don't, look at what happened to George Zimmerman or Kyle Rittenhouse.

At the same time you, in Boch's opinion, many people will feel a moral duty to save innocent life if you can. After all, while you can't be prosecuted for failing to save lives, you do have to go to sleep every night for the rest of your life. Knowing you could have saved innocent people who then died horrifically can become a heavy burden.

So it's *far better* to use situational awareness and conflict avoidance to avoid victimization than to punch a bad guy's ticket even if you're totally justified in shooting.

Situational awareness boils down to paying attention to your surroundings. See something outside of the baseline of normalcy in any given environment? Put distance and obstacles between you and the potential problem. Distance gives you time, time gives you options and options mean safety. Identify your exits and formulate a plan of action to avoid conflict from a potential problem. That may be as simple as "Don't get on the elevator with a guy that gives you the creeps" or it might be to duck into a business and ask for help or to call police as opposed to walking into a lonely parking garage. Trust your intuition!

Mr. Boch also discussed post-encounter strategies for dealing with witnesses, police and the media. In short, allay the fears of witnesses and empower them by giving them something to do (call 911 to ask for police and an ambulance and/or to check to see if anyone else is injured).

When police do arrive, your own non-threatening behavior is your final ring of safety. Make sure the gun is holstered. Have your hands up. And follow police commands slowly and deliberately. Expect to get cuffed and have your tools taken away.

Of course, like everyone else, cops are curious creatures. What do you say to them? If you can't remember exactly what to say, tell them your name, that you were in fear for your life or the lives of others and that you want to talk with an attorney before giving any statements. Period. Expect to be taken to jail, but if you're not feeling well (and you probably won't), ask for a ride to the hospital to get checked out.



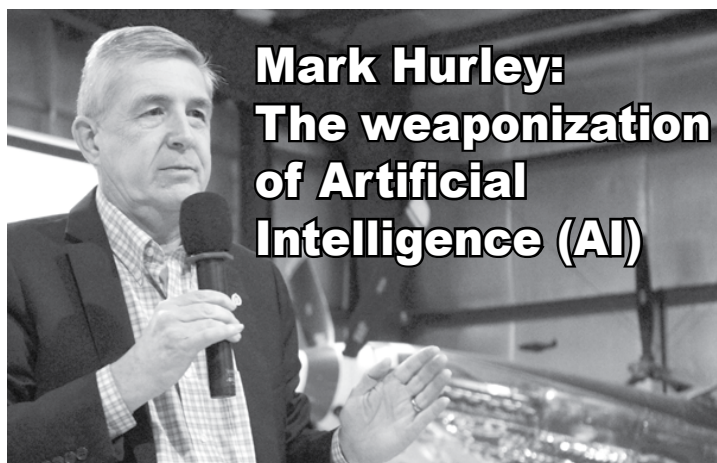
If you can remember what to say, play the role of the victim. "That guy over there was doing 'X'. I thought he was going to kill us. If he survives, I'll cooperate with his prosecution." Point out the evidence, identify the witnesses and then ask for an attorney before answering questions. Also, if you're not feeling well, ask for an ambulance to get evaluated. Don't lie and say you feel like you're having a heart attack. But ask to get checked out.

Again, expect to get a free tour of the local lockup overnight before your attorney can cut you loose.

DO NOT talk with police without your lawyer present. Not even if the cops tease you with a pledge that you can go home for the night. Nothing you say to police can be used towards your exoneration, folks. But everything you say can and will be used against you.

As for interaction with the media: DO NOT.

Lastly, Boch recommended every prudent gun owner to sign up for "self-defense insurance." "Don't care who you use, just get something," he advised the crowd.



Mark Hurley: The weaponization of Artificial Intelligence (AI)

It's already all around us thanks to Big Tech: facial recognition software, the shadow-banning of unpopular beliefs on social media, Google search "results" and much more

By Colonel (Ret)

Mark A. Hurley

USAF/ANG

(GSL) - Artificial Intelligence (AI) has tremendous potential to improve our lives. However, many experts warn us that AI could be used to attack our freedoms. The more we use the digital world in our everyday lives, the more susceptible we become to the abuses of Artificial Intelligence (AI). What's more, it can affect all aspects of our lives.

AI as a "tool" to improve "decision-making" integrates large amounts of data and analyzes that data rapidly - as in "real-time." Like a 9mm Luger or a 12 gauge shotgun, AI can be used by good men to do good, or by evil men to do evil.

Unfortunately, many corporations and governments use AI facial recognition to surveil, track, and target citizens. AI-based systems have been exported to over 80 countries. China leads the way by using facial recognition software and 500 million cameras to monitor its citizens and restrict their movements. Venezuela uses AI surveillance to monitor Catholics and to prevent the church from opposing human rights abuses. The US and Europe use AI to monitor

activity at retail stores, schools, airports and transportation hubs.



AI can be used to create, filter, manipulate, and censor content. AI can find a photo or video of you online and manipulate it to create false information, events, or speeches. ChatGPT has already been used to falsely accuse Jonathan Turley (Fox News Contributor) of Sexual Harassment, and fabricating an article supporting the allegation. Imagine if this happened to you. How would you protect yourself? Imagine if AI was used to falsely accuse world leaders of crimes, like an attack with nuclear or biological weapons. Millions could die as a result of misinformation found in this type of "deep fake."



Your data, records, and biometrics (e.g. facial

recognition, patterns of behavior) have value. These unique personal pieces of information are collected and sold (shared) by and with Facebook, Google, Microsoft, AT&T, Apple, and the US Government without your knowledge.

Sadly, the US is far behind in establishing laws and rules that protect personal data rights and privacy from foreign governments and global corporations. We should be able to withdraw or object to the use of our data at any time. Governments and corporations should be required to seek our "informed consent" to use our data. An appeal process and penalties should be established in law - to protect our Constitutional/Privacy Rights. Until that time, you must get digital copies of all your records, protect your cell phone and computer data, and educate yourself about AI and its abuses and failures.

ALABAMA: Man shot, killed when he answered door with gun in hand

Worried about someone at the door? Don't open it!

by John Boch

(GSL) - Prosecutors are declining to pursue officers who shot an Alabama man after they responded to the wrong address for a shots-fired domestic disturbance call.

How did Ray King, 50, get killed? He answered the door late at night holding a gun. While he may have been well-meaning and protective, he died in part because he chose very poorly.



Ray King in better times.

Yes, your home is your castle. Yes, courts have ruled that you have a right to have a gun in your hand when you open the door. At the same time, just because you *can* lawfully do something doesn't mean it's the wise or prudent thing to do.

But what do *you* bring with you for your garden variety unexpected caller? I'd half expect readers of *GunNews* to answer "a gun, of course." While a gun is very useful, there's a far better answer: prudence and common sense.

In short, there's a million reasons why someone may ring your doorbell and 99% of them are innocuous. Answering the door with a visible firearm carries very big risks and precious few benefits for you. Cops and criminals alike tend to think with the lizard brain when they encounter a person with a gun in their hand, especially if it's pointed at them. While your estate might collect a wrongful death claim if you get shot through your window by a trigger happy cop, there's better ways to earn a buck or two.

There's nothing wrong with having a snub-nosed revolver tucked in your pants or a holstered gun on your hip. No pants? Take a moment to put some on as a public service. Gun or no gun, bring a phone in case you need to call 911.

Secondly, don't be in a hurry to answer the door, especially if things seem the least bit suspicious. Stand back at least six or eight feet from the door, announce yourself and then move. Or better yet, use a Ring or Arlo camera system to see what's happening outside.

Then act as appropriate depending on what you see or hear from the other side of the door.

Remember, contrary to common custom, you don't *have* to open the door to answer it.

Now, I know most gun owners with even half an ounce of situational awareness will think to themselves, "C'mon John. Do you think we're stupid or something?"

Here's the thing: While you might not blissfully answer the door the next time some unknown character knocks or rings the bell, have you coached others in your home to use similar common sense and caution before answering the door? Case in point: my 4-year-old twin boys who haven't met a stranger. Old enough to open the door. Too young to understand situational awareness in any way. (Just ask me sometime what happened at Halloween while we "trick or treated"...)

Encourage them to stop and evaluate circumstances before opening the door. And even if things seem okay, if another member of the household handles door duty, as there's nothing wrong with lurking nearby ready to engage in an instant if things go sideways.

But again, your best defensive preparation: practice situational awareness. Make sure others in your home know to use good common sense before opening the door to an unknown visitor too.

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EVERYTHING'S GOING SWIMMINGLY: 2023 Chicago crime to hit post-covid record, up nearly 60 percent over 2019

(Wirepoints) - There's not enough data yet to make any claims about the impact of Illinois' elimination of cash bail, part of the SAFE-T Act implemented just two months ago. But we do know two facts that spell trouble for the city in 2024:

- Total 2023 major crimes in Chicago will end up about 60% over 2019, a post-covid record, and;
- Cook County's jail population is at its lowest level in more than 40 years.

Despite that, where Chicago crime heads next year is still tough to guess. Has Chicago's "crime wave" hit a peak and begun to flatten or trend down, as murders appear to be doing? Or will Chicago's decarcerationist trend – supported by the end of cash bail and Mayor Johnson's soft-on-crime policies – embolden criminals to do more?



Second armed robbery out front of long-time resident's home since October:

'Telling someone to be aware of their surroundings is not the answer'

Chicago (CWB Chicago) — "This is the second robbery right next to my house in two months," a Lincoln Square homeowner told us over the weekend. He sent an email to Ald. Matt Martin (47th) to express his concerns about changes in the neighborhood he has called home for 25 years, too.

Our reader also sent over footage of the mugging, which occurred in the 4500 block of North Leavitt around 11:55 a.m...

CPD confirmed that the offender displayed a knife and demanded the 34-year-old woman's property. He fled on foot. The woman was not injured, police said.



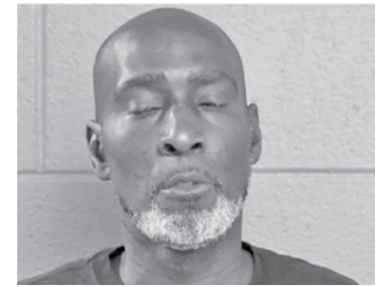
"Telling someone to 'be aware of their surroundings' is not the answer," the homeowner wrote in his email to the alderman. "This is not a 'dynamic,' these are ARMED ROBBERIES in BROAD DAYLIGHT!"

"Criminals know there are no repercussions. They pretty much know they can do what they want. We should not have to live in fear," he continued.

One fatal, the other likely to become fatal

Two horrific attacks near House of Blues

Chicago (CWB Chicago) — A man has died after being punched in the face by a man who asked him for money outside the House of Blues on Wednesday night, according to Chicago police and witnesses. No one is in custody, but the attacker is believed to be a "flier boy" who works River North nightlife districts...



Terrence Slaughter.

On Monday, a 23-year-old woman was critically injured when a man struck her in the head with a log directly across the street from where Long was attacked. She remained unresponsive with head and brain injuries on Wednesday as prosecutors filed charges in the case...

A source familiar with the investigation said the woman was struck in the face with a log outside Burberry, 633 North Michigan. The impact knocked her unconscious, and she fell to the ground. Citing preliminary information, the source said the woman was believed to be a flight attendant who was shopping while on a layover in Chicago.

Mule caught, released under SAFE-T Act.

PREDICTION: He won't make his court date

Chicago (GSL) - Meet Terrence Slaughter. In an incredibly prophetic booking image, he shows what he's going to look like in a few days after losing \$3.5M worth of cartel cocaine to a police bust at Midway Airport in Chicago. Thanks to the new SAFE-T Act, Mr. Slaughter was released without bail and ordered to return to court.

Like that's going to happen. Mexican drug cartels are gonna find this guy and kill him deadlier than Disco.



Wishes for faster police response times

Car thief 'held' for police, repeatedly

Chicago (CWB Chicago) — A Skokie man driving a stolen car suffered a broken nose and a closed head injury after "multiple people" tracked him down and "detained" him for Chicago police at a North Side gas station, according to a CPD arrest report.

Brazen carjackers return to Beverly family residence to steal a SECOND car

Chicago (CWB Chicago) — A Beverly family that is still reeling from an armed carjacking in their driveway was targeted again only 12 days later, police say.

According to Chicago police, two persons of interest were taken in for questioning on Tuesday after thieves made off with a second vehicle stolen from the family that fell victim less than two weeks ago.

Police say the carjackings happened around 7:20 a.m. in the 9300 block of South Pleasant Avenue in the city's Beverly neighborhood.

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Membership application on back page of GunNews



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GSL
NORTHWEST
CHICAGOLAND

Prairie House Tavern
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Buffalo Grove, IL 60089



An ISP Trooper savagely beaten by a motorist on I-55 near Chenoa.

by John Boch

(GSL) - The men and women of the Illinois State Police now find themselves stuck between a rock and a hard place. Do they enforce the Protect Illinois Communities Act (PICA) gun and magazine ban when ordered to and lose the support of people who have traditionally supported the police through thick and thin? Or do they choose to look the other way and risk suspension or even termination for a failure to follow orders?

Second City Cop, a blog run by a Chicago police officer, advised that all police should "Choose wisely." We agree.

Governor JB Pritzker and his merry band of gun control jihadists passed the PICA gun and magazine ban last January. PICA is patently unconstitutional. It disarms the law-abiding. Meanwhile it does nothing to stop gang members who continue to brazenly wield guns in public when not shooting at one another.



Chicago gang members and their toys.

Instead of targeting felon gang members with guns, the Governor sends the State Police to target law-abiding FOID holders

At some point soon, the governor will no doubt order the Illinois State Police and other state police agencies to begin rigidly enforcing the PICA gun control law. Frankly, most of these LEOs will forsake their oath to defend and uphold the Constitution of the United States, just as the pols who voted for this measure did.

Let's face the brutally honest truth: it's a lot easier to arrest someone than to risk one's job, pension and benefits to do the right thing.

Those highly trained state cops will use their verbal judo on you, as though you're an idiot criminal.

They'll tell you that if you play nicely with

them and cooperate they will be "as lenient as possible" with you. This as they're putting you in cuffs, taking your gun(s) and ultimately wrecking your life with a felony conviction.



Gentle readers, a "lenient felony" is still a felony.

And if local prosecutors won't run with the case, then look for Illinois Attorney General Kwame Raoul to appoint a special prosecutor to handle it. This issue is a high enough priority to Pritzker and Kwame for that to happen.



Breaking up is hard to do...

At the same time there's one demographic that, at least until now, has shown itself generally very pro-police. Pro-police to the point of risking personal injury or death to come to the aid of cops in trouble in a meaningful way.

Like this instance involving a Trooper on I-55 near Chenoa from a couple of summers ago.



Note the CCW holder (left) who risked his safety to come to the aid of a nearly incapacitated Trooper.

Sure it's a single incident, but it's one of many that happen each year across our state and the nation. This is just one where we have nice video from which to pull some stills.

If ISP starts making arrests of FOID holders and sending out "compliance details" to start making home visits to "bring gun owners into compliance" with the law, gun owner goodwill towards police in general and ISP in particular will turn to animus. Sure, breaking up is hard to do. But it happens.

Eventually, those compliance details will pick the wrong person to run a compliance detail against. It's going to result in dead gun owner(s). And dead cops.

What's more, this isn't going to help ISP recruiting. The State's cops are already having trouble (and then some) finding enough recruits to fill the seats at the training academy. In the past, most ISP cadet classes ran 50 recruits. Today, they're struggling to graduate 15 (as they did back in September), and that includes lateral transfers from other departments.



The September 2023 new Trooper class.

Second City Cop (SCC) teased what they see happening soon in a piece titled, "Compliance Problems."

Why do we bring this up? Because some asshole – politician or boss – is going to have a bright idea of going after some of these guns. You know, to make an example. Oh, they'll be "careful" about it....some grandmother, probably snatched on by some libtarded relative who always started arguments at Thanksgiving dinner. Granny's house will be raided, Granny will be led out, politely, to a waiting squad car. She'll be taken to a police station, fingerprinted, spend overnight in a cell, see a judge, have her FOID card revoked, be released on no-bail (because Illinois is civilized that way) and she'll get fined.... maybe.

And then the authorities will be emboldened. And someone will pick the wrong house. You know police are exempt from most of this law, but some boss or politician will expect you to enforce it on your neighbors because a mentally ill trans person in Highland Park broke the law.

Choose wisely.



A safer road?

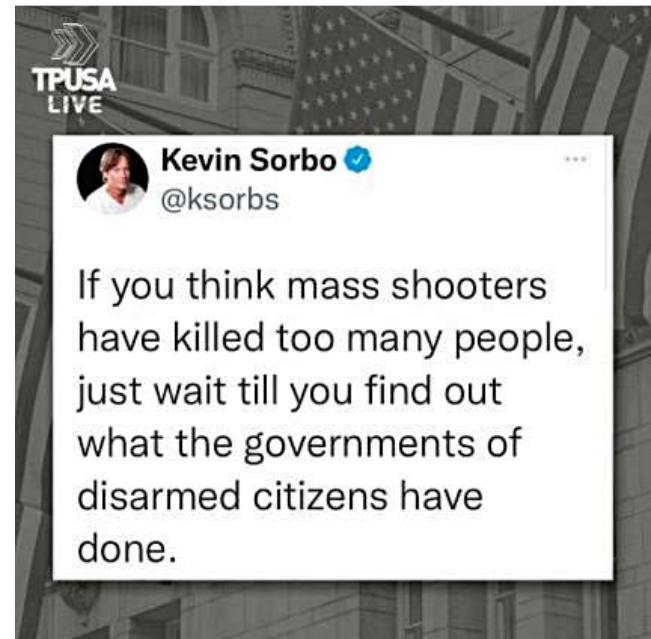
So instead of acting as cannon fodder for a rogue governor bent on ignoring the Constitution when it comes to guns, maybe Troopers should leave ISP. The young ones can lateral into better paying local departments with big signing bonuses and the old-timers might retire a little sooner than they planned. SCC is right: sooner or later, Pritzker's underlings are going to order a raid the wrong house and people are going to get killed.

That's not going to help public opinion towards cops, at least when it comes to people who may have previously been willing to risk injury to come to the aid of a cop in trouble.

In our increasingly bifurcated society, the last thing police need to do is alienate those who have supported them through thick and thin. The criminals already distrust and hate police. If the good guys start feeling the same distrust and dislike, it's going to be a lot scarier place for those guys and gals in "Smokey the Bear" campaign hats.

Right now, Gov. Pritzker looks pretty dead set on enforcing his latest gun control scheme. That's not going to end well for gun owners. It's not going to work out much better for the cops who carry out the Governor's bidding.

As *Second City Cop* wrote, the cops ordered to make arrests should choose wisely.



ALWAYS BE CARRYING: Hamas & Hezbollah sleeper cells are in America... prepare to deal with them & mitigate disruption for you and your family

(GSL) - A madman shot up the town of Lewiston, Maine in the last week of October. Local cops issued a "shelter-in-place" order, leaving local residents even more fearful for their safety. You can bet that those who had guns felt a lot more empowered and at ease than those who didn't. In fact, those who didn't have guns probably wished really hard that they had one as the lunatic stalked the town.



The incident provides a sneak peek of what might happen should Hamas and Hezbollah sleeper cells ever activate here in America.

Thanks to publicly-sourced data, we know Hamas and Hezbollah have at least 3800 trained Islamist operatives in our nation. What can you do about it? Not much besides deal with it.

What might trigger these cells? The US attacking Iran again might do it. Remember what happened the last time we traded shots with Iran? Spoiler alert: In an eight-hour day we sank half of their navy as part of Operation Praying Mantis.

Fortunately open conflict with Iran looks unlikely at this stage of the Gaza War. However, if the cells activated, they would create major chaos in our nation in the short term.

Imagine just 10% of that 3800 decide it's a good day to die – that makes almost 100 4-man cells killing people and breaking things.

They'll hit soft targets for human casualties, including schools, churches and hospitals – especially large hospitals like Barnes Jewish Hospital in St. Louis. (Because they love Jews...)

These terrorists will also attack infrastructure. Rail lines and pipelines are vulnerable to thermite. Taking down ultra-high-voltage transmission line towers and/or large transformers can darken entire cities. Water treatment plants (chlorine gas makes that a two-fer), telephone switching stations, internet nodes and cell tower "brains" will make easy, effectively undefended targets too. There are plenty of other infrastructure including subways, dams and bridges that might appeal to trained saboteurs.



Always be carrying!

GunNews Magazine - 12 - December 2023

While you can't fix the border problem, you can things in your personal life to keep you and your loved ones safe. First and foremost: Always be carrying (ABC!). Maintain your situational awareness.

At home, revisit plans for your family for potential emergencies. Just as you have a plan for your family for a house fire in the night, or a home invasion any time (you do have those plans, right?), you should have a plan for what to do in case cell phones or power goes down and mom and dad can't make it home from work right away for whatever reason.



Don't count on your local grocery store if panic buying has set in.

Have plenty of food and water (or the ability to make potable water) for your family and maybe a few guests while you're at it. How to pay for it? Eat at home instead of hitting restaurants.

Have medications for at least 30 days and 90 would be better. First Aid stuff is your friend.

Does your family have special needs like diapers, baby formula, and pet foods? You know what to do.

If you're reading this, you probably have the personal defense box checked. That's good as first responders may not be available.



Plan ahead so this isn't you.

Have a generator (we've covered how inverter generators are a little pricier, but vastly better than your dad's old gennie) along with the gas to run it for a week or more. Your sump pump, freezers and refrigerator will appreciate it and so will your spouse.

Not worried as you live in a small town? Did you know two of the 9/11 hijackers who didn't fly on that day were studying at Bradley University in Peoria? Yeah, Peoria. The feds picked them up a few months later (better late than never), but I assure you radicalized Muslim terrorists are in Illinois – including Central Illinois and not just Chicago.

For more on steps you can take to improve your self-sufficiency for the short term, visit Ready.gov. It offers a wealth of information about preparedness. Obviously they don't cover the defensive angle, but you've probably got that covered.

A modicum of prudent preparations can help you and your family turn a life-threatening emergency into an inconvenience. Add in some personal defense tools and you can sleep soundly while the authorities work to restore something approaching normalcy.

They should be careful what they wish for... they might just get it.

Leftists at UK Guardian discover that as the NRA fades, more zealous US pro-gun groups rise as aggressive 2A advocates

For instance: Gun Owners of America, formed in belief NRA was 'too liberal', spent \$3.3m lobbying against gun control and boasts 2m members

(UK Guardian) - A zealous gun rights group, even more uncompromising than the once formidable National Rifle Association, is emerging as a force in US politics with a mission to oppose efforts at gun control and ease further America's already lax regulations on firearms.



The NRA has reportedly lost about 1 million members since 2019.

Last year the Gun Owners of America (GOA) spent \$3.3m on lobbying, a record sum for the hardline foe of gun control that now claims over 2 million members and activists, and has previously operated in the shadows of the larger NRA...

Nationally the GOA and its chapters have flexed their lobbying and legal muscles in some significant fights in several states. For instance, in New Mexico the GOA has claimed success in obtaining a temporary restraining order against new gun curbs in Albuquerque...



Assessing the GOA's impact and expanded lobbying efforts, the Violence Policy Center's Rand stressed: "As the NRA has lost its footing, its more extreme members have embraced GOA. The group's expanding influence can only drive pro-gun positions on legislation even further to the right."

[Editor's note: A quick reminder that the Gun Owners of America is one of our co-plaintiffs in Guns Save Life's challenge to Gov. Pritzker's so-called "Protect Illinois Communities Act."]

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Defending your right to self-defense in the courts

Illinois Litigation Update

(GSL) - Governor JB Pritzker and Attorney General Kwame Raoul have their hands full defending the indefensible. That's okay, racist bigots did the same in the 1950s when it came to fighting school desegregation. Freedom and liberty won then and eventually we'll win today as well.

Here's a quick and dirty summary of where key cases are at as we understand it, in fairly simple layperson speak.

Guns Save Life's FOID challenge: We challenged the constitutionality of the FOID Act about five years ago. The courts moved at the speed of smell, but after the *Bruen* decision came down in the summer of 2022, things picked up again. A hack jurist in Sangamon County Court ignored *Bruen* (how many FOID card laws existed in 1791 anyway?) and ruled against us.

In mid-November we filed our formal appeal with the Illinois 4th Circuit Court of Appeals, arguing on the merits of the case. Injunctive relief was denied months ago, but then again the FOID Act has been the status quo for fifty-plus years. Injunctions are usually granted to maintain the current condition while the case is argued.

What happens next? No matter what the Fourth Circuit rules, it will be appealed to the Illinois Supreme Court. That will happen sometime next year. Figure another six months to a year for the IL high court to rule.

If the Illinois Supremes do something stupid, we will likely appeal to the US Supreme Court. While SCOTUS turns away most "certiorari" applications to hear appeals, we're reasonably confident they would take this one.



Guns Save Life's lawsuit challenging Pritzker's Gun & Magazine Ban: GSL is a named plaintiff on the FFL-IL federal lawsuit, along with the Aurora Sportsmen's Club, Gun Owners of America and others.

We won a preliminary injunction but that was stayed by 7th Circuit Appellate Court Judge Frank Easterbrook.

This lawsuit and about seven others were

consolidated solely in the matter of arguing about preliminary injunctive relief to block enforcement by the state.

Our consolidated group lost our appeal of that emergency stay issued by Easterbrook in a 2-1 decision at the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals. This decision was expected.

What's next? I believe at least one of the group of seven has already filed an application for *en banc* review of the decision. In the *en banc*, the entire court reviews a case.

In my opinion, getting our application accepted for *en banc* review is a longshot given how the 7th is very narrowly split when it comes to attitudes on guns and gun rights.

"Why don't you appeal to the US Supreme Court?" you ask. You're not the first. We wouldn't likely make it in front of the US Supreme Court before next fall, so that's out. Plus SCOTUS is very reluctant to weigh in on "shadow docket" issues like preliminary injunctions. The *strongly* prefer to evaluate cases that have already been adjudicated.

The likely outcome? We argue the case on its merits and work our way through the appeals.

BUT WAIT! There's more.

The FFL-IL/GSL/GOA/ASC legal team were granted permission to file an amended complaint challenging the gun registration emergency rulemaking. That amended complaint, along with a Motion for Preliminary Injunction, has been filed in recent days.

It's almost as if we get to file a second lawsuit, and more importantly, give Judge McGlynn a second bite at the apple. Yes, if he rules our way (and we expect he will), we'll likely end up in front of the 7th again. But the more outlandish their legal gymnastics to ignore their role as an inferior court to SCOTUS, the more likely SCOTUS will take action.

In another case, Thomas Maag has a separate federal court challenge to the gun registration scheme on vagueness grounds. That one has already been argued in front of Judge McGlynn and we're waiting for a decision on that. The judge might strike down the law on that case too.

What else has happened?

A federal judge in Northern Illinois dismissed a "felon in possession" case from the federal court, essentially ruling that you can't ban felons from possessing guns under *Bruen*.

Yes, it was an "as applied" meaning it only applies to the defendant in that case, but it's a baby step towards potentially striking down "felon in possession" laws in our state.

Instead of targeting machine-gun toting gang members, ATF seeks to ban America's favorite rifle, the AR-15

By Lee Williams

(Second Amendment Foundation's Investigative Journalism Project) - More than 500 people have been shot and killed in Chicago this year. More than 2,220 have been shot and wounded. On any weekend, Chicago streets reverberate with the sound of fully automatic fire. It remains America's deadliest domestic war zone.



According to one violence tracker, a Chicagoan is shot every 2 hours and 45 minutes. Someone in the city is murdered every 13 hours, and it is no secret who's doing the killing.

There are more than 100,000 documented gang members in the Windy City, and the influx of plastic Glock switches has armed thousands of them with converted machineguns. The plastic switches attach easily to most Glock-type handguns, giving the weapon an incredibly high cyclic rate. The switches are sold openly on a few un-

scrupulous Chinese websites, and they're also very easy to 3D print...

To be clear, innocent lives are at risk.

If anyone at ATF had even half a brain, you'd think they would flood the zone with Special Agents whose sole mission would be to rid Chicago's streets of machinegun-toting gangsters. Unfortunately, the ATF has other plans and priorities.

ATF Director Steven Dettelbach announced this week his intent to ban legally owned semi-automatic rifles, which he called "assault weapons."

Dettelbach's comments came at a discussion called "Gun Violence in America," which was held at Harvard University, of course.

"The president has also said, and I agree, that we should consider and reinstate a ban on certain types of assault weapons," Dettelbach said, adding he also supported the president's call for universal background checks.

Dettelbach's comments conflict with his earlier testimony, which was given under oath before a Senate confirmation committee, when he promised skeptical senators that he would not use his position to advocate for new gun regulations or laws.



Part of our LaSalle County crew at one of the recent parades. Bravo!

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School safety and security

by John Boch

(GSL) - Guns Save Life hosted Rich Hirsch at the Peoria GSL meeting to discuss school security as our main speaker. He reprised a visit from a year before along with some new information.



Rich Hirsch, District 87 in Bloomington Director of Safety and Security.

Mr. Hirsch began with his background, starting with working Death Row in Pontiac prison before he started his career as a Bloomington cop. Once he retired, he took a new role as District 87's (Bloomington) Director of Safety and Security.

He says he's always been a training junkie. Then one day he had a transformative event. He responded to a "shots fired, unknown injuries" call at his son's high school. "I don't remember the drive to the school. The training took over," he explained. Fortunately nobody was injured thanks to a heroic teacher tackling the loser with the gun.

Suddenly, protecting schools became very personal and all-consuming to him. He learned all he could about active shooter responses along with the best practices for securing schools to prevent attacks.

As for meeting his "long lost brother" in John Boch, now a parent of District 87 students, Hirsch said he welcomes responsible, armed good guys and gals at the perimeter of the schools during dismissal time.



He admitted that a vulnerability, shared by so many school districts, involves buses. Especially buses full of kids. That's their nightmare scenario. He's working on training for bus drivers in mitigating risks and reacting to an attempted attack on the bus or an attempted abduction.

Parents' & Grandparents' role

As part of his presentation, he discussed how parents and grandparents can do their own evaluation of security where their kids and/or grandkids attend school. The #1 thing to look for: are all of the entrances locked?

Go early and watch the little things before school or at dismissal time. Little things add up to make a big difference. If you see security failures in your own kids' schools, contact the school administration. If the school administration isn't responsive, contact the superintendent and if that fails, visit

the school board. No sane school district is going to risk the publicity and potential liability of ignoring requests for glaring security shortcomings to be remedied.



Locked exterior doors with controlled access is the single best way to protect kids.

Even if you visit your kids' school and don't see shortcomings, you can still contact the school principal with some proactive questions about the protocols and policies. Hirsch laughed as that was how he met some guy by the name of John Boch who asked some great questions. If nothing else, it will let school officials know that at least some parents are watching and engaged.

If your local schools don't have an SRO, advocate for one to the administrators, the school board and local city government. By the same token, if your kids' school has a school resource officer who isn't proactive, or has one foot out the door awaiting retirement, contact the police chief and have a meeting to share your concerns.

More recently, Rich talked of advancing technology including cameras that use Artificial Intelligence to detect firearms outside of school entrances. They have installed these in Bloomington and if a firearm is detected, the system locks down the entrances, sounds an alarm and notifies the police. "Even if it only gives us twenty or thirty extra seconds, that's lives saved."

Obviously parents and staff have a very vested interest in ensuring that entrances remain secure and local police don't "secure the perimeter" instead of charging into a school if there's a problem.



This is what happens when you have a "gun-free" school (despite state laws which allow for armed staff) with unsecured school entrances and timid local and school district police. Those kids and adults in that Uvalde school waited and bled for 77 minutes before a Border Patrol tactical team took down the killer. 77 minutes.

Hirsch told folks he's available to offer advice and even appear at meetings with school officials to offer advice and advocate for best practices for school safety and security anywhere. He can be contacted at hirschr@district87.org.



Guns Save Life picked up \$200, missed out on \$800 more

Bloomington Gun 'Buyback' disappointed most

Bloomington, IL (GSL) - On Sunday, October 29th, Bloomington, IL offered big bucks for crap guns as part of a gun buyback. GSL (and The Truth About Guns) gave them lots of free publicity and at the 10a.m. start, very nearly two full miles of cars waited in line to cash in. Unfortunately for most, the city ran out of \$50,000 in State of Illinois cash within about thirty cars.



Tensions grew as people waited for four or five hours, without restrooms as BPD moved at a snail's pace of about 10 min-

utes per car. And then the vast majority were sent away empty-handed.

You have to hand it to them though, they tried to be good stewards of the state's cash. If you could identify how your gun fell under the provisions of the PICA gun ban, they would pay you \$500. If not, you only got \$200.

Meanwhile they claimed they would pay \$400 for "ghost guns," but were disinterested in a genuine "ghost" zip gun brought by one of those fortunate enough to get inside.



NOTICE A DIFFERENCE?

ISRA's *The Illinois Shooter* vs. *GunNews*, published within days of one another...

(GSL) - People ask what's the difference between the NRA's state-affiliate organization, the Illinois State Rifle Association and Guns Save Life. Last month's editions of each org's journals illustrates the difference between the two rather dramatically.

So what does the leadership of ISRA think are the biggest issues that Land of Lincoln gun owners need to know about or care about the most? That Quickbooks isn't discriminating against gun dealers any longer? That Biden creates a do-nothing office on "gun violence prevention" headed up by the most inept, do-nothing Vice-President America has every had? And alas, a story about gun control in a country halfway around the world?



Here kitty kitty...

Serval wildcat caught north of Decatur

Decatur (GSL) - Lookie lookie! The Serval wildcat on the prowl north of Decatur has been located and caught. Seems wild kitty wanted some tuna and got caught in a livetrapp between Decatur and Maroa.

Yes, it represents opportunities lost. That cat would have looked really good in a trophy room. From a Facebook post from Macon County Animal Control:

The Serval was captured between Forsyth and Maroa today. It is in the custody of Animal Control and will remain in the custody of Animal Control while legal issues regarding it's possession are addressed. The animal will NOT be euthanized.



Boots' Firewood

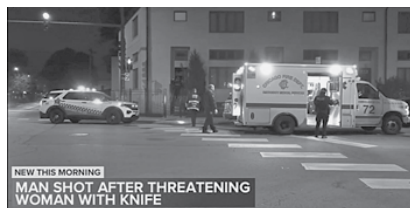
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It's Chicago-centric this month!



Truly a date from hell...

Woman shoots date after he pulls knife on her

Chicago (CWB Chicago) — A woman fatally shot a knife-wielding man early Sunday in Morgan Park on the Far South Side.

The shooting happened around 12:45 a.m. when a 41-year-old man who the woman knew approached her with a knife inside her home in the 11500 block of South Vincennes Avenue, Chicago police said.

The woman then pulled out a gun and shot the man four times in his torso, police said.



No charges after man pulls gun when swarmed by Antifa-types in Skokie

Skokie (Sun-Times) - Charges will not be filed against a man who fired a gun near pro-Palestinian protesters in the north suburbs Sunday night, according to the Cook County state's attorney's office.

The 39-year-old man, who prosecutors declined to name, was released from police custody. In a statement issued Monday, prosecutors said the man, a Firearm Owner Identification Card and Concealed Carry License holder, had "no criminal history."

"After reviewing the evidence, which includes surveillance video and witness statements, we have determined the individual ... acted in self-defense upon being surrounded by a crowd and attacked by some of those individuals," according to the statement.



FAFO, Vigilante edition?

Unknown person shot two of four armed car thieves DRT on Chicago's South Side

Chicago (CWB Chicago) — Two 14-year-old boys were seen trying to steal a car moments before someone shot them dead on the South Side yesterday afternoon.



Chicago police said the boys were found with gunshot wounds in an alley behind the 800 block of East 89th Place around 2:27 p.m. Both were pronounced dead at the scene.

Moments earlier, someone called 911 to report that four people were trying to steal a car in an alley behind the same block, according to CPD dispatch records.

That call was followed by reports of shots fired and a person lying unconscious in the alley. First responders found the second boy lying under a vehicle. Both had suffered gunshot wounds to their heads.



North Side liquor store robbery goes sideways

Chicago (CWB Chicago) — A liquor store employee exchanged gunfire with two men who tried to rob him Wednesday night in West Rogers Park, Chicago police said. No one was injured in the shootout, but the victim was seriously injured when one of the robbers hit him in the head with a bottle.

The robbery began around 10:31 p.m. at California Liquors, 6343 North California Avenue.

Ex-boyfriend couldn't stay away, gets shot dead

Issaquah, WA (KOMO) — Investigators say a man was breaking into his ex-girlfriend's house Friday morning when she shot and killed him.

The shooting happened at 10:25 a.m. at an apartment complex near 2900 NW Steelrake Place in Issaquah.



Harvard Poll: 6 in 10 voters say owning a gun is a necessary part of self-defense against crime

(Breitbart) - A Harvard/Harris poll conducted November 15-16, 2023, shows six in ten voters believe owning a gun is a necessary part of protecting themselves from criminals.

Poll researchers asked: "Do you think crime and safety in your community is getting better, worse, or staying about the same?"

Forty-two percent of voters said "worse," versus 21 percent who said better. (Forty-nine percent of independents were among

those who said crime is worsening.)

Researchers asked, "Do you think you need to have a gun today in case you are attacked by criminals, or do you think owning a gun is unnecessary?"

A majority of voters across the board—whether Democrat, Republican, or independent—answered in the affirmative.

Broken down by party affiliation, 54 percent of Democrats said owning a gun is

necessary, 77 percent of Republicans, and 56 percent of independents.

Moreover, a majority of American voters believe "woke politicians" are a driving force behind crime in the United States.

Fifty-five percent of voters concurred that "Woke politicians are to blame for rising crime," while 45 percent disagreed. An even larger majority of voters—67 percent—support "removing DA's who are soft on crime."

For good reason!

Americans don't trust corporate media

by Mollie Hemingway (The Federalist) - Corporate media have gotten every single major story of the last decade wrong, in big and little ways. Whether it's the 2016 election, the Russia-collusion scam, the threats posed by Covid and response to the same, the effort to destroy Brett Kavanaugh's life and family, accurate discussion of the Biden family business, immigration, abortion, crime, racism, guns, hate crime hoaxes, the economy, inflation, education, the relationship between the sexes, the

radical trans agenda, or a thousand other stories, the media haven't just been bad. They have been absolutely irredeemably awful.

A record-high percentage of Americans (39 percent) have literally no — as in none, zilch, nada — trust in corporate media to "report the news in a full, fair and accurate way," according to Gallup. Another large percentage (29 percent) has "not very much" trust in the media to get the story right.



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Do not register

(GSL) - Gov. Pritzker's so-called Protect Illinois Communities Act requires existing owners of banned self-defense firearms to register them with the State of Illinois before the end of the year.

Dear Illinois residents: Do NOT register your "banned" firearms with the Illinois State Police.

There's ZERO benefit to registering your guns at this time and lots of reasons not to.

If your FOID card is suspended or revoked for any reason, you must surrender all registered guns and you can never get them back. It doesn't matter if it was a clerical error or delays processing your renewal through no fault of your own, you lose your most effective self-defense firearms and accessories.

What else could trigger this? An emergency order of protection, even if later determined to be unfounded, vexatious or worse yet, malicious. Or conditions of pre-trial release over low-level crimes like a DUI arrest.

Add to that a leaked plan by the Pritzker team to seek out new legislation to "close the existing owner loophole" next year. Pritzker & crew are keeping it under wraps until the registration window closes. That proposal would give those who registered their guns, ammo, and accessories 90 or 120 days to surrender those items to law enforcement or face felony charges.

In other words, they're already planning to take away anything you register.

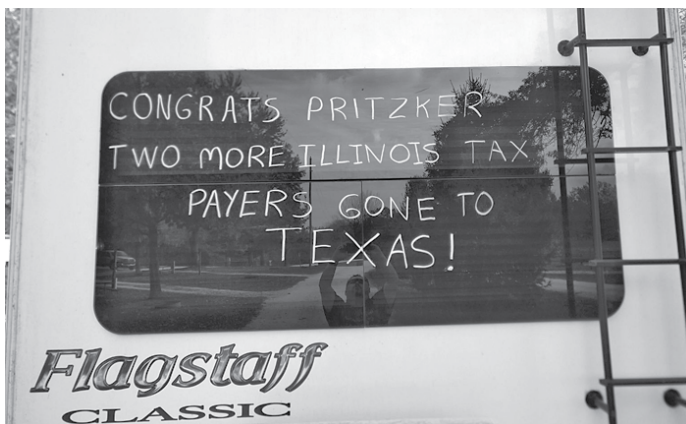
You will have until the last week in December to revisit this decision. Courts may intercede in the meantime. Or you may make other arrangements.

For right now though, do not register anything.

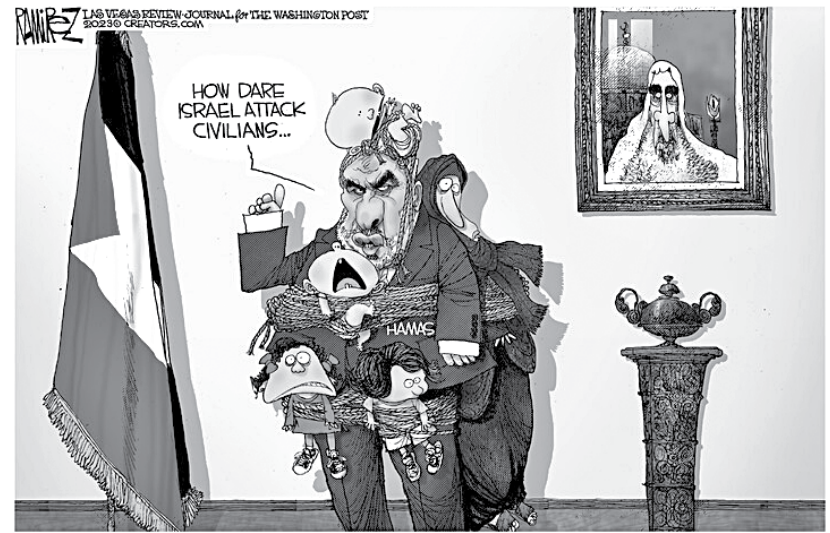
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A picture is worth a thousand words



Jon Talkemeyer
Formerly from Illinois



LETTER TO THE EDITOR: Illinois gun ban is nothing but political theater for JB Pritzker; ISP not serious about it

I was brooding over the things said Monday at the GSL meeting at the Combat Air Museum in Springfield when it hit me.

ISP knows they will never have to enforce PICA. How else to explain their behavior?

They used the absolute minimum of resources on the public information meetings. They've done the same in terms of resources in writing the rules because they know it is a waste of time and resources. This is why they waited until the last minute. They didn't think they would get this far.

Obviously they cannot tell the public they do not plan to enforce the law,

but those just below the senior staff appointed by JB Pritzker can slow-walk the process.

They expect SCOTUS to rule it unconstitutional. Everyone knows PICA is unconstitutional and ISP knows it will be a nightmare to enforce.

This is politics, after all, where JB is playing to his base, not only here in Illinois but nationwide. He must think Biden will fail and Newson will too. At that point, he can play the role of white knight who saves the Democrat party.

If PICA remains the law they will only use it if someone actually breaks a real law. Just like you

said, if someone threatens someone, or does something really bad, they will catch said idiot ASAP or when they are on their way to work. If that happens, PICA will be the least of that idiot's worries.

As you said, Troopers know who is still on their side. For now. Imagine their world if both the crooks and the law-abiding hate their guts. It is lose/lose for them.

Sadly, it looks like our Republicans in IL will stand on their high moral principles and nobly lose once again.

Name withheld
Menard County, IL

GunNews Magazine

*The monthly journal of
Guns Save Life*

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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:

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Let us Help you Uphold your 2nd Amendment Right



If police come to your front door: Don't talk. Don't answer questions. Don't consent to searches. Just don't do it.

Just say 'NO'

by John Boch

We are coming down to the wire on the window for those gun owners who possess now-banned self-defense firearms to register them. Governor Pritzker's so-called Protect Illinois Communities Act demands existing owners register their defensive guns by December 31st.

After that date, there's a slim that Illinois State Police or even local police might come knocking to ask about your guns. Especially if you're one of the 99% of FOID holders who have declined to register your self-defense firearms.

What do you do if the police come to your door? Especially if they're asking about your guns? How do you handle that.

It's easy: Don't talk to the police. Don't answer questions. Don't consent to searches.

Why?

First and foremost, *nothing you say or do* can help prove your innocence in court. But anything you say *can and will be used against you* at trial.

So don't talk with the police. Don't answer questions and don't consent to searches.

Police interrogations - cops like to call them "interviews" because it sounds less intimidating - are stressful. You've likely never been interrogated, but rest assured the person on the other side has likely conducted hundreds if not thousands of criminal interrogations after attending countless hours of training.

Even if you're innocent, take the Fifth. If in doubt, ask an attorney.

Searches

Police have fairly wide latitude when it comes to searching your person or your vehicle in public. Yes, they need probable cause (PC), but for a veteran cop, developing PC is not very difficult at all. What's more, the side of the road is not the place to argue over probable cause.

Instead of just searching, the savvy cop will ask for consent first. If consent is given, that makes it a LOT harder for a defense attorney to get the evidence thrown out later.

So even if you have nothing illegal in the car, politely and repeatedly decline any requests for consent to search. If the requests become badgering, ask the officer if you're free to go. If he or she says "yes," leave immediately. If the cop says anything but "yes," decline to answer *any* further questions until

you speak with your attorney.

If you're Mirandized with the classic warning we all know from TV shows, no matter how much the officer tries to minimize their significance, *stop talking aside from immediately asking for your attorney.*

Your home.

Your home and the curtilage (the yard around the house) are relatively inviolate to police. Unless police have a warrant, police can't snoop around on your property looking for evidence and they can't (legally) stick their foot in your door to stop you from revoking their implicit license to "knock and talk."

You have no legal obligation to answer the door if the police knock. Also, you have no obligation to answer their questions. You can, however, order them to leave and they should leave. They may not go, but if they stay, any evidence they develop will likely get tossed in court.

Oh, they may say they'll be back with a warrant. That's fine. Until they have that warrant their hands are tied.

Yes, they may tell you that they will be "as lenient as possible" if you cooperate. That's verbal judo baloney. A "lenient" felony is still a felony. Make them try to get the warrant first.

Don't be afraid to answer the door if police knock. They may have important information. But if it's a criminal investigation, like asking about whether you've registered some guns (or not registered some guns) decline to make any statements at all then ask them to leave.

Make sure other household members are on the same page too. Having no comment to cops at the door will be completely undermined if your spouse or minor child consents to a search if you're not home.

Just say "no!"

You don't have to be a jerk, but be affirmative in both your statement that you wish to plead the Fifth to questions and a firm "no" to searches.

Why?

Again, *nothing you say or do* can help prove your innocence. But anything you say *can and will be used against you* in court.

So shut up! Don't answer questions from the police in criminal investigations.



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Meeting highlights.
Continued from page 3.

likes to start his students, in part because there are no rules when you're fighting against a predatory criminal. Yes, dirty tricks, if you will. He calls it "self-offense." Tactics like gouging eyeballs and ripping testes off an attacker are nice starting points. From there it just goes downhill for the bad guys.

Bill D. won the gun - a Maverick 88 social shotgun appropriate for taming all manner of predators of the two- or four-legged variety.

Rantoul.

Harry Rouse from Pawprints Ministry joined us to talk about the wonderful therapy dogs their organization trains and makes available to those in need of warmth, love and compassion.

They train the dogs and handlers for 12-18 months before running through their certification process. The Lutheran Church's therapy dogs were what precipitated this new organization which, thanks to volunteers, helps to train dogs for a fraction of the price - roughly \$4300 vs. \$20,000 or more for the Lutheran organization's animals.



Harry Rouse from Pawprints Ministries.

Mr. Rouse shared all sort of stories about the positive impact the dogs have had with people needing warmth, love and compassion from young kids experiencing trauma to residents of nursing homes.

They brought a couple of their dogs in training and they proved very well mannered.

For Tech Time we talked about lever-action rifles, from Marlins to Winchesters and some of the history behind them.

Ron Beatty also encouraged folks to help get good, pro-gun people on the ballots through running petitions and helping in their campaigns. We've watched the anti-gun sorts mobilizing while the pro-gun conservatives stay at home because they feel like their votes won't make a difference. It's time for the rest of us to be heard.

Lois M. won the 50/50 and John B. won the

Henry Lever-action .22 rifle. Nice. Courtesy of Freedom Firearms in Rantoul.

Charleston.

We welcomed Chad Berck as our main speaker with the story of how he was **attacked and stabbed 19 times in his front yard - and then arrested.**



Chad Berck.

Chad described how the neighbor James DeWitt escalated his harassment over a period of months. Then one night the neighbor, drunk, attacked with a Smith & Wesson folding knife. Berck was stabbed 19 times while trying to restrain his attacker and calling out for help.

That night Normal PD arrested Berck. He got run through a very uncaring system treated like a criminal. It took many months before Berck, with the help of GSL's John Boch and a few others, was able to get his FOID and CCW restored. Ultimately, after treating him like a criminal for months, a judge finally apologized for the justice system not protecting the real victim, Chad Berck.

Some of the audience questions proved very insightful. "What would you do differently?" Berck said he wouldn't say anything to police. "I was clearly the victim. It happened in my front yard. I never dreamed they would arrest me!" But they did. USCCA not only paid for the attorney (Pat Finnegan) but also looked out for Berck's mental health as well. He lauds USCCA.

Another question from the audience asked if he ever regretted not killing his attacker in self-defense when he had the opportunity.

Berck thought about it for a moment before saying that if he had killed his attacker it probably would have been worse still for his family, and especially his three teenage sons. One or two of his kids are still seeing a therapist as part of recovering from the incident. As it was, Berck described the event as "really, really hard for my family."



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Biden isn't just going after 'rogue' gun dealers, he's targeting ALL gun dealers

By Lee Williams

(Second Amendment Foundation's Investigative Journalism Project) - Shortly after taking office, Joe Biden weaponized the ATF and then announced a zero-tolerance policy for "rogue gun dealers," who he claimed were responsible for increased violent crime rates in many major U.S. cities.

"Rogue gun dealers" the President explained, are those Federal Firearm Licensees who willfully transfer firearms to prohibited persons, and/or who refuse to cooperate with a tracing request from ATF.

"Merchants of death are breaking the law for profit," Biden said in June 2021. "We will find you and we'll seek your license to sell guns. We'll make sure you can't sell death and mayhem on our streets."

Now there is ample proof Biden's ATF is targeting *all* gun dealers, not just the few who meet the president's "rogue" definition. FFL revocations have skyrocketed, but most for only clerical errors. Gun dealers have noted a tremendous difference

between how they were treated by the ATF before Biden took office, and how they are treated now.

The latest victim was a longtime gun dealer on the East Coast whose Federal Firearms License was recently revoked. The dealer didn't want his name used in this story. "I may want to pursue this matter through federal court after the current administration leaves office," he said.

Before Biden, ATF was interested in fixing minor mistakes to make it easier to trace a firearm, if necessary. Unfortunately, that has changed. "The engagement difference between agents four years ago and one year ago is drastically different," the dealer said.

He and many other dealers complain that ATF changed their definition of what constitutes a willful violation. ATF now says that every gun dealer has been told to submit only proper paperwork, so any error – even clerical – constitutes a willful violation of ATF rules.

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Hollywood hates it... viewers love it.

Muzzle: A powerful movie about honor, made by people who don't hate Americans or Christians

by Mark Judge

(Stream.org) - When a movie on *Rotten Tomatoes* has a high audience approval rating and a low critical rating, it usually means that conservatives will like it. It's usually a movie for the people and not for the "elites."

Such is the case with *Muzzle*, a film that was released in September and is now out on DVD. *Muzzle* is a good solid piece of movie-making created by that rarest of breeds: Hollywood people who don't hate normal Americans. The film is rated 16+. Criminals are depicted as awful people, drugs as soul-killers, and moms and newborn babies as healing miracles...



Working Through Trauma Together

The plot is simple: a police officer suffering from PTSD overreacts during a bust. His fellow officer, a dog, is killed during the episode. The cop is placed in leave but rather than get any rest, he adopts a new dog and goes in the hunt for the criminals who ruined his life. The new dog, Socks, has also been traumatized, by criminals who once kidnapped and tortured her. Socks and Rosser are going to help heal each other as they look for the bad guys...

Real Femininity Is Strength

Representing love and the feminine is Mia (Penelope Mitchell), Jake's girlfriend who lives across the hall. For years now, liberals have tried to combat the idea that women are nurturing healers. Instead, they promoted "empowerment," which means increasingly making women ape male behavior at its worst. Women in movies now drink, cuss, have dangerous sex and absurdly battle and defeat antagonists five times their size. (Harley Quinn? Please.)

We know that the real alternative to "toxic masculinity" isn't passivity, but stubborn moral strength. Mia gets tired of Jake's rage, at one point walking out on him — a subtly acted scene where Mia tells Jake to get his act together as the elevator doors slowly close and Jake can do nothing but watch.

Crucially, Mia does not just embody feminine beauty, empathy and toughness. She ultimately brings new life. In a film like *Brokeback Mountain* children are seen as almost intolerable — ear-splitting, dirty, a burden. In most other modern Hollywood films they are not part of the plot at all, or are props to sit passively while the parents feud.

In *Muzzle*, the child who arrives in Jake's life is shown as a miracle that can save a life. Whereas Socks is the mirror of the raw, violent animal Jake, the newborn is a mirror of a new life in God, who heals all trauma. It is the most pro-life message imaginable...

In following his conscience he finds not only justice, but literally new life. Hollywood is usually selling us garbage, so you should vote for something better and check out *Muzzle*. It's a cool movie made by people who don't hate you.

When democracy turns to tyranny...



The armed citizen *still* gets to vote.

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Muzzle in a safe direction, finger off trigger!

IL hunter dies after getting shot in face in hunting accident

Panora, IA (ABC7) -- An Illinois hunter has died after being shot in the face by someone in his hunting party, an official with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources said Saturday.

The department said in a

written statement that its law enforcement arm is investigating the shooting death of Seth Egelhoff, 26, of Chesterfield, Illinois.

Someone called 911 around 1 p.m. Saturday to report that Egelhoff had been shot while hunting

waterfowl in the Bays Branch Wildlife Area, just north of Panora, according to the statement. Emergency medics rushed Egelhoff to a spot to be picked up by a medical helicopter, but he died en route, the department said.

Calendar

GUN SHOWS...

November

Nov 25-26: Central IL Gun Collectors New Berlin. Sangamon County Fairgrounds, New Berlin, IL. Patrick Keen oldcarbines@gmail.com.

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

Nov 26: Lake County Gun & Sportsman Show. Antiosch VFW, Antioch, IL. Mike Quist 847 548-0433.

December

Dec 2-3: Chillicothe Sportsman's Club, Chillicothe, IL. Steve Risinger (309) 208-1010.

Dec 2-3: Will County Gun Show. Will County Fairgrounds. Peotone, IL. Mike 630 254-0221.

Dec 9-10: Bloomington Gun & Knife Show. Interstate Center. Bloomington, IL. ECA Jeff Edwards (618) 367-3118

Dec 9-10: Peoria Gun & Knife Show, Peoria, IL (Exposition Gardens). Pope Creek Shows. Mark Craft 309 371-3593.

Dec 10: Kane County Sportsman's Show, Kane County Fairgrounds, St Charles, IL. Mick Stout (815) 217-2266

Dec 16-17: Springfield Gun Show. The Illinois Building on State Fairgrounds, Springfield. ECA Jeff Edwards (618) 367-3118.

Dec 16-17: Kankakee Gun Show, Kankakee County Fairgrounds Kankakee, IL. Mike (630) 363-3131.

GUN CLUBS

Foosland Sportsman's Club

Shooting opportunities open to the public at the Foosland Sportsman's Club.

Second Tuesdays: 6p Tuesday night trap shoots

Fourth Saturday: Trapshoot starting at 10 AM.

All open to the public.

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

DeWitt County Sportsman's Club

First & Third Sundays: Breakfast at 8:30a.m. Open to public!

Sullivan Gun Club LLC.

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

Oak Park Sportsmen's Club.

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

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.

FRIENDS OF NRA...

Saturday, January 27: Southern Illinois Regional. Thelma Keller Convention Center, Effingham.

Saturday, February 3: Logan County, Knights of Columbus, Lincoln, IL.

Thursday, February 22: Salt Kettle FNRA. St. Mary's Hall, Westville.

For more info, visit FriendsOfNRA.org.



Chicago braces for a repeat of the DNC 1968 Convention next year...

Chicago (GSL) - Every man, woman and child can count on two things: death and taxes. Now, with the Democrat National Convention set to land in the lawless city of Chicago in August 2024, we can all count on something else: POLITICAL VIOLENCE. It's guaranteed to be a total crapshow outside The United Center will Democrats will meet to coronate someone to run for President of the United States. Whether that will be Michelle Obama or Joe Biden remains to be seen, but the left-ist kooks will be out in force.

The moral of the story, if you live or work, the days ahead of the convention and the convention itself (August 19-22) would be a fine time to either hunker down at home or to take a few days off from work.

Police, already stretched thin, will be even thinner outside of the security buffer. No doubt Antifa and crew will make it their mission to penetrate that buffer and disrupt the convention itself.

It's so obvious to happen that the mainstream media is already writing about it.

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Mayor Adams' latest scheme: parents as school security

New York City (NY Post) - The Adams administration just ditched a new class of rookie school-safety officers — and Hizoner says maybe parents should step in and take up the slack.

Talk about intersectionality!

Here we have a decline in public safety colliding with a national border breakdown — and, as usual, the collateral damage falls on folks doing their best just to get by.

NY State moves to seal criminal records

(Just The News) - More than 2 billion criminal records could be sealed under a bill signed into law by New York Gov. Kathy Hochul, which is expected to add to Republican claims that the state's Democrats are too soft on crime.



NRA: Expect ammunition prices to increase

Supply, meet demand. Demand, supply. (NRA/Shooting Illustrated) - Comments during Ammo Inc.'s Nov. 9 earnings conference call indicate enthusiasts can expect cartridge prices to increase for the rest of the year and continue to do so through 2024...

One caller asked if the recent increase in ammunition sales reflected a seasonal trend, rather than an unexpected market shift. Ammo Inc. CEO Jared Smith answered, "So we would expect anywhere between a 5- to 6-percent increase and a gentle trend coming from September into October. This was a pretty sharp trend in that 14.7 percent. And that's really because these events happened in the second half of October, it was really sharp incline after the events in Israel and Hamas that we saw the uptick."

Good news!

Lake City still fulfilling 5.56 for civilian contracts

(GSL) - Lake City Army Ammunition Plant put up a Facebook post saying that "Joint Munitionis Command has not changed its policy regarding commercial production at Lake City." They also indicated that they have "not cancelled commercial contracts" as had been previously reported by a number of outlets.

Lake City provides about 30% of American "civilian" 5.56 ammunition.



LA Sheriff revokes carry license of man who shot at armed robbery team

Los Angeles (Red State) - The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department notified Vince Ricci, the Los Angeles Mid-City homeowner who opened fire on armed suspects who tried to get into his house, that his carry permit had been revoked...

Ricci previously railed that the LAPD — the department investigating the case — carried out "sloppy police" work, including allegedly not picking up the casings scattered near his home as evidence.



Gee, I wonder why?

Israelis applying for gun licenses in record numbers

(The Reload) - More Israeli citizens have applied for firearms licenses in the last month than in the previous 20 years, according to an Israeli government official.

National Security Minister Itamar Ben Gvir announced on Wednesday that his ministry has received more than 236,000 new applications for firearms licenses since October 7th. Of those received applications, he said 31,048 conditional permits for private weapons have already been issued.

Simcha Rothman, Chair of the Israeli Knesset's Constitution, Law, and Justice Committee, recently told *The Reload* that... "The yearly average is 40,000 or 50,000. In less than a month, it's three times that."

Tweet of the week: Amtrak

(GSL) - In a "tweet" directed at passengers, Amtrak Northeast described riot-related delays at Washington's Union Station as "First-Amendment related delays." Did their social media person used to work for CNN?

Due to First Amendment-related events, customers are encouraged to allow extra time to get to Washington Union Station to board their train.

POLL: Half of Dems in America support disarming women, minorities & gays

(GSL) - There are some polling numbers out that should scare all of us. According to Gallup, almost exactly half of Democrats in America today — probably the same people who wanted to throw people into jail for refusing to get vaccinated, questioning vaccine effectiveness or refusing to wear masks — support banning handguns in America.



Do they want women to be at the mercy of stronger men? Do they want gays to get bashed and blacks to get oppressed and lynched? Or are they just not thinking things through?



'Kindly asking' worked out well for people inside, didn't it?

Lewiston, Maine murder spree reportedly happened in 'Gun Free' zones

(Crime Research) - As we have pointed out many times, mass murderers prefer defenseless victims, gun-free zones. Ninety-four percent of the mass public shootings occur in gun-free zones (updated, detailed discussion here). And [the scumbag Maine mass murderer's name redacted] is no different. He apparently picked two gun-free zones to do his attack.

24 Mollison Way, Lewiston, ME 04240, reads: "We kindly ask that you refrain from bringing firearms in this building and we would appreciate it if you left them in your vehicle. Please keep our atmosphere family-friendly." [The scumbag Maine mass murderer's name redacted] murdered seven people (one woman and six men) there.

Two sources tell us that the Schemengees Bar & Grille Restaurant, located at 551 Lincoln St. Lewiston, Maine, was also a gun-free zone, but we don't yet have a picture of the sign there and thus no proof...

Unfortunately, even liberal concealed carry states have gun-free zones, which is what virtually always happens when these attacks in places where people can carry. About 6% of mass public shootings occur in places where guns are allowed. Despite all the media coverage of this mass murder, no one is mentioning that we have seen yet another attack in a gun-free zone.



The picture here is from 2021. The sign for Just-in-Time Bowling Alley, located at

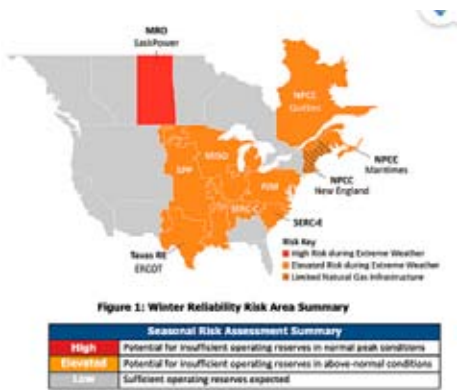


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It feels like the boy that cried wolf too many times about the grid going down...

Time for a generator? New warning says half of US at risk of Grid Down this winter.

(ZeroHedge) - The 2023-24 Winter Reliability Assessment (WRA) report by the North American Electric Reliability Corp. warns of a heightened risk of "insufficient energy supply" during extreme cold spells. This concern extends over large swaths of the US and Canadian power grid, affecting approximately 180 million people. Those living in the highlighted regions should consider securing backup power generation sources.



Power grid operators from Texas to New England are "at risk of insufficient electricity supplies during peak winter conditions," the report said.

The report continued that the reliable operation of the Bulk Power System (BPS) and the availability of fuel for natural gas-fired generators are at risk during severe, widespread cold snaps. It said that recent winter incidents have shown that over 20% of generating capacity can be knocked off online

by freezing temperatures in areas of North America that are not accustomed to such cold. When power supplies are limited, BPS operators may experience a sharp rise in demand due to the increased use of electric heating systems in colder temperatures.



According to Bloomberg, this year's WRA is "even more dire than last year's report, which said a quarter of Americans were at risk of cold-weather power emergencies. It includes for the first time some of the most densely populated areas on the East Coast, a region that relies heavily on natural gas as it transitions to renewable energy. Gas generators there widely failed during a brief but fierce winter storm last December because they broke down or couldn't get fuel..."

For those living in states now susceptible to elevated risks of grid-down events due to cold weather, consider a home generator. Additionally, securing a Starlink for backup internet could make life easier.



Doormat warnings... in case you can't read them:

WARNING: Do not use mat as a projectile. Sudden acceleration to dangerous speeds may cause injury. When using mat, follow directions: Put your right foot in, put your right foot out, put your right foot in and shake it all about. This mat is not designed to sustain gross weight exceeding 12,000 pounds. If mat begins to smoke, immediately seek shelter and cover head. Caution: If coffee spills on mat, assume that it is very hot. This mat is not intended to be used as a placemat. Small food particles trapped in fibers may attract rodents and other vermin. Do not glue mat to porous surfaces, such as pregnant women, pets and heavy machinery. When not in use, mat should be kept out of reach of children diagnosed with CFED (Compulsive Fiber Eating Disorder). Do not taunt mat.



"Spider in the shower? Drama, drama, drama..."

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Access to legal support for those who are victims of subject to inappropriate or unjust firearm-related arrests, as well as arrests following justifiable use of force in self-defense incidents.

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