

**WE DEFEND YOUR RIGHT  
TO DEFEND YOURSELF.**

COMPLIMENTARY. TAKE ONE.

# GUNNEWS



SECOND AMENDMENT NEWS AND MORE

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

**PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY GUNS SAVE LIFE, INC.**

VOLUME 31, NUMBER 12 DECEMBER 2024



## Dear Moms Demand: Meet America's next Director of National Intelligence

Our next Director of National Intelligence, Tulsi Gabbard, in her spare time before her nomination. Moms Demand Action should be afraid. Very afraid.

# GSL WON! TRUMP WON!

- Our lawsuit wins at federal district court; PICA gun ban ruled unconstitutional
- Donald Trump won his race for President; pro-gun nominations everywhere

(GSL) - It took 18 long months but we won our lawsuit challenging Governor JB Pritzker's beloved gun and magazine ban in federal court. We joined our friends at Firearms Licensees of Illinois, the Aurora Sportsman's Club, Gun Owners of America and others in the suit.

Unfortunately, federal court judge Stephen McGlynn issued a 30-day stay on his decision to allow time for the State of Illinois to appeal. And IL Attorney General Kwame's crew did appeal it within roughly an hour of its release. In other words, they expected to lose.

One of the two judges who ruled against us last fall at the preliminary injunction phase of the case has retired. Her slot on that three-judge panel will be filled at random. Given how the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals panel is pretty much evenly split between those who follow court precedent and the rule of law and those who hate guns, we stand a

50/50 chance of getting a good assignment. Meaning if we get a "rule of law" judge assigned, it's far from a sure bet that McGlynn's preliminary stay will be extended.



The decision came down just days after Donald Trump soundly defeated Kamala Harris. Harris liked to say "We're not going back" at her rallies, but Americans decided they preferred to go back to peace and prosperity.

With Trump's election and the Republicans taking control of both the US House and Senate, Trump will have an opportunity to unwind the Biden/Harris policies in short order. He's picked some stellar nominations for administration officials who will get things done. Most are very pro-gun. Few are Beltway insiders.

Even better, we look forward to Trump's solidly pro-gun nominees to the US Supreme Court, as well as the lower federal courts over the next four years.

As if that's not winning enough, there's little doubt that Vice-President JD Vance will make a very strong candidate for President in 2028. Unlike under a Harris administration, gun owners will have an opportunity to build upon the bulwark of the US Supreme Court to ensure our gun rights are protected, not eroded, for generations to come no matter who wins in future elections.

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## December 2024

- **Quincy:** Last Wednesday: **Dec Cancelled**, January 29  
Eagles Club, 3737 N. Fifth Street, Quincy
- **Chicagoland:** Last Sunday: **November 24**, December cancelled, January 26  
American Legion Post 1198, 1631 Western Ave. Chicago Heights  
*Exhibits and conversation here at 4:30pm. Program at 5:30pm.*
- **Sangamon County:** First Monday: **December 2**, January 6  
SCHEELS, 3801 S. MacArthur, Springfield
- **Pontiac:** First Tuesday: **December 3**, January 7  
Pontiac Sportsman's Club, 18663 4-H Park Road, Pontiac
- **Decatur:** First Wednesday: **December 4**, NO JANUARY MEETING  
Coz's Pizza, 1405 East Village Parkway, Mt Zion (*Program at 6:45pm*)
- **Peoria:** First Thursday: **December 5**, January 2  
Barrack's Banquet Center, 1224 Pioneer Parkway, Peoria
- **Danville:** Second Monday **December 9**, January 13  
Ela's Restaurant, 1111 E. Voorhees St., Danville
- **Champaign County:** Second Tuesday: **December 10**, January 14  
KC Hall, 1001 N. Ohio St., Rantoul
- **Northwest Chicagoland:** Second Wed: **December 11**, January 8  
Prairie House Tavern, 2710 Main St., Buffalo Grove  
*Dinner and conversation here at 5:30pm. Program at 6pm-ish.*
- **Mattoon:** Second Thursday: **December 12**, January 8  
The American Legion Post 88, 1903 Maple Ave, Mattoon
- **LaSalle County:** Third Thursday: **December 19**, NO JAN MEETING  
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.



From left, at Rantoul: Our regional director Dick Brandt, Roger Claxton the 50/50 winner and Ben H. who won a Ruger 10/22. Congrats and God bless!



Family friendly!



Mike Boatman credits God and guns for saving both his life and his mother's life.



Happiness is winning a new gun! Tom from Chicagoland and his new Taurus that he won at one of the GSL meetings the previous month.



Jay Swidler from Above Biometrics came down to talk about state laws, electronic fingerprinting and more in Peoria. If you have problems with your FOID or CCW applications, he's your man.

## Greg Bishop dazzles in Decatur

by John Boch

(GSL) - Guns Save Life welcomed a real journalist to our Decatur meeting as our main speaker. Greg Bishop, an editor with *The Center Square* news outlet as well as host of a growing daily political blog on *America's Talking Network* currently on YouTube. He shared his background and his present day job offering unbiased reporting on political issues that the public desperately wants.

In this world of legacy media outlets which are basically staffed by Democrat operatives with bylines, Bishop described himself as a member of the "free press." He didn't go to "J-School" - journalism school. Instead, he parlayed a communication degree into honest work for independent news media after getting his start in radio. Today, his audience and readership has grown by leaps and bounds, homing in on some territory formerly controlled by the mainstream media that works to propagandize the public with the narrative of the day.



Greg Bishop makes a point in Decatur.

"The public is thirsty for reliable, trustworthy information," Bishop noted. And that's what has allowed *The Center Square* to grow and flourish and now *America's Talking Network* of podcast shows that's right on the cutting edge of what people want.

He's developed a reputation for asking tough questions, especially of our state's political leaders. Those pols - especially JB Pritzker - don't like that.

He closed by asking folks to support news organizations that you find are honest and trustworthy. You don't need a paid subscription to read *The Center Square* or to watch *America's Talking Network* videos, but donations help pay the bills and the staff. As such those donations are certainly encouraged. At the very least, bookmark *The Center Square* website and subscribe to *America's Talking Network* YouTube page. That will help both with traffic and provide you invaluable information.

He began his presentation praising Guns Save Life's monthly publication *GunNews*. "This is the epitome of the First and Second Amendments combined," he said. He added that Guns Save Life, as an organization you can trust, is something gun owners should all support. Moreover, there are precious few news publications that offer a pro-firearms rights perspective.



Li Arellano gave a great presentation in LaSalle urging engaged people like GSL members to motivate the not-so-engaged folks to vote and participate. He also talked about the heroic school resource officer who stopped a would-be mass murderer from carrying out a massacre at Dixon High School.



History came to life in Danville as Lucas Judd showed folks examples of field rifles from the two World Wars. Here he has a .30-40 Krag.



This man has an allergy to stupid.



At Danville, Bonnie B. won the very nice Canik METE MC9. She's pictured with Hank Judd from BFF Firearms in Danville.



Jim Johnson, a Civil War skirmisher, shows one of his Civil War era rifles. Skirmishers aren't re-enactors. Skirmishers shoot live rounds for score.

## Natalia was back - and class was in session!

by John Boch

(GSL) - Former prosecutor and now criminal defense attorney Natalia Ogurkiewicz returned to Central Illinois to address our audience at SCHEELS in Springfield.

She's been there before, teaching folks how to avoid becoming a victim of the criminal justice system after using force in self-defense.

She works for the McDermott Law Group which specializes in criminal defense cases involving self-defense. They work these cases nationally and have a reputation for, well, not losing. They are affiliated with US Concealed Carry Association, although they'll take cash (retainers start around \$30-40k - and that doesn't cover the trial retainer) or other self-defense legal coverage like Armed Citizens Legal Defense Network.

Recapping her earlier visit, she strongly recommends not saying anything to responding officers or investigating officers. Instead, wait until you've talked with your attorney.

"STFU," she says. Shut the heck up. "They will twist anything you've said," she explained of your statements immediately after a use-of-force incident - and that includes "how" you said what you said even

on a 911 call. Were you mad? Angry? Vengeful? Flippant? Take most of that away by keeping your words to the absolute minimum. When it comes to the police, say NOTHING after asking to speak to your attorney.



Natalia Ogurkiewicz.

On this night, she reviewed cases and how despite righteous claims of self-defense, how some who used their guns in self-defense now find themselves in lockup until trial.

One was a road rage case on I-55 in DuPage County. You thought DuPage was a law-and-order county? Think again. A man fired a shot at pickup truck trying to run him off the road. He's now in jail charged with serious crimes.

Another case involved a 54-year-old woman who shot a 30-year-old man who attacked her and the rest of her entire family at an elevator

at the hotel. She's charged with murder.

"You don't get anywhere giving info to police," Natalia warned the audience. So shut up.

The audience threw some really good questions at her. Asked about warning shots, she said, "it depends." At least from a legal perspective it's high risk.

What do prosecutors look for in deciding whether or not to charge cases? First up, it's the context of the incident. Did the "good guy" exhibit shady behavior or escalate conflict?

Secondly, and this is a big one: What are the headlines going to look like?

She closed by noting that criminals don't just stay in "poor" neighborhoods. They often like to travel to where the money is - places where productive folks live, work and shop. "This is why who you have for a State's Attorney is really important."

What else is important? Have USCCA or some legal defense coverage so you don't bankrupt yourself if you find yourself charged by a headline-driven prosecutor.



## Meeting updates/ Christmas Season cancellations

### December.

**Quincy.** #RealSanta was unable to attend as our main speaker given his other Christmas Day obligations. Meeting cancelled for Christmas.

**Chicagoland.** Meeting cancelled for Christmas. Enjoy your holiday weekend.

**Geneseo.** (UPDATE: We have closed the Geneseo chapter per GSL President Rich Goodall. We may return at a later date if things change. For now though, there will be no more GSL Geneseo meetings.)

### January.

**Decatur.** January 1 falls on the first Wednesday next year. We will NOT have a meeting on New Year's evening. See you in February.

**LaSalle County.** Jamie's Outpost is closed during the month of January so we will NOT have a January meeting. See you in February!

## Meetings you don't want to miss!

While almost every GSL meeting has good speakers worth hearing, some are "drop what you're doing" *must-see*. We have two opportunities to learn from professionals how to avoid going to jail before, during and after a deadly force encounter.

**Pontiac, December 3rd.** US Law Shield program attorney **Michael Johnson** will be in Pontiac for a presentation on self-defense and the law.

**Peoria, December 5th.** **Dave McDermott**, the nationally known criminal defense attorney known for winning self-defense cases nationwide, will join us in Peoria to teach you how to avoid jail in the aftermath of using force in self-defense.

### GOOD NEWS:

#### New GunNews distribution hub in Springfield!

Collins Plumbing and Heating in Springfield is closing at the end of the year with the owner's retirement. **We have a new distribution hub for GunNews at Phoenix Autobody at 4047 W Jefferson Street in Springfield.**

Questions? Please contact **Joel Gain** at **217 632-3267**.

*Governor is no superhero, acting more like a tyrant at times*

## Pritzker appoints himself democracy's savior

by *Mark Glennon (WirePoints)* - It would be comically hypocritical if weren't so tragically destructive. Illinois governor JB Pritzker last week appointed himself co-chair of a new group to save democracy.

It's called Governors Safeguarding Democracy, formed to counter the incoming Trump Administration and Republican Congress. "What we're doing is pushing back against increasing threats of autocracy and fortifying the institutions of democracy that our country and our states depend upon," Pritzker said of the effort. "I've said it once, and I'll say it again: No attempts to restrict the freedoms and opportunities of Illinoisans will be tolerated."



*AI image of JB Pritzker the Super Savior of Democracy by Grok clearly shows AI has a long way to go. JB Pritzker hasn't spent a day in his life in a gym - or away from a really big fork.*

No governor in memory in any state has thumbed his nose at democratic norms and constitutional rights more consistently and flagrantly than has Pritzker...

- Through 43 consecutive, monthly emergency orders, he suspended ordinary government function and ruled by executive fiat, trampling on a list of

constitutional rights, justified through censorship and suppression of opposing scientific views. Similarly, he issued 38 consecutive emergency orders enforcing his personal decisions about assistance and protection for illegal immigrants.

- He says he wants there to be a legal cause of action against anybody who says something false, which would be a flagrant violation of established First Amendment law.
- He has signed off on multiple policies and bills that violate constitutional rights to free speech, such as Illinois' new law banning discussion of political or religious matters at company meetings, now being challenged in federal court. Another example is a Pritzker-signed law attempting to muzzle pro-lifers that was ridiculed by a federal court as "stupid" as well as unconstitutional, prompting Attorney General Kwame Raoul to give up trying to defend the law.
- He stood aside while his party's operatives filed lawsuits to keep Donald Trump and Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. off the ballot for the presidential election.
- Even the Democratically slanted Illinois courts couldn't accept a law Pritzker signed earlier this year attempting to knock only Republican candidates off the ballot through a retroactive change in slating procedures. The Illinois Supreme Court in August upheld a lower court ruling that the law flatly violated the constitutional right to vote.

*[Editor's note: You mean restrict freedoms like those Pritzker signed into law banning commonly used defensive firearms, including America's favorite rifle, the AR-15 and the magazines that feed them? You mean those attempts, Governor Jelly Bean?]*

# Sauk Trail



Fairgrounds - Princeton, Illinois  
Open to the Public! FREE PARKING. Lunch available.

Buy - Sell - Trade / Modern & Antique

## 2025 Show Dates

>>> NOV. 30 & DEC. 1, 2024 <<<

January 25 & 26, 2024 March 29 & 30, 2024

Open to the public

8:30 - 4p Saturday, 8:30 - 3p Sunday

Dealers: 8' tables \$30 for up to two days, payable in advance.

Tables must contain 90% arms & related items

Dealer times: Friday unloading and set up starting at 1pm, Sat. & Sun. open at 7:30a.m.

Overnight accommodations, Free Parking, Lunch available on premises

NEW DEALER SPECIALS.

Contact: Marla P. 815-252-4842

## Sauk Trail Gun Collectors, Inc.

PO Box 543, Chillicothe, IL 61543 PH. 309 689-1934

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!

Here are a few of the drawing guns!

Pontiac December: Tisas 1911 .45

Pontiac January: Rock Island .45

Sangamon January: Sig P365 Optics Ready 9mm

Sangamon February: Mossberg MC1s 9mm

Sangamon December: Ruger LCR .38+P

Decatur December: S&W Bodyguard 2

Decatur January: Silver Eagle Arms Sporter 20ga.

Danville December: S&W Bodyguard 2

NW Chicagoland November: Tisas 1911 Duty .45 ACP

NW Chicagoland December: Shield Plus 9mm

NW Chicagoland January: Mossberg

Maverick 88 Cruiser

Peoria December: Girsan .45

Peoria January: Bodyguard 2.0

Rantoul December: Tisas 1911 .45

Rantoul January: Ruger LCP Max .380

Rantoul February: Rossi RP-63 .357

## Executive Director's Report

# It's nice to win for a change

by John Boch  
GSL Executive Director

The election finally came and Americans chose Donald Trump as our next President. Some worried that the Rapture might have happened as fifteen to twenty million Biden voters from 2020's election simply just disappeared. I think we all know what happened to them. There's still cheating going on (including in Wisconsin) but it's not like it was in 2020.



GSL's John Boch.

### Many folks didn't vote.

Unfortunately, a whole lot of gun owners, sportsmen and others failed to cast ballots even though turnout seemed notably higher than "normal." I know GSL members pretty much all voted for pro-gun, pro-freedom candidates. Unfortunately, most of Illinois' 2.4m gun owners aren't Guns Save Life members. That's too bad. Our state would be a very different (and safer) place if most gun owners belonged to GSL and were as informed as your average GSL family member.

Your mission, over the next couple of years, is to educate and motivate those gun owners, hunters and outdoorsmen (and women) in your circle of influence. Consider signing them up as a "sign up a friend" member of Guns Save Life when you renew your own membership. It's just \$20 and they'll get *GunNews Magazine* each month which will help inform, educate and energize them to take action to do the same with those in their circle of influence.

Pro-gun candidates in Illinois didn't perform as well as we had hoped. Many candidates worked their tails off, but Governor Pritzker dumped tens of millions into this cycle, buying a lot of races.

### Did Kamala Harris' antagonism towards gun rights cost her the election?

Antagonism towards self-defense and gun ownership comes at a price. Remember the largest growing segment of gun owners these last few years come from non-traditional demographics... ones the Democrat party has counted on for generations.

Speaking of Kamala, the week before the election she advocated strongly for adding six justices to the US Supreme Court and eliminating the Senate filibuster rule to do it. The day after the election, the *Wall Street Journal* asked a sober question: Should Donald Trump add six justices to the US Supreme Court? Seems fair, right?

### OUR GUN BAN CHALLENGE: WE WON!

Our challenge to Governor Pritzker's beloved gun and magazine ban was successful. Federal court judge Stephen McGlynn ruled in our favor, for the most part, striking

down most of the dreaded law. However, the win came with a big asterisk: McGlynn put a 30-day stay on his injunction blocking enforcement to allow Kwame and crew to appeal.

My take: it's not a clean win, but it's still a win. Be thankful for it. Moreover, "our" lawsuit (in conjunction with FFL-IL, the Aurora Sportsman's Club, Gun Owners of America and others, was instrumental in that it was the only lawsuit that attacked the ban on parts as part of the "right to repair." None of the other suits did that and McGlynn included that in his decision.

While you can't recover your guns just yet from the water's edge of the lake, river or pond where you had that tragic boating accident, but rest assured the time is coming.

### GunNews: The tip of the spear

Greg Bishop, an editor with *The Center Square* and a podcast talk show host with *America's Talking Network* called *GunNews* the epitome of both the First and Second Amendments. He lauded the publication for its excellent content. (Thank you, Greg!)

### Election fallout is ugly, even violent.

The mainstream media is done. Their viewership/readership continues to plummet. My advice to the Democrat operatives with bylines working those gigs (for now)? Learn to code.

The future is alternative media, podcasts and unbiased journalism.

What else is done? Woke. DEI. ESG. Green New Deal. Transing our children. All of that Leftist divisiveness and communist ideology poppycock is on the way out.

The Leftists in America always portrayed themselves as fighting for the underdog and championing the cause of the working man. Today, they merely call you a fascist, insurrectionist, far-right extremist or my favorites: Nazis and Hitler.

Today's Leftists have more in common with Nazis (National SOCIALISTS) than any conservative I know. Now many of them have woken up, pun intended, and are starting to realize that some of their causes might be on the wrong side of history and righteousness. That's causing a lot of consternation and heartburn.

Meanwhile some lunatics still cling to crazy. One black woman named Cidney Green wishes young white girls would get raped and impregnated by big black men. Another equally repulsive looking white woman posted two videos suggesting her plan to buy a Glock to murder white men at night.

Then there are the crazy white women shaving their heads, pledging no sex for four years, leaving their husbands and abandoning their homes and families because of Trump's victory. At least they're not killing family members like a couple of deranged Leftists did.

This nation needs a break from the divisive rhetoric of the Left or we will see more violence. We need healing for these people, not more gasoline thrown on the fire by political bomb-throwers.



## ATTENTION GSL MEMBERS...

Coming soon, Guns Save Life will begin regularly emailing our members updates with news and information. When appropriate, we'll also share alerts where we feel our members can make a difference. It's an added bonus for our members and another reason to join GSL.

Our goal is to replicate and improve upon what our friends over at The Illinois Rifle Association do with their Thursday updates from their Executive Director Rich Pearson.

## Senator Lil' Dickie Durbin gets a major attitude adjustment with the election

(*Shooting News Weekly*) - The implications from last week's election results are quickly reverberating through the halls of Congress. The U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee held a hearing this week titled *How Bump Stocks and Other Conversion Devices are Amplifying the Gun Violence Epidemic*, and Chairman Dick Durbin (D-III.) struck a noticeably different tone than his usually combative anti-Second

Amendment style, seeking instead to offer to work together with Republicans in the new Congress when majority control flips in January.

"I hope to be able to work with the new incoming chairman of the Judiciary Committee, Chuck Grassley," said Chairman Durbin.

### LOOKING FOR A PLACE TO SHOOT?

## DeWitt County Sportsmans Club

Clinton, IL



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

**JOIN US! Open to all.**

*See Calendar for Shoots & Events (p. 22)*

### >>>> Memberships Available. <<<<

Come join a growing, ever-improving club, with three independent ranges and permissive rules which allow shooters to practice from holsters, double-taps, movement and so forth. Centrally located on Route 10, six miles east of Clinton, IL (15423 State Highway 10). Great people and a warm atmosphere. Facilities include *three* ranges, clubhouse, a *real* publicly-accessible restroom and more. **Dues are currently \$70/year plus two work days (\$45 each on deposit, prepayment required). Over 65 dues are \$55 and no workdays.**

Download an application at [dewittcountysc.com](http://dewittcountysc.com) or by mailing a request to DCSC, PO Box 322, Clinton, IL 61727.



Pritzker: 'If you come for my people, you come through me.'

**Border Czar Tom Homan: 'Game on'**

Chicago (Fox32 Chicago) - President-elect Donald Trump's pick to be the "border czar" has issued a pointed response to Gov. JB Pritzker's recent pledge to keep Illinois a sanctuary for undocumented immigrants, suggesting the state's policies will not deter ICE enforcement.

In an interview on conservative Charlie Kirk's podcast, Tom Homan responded to Pritzker's statement, in which the governor declared, "If you come for my people, you come through me."

Homan replied, saying in part: "Game on. We've got no problem going through him. I've got 20,000 men and women in ICE who are going to do their job with no apology,"

Homan said. "And if any governor wants to stand in the way, go ahead and do it. We'll see what happens. We're not gonna be intimidated."



"Game on, JBI!" Tom Homan.



Lil Durk pictured with Mayor Brandon Johnson. Durk Banks was Johnson's largest mayoral campaign contributor behind the Chicago Teacher's Union. He's also pictured with former mayor Lori Lightfoot and former Team Soros Cook County prosecutor Kim Foxx.



GSL's reporting on the 'UNHOLY ALLIANCE' between gangs and Chicago politicians spot on with Lil Durk's arrest... an unholy alliance ignored by mainstream media

**Mayor Brandon Johnson's largest campaign contributor behind CTU nabbed by feds for conspiracy to commit murder**

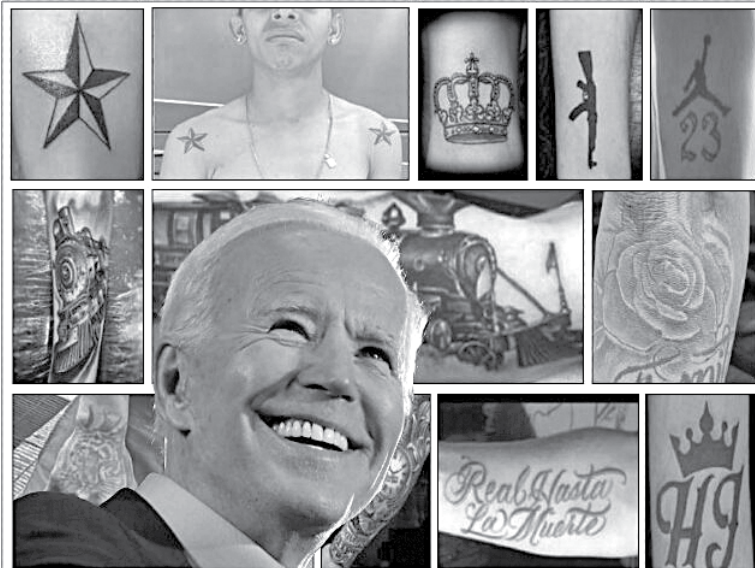
Chicago (CBS) — Grammy-winning Chicago rapper Lil Durk has been charged in a murder-for-hire plot and is now in custody.

The FBI said the Englewood neighborhood native was arrested Thursday night in South Florida as he attempted to flee the country.

Lil Durk — the stage name of Durk Devontay Banks of Chicago — was arrested in Broward County, Florida. Investigators believe he targeted rapper Quando Rondo.

Rondo was the intended target of a 2022 shooting in which gunfire missed him, but killed his cousin, 24-year-old Saviya'a Robinson.

The arrest came hours after five people associated with Lil Durk's music business were also accused in the case. Those other members of Durk's Chicago-based rap collective, "Only the Family" or "OTF," have also been arrested and at least two more arrests may be forthcoming, according to court documents that have been filed.



**Chicago PD arrests Tren de Aragua gangbangers, then Illinois' SAFE-T Act lets them walk right out of jail**

Chicago (Breitbart) - The Chicago Police Department reported having arrested [dozens of] members of the dangerous Tren de Aragua Venezuelan street gang, only to find the courts releasing many of them right back out onto the streets.

Dozens of these gang members have been arrested over the last two years for an array of offenses, including drug dealing, human trafficking, gun charges, theft, and other charges, the New York Post reported.

However, thanks to the recent state-wide implementation of the SAFE-T Act, which eliminated cash bail in most cases, many of these gang members were released right after being arrested...

Chicago has been engulfed in crime at the hands of organized gangs of migrants with retail theft, home invasions, catalytic converter thefts, and carjackings skyrocketing since 2022, with arrests of Venezuelans an especially growing trend.



Continued on page 21.



**GROSS' BURGERS**

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Danville, IL 61832  
(217) 442-8848

LEGAL DEFENSE FUND

**Legal Defense Fund Donations...**

Folks, we're fighting the good fight for your right to purchase, possess and transport the most effective firearms for personal defense.

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

To fund either our Illinois litigation team or the national lawyers:  
SADEC.org  
2nd Amendment Defense and Education Coalition (SADEC)  
P.O. Box 300  
Waterman, IL 60556  
(tax deductible)

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)



Work still needed in the Land of Lincoln

## Trump wins! Time for change in Illinois.

By Nancy Hayes

Illinois Freedom Alliance  
Election Integrity Chair

Donald Trump beat the odds to win a second term as President of the USA. On the ground in Illinois, the election results were not so good news.

Pro-gun Republicans in our state lost a lot of races. Gun-hating Dems won Congressional races thought to be competitive by roughly ten points thanks in big part to Dark Money and out of state contributions. In other races, Pritzker's massive campaign cash donations beat countless hours of hard work done on the ground by the candidates and volunteer campaign workers.

Even with all that, Donald Trump out-performed the last two elections in votes, indicating that our efforts are garnering positive results. We still have plenty of work to do. We must do better coaxing out disaffected and disinterested pro-gun and pro-America voters - and we need to sign up young people and get them excited to vote "America First."

### Time for a new playbook

If pro-gun candidates really want to make a difference and have a voice in Springfield they will need new strategies - including a new "playbook" and rules. The old Republican playbook used by cocktail conservatives is a recipe for not only hangovers after all those cocktails but failure at election time.

If squishy-on-gun-rights RINOs won elections then Republicans would be in the supermajority here in our state. Instead of winning, they seem to prefer to tell potential voters how they want to "reach across the aisle." Is it any wonder why conservatives stay home instead of voting for cocktail-sipping elitists?

We need to work smarter with better strategies, not harder using the same failed playbook. By implementing some of Charlie Kirk's *Turning Point USA* proven strategies we will win. These include:

- spending more time in pro-gun conservative areas with "disengaged" voters
- registering thousands of young people, especially young men, to vote instead of trying to sway low-information voters easily manipulated by the media's Leftist-loving narratives.
- throwing the Republican "consultant" playbook out the window and shunning, not hiring, its practitioners. Tell them to buy their own booze.
- studying the demographics that helped make the electorate 3% more masculine, while de-emphasizing racial politics instead of pandering to them.
- concentrating on more "low propensity to vote" working class people, the welder, electrician, carpenter, police officer and others currently not registered to vote or those who registered but haven't voted.
- using Josh Shapiro's "Motor Voter" plan - again focused on more "low propensity" voters
- and finally, embracing new mediums for reaching and messaging to these inconsistent or non-voting younger people with a pro-gun, pro-freedom message on podcast interviews, etc.

### The work for election integrity never ends!

Do we need to continue to work on all areas of Election Integrity? Absolutely, especially with a strong focus on voter rolls, vote-by-mail and noncitizens voting.

First, as long as ERIC (Electronic Registration Information Center) oversees our voter rolls, as a state, Illinois will continue to have major potential issues when it comes to voter rolls and vote-by-mail ballots.

Second, as long as we have electronic voting machines by companies like Dominion Voting Systems, Illinois will also continue to have the potential for fraud, especially after knowing how easy it is for these machines to be "hacked" as we saw from the 2020 election in Georgia. Pa-

per ballots and hand-counting votes would go a long way to blocking fraud.

Third, as long as we have a "season" of voting including early voting and provisional voting, beyond just ONE day - Election DAY - Illinois will have susceptibility for fraud issues.

Fourth, as long as we have Vote by Mail, there's a big potential for fraud.

Finally, HAVA (Help America Vote Act) and NVRA (National Voter Registration Act) are both very outdated and need to be drastically improved. It is time to change the NVRA federal forms to include documentation of American citizenship.

In the future, let's work smarter in the upcoming local elections. Let's learn from our past experiences and share knowledge and support to build stronger pro-gun campaigns.

Let's use the Dan Schultz precinct strategy and get PC's in every position in every county. Let's also work together - both party leadership and grassroots - hand in hand!

TOGETHER we CAN do this!

May God Bless America and God Bless Donald Trump!  
#MAGA

Contact the Illinois Freedom Alliance ([www.illinoisfreedomalliance.us](http://www.illinoisfreedomalliance.us) or call 309-377-1776).



[IllinoisFreedomAlliance.us](http://IllinoisFreedomAlliance.us)



And states like Illinois give them all manner of benefits: free food, housing, health insurance, phones, walking around money, and a host of other 'social services'

## The numbers of criminal illegals blue areas like Chicago have released is... criminal

(PJ Media) - Since Joe Biden took office, sanctuary jurisdictions have released over 22,000 criminal illegal aliens ICE was seeking back into communities to victimize Americans.



This data illustrates why Donald Trump's promised "Operation Aurora" to arrest and deport criminal illegal aliens appealed to voters. Jessica M. Vaughan explained the ICE data for the Center for Immigration Studies (CIS), noting that, in 2015, an ICE report found that 23% or almost one-fourth of all criminal illegal aliens released by sanctuary jurisdictions were later arrested again for committing new crimes within eight months of their release

from custody.



And considering that over 660,000 criminal illegal aliens - including murderers, sexual criminals, thieves, burglars, and kidnappers - are in the U.S. enjoying the hospitality of Joe "Open Borders" Biden and Border Czar Kamala Harris, it's unlikely those statistics have improved since 2015. In fact, it's entirely possible that more than 23% of released criminal illegals now commit crimes within eight months of release.

[Editor: No, they commit a LOT more crime, it's just they are caught within eight months. And to those who say "most are law-abiding," how much illegal alien crime is acceptable to them? And are they only okay so long as it's someone else's family that's victimized by illegal alien criminals?]



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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



Opinion | Yes, it's okay to compare Trump to Hitler. Don't let me stop you.

From The Washington Post, December 20, 2023.

Comparing someone to Hitler shows a gross ignorance of history

## When a Comparison Goes Badly

Over the last eight years or so, a major politician in our country has been compared to a now-dead dictator and mass murderer – responsible for the deaths of tens of millions of people. These person-to-person comparisons reveal more about the person making them, than the assertion itself, almost always revealing how little the person who uttered it knows of history. So, if you get your news from the good folks on The View, SNL, washed-up stand-up comics, or Morning Joe, let's get into some facts.

The two subjects in question are DJT and AH. You already know DJT and either like him or don't like him. So let's concentrate on AH. But first, let me provide the conclusion, so this is a spoiler alert. No American, living or dead, is comparable to AH. No Republican, no Democrat, no Whig, no Libertarian, no Green Party, no US Communist Party, no Symbionese Liberation Army member, no Black Panther Party, not even an adherent of the Know Nothing Party, has ever remotely been similar to AH.

But I digress. You already know that AH was born in 1889 in Germany, and if you believe that you are incorrect. He actually was born in the small town of Braunau am Inn, Austria that year. I know Braunau is right on the border with Germany, but you're either born in a country or you aren't. AH didn't move to Munich, Germany until 1913, in part to avoid arrest for evading his military service obligation to Habsburg, Austria. Then came The Great War, which we know today as World War I. He apparently changed his view about military service, joined a German army unit in Bavaria, fought primarily against the British, was wounded twice and received several awards for combat.

You probably know that AH was one of the founding members of the National Socialist Workers' Party (known as Nazi for short), attending his first meeting on September 12, 1919 in Munich. Actually it was the German Workers' Party then, but more importantly he attended the meeting not as a new member, but as a clandestine German Army confidential informant. Yes, he was a spy, tasked with gathering intelligence on political movements potentially hostile to the Bavarian authorities. But in maybe the most dramatic switcheroo in history, within a month, AH went back, joining the organization as the 555th member.

Over the next 14 years, AH maneuvered his way into being the head of his party, started an uprising in Munich at a beer hall (but not the famous Hofbräuhaus as is often claimed), was arrested, spent time in prison and according to Wikipedia – that bastion of historical accuracy – wrote his view of the world in his book "My Struggle," which you know as *Mein Kampf*. Actually, he dictated the book to a cellmate, but that's a minor historical inaccuracy. Years later, retired field marshal Paul von Hindenburg, who was now Germany's President, selected AH as Chancellor. Eighteen months later, AH ordered a series of political extra judicial executions within the Nazi Party intended to consolidate his power. No one knows for sure how many died – it could have been hundreds – but what is known is that the event quickly became known as the "Night of the Long Knives," a phrase that even today is still used for any elimination of former associates from power.

The next year, Germany started the road to war marching into the Saarland in 1935, Austria in 1938, Suden-

tenland (now part of Czech Republic) later in 1938, Bohemia and Moravia (now parts of Czech Republic and Slovakian Republic) in 1939, Poland later in 1939, and then Belgium, Netherlands, France, Denmark, Norway, Yugoslavia, Greece, etc., etc., etc. The American, compared to AH, was in power for four years and invaded no countries.

AH would fit right in with a whole bunch of people today in his hatred of Jews. Of course, today's haters camouflage their views by cutesy, rhyming phrases such as "From the River to the Sea," while AH just said Judenfrei or Judenrein which meant a one-way train trip to Auschwitz, Treblinka – and you know what happened there. Our guy? Well, his son-in-law is Jewish. His daughter converted to Judaism, and my guess is that their three children, his grandchildren, are part of that religion. Outside the family, our guy moved the US Embassy in Israel to Jerusalem, after previous presidents – Republicans and Democrats – for seventy years had promised to do just that, but had never delivered.

And DJT never murdered one person, although at least one person tried to murder him, apparently with the blessings of quite a few. According to MSN (Microsoft Network), a poll taken by a Rasmussen affiliate indicated that 28% of people who identified as members of one political party thought the U.S. would be better off if one candidate for president had been successfully assassinated last July 13, 2024. Now, not even those folks compare to AH. But they certainly are "useful idiots," a phrase attributed to Bolshevik revolutionary Vladimir Lenin – a man who certainly was comparable to Adolf Hitler.

They can save all volunteer firefighter lives if there are no volunteer firefighters

## New OSHA Emergency Response Standards could shutter 80% of volunteer fire departments

(PJ Media) - The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) is seeking final approval for a massive overhaul of the "Fire Brigade Standard" that's been in place for 50 years. The 608 pages of new rules, quite simply, would mean that about 80% of volunteer fire departments in the United States would be forced to cease operations.

"Over 85 percent of America's fire departments are either volunteer or mostly volunteer. Nearly 700,000 of America's 1,056,000 firefighters are volunteers or paid per call firefighters," a group of lawmakers, led by Sens. Jerry Moran (R-Kan.) and Christopher Coons (D-Del.) said in a statement. "The proposed rule would apply to more workers than the existing standard and would require fire departments to furnish new reports, trainings, equipment, and health services."...

Take training: the proposed regulations demand 80 hours of training for firefighters. For volunteers, that means two full weeks of work, squeezed in here and there, for no money.

"If I tell some of them younger guys that, 'Hey, you can't spend the night with your wife and kids. You got to go

to training tonight,' they might tell me to go pump sand," said Joel Cerny, chief of the Linwood, Nebraska, volunteer fire department...



Like most rural volunteer fire departments, the Natoma, Kansas, department uses old fire protection gear. Proposed OSHA rules could require Fire Chief Keith Koelling to replace it all with new gear every decade, costing tens of thousands of dollars.

This is what happens when you have a government run by coastal elites with little or no knowledge of how most of the country lives and works. OSHA will hold public hearings beginning this week on the impact of the new regs on small-town and rural volunteer fire departments.



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## Compare and Contrast: Tales of two pairs of two great guns

by John Boch

(GSL) - Over a recent great day at the range (is there ever a bad day at the range?), I had the good fortune to compare and contrast two pairs of similar guns, back to back at the range.

Now, I'm all about defensive shooting, so this isn't about precision marksmanship or noise-making. This is about putting minute-of-bad guy rounds on target. Enjoy a couple of hot takes to help you decide if one or more of these guns are for you and your roster.

### Taurus 856 Defender vs. the Rossi RP-63

I loved the old Taurus 85 clones of S&W J-frame 5-shot revolvers. Now, they come with six round capacity and are known as the 856s. Taurus has a subset known as the "Defender" series which includes night-sights: in this case a big, glowing front sight blade. I'm wearing one right now, running .38 +P 158 gr. semi-wad cutter hollow-points even though it will eat .357s.

Thanks to a rave review by a friend at *Shooting News Weekly's* blog, I picked up a Rossi RP-63 as my birthday present to myself. Taurus bought Rossi's name and the 63 is basically (but not exactly) a K-frame S&W with a 3" barrel just like the 856. Both guns feature triggers and actions are peers to modern production S&W revolvers in my experienced opinion... and you can have either the 856 Defender or the RP-63 for half the price or less of a Smith. As in \$375-400 out-the-door.

The difference between the 856 and the 63? No night sights on the 63, but then again none of my other wheelguns have them (yet). The action isn't quite the same between the two, with the 63 easily shooting 3" groups at 10 yards where the 856's were consistently tighter. Both are capable of sub 1" groups if you manage your trigger press carefully but the Taurus wins this aspect by a nose as well. (For the record, I also shot a "tuned" S&W this same day and a carefully managed trigger press netted a ragged one-hole group at 10-yards. Then again, that's a \$1200+ gun in today's world thanks to a Tom Kilhoffer's action job.)

However, that night sight on the Taurus 856 puts it head-and-shoulders above the new Rossi revolver (or almost any revolver without night sights), but both the Taurus and Rossi are very capable and competent defensive guns. Even better, both are affordable for those on a budget.

### Ruger LCPMax vs. S&W Bodyguard 2

S&W's new Bodyguard 2 is like a 2/3rds size defensive pistol, only it packs the punch of a .380. I had the chance to shoot it against the Ruger LCP Max which I consider the finest deep-concealment / backup gun on the market at the moment. The Bodyguard 2 gave the champ a run for the money but didn't knock the Max off the perch. For many though, it might be a better choice.

Both guns come with night sights and hybrid double/single stack mags that hold 10 or 12 rounds of .380 caliber love. With XTP hollow point loads, the .380 consistently delivers about 12" of penetration which most consider ideal for man-stopping purposes. Other loads are hit or miss. Don't agonize too much over the brand of hollowpoint, just don't use way too over-penetrative ball rounds.

Both guns have excellent triggers right out of the box. Life's too short for lousy triggers.



Smith & Wesson's Bodyguard 2.

The Smith is just a little taller and longer but maybe a sliver thinner. Fair warning: The Smith might not fit in pockets that the LCP Max would snuggle into. At the same time the Bodyguard 2 has a very comfortable grip contour and will appeal big-time to those without bear-paws. Think petite women, younger shooters or those who just don't want the weight and bulk of a "full size" defensive pistol like a Glock on their hip.

Give it a few months and I think you'll be able to find plenty of inside-the-waistband holsters for the Bodyguard 2 to allow it to be carried in a primary defensive gun role for those extra sensitive to bulk, weight and printing. Yes, some people carry in non-permissive environments at work. A (formerly) hidden .380 in the hand beats the biggest, baddest .45 out in the car.

As an aside, does the Bodyguard 2 also give the Sig P365 in 380 a similar run for the money? They're also comparable in many ways: trigger, night sights, mag capacity, size. The 365 is also a tiny gun like the LCP Max so give it a try where you can rent guns. Also, for those with hand-strength issues, the P365 in 380 is definitely a good choice!

## MICHAEL BOATMAN | Credits God, guns for his life today

"Evil exists," began Mike Boatman at his presentation in Peoria. You can ignore evil at your own peril, but it exists. He shared three instances where he credits God, good situational awareness and/or a gun for saving his life.

Early in life he learned the value of steadfast determination and a willingness to use deadly force. Per Mr. Boatman, his biological father wasn't a good guy in any way. In fact, he was very abusive to Boatman's mom and him. In fact, Boatman called his father evil. One day the estranged evil man invited himself over to the family home and forced his way inside telling his now ex- that he was there to administer another beating.

A 14-year-old Michael Boatman grabbed his 20-gauge shotgun and loaded it. With a steadfast determination, he said he pointed it at his father's crotch and told dear old dad to get out or he would blow his balls off. Dear old dad decided he should probably retreat.

"When evil shows up, the time for talking is over," he said.

Another time, while out shooting trap with a friend at a public range, he and a friend noticed a morbidly obese short man with a young girl, maybe 5 years old, with him shooting on the pistol range. At first Boatman and his friend didn't think much of it until the big guy

brought the little girl and his .357 over to where Mike and his friend were shooting trap.

The man pointed the big revolver at Mike's face and said he was going to kill Mike. But the guy just stood there twitching and squirming. A voice in Boatman's head that he attributes to a higher being told Michael that the guy was trying to work up the courage to pull the trigger. Boatman said he told the man, "If you're gonna shoot me, then shoot me. Otherwise leave."

Sure enough the man lowered the gun and left with the little girl. Asked why he didn't shoot the man as soon as he lowered the pistol, Boatman said he didn't want to burden the little girl with seeing her father getting shot and/or killed.

The last incident involved a day with some friends out bird hunting. They had all had a great day and only one of them had a single shell left. Walking back to the cars, that friend had a negligent discharge with the gun pointed towards Boatman's head. "A voice told me to look to the left NOW!" He believes that was God warning him. Because as soon as he looked to the left, the other man's shotgun discharged, narrowly missing his head.

He believes God still has plans for him which is why he is still here. Amen.



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## American Preparedness: Some Further Considerations

by an Anonymous GSL member

*GunNews* often has informative articles addressing preparedness. I found them generally clear, concise, thought provoking, and well written. I would like to supplement some of that information with some related topics for consideration.

**Duration:** Decide for yourself the likeliness of an emergency situation, and its duration. At the same time, if your finances don't allow you to prepare for that right now, start with getting supplies for a three-day emergency and build from there. Build your own custom plan based upon your type of residence, its location and your lifestyle. Preparing for an urban apartment dweller will differ greatly from a homeowner in a more rural area. *Hint:* There's no need to lay in a year's supply if your residence's integrity won't survive a bad disruption lasting more than a week or two.

**Food:** If you have looked at long term food storage from companies such as Wise and My Patriot Supply, long-term food is pricey and then some. You want a much more affordable alternative? The LDS (Mormon) Church has a network of locations in some major cities called Home Storage Centers (HSCs).

They sell #10 cans of dietary staples at grocery store prices. Most of their products have a 30-year shelf life. Additionally, the HSCs provide dietary and nutritional guides, suggested inventories, and even recipes.

While these facilities' primary purpose is to serve church members, they do sell to the public. The drawback: You'll have to travel to one of their facilities after making an appointment or visiting during very limited "open" hours. They don't accept cash or checks, just plastic. They do not ask if you are a church member; and they do not preach. You can find details by searching for Home Storage Centers LDS Church on-line. The closest ones near Illinois are in Naperville (Tuesday 6-8p, Sat by appointment) and Indianapolis (8-10:30a Tuesday, 10a-2p Saturdays). They urge you to call and confirm before making the trip.

**Bonus time:** In researching this story, I found that they have an online store. Yes, prices are about 10% more and you have to pay nominal shipping, but it saves you travel costs. Cases of #10 cans are still very affordable.

**Spices:** Look at your inventory of flavor enhancing spices and condiments. Make sure they're not expired

(they lose potency over time). Spices and condiments can make the difference between barely palatable and delicious. A tasty meal will lift your spirits, even if you are sitting in the dark with volcanic ash falling outside. It will also make your spouse, kids and other family members much happier.

**Hygiene:** We touch on medications regularly - have at least 30 days' on hand. Don't forget your hygiene. Good hygiene will help keep diseases at bay and help you remain positive. Body odor sucks. In short, make sure you've got the hygiene needs taken care of, including feminine hygiene stuff for the fairer sex.

**Water:** The late Rush Limbaugh made a comical observation about a media story regarding preparation for a hurricane approaching landfall: The stores were sold out of bottled water.

Is there an impending disaster? Instead of (or in addition to) buying a bunch of water at the store, fill containers in your home. Water does have a shelf life but if you add a few drops of non-scented bleach and you'll have safe water with which to drink, wash and cook - all on the cheap. Not only that, but your water heater may have as much as 50 gallons of drinkable water. Access that through

the drain at the bottom. Sure, you may get some sediment at first, but you can filter that with a coffee filter.

**Energy:** Use your noggin. I once read a story about a generator owner who burned through \$400 in gasoline to save \$250 of meat.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy, fist-fights broke out in the gasoline lines. Untreated gasoline has a short shelf life (hint: so treat it with PRI-G or Star-Tron and store it in tightly sealed containers!)

Remember, the drone of a generator carries a long way at night. It serves as a beacon for bad guys. Inverter generators cost more but they are lighter, run very quietly, deliver "clean" electricity and sip fuel compared to your dad's old, noisy generator.

Moreover, a refrigerator or freezer does not need constant power. Let it cool for a few hours each day, limit opening of the door, and you will maintain your food while conserving precious fuel.

**Cooking:** Please prepare for using wood, charcoal, or propane as backup cooking fuel.

**Heat:** It is our instinctual nature that a warm fire lifts the spirits, as will a warm

home in cold months. Do you have an alternative form of heat? Will it keep your pipes (and you) from freezing? If you decide on a kerosene or propane heater, a battery powered CO detector and fire extinguishers should be part of the plan. How about batteries? Have plenty.

**Weapons/Ammunition:** Well, you are reading *GunNews*... We have just recently emerged from another ammo shortage. Did you learn your lesson? Another will happen. Buy now before it becomes scarce again - and at higher prices still.

**Tools:** Have basic hand tools. Also, have the materials you need to cover holes in your roof or broken doors/windows. This might include tarps, plastic sheeting, furring strips, 2x4s, nails or screws, and more. Maybe even a couple of sheets of plywood. You never know if you will need to make an emergency repair or fabricate essential equipment.

**Keep it Quiet:** Avoid trouble. The cold hungry masses, or even friends, cannot covet that which they do not know that you have. So don't blab and make sure your family members practice information discipline too. Loose lips sink ships.

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## Thinking of taking your family to Chicago's Navy Pier or Chicago Children's Museum? WHY? Why would you take your family to a place of high crime and a double murder?

Chicago (GSL) - Seriously: Why would anyone take their family to Navy Pier in Chicago, given the omnipresent crime there? Do you really think those "gun free" signs keep you and your family safe? Let us buy you a clue: those signs just ensure a disarmed victim zone. Criminals, lunatics and terrorists laugh at those "gun free" signs.

But back to Navy Pier's double homicide. It wasn't gang bangers blasting gang bangers, either. The victims were decent, productive people. They were shot at just after high noon on Election Day. The story was buried, in part, by the news of the election and the slaying of a Chicago cop the night before.

The killer, a convicted felon, brought an illegally possessed firearm into the gun-free

zone known as Navy Pier and shot two workers there. Shot them good and dead too. Their wounds were described as "non-survivable."



The victims: Peter Jennings and Lamont Antwon Johnson.

Raylon East, 36, was arrested for murder and unlawful use of a weapon by a felon.

## Annual numbers since 2020 nearly five times that of 2019 & before Perps have shot at 330 cops since 2020

by Paul Vallas (X) - Police Superintendent Snelling says that since 2020, a shocking 330 police officers have been shot at, 38 were shot, injured, or killed. Average annual number of police shot at since 2020 is almost FIVE TIMES what it was in 2019 and most years before.

What happened to help cause this?

- Police strength dramatically reduced 1,700
- Unreasonable restraints placed on proactive policing

• Anti police rhetoric among city leaders escalated



- Safe-T Act and pre-trial release returns thousands of dangerous and repeat felons to the street
- Safe-T did nothing to increase penalties for threatening police, witnesses or crime victims.

Officers increasingly take great risks as they fear being punished for defending themselves while criminals are emboldened by reformers who increasingly treat criminals as victims, blaming society for their violent behavior, while portraying police as oppressors.

## America's worst mayor keeps losing

Chicago (Wall Street Journal) - Mayor Brandon Johnson is taking his city on a progressive kamikaze course, and Chicago's Democratic political establishment may be tiring of the spectacle.



America's worst mayor Brandon Johnson.

On Thursday the City Council met in special session to block the mayor's plan to use a \$300 million property tax increase to balance the city's budget. The vote was unanimous, 50-0, so is Mr. Johnson getting the message yet?...

While pushing for the property tax, the mayor's office threatened voters with false choices. Without the tax, the office suggested, the alternative would be "workforce reductions," including **slashing 2,500 police and 600 fire department jobs** and subjecting residents to an army of rats. Voters would have to accept less frequent garbage collection, reductions in tree trimming and fewer "rat abatement services."



## More Chicago buffoonery COPA recommends firing cop for shooting suspect raising his gun toward the officer

Chicago (ABC7) - The Civilian Office of Police accountability said the officer shot and killed Clay, Jr. as he ran from officers during what police say was a gang de-escalation stop on April 15, 2023...

In an investigation that's spanned more than a year, COPA recommended the officer be discharged for violating the department's foot pursuit policy and de-escalation tactics.



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Got kids or grandkids who is/are bored, or getting into trouble?

## No greater antidote to kids getting in trouble than taking them hunting

by Hershel Smith

(Captain's Journal) - Readers may have noticed that I've been out a bit lately. I've been busy on hunting trips.

The deer was an 8-pointer taken at Groton Plantation with a 6.5 Creedmoor. He was shot straight through the chest. He pivoted directly towards me and I knew it was take the shot or lose the chance on him forever. The hog was taken at Groton with .444 Marlin. He had tusks. I can't say enough for the power of the .444 Marlin. If you ever wonder if you're bringing enough cartridge for the game, you don't have to wonder with the .444 Marlin. Recoil is a thing, but only when you're sighting in the gun. When harvesting game, recoil is irrelevant. It may as well be a 22LR. You don't feel a thing. Maybe next year I'll use a 45-70 with a Marlin rifle to see how that compares and contrasts.

every sit, and a lizard visited me in every stand I sat.



In my last sit I saw six does and a 4-pointer and 6-pointer. As a disciplined deer hunter I had to let them walk. That 6-pointer had good genetics and was chasing does. I've seen 6-pointers that didn't do that even during the rut, but this boy will be a nice 8-pointer next year, and if I don't take him next year maybe he'll be a 10-pointer the following year.



I would in fact recommend Hornady 265 grain jacketed, bonded flat point versus the Hornady Lever Revolution. I just like it better...

If you have a problem son, or a son or grandson who is bored, or into trouble, there is no greater antidote than something like this. Who wouldn't like to see deer, hogs, snapping turtles, lizards, turkeys and quail? And see fantastic sunrises in the morning as a testament to the creation God gave us as a token of His esteem? I saw turkey at virtually



This is the perfect solution to the feminized, communist education camps we call schools. In schools the state believes they own the children. During hunting, you can make it clear that men can do men things and it's okay. No one owns them. And it's okay to study the difference between 6.5 Creedmoor and .444 Marlin. And it's okay to harvest deer with your favorite AR-10, or a bolt action, or a lever action, or any rifle that works for you.

So, fathers and grandfathers, get busy. This is what you should be doing with your boys. They may have to shoot a 20 rather than 12 gauge.



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Burying one's head in the sand doesn't work? Denial has no survival value.

## Uber-woke alderwoman who vowed to stop talking about crime, reverses course as shootings soar 180%

Chicago (CWB Chicago) — Just five months after announcing she would no longer talk about crime in her constituent newsletters because doing so is racist and fuels an "inaccurate public perception about crime rates," Ald. Leni Manaa-Hoppenworth (48th) reversed course this morning.

When she banned crime topics from her newsletter in May, the first-term alderman tried to drape her decision in a scholarly cloak by linking to a couple of studies that she said supported her thinking, including one from the University of Tehran.

You may or may not be surprised to learn that Manaa-Hoppenworth's decision to

stop telling people about shootings and murders in the ward has failed to reduce the number of shootings and murders.

As of this morning, there have been 14 shooting incidents in her ward this year, up 180% from last year. It's the highest year-to-date total since at least 2016.

## Sneak Peek... Great Guns Custom GSL-19 Edition Great Guns 2025 coming soon!

(GSL) - John Drummond from Wayward Son Custom Gun has donated a custom GSL-19 for our first Great Guns drawing of 2025. We're still putting this together, but our intention at the moment is to pull the winning ticket at the Mattoon GSL meeting on February 13th, 2025.

flashlight (added by John Boch) and more.

It's a custom pistol bordering on a barbecue gun that will not only wow your friends, but flawlessly perform daily duty protecting you and your family. It's sweet.



And this one can be yours. Tickets are \$10 each or 5/\$40. You can pick them up at meetings starting in December.

Can't make it to a meeting, but want to win this gun for as little as \$10? Send a check to the address below and GSL's Treasurer Joanne Chandler will send you back your stubs if you include a SASE. If you're late, we'll return your check.

Attn: Great Guns 2025  
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Who is John Drummond and why should you want this defensive pistol? He's a military vet, former police officer and SWAT cop. He loves to make good guns better and had been building "race" guns and high end defensive handguns for years now.

He also has a YouTube channel, "Wayward Son Custom." Google it or visit: [www.youtube.com/@WaywardSonCustom](http://www.youtube.com/@WaywardSonCustom) Then smash the "subscribe" button.

He's working to hit 10,000 subscribers by next year and pledges to sweeten the pot if he hits that goal ahead of the drawing.

It's a package deal, too. Gun, holster, mags, hard case, mag pouches, a Case EDC blade, a Fenix PD-36R or similar tactical



Preparedness includes looking out for loved ones after you're gone  
Patience in selling a collection will net the most money, by far...

# Disposing of Gun Collections

by John Boch

Mark Twain once famously noted that the only certainties in life are death and taxes. And in modern day Illinois, one can add increasing violent crime.

While a few of us might escape violent crime victimization, we're all going to die someday - some of us sooner than others. Do your loved ones a big favor: help them identify and value your firearms collection before you die. Moreover, leave some guidance on what to do with those guns and accessories.

Sadly, many people don't know how to make guns safe, much less how to competently appraise values. Don't believe me? Each day, non-gun people "turn in" unwanted estate guns at police stations across America, either for virtue signalling or plain idiocy. Stupidity like this *should* hurt.

In Illinois, without a Firearms Owners ID card, those handling the estate have just sixty (60) days to either get a FOID card or dispose of all firearms and ammunition to comply with the law. So don't delay if you are the heir.

For those with a boatload of firearms there's an even greater urgency: security.

If people knew that "Roger Ruger" had hundreds, if not thousands of guns and they see his obit in the paper, his house just became a ripe target for burglary and/or a robbery/homicide. Mrs. "Ruger" will be no match for a half-dozen teenage doctoral students willing to kill for street cred and a bunch of "gats" to sell to fellow scholars. Or the black sheep nephew named "Hunter" and his crack addiction.

In those instances, getting the guns out of the residence is an over-riding concern. Have trusted family or friends look after the firearms until a decision is made on how to dispose of the collection. Or keep news of the death on the down-low. Even then, if there's a service, make sure there are at least a few well-armed and trusted family or friends at the house to prevent "obituary burglars" from pulling off a heist while the family is at the service.

## WHILE YOU'RE ALIVE: Make a list.

First and foremost, make a list. And just like Santa, check it twice...

Include the make, model, serial number, approximate resale value, and any accessories that go with said firearm and their respective value as a package. Take pictures too. This also serves as your opportunity to earmark firearms to go to certain individuals as appropriate.

For those with just a few guns, it will be simple affair. For example:

*Glock 19, 9mm with night sights. Ser. 046FJB. With about five spare Glock mags. Estimated value \$400 with the magazines. I'd like this to go to my son Mark.*

For others, it may be more complex.

*Ruger Precision Rifle. 6.5 Creedmoor caliber. Serial No. 12345A. Estimated value about \$800. With Vortex Razor 5-20x50 scope (attached and sighted in). Scope serial No. 6789X. Paid \$1700 for scope. Estimated*

*value at least \$1000ish. Rifle with scope, scope mount (\$100), Harris bipod (\$100), Timney trigger upgrade (\$200), three spare magazines and misc. accessories, as is, should bring at least \$2000, especially with the couple of hundred custom precision hand-loaded rounds of ammunition nearby in ammo cans. Don't part it out.*



You could take five minutes to compile the above information for each gun now for your wife or kids. Or you could get hit by a bus before getting around to it.

Also, at least while the Protect Illinois Communities Act gun and magazine ban is still on the books, let your family know which guns, mags and parts are "regulated" and can't be legally (*ahem*) sold or given to just anyone. Along those lines, if you have anything illegal under state or federal law, you might give them a heads up as well. Unless you don't like them.

This will protect your loved ones from some unscrupulous scumbag telling them how that custom Ruger Precision rifle is nothing special, cheating your beneficiaries out of hundreds if not thousands (or tens of thousands) of dollars. Or calling the cops and having the feds come seize the entire collection over a couple of war trophies.

Which scenario would you prefer?

## Disposing of collections

Ideally, you'll have family to which you can pass down heirloom firearms and other pieces with sentimental value along with ammo and accessories. If you still have guns to liquidate, you have options.

In the old days you could put an ad in the paper. Not anymore. Selling guns individually should also be a no-go for safety unless potential buyers are *well-known and vetted*. Especially for collections of more than a few guns. Heck, people can't buy an iPhone these days without facing the risk of armed robbery.

One easy way to dispose of a few guns is to work with a local gun shop to put them on **consignment**. Local buyers might see them and if the gunshop is savvy they will list them through an online auction service like *GunBroker*.

Yes, the gun shop will charge maybe 15-25% of the selling price for the service, but you

get the guns out of your house into a secure location right away. Not only that, but the gun shop will handle the paperwork.

Keep in mind that many gun shops don't want a whole lot to do with ammunition and accessories unless it's in pristine condition in unopened boxes.

Which brings us to another option: **Auction houses**. They will accept not only guns and accessories, but everything else from gun safes to reloading components and everything else gun-related. For larger collections, they'll even come get the stuff. For example, in Central Illinois, Bauer Auctions in Mattoon has massive, hybrid online/in-person gun auctions four or five times each year. [*I highly recommend them and constantly hear rave reviews...*]

They will have experience at handling multi-hundred gun estates, so you won't overwhelm them with 100 or even 500 guns. (Have a thousand-plus guns? They may split it up over two or more sales so as not to oversaturate the market.) They typically charge a sliding scale fee depending on the sale price of the items, but it's usually under 20%. Now it may take a few months before there's an auction but about a month afterwards, they'll send you a check for the net proceeds.

This will net you the most dollars for those guns and gear with a minimal amount of work on your end. The only downside is that it's not an immediate conversion to cash.

For high-end collections of collectibles, including guns that sell for mid- to high-four figures and beyond, I'd recommend the world-famous Rock Island Auction.

**In a hurry?** Yes, there's a way to do that as well. Call nearby gun shops and ask if they'll

come out and make an offer for the entire collection. Expect them to offer about 40-50% of the street/retail price for guns in good shape, and less for poorer quality specimens. You get the money almost instantly, but you'll pay (dearly) for the urgency.

## In conclusion...

In short, before you get hit by a bus, do your loved ones a big favor: inventory your guns and accessories, and include pricing information and recommendations on how to dispose of guns that aren't family heirlooms or sentimental.

And do your best to try to keep them out of the hands of idiots or woke social justice warriors who might turn them in to the local PD.



Adult "entertainer" Mia Khalifa (don't google that name and expect "safe for work" images) turned in her pump shotgun to Austin, Texas police after a mass murder spree to virtue signal her support for gun control. The look on the cop's face says it all.



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Big gun shows bring more than gun owners

## Travelling with Guns: A Cautionary Tale

by Michael Keleher (GSL) - Well kids, last week my pal Don and I drove to Wannamaker's Tulsa Gun Show in Tulsa, OK. World's largest gun show. Five miles of tables and 70,000 attendees. The show was amazing.

What was not so amazing? The professional thieves who targeted our truck and many others with out-of-state plates the night before the show. Moreover, this wasn't a no-name, flea-bag dive we stayed in. This happened in a nice, higher-end hotel's parking lot.

Of course I blame my Adventure Wife for all of this. Before I left for the show, I showed her a metal pistol safe with aircraft cable I was taking along. She said "Oh a cable that can just be cut by bolt cutters. Good luck." It is obvious now looking back on it- she used her seventh level she-witch powers to summon denizens to attack our truck. Obvious. Don't believe me? Her people had some famous legal troubles back in Salem, Mass about 700 years ago. Don't test her. Even I, with long exposure, have only limited immunity.

The story unravels like this:

We parked at the hotel about 10 PM and all of the good spots in front of the hotel lobby were taken, so we had to park on the end. Still well lit, with cameras on the hotel corners and the neighborhood was called the medical district - all medical offices and hospitals and no residences near bay and absolutely no foot traffic. It was a high end hotel.

In the truck, we left two empty pistol safes under the front seats, metal boxes about the size of hardback books secured by aircraft cables around the seat post... In the bed of the truck was an empty gun cabinet (you know those light gauge metal "safes" about the size and weight of a filing cabinet) secured by clamps, large padlocks and larger cables in case we were going to transport items. The box of the truck was covered with a flat metal slat roll up cover and tailgate locked.

There was no way to see into the box or know there was a gun cabinet in there. We left no luggage, guns or computers in the truck.

Well about 8AM the next morning, I came out and opened the driver's side rear door and noticed an awful lot of light coming in through the passenger side rear window...and shattered glass all across the backseat and floor. The burglars cut off the padlocks and cables securing the empty pistol boxes and took them. I found the keys to one box on the pavement. Good luck with that empty open box fellas. They also had worked the releases to get under and behind the back seats to access some hidden cubby holes I did not know were there. These guys were quite good at this. If they had broken out the back window an alarm would have gone off. They had the tools, experience and nerve to thoroughly wipe out a truck parked underneath hotel cameras.

Walking around to the other side of the vehicle I found the mutts had also taken the time and effort to pry open one side of the metal slat box cover and peel it completely over to the opposite side where it was left hanging off the right side of the truck. This was quite a feat. I imagine they wanted in after getting the two pistol safes from the cab- and they were rewarded with the sight of the gun cabinet. Oh how their criminal hearts must have leaped-such treasure! It took them a lot of time and effort to pry the topper off and cut the cabinet loose - and they had to have a truck available to haul it away. Won't fit in a Kia sedan. I figured three to four young guys on the job with one (probably the youngest and skinniest worming his way in through the passenger side window...)

A squad with two officers arrived, and did not seem to want to even get out of their car. They advised they had just been over to the Holiday Inn where about 20 out of state trucks had been burgled- all looking for guns, and the parking lot over there was a sea of shattered glass... The police were

pleasant enough but did not do...well anything. They did not interview us, did not take a report, did no crime scene work- no photos, no dusting for obvious prints, no nothing. They said they were sorry and wished they could catch these thieves because the guns would go immediately onto the streets. They were even reluctant to make a report. Said they had a lot of reports to type up already from the Holiday Inn, and we could just file the report online with Tulsa PD. I got the hint...

When you are tired and just off the road bring your situational awareness up. You are not safe yet. Put the effort in to emptying out your vehicle and don't put it off until "later." I have been guilty of this many times while on long trips for shooting competitions. I don't like parading gun bags in through the lobby but am real diligent about it the first couple of nights. By the third night it generally gets chitted off to "Ahhh, nothing's gonna happen here." Well it can.

Don't know if we are going back to the Tulsa show. Certainly won't be staying in Tulsa if we do. We have discussed different vehicles with a trunk and having vigilantes taking turns on watch in the vehicle (would not need two rooms then just one!).



I have also been looking on line about getting some of those Apple Air Tag tracker chips-seem like a nifty and inexpensive thing to take travelling with you... and does anybody know where I can get in touch with that Chevy dealership that has the Trunk Monkey? I think we could reach an adequate financial deal to rent a Trunk Monkey for the weekend.

[The unabridged version with a happier ending is at the GunsSaveLife.com website.]

## MAIL CALL



## Likes to patronize our advertisers

Greeting John and a good morning from my part of the Central Illinois prairie. Whenever I travel and pass through a GSL meeting host city I try to patronize the host restaurant or an advertiser.

You may or not need fill material for our monthly publication but here is a note regarding a recent experience.

In mid October, one of GSL Central Illinois Life members stopped in for a late lunch at Gross Burgers, south of Danville, after completing in a GSSF pistol match in Atlanta, Indiana.

The double hamburger lived up to its name in size and taste and the French fry serving was large enough to share.


Name withheld  
GSL Life Member  
Sangamon County, IL



[Editor's Note: Yeah, Gross Burgers are tasty burgers... like Pulp Fiction tasty. And Ela's Eatery serves up some great food at affordable prices during normal breakfast-lunch hours. Last time I showed up at Ela's for lunch with my son in tow (he was out sick), they did a double take. "This isn't Monday night!"]

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## In Texas, intruders get shot

*DeSoto, TX (Breitbart)* - An alleged intruder was shot multiple times by a DeSoto, Texas, homeowner after reportedly following her home and trying to make entry through her garage door.

Focus Daily News reported the incident occurred Friday just prior to 8 a.m. The woman called 911 in a panic after arming herself with a gun and explained that the suspect was in her backyard and trying to make entry through the garage...

Police arrived on scene at 7:57 a.m. to find the alleged intruder "lying on the ground inside the garage, with a pistol nearby." He had been shot in the face and chest and was in critical condition.

WDFW identified the wounded alleged intruder as 35-year-old Octavio Flores Mondragon.



## Maryland road rager brought a hammer to a gunfight

*Glen Burnie, MD (GSL)* - A road rage attack in Glen Burnie, Maryland (near Baltimore) ended in the death of the aggressor.

According to evidence and the motorcyclist victim's statement, 51-year-old Scott David Guhse tried to run the motorcyclist off the road. When the cyclist stopped, Guhse stopped as well. He then got out of his car and charged the cyclist with a hammer.

The 22-year-old motorcyclist pulled his licensed concealed carry piece and shot Mr. Guhse, ending the threat.

## Robber never had it explained to him that way before

*North Haven, CT (WTNH)* — A man was arrested after threatening someone with a knife in a parking lot on Thursday, police said.

Police said at around 11:35 a.m., Obadiah Claud, 45, charged the victim with a knife and the victim took out his legally possessed gun to try to stop the attack.

Claud fled in his car when the victim took out the gun, police said.

## Illegal alien crime?

### Violent home invader shot dead in Champaign, IL

*Champaign, IL (GSL)* - Emmanuel Becerril-Perez, of Urbana, suffered a sudden and profound error in victim selection after he forced entry on a home in the 1200 block of Harrington Drive in Champaign. The attack happened in the pre-dawn hours of Sunday, November 10th.

The intruder attacked the homeowner who had armed himself. The bad guy was shot multiple times during their struggle. Unfortunately, the homeowner inadvertently shot himself in the arm as well. Oops.

## Nice shootin'

### Career bad guy shot 5 times by his intended victim

*Chicago (CWB Chicago)* — Two armed men who tried to rob an off-duty corrections officer in the West Loop both fired shots at the victim before he returned fire, seriously wounding one of them, officials said Tuesday.

Desmond White, 32, who is on parole, remains hospitalized tonight as he recovers from at least five gunshot wounds he received in the altercation early Sunday.



Family claimed 'victim' until truth came out

### Good Samaritan caps high school football star shooting up party

*Ft. Wayne, IN (WPTA)* - Willie Ivy III's dad says he was a great kid—charismatic, a smart student, and a talented football player. His father and aunt say his future was bright.

But on Saturday, the 17-year-old North Side High School student was fatally shot at a high school party that left nine others injured.

"Losing a child to gun violence is the worst feeling ever," Ivy Jr. said. "I'm just very overwhelmed."

*Editor: Turns out the so-called "gun violence" was instigated by Willie Ivy III himself. He pulled out an illegal gun and started shooting at the party. Nine people were either shot or otherwise injured.*

*A good Samaritan at the party also had a gun and shot and killed the 17-year-old Ivy before he could wound or kill additional innocents.*

Less than three weeks before the election...

## GSL CALLED IT: FBI quietly updated crime data: crime actually increased 4.5% instead of a 2.1% decline

*(FoxNews)* - The Federal Bureau of Investigation quietly updated its 2022 crime data to show an increase in violent crimes, despite previous data showing violent crimes had fallen that year, which was touted as a victory for the Biden-Harris administration.



GSL's GunNews headline story from September's issue (published in August): **Don't believe the hype and 'misinformation' — Violent crime has surged under Biden/Harris.**

"For some reason, the media, they did pick the crime data that they think goes and makes the Democrats look as good as possible. And then even when the crime data that they've relied on turns out by the very source of that data to be wrong, none of them fix it," John Lott, the founder and president of the Crime Prevention Research Center, told Fox News Digital in a Zoom interview this week.

The FBI released its annual crime in the

nation data for 2022 last year, which found a 2.1% decrease in violent crimes compared to 2021, Lott explained. The data was lauded by Democrats and the media as part of a turning point for crime woes in the U.S., following the crime wave of 2020, when defund-the-police protests and riots swept the nation and the pandemic's stay-at-home orders upended daily life.

"To give people an idea of the size of the change, when the 2022 data came out in September 2023, they initially reported that violent crime had fallen by 2.1% in 2022.... That's the final data, supposedly, for 2022. The revision of that final data that came out last month, now claims that rather than the 2.1% drop, that there was actually a 4.5% increase in violent crime that occurred in 2022. That's a 6.6 percentage point change there," Lott told Fox News Digital.

"It's from a drop to an increase. And, you know, the bizarre thing to me is, for a year after the 2022 data was put out, we were having headlines, news articles after news articles saying, 'Violent crime is falling, people mistakenly or erroneously believe that it's increasing.' And, you know, and they were relying on this data. But you don't see any corrections in the news. Saying, 'Oops, the FBI data that we relied on was wrong, that rather than a drop, there was actually an increase that had occurred,'" he added.



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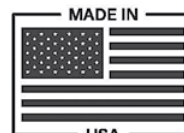
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*Doubling down on stupid...*

## Despite 'devastating' election losses, gun ban groups vow to continue their jihad against your gun rights

by Mark Chestnut

(TTAG - edited) - With gun owners pushing former President Donald Trump over the top in last week's election, gun-ban organizations, still reeling from the loss, are promising to work harder than ever to force more gun control on lawful American gun owners.

With Trump winning the presidency and Republicans retaking the majority in the U.S. Senate, gun-banners, accustomed to a Democrat Senate and President Joe Biden in charge, have been put in a quandary. And now that Republicans have control of the U.S. House of Representatives, these anti-gun groups will be at even more of a disadvantage.

Despite that overwhelming mandate, several organizations have released statements stating that they are keeping their sights directly on the right to keep and bear arms.

One such group, so-called Moms Demand Action, claims to have beaten Trump on gun control in the past, although it's unclear when that happened.

"Nothing will stop us from fighting for the safety of our kids and communities," the group posted on X. "We've been up against and beaten Trump's extremist agenda before, and we'll do it again."



"Our army of over 10 million supporters are ready to fight like hell against President Trump and his lawmaker allies if they attempt to undo our progress or push legislation that would make us less safe. With the overwhelming majority of Americans who support strong gun safety laws behind us, we will win."

Of course, if the majority of Americans had supported the group's agenda, Trump would likely not have been re-elected. But I digress.

So-called Everytown for Gun Safety, which called the election results "devastating," also took to X to vow their continued battle for further infringements.

"Make no mistake: Trump's extremist agenda is a danger for our nation, but it means we'll double down on our efforts to protect our communities and continue to make progress, just like we did in 2016," the group posted. "The momentum of the gun safety movement can't be stopped. Gun violence isn't a left or right issue, it's a life-or-death issue. We can and will overcome this—together."

Not to miss a chance to bolster its coffers, however, Everytown used the loss of the White House to try to raise funds from supporters—a scheme likely spawned by their boss, Michael Bloomberg, spending millions on the election in an attempt to get anti-gun candidates elected.



Of course, the anti-gun group Brady, formerly Handgun Control Inc. until it decided to hide its true agenda by changing its name, also got in on the action.

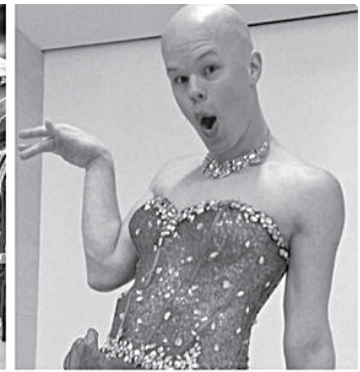
"The election of Donald Trump is deeply troubling for our safety and freedom from gun violence," Brady President Kris Brown said in a released statement. "And that's why we are doubling down on our work and fighting harder than ever."

"So even though we won't have a friend in the White House, Brady isn't giving up an inch."

In a long, rambling statement on the Giffords website, former Congresswoman Gabby Giffords tried to make the election results seem to be about anything but guns.

"Now is the time for taking a stand—together—against division, against hatred and against the erosion of truth," she said. "And to women everywhere: I won't rest until every one of our rights and freedoms has been restored."

Interestingly, she did not mention any efforts she would make to help restore the Second Amendment rights of those "women everywhere" she claimed to be addressing.



## Trump's nominations may not be perfect... but be thankful Kamala Harris isn't the one picking a cabinet

by John Boch

Donald Trump has hit the ground running, tapping what he sees as great picks for a host of cabinet-level positions (and even lower level appointments). Sure, you might not be thrilled at some of them. You might wish he had selected someone you perceive as better.

Don't let perfect be the enemy of good to very good.

As much as you might not like Trump's picks, don't worry. Be happy. RFK, Jr. doesn't exactly support your right to keep and bear arms, but at HHS he won't have much of a platform to advocate for gun control schemes.

Instead of criticizing what you see as less-than-perfect nominations, instead be thankful Kamala Harris isn't staffing out her cabinet. If she had won, she would be picking the most radical, dysfunctional political hacks and social justice warriors to put America dead last.

Kamala's appointments would have made Biden's people look competent. And her merry band of radicals would have let their authoritarian, dare I say fascist flag fly proudly. For you and me, our gun rights would have been squarely in their sights through legislation and court appointments (and even Supreme Court packing).



### GunNews Magazine

The monthly journal of  
Guns Save Life

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John Boch, Editor Emeritus

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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](mailto:jboch@gunssavelife.com).

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



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

[a-human-right.com](http://a-human-right.com)  
[blog.olegvolk.net](http://blog.olegvolk.net)





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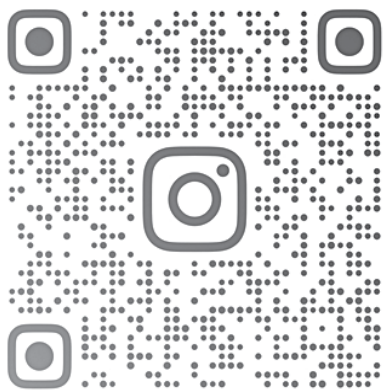
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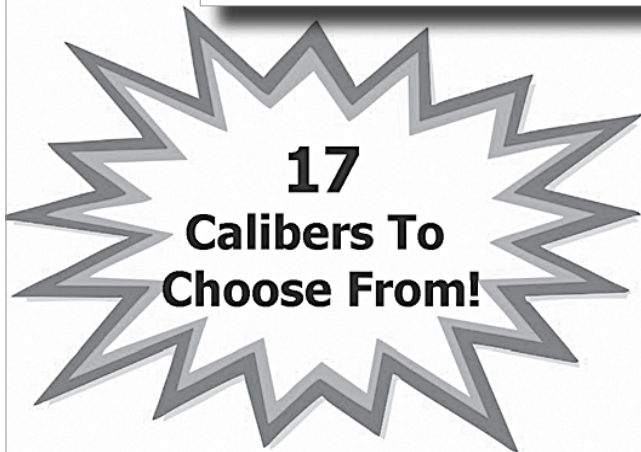
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SPOILER ALERT: Just like with pistol rounds, it depends. It's not for everybody.

# Reloading cost-benefit analysis: Rifle cartridges

by Damon Williams

(GSL) - Last month, we looked at the financial benefit of pistol caliber reloading. The numbers showed that in the current market, reloading of 9mm is not worth one's effort when compared to time and components. .45 ACP was worth the investment, allowing you to shoot about twice as much of that caliber as compared to retail, and .44 Magnum was definitely worth the investment with the cost of the equipment paying for itself within the first few hundred rounds. Your cost savings will vary with other calibers.



To my surprise, the latest issue of the Dillon Precision's *Blue Press* featured an article by Alan M. Rice titled *Reloading ROI*. Mr. Rice ran an analysis similar to mine only for "match grade" ammunition. He failed to include the cost of the reloading equipment as I've been doing. Rice's piece is a good read, but let's face it though: he wrote that for a publication that sells some of the finest reloading equipment available.

So, this month, let's look at the cost of reloading of three common rifle cartridges: .223, .308 and .45-70.

We will also use the same parameters as handgun rounds with your **time** valued at \$15.00/hour (or \$.25/round at 60 rounds per hour) and **primers** will set you back about \$80/1000.

**Powder:** Let's use Accurate 5744, a versatile powder that will load all three well enough to compete in a 3-Gun match or put meat on your table. The cost here is about one cent per grain (or \$70 for the one-pound - 7000 grain can). .45/70 and .308 each take about 30 grains and .223 half that.



**Equipment.** Unlike pistol reloading, rifle cartridges have a significantly larger surface area and require much greater amounts of pressure to re-size. As such, I am going to forego the progressive machines and recommend a single stage press kit. This is going to slow our progress to an optimistic 60 rounds/hour. Again, the best value that I have found is the Lee Breech Lock Challenger Kit for \$190. And again, this is a ready to use kit minus dies. Lee brand dies (best value I found) run \$35. But wait, unlike pistol brass, rifle brass is much more susceptible

to stretching after firing and resizing. An additional consideration needs to be made which is trimming; Lee Quick Trim \$25 and the caliber specific trimmer die \$14. Also, unlike pistol reloading you will need to lube your cases. My favorite product is Hornady One-Shot aerosol spray. \$12. All told, \$276.

**Brass:** Let's look at brass depreciation. Again, assuming you get six loadings before you need fresh brass. .45-70 cases run about .40 each, or about 7 cents per load. .308 is a little cheaper at 4 cents and .223? It can often be found just laying around on busy ranges or the streets of Chicago free for the taking. Your mileage may vary.

**Bullets (projectiles for the newbies):** My research has yielded me these average prices: .45-70 405 grain lead: \$0.30 each  
.308 150 grain FMJ: \$0.25 each  
.223 55 grain FMJ: \$0.16 each

So, let's run the numbers:

- .45-70: Roughly \$20.00/20 round box in your input costs or \$1 per round. Compare to an average of \$25-40 retail.
- .308: \$18.40/box to reload. Compare to an average of \$15-25 retail.
- .223: \$13.20/box for homebrew. Compare to \$6-10 retail.

Unlike Mr. Rice who didn't factor in the equipment costs, let's divide our equipment costs (\$276ish) into the first 500 rounds of ammunition - or about \$11/box of 20 rounds for those first twenty-five boxes.

- .45-70: Even factoring in the equipment costs, \$31/box to reload your .45-70 rounds is competitive with the most affordable commercial loads. After that first 25 boxes (and that's a lot of shooting with that old cartridge), it goes back to \$20 per box, or about a buck a round. That's marginally cheaper than buying commercial.
- .308: Paying for the gear brings the cost up to about \$30 per 20 rounds, or well over retail for commercial loads, especially with some of the more affordable offerings as low as \$15-20/box. But after 500 rounds, your out-of-pocket costs fall under a buck a round, or roughly commercial cost.
- .223: The price of your reloading stuff drives the price up to as much as *four times retail*. Even after you pay for the reloading equipment, it'll still cost you at double that of the cheap commercial stuff (when ordered in case lots where shipping is often free) to reload.

**Final thoughts:** What numbers do not tell you is reloading is a hobby, a pastime, unto itself. It allows you to customize your loads to your preference. It allows you the peace of mind knowing that your preferred load is just a few dozen lever pulls away at any time of your choosing, verses waiting for the next shipment to come into your local retailer or waiting for a shipment to come to your door.

At the same time, there's no muss, no fuss and no lost bench and shelf space if you just order your ammo and have the boys in brown deliver it to your door in a couple of days. For mega-popular calibers like 9mm and .223, you're money and time ahead just ordering online or picking up sales at your local gun shop. For less popular calibers, reloading may be your cost effective - or only option for the more obscure stuff.



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# Trump, his disrupters, and a chance to return to 'Normalcy'?

by Victor Davis Hanson (X) - Many of Trump first-round picks share some common themes.

One, many, who were in the past victimized by government bullies and cowardly bureaucratic grandees, or proved sharp critics of the administrative state, are now, in karma-style, in charge of the very agencies that hounded him.

So, Elon Musk, perennial target of government regulatory functionaries, was once policed, but now he polices the bureaucratic police.

Robert Kennedy, Jr., proposed overseer of government health programs, was often blasted as a crank by the subsidized scientists and the administrators within HHS whom he will now direct.

Pete Hegseth fought the military DEI machinery while a soldier in the ranks and wrote a book about the corruption of the Pentagon. He will now, if confirmed, run the Pentagon.

Tulsi Gabbard was improperly put on a national security travel watch list as a supposed security threat—and now will be a guardian of our security as Director of National Intelligence.

Tom Homan was derided by the Biden administration and its Homeland Security minions as a fanatic border hawk; now he will run ICE and deal with the detritus of Biden fanaticism on the border.

Two, none of these appointments are traditional swamp creatures. Few rotate from the think tanks. This time around there are no retired "Wise Men" or retired four-stars. Few are Uniparty magnificoes revolving back into high government from their DC university or New York corporate and investment waystations. None are DEI, cover-our-identity-politics-base candidates.

By design, their past government service resumes are thin—few past undersecretaries of these or special assistant to those. And there are not a lot of suffixed alphabetic letters or prefixed long-winded titles that adorn their names.

In other words, they are vaxed from the sort of acculturated administrative state mindset that has alienated and terrified the citizenry.

Three, they all share a reputation from the mainstream media, bicoastal elite, or admin-

istrative state guardians as a little "out there" or even "crazy" and "nuts", whether RFK, Tulsi Gabbard, or Pete Hegseth. So, their opponents rightly fear they are immune from mainstream media disparagements, the usually leftwing generated hoaxes, and beltway ts-k-ts-k scorn.

Fourth and finally, they are not radicals or nihilists. Rather, they are reformers who are trying to trim or eliminate bloated government machinery, or return institutions and agencies to their normal functions and original missions. In contrast, the last few years of Biden governance chaos and near insurrection were abnormal—and dangerous.

Destroying the border and breaking the law to allow 12 million to enter illegally were nihilist.

Stealthily routing government cash, to circumvent the law, to a communist Chinese-run viral gain-of-function engineering lab is beyond the belief.

Creating a commissar system in the military that demanded ideological orthodoxy over meritocracy, or the Chairman of the JCS secretly communicating with his People's Liberation Army counterpart to warn about his own commander-in-chief's stability was insurrectionist.

Weaponizing the DOJ by performance-art swat home raids on opponents, and collusion lawfare waged by local, state, and federal indictments against a former president and presidential candidate were un-American.

Asymmetrical prosecutions and FBI fusion with social media to censor the news were sheer government anarchy.

There are legitimate questions about the confirmability of Matt Gaetz, or his prosecutorial experience, or some of his alleged past excesses, but his very accusers were mostly quiet about the weirdos, creeps, and revolutionaries in the Biden administration—accused of stealing women's luggage at airports, or lying that a subordinate "racist" border patrol whipped in slave-master fashion innocent would-be immigrants, or trying to fix a felonious presidential son's sentencing to avoid the accustomed legal consequences of his criminal behavior.

In sum, the currently loud censors have zero credibility given the unprofessional, weaponized, and nihilist examples they have bequeathed.

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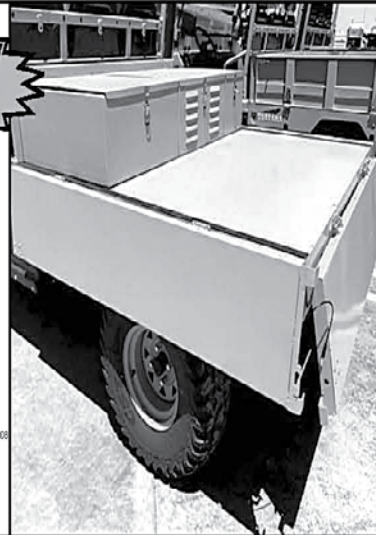
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**Sullivan Gun Club LLC.**  
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**Oak Park Sportsmen's Club.**  
Falling steel match **First Mondays** starting at 4:30pm.

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

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

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

**Prairie State Tactical.**  
All shoots 4-7p unless otherwise noted. For more info, visit [prairiestatetactical.com](http://prairiestatetactical.com).



[No December Illinois dates on the Friends website as we went to print. The first event is the Southern Illinois Regional event in Effingham on January 25th].

For more info, visit [FriendsOfNRA.org](http://FriendsOfNRA.org).

## GUN SHOWS...

### November

**Nov 23 & 24: Kankakee Gun Show**, Kankakee County Fairgrounds Kankakee, IL. Mike (630) 363-3131.

**Nov 30 & Dec 1: Sauk Trail Gun Show**, Bureau County Fairgrounds, Princeton, IL. Marla P. 815-252-4842

**Nov 30 & Dec 1: Central IL Gun Collectors New Berlin.** Sangamon County Fairgrounds, New Berlin, IL. 9-3p Sat, 9-2 Sunday. Patrick Keen [oldcarbines@gmail.com](mailto:oldcarbines@gmail.com).

### December

**Dec 7-8: Chillicothe Sportsman's Club**, Chillicothe, IL. Steve Risinger (309) 208-1010.

**Dec 8: Kane County Sportsman's Show**, Kane County Fairgrounds, St Charles, IL Mick Stout (815) 217-2266

**Dec 14-15: Kankakee Gun Show**, Kankakee County Fairgrounds Kankakee, IL. Mike (630) 363-3131.

**Dec 14-15: Peoria Gun & Knife Show**, Peoria, IL (Exposition Gardens). Pope Creek Shows. Mark Craft 309 371-3593.

### January

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

**Jan 25-26: Sauk Trail Gun Show**, Bureau County Fairgrounds, Princeton, IL. Marla P. 815-252-4842

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

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VOLUME 22, NUMBER 8 AUGUST 2016

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## BRACE FOR IMPACT: Massive layoffs coming to CNN

(Puck News) - With the election in the rearview, C.E.O. Mark Thompson will finally implement his true transformation plan at the network—including the culling of hundreds of jobs. Many of CNN's own journalists, plenty of whom were blinded by Trump's significant victory, have evinced similar naiveté about their own fates...

In the next few months, I'm told, CNN will implement another round of layoffs that will impact hundreds of employees across the organization, including those whose TV production talents won't necessarily be needed in the new digital-first landscape.



## The era of corporate media dominance is over

by John Nolte (Breitbart) - The Road to the White House no longer goes through 60 Minutes, CNN, Fox News, Meet the Press, the New York Times editorial board, or the cover of Time Magazine. That road now runs through the Joe Rogan Experience, Breitbart News, New Media, podcasts, talk radio, and social media.

In other words, the Road to the White House now goes through We the People.



## From canceling Christmas to murdering family members, the Democrats are not coping with Trump's win very well

By Olivia Murray (American Thinker) - In the wake of President Trump's smashing victory over Kamala Harris, we've seen countless leftist meltdowns, many of which were comedic gold; but they've also erupted in spiteful hostility, and even murder.

Bad judges support bad law

## Colorado under-21 purchase ban revived - for now

(ZeroHedge) - A Colorado law that bars adults younger than 21 from buying and selling guns is allowed because it does not violate the U.S. Constitution, a trio of federal judges said on Nov. 5.

## Public contempt for media propaganda grows sharply

by Ron Paul (ZeroHedge) - This presidential campaign season may be one of those turning points in history for reasons good and bad...

It was a campaign where, more than ever, the mainstream media completely abandoned any idea of being a neutral source of information and instead jumped into the ring on the side of one candidate. In the one debate between presidential candidates, the mainstream media went so far as to "fact check" one candidate while giving the other a "pass." The "fact check" turned out to be misinformation - something the mainstream media excels in - but they have long figured out that by the time the actual facts are in, people have already absorbed the falsehood.

According to the conservative Media Research Center, mainstream media coverage of the Trump campaign was 85 percent negative while its coverage of the Harris campaign was 78 percent positive. If accurate, it explains why the public holds the media in such contempt.



## Biden signs order limiting active shooter drills similar to Illinois law

(The Center Square) - President Joe Biden signed an executive order he says will make active shooter drills less traumatic for students. In Illinois, similar provisions were passed by the legislature in 2021.

With Biden's executive order, states across the nation will follow provisions similar to what's laid out in Illinois' amended School Safety Drill Act, according to state Rep. Dennis Tipword, R-Metamora, who served for 17 years with the Woodford County Sheriff's Office.

"When we would practice in high schools, it was not uncommon to have student actors acting as victims, there would be a shooter," Tipword said. "Under these new rules, we are making kids sitting ducks and they're told to just go lockdown in their classroom."

## Renowned Attorney Larry Klayman, founder of Judicial Watch, warns 'Left is a vicious wounded tiger. They want us dead.'

by Larry Klayman

The fact that Donald Trump has been reelected the 47th President of the United States with the popular vote and an overwhelming landslide in the Electoral College, the Left is on the run, but it's stung. It's like a wounded tiger. It's vicious. It will fight back...

You are going to see the Left in the streets, ultimately. It will probably be in days, if not weeks. You are going to see a repeat of what we saw with Black Lives Matter, ANTIFA,

radical Palestinians and others. They are going to be coming for us.

Frankly, and this sounds extreme, we saw the assassination attempts... and Kamala Harris and Biden calling Trump Hitler, calling them garbage and calling us garbage, they want us dead. Let me repeat that. They want us dead... They are like rats leaving the ship.

The time to peacefully and legally crush them is now.

So, I want people to realize that there may be a calm in the storm right now, but the communists, the atheists, the radicals and the Left are coalescing. They are plotting, and they are planning.

This is like the 'Force' in 'Star Wars' and 'Darth Vader.' They intend to come back anyway they can.

If they can't do it peacefully and legally, which they can't, they are going to get violent, and we better be prepared for that.

## Even Democrat voters ditch Team Soros 'Soft-on-Crime' DAs in nationwide revolt

by Mario Nawfal

(X) - A stunning rebuke: Progressive DAs lost 13 of last week's top 25 races, even in deep-blue strongholds.



Alex and George Soros.

In LA, George Gascón lost by 23 points despite Harris winning the county by 30.

San Francisco's tough-on-crime DA crushed her progressive opponent two-to-one.

California's Prop 36, restoring tough penalties for drugs and theft, passed with historic 70% support.

The voter revolt crossed party lines - more than half of Harris voters backed tougher crime measures, rejecting policies championed by Soros-funded prosecutors.

The shift is dramatic: Of roughly 75 Soros-linked DAs identified in 2022, over 30 have left office and 20 have been replaced by traditional prosecutors, from Virginia to Florida.

As one winning campaign put it: "Don't Philadelphia My Pittsburgh!"



DEI school officials & local cops?

## Cops in Houston threaten to arrest student for \$2 bill

Houston (Reason) - There are stupid school discipline stories, and then there's this: a Houston, Texas, public school called the police after a 13-year-old girl attempted to purchase chicken nuggets from the cafeteria using a \$2 bill.

The police took the little girl, Danesiah Neal, to the office and told her she could be in "big trouble" for using counterfeit money.

But the \$2 bill was real, of course. There aren't very many of them but \$2s are out there. They constitute perfectly legal tender.

The police didn't believe it. They called Danesiah's grandmother and insisted the bill was fake...

## German retiree arrested for retweeting meme

(ZeroHedge) - After a 64-year-old pensioner retweeted a meme of Green Economy Minister Robert Habeck, in which Habeck was described as an "idiot," Bavarian police raided the man's house and arrested him. The crime has even been recorded as a "politically motivated right-wing crime."

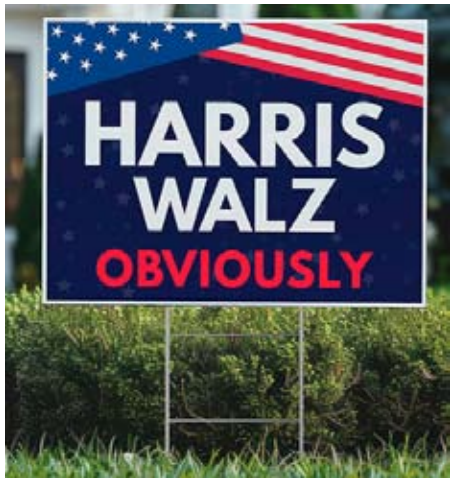
Making crazy cat women seem sane

## Power lesbian Corey Burke murders her father with an ice axe on election night

Seattle (UK Daily Mail) - A Blue Origin employee married to a prominent trans author and journalist has been accused of killing her elderly father with an ice axe on Election Night.

Corey Burke, 33, allegedly struck, stabbed and strangled her father, 67-year-old Timothy Burke, in a fatal attack at her \$800,000 Seattle home on November 5.

Burke, a training manager at Jeff Bezos' rockets and spacecraft company, confessed to killing her father after he refused to turn off the lights, according to charging documents seen by DailyMail.com.



## Again, who is a cult?

by Frank McCormick (X) - Just a reminder that the people calling MAGA a cult are currently shaving their heads, donning blue bracelets, leaving their husbands, abandoning their homes, and taking vows of celibacy.



## Men are happier for a lot of reasons

(Ace of Spades HQ) - What do you expect from such simple creatures? Your last name stays put. The garage is all yours. Wedding plans take care of themselves. Chocolate is just another snack. You can never be pregnant. You can wear a white T-shirt to a water park. You can wear NO shirt to a water park.



Car mechanics tell you the truth. The world is your urinal. You never have to

drive to another gas station restroom because this one is just too icky. You don't have to stop and think of which way to turn a nut on a bolt. Wrinkles add character. Wedding dress - \$5,000. Tux rental - \$100. People never stare at your chest when you're talking to them.

New shoes don't cut, blister, or mangle your feet. One mood all the time. Phone conversations are over in 30 seconds flat. You know stuff about tanks. A five-day vacation requires only one suitcase. You can open all your own jars.

You get extra credit for the slightest act of thoughtfulness. If someone forgets to invite you, he or she can still be your friend. Your underwear is \$8.95 for a three-pack. Two pairs of shoes are more than enough. You almost never have strap problems in public. You are unable to see wrinkles in

your clothes.

Everything on your face stays its original color. The same hairstyle lasts for years, maybe decades. You only have to shave your face and neck. You can play with toys all your life. One wallet and one belt - one color for all seasons. You can wear shorts no matter how your legs look.

You can 'do' your nails with a pocket knife. You have freedom of choice concerning growing a mustache... You can do Christmas shopping for 25 relatives on December 24th in 25 minutes. No wonder men are happier!



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- o \$150 - Family membership three-year
- o \$50 - Business membership
- o \$1000 - Life membership
- o \$500 - Life membership for over age 65

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