

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

COMPLIMENTARY. TAKE ONE.

GUNNEWS



SECOND AMENDMENT NEWS AND MORE

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



Col. Loren Jenne lives on...

Members of the Guns Save Life family participated in decorating headstones at Camp Butler National Cemetery in Springfield on Dec. 14th. More on page 2.

IL HAS 'STAND YOUR GROUND'

It's not widely known, but Illinois has "Stand Your Ground" - not by statute but by court precedent...

by John Boch

(GSL) - Many if not most folks in Illinois believe that our state requires good people to retreat from a threat if they can do so safely before using force in self-defense. However, as one of the nation's highest profile and most successful criminal defense attorneys explained at our Peoria GSL meeting, that's simply not true.

Attorney Dave McDermott explained that, believe it or not, Illinois has "Stand Your Ground" (SYG). Admittedly, the anti-self-defense left has done a good job denigrating SYG laws in other states. Those same anti-self-defense advocates aren't very fond of the Castle Doctrine either. And, as McDermott explained it, Illinois has Castle Doctrine protections at home for everyone.

Neither of those hot-button terms are written into the names of relevant statutes, but court precedent in our state provides both "Stand Your Ground" and "Castle Doctrine" protections for good guys.



Attorney Dave McDermott.

"Stand Your Ground" allows people to use deadly force in certain situations without any obligation to retreat - at least from public spaces where they have a lawful right to be. Sure, retreat looks good to prosecutors, judges and juries, but it is not required in our state.

The Castle Doctrine creates a rebuttable presumption that anyone who forces entry upon your residence (including hotel room, RV, or anywhere else you lay your head for the night) in a violent and tumultuous manner poses a lethal threat. As such, you may use deadly force to thwart that intrusion/

attack.

McDermott explained that among police, prosecutors, defense attorneys and even judges, there remains a lot of misunderstandings about what the law and court precedent allows when it comes to self-defense. That goes double for juries as well.

Our guest speaker also railed against the No Cash Bail law because it's ensnaring not only bad guys but good guys who righteously use force in self-defense. Imagine using your gun to thwart a robber, rapist or carjacker to only then be victimized by the No Cash Bail law as you're held without bail until trial. That's a reality not only in Cook County, but in other counties as well.

He answered questions and reminded folks that nothing you say to the police can be used in your defense. So don't talk to the police without your attorney. "And let someone else make that 911 call, where possible," he added.

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Join GSL.

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This issue jointly dedicated to
Ron Beatty and John Wolf. Godspeed.

January 2025

- **Quincy:** Last Wednesday: **January 29**, February 26, March 26
Eagles Club, 3737 N. Fifth Street, Quincy
- **Chicagoland:** Last Sunday: **Dec. cancelled, January 26**, February 23, March 23
American Legion Post 1198, 1631 Western Ave. Chicago Heights
Exhibits and conversation here at 4:30pm. Program at 5:30pm.
- **Sangamon County:** First Monday: **January 6**, February 3, March 3
SCHEELS, 3801 S. MacArthur, Springfield
- **Pontiac:** First Tuesday: **January 7**, February 4, March 4
Pontiac Sportsman's Club. 18663 4-H Park Road, Pontiac
- **Decatur:** First Wednesday: **NO JANUARY MEETING**, February 5, March 5
Coz's Pizza, 1405 East Village Parkway, Mt Zion (*Program at 6:45pm*)
- **Peoria:** First Thursday: **January 2**, February 6, March 6
Barrack's Banquet Center, 1224 Pioneer Parkway, Peoria
Dinner and conversation here at 5:30pm. Program at 6:30ish.
- **Danville:** Second Monday **January 13**, February 10, March 10
Ela's Restaurant, 1111 E. Voorhees St., Danville
- **Champaign County:** Second Tuesday: **January 14**, February 11, March 11
KC Hall, 1001 N. Ohio St., Rantoul
- **Northwest Chicagoland:** Second Wed: **January 8**, February 12, March 12
Prairie House Tavern, 2710 Main St., Buffalo Grove
Dinner and conversation here at 5:30pm. Program at 6pm-ish.
- **Mattoon:** Second Thursday: **January 9**, February 13, March 13
The American Legion Post 88, 1903 Maple Ave, Mattoon
- **LaSalle County:** Third Thursday: **NO JAN MEETING**, February 20, March 20
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.



John Boch with a founding member of GSL John Naese who spoke in Danville about Project Appleseed.



Happiness is a new gun!
Chuck won a Ruger LCR at SCHEELS!



Santa won a S&W Bodyguard 2.0

Most folks didn't realize it at the time but Santa took a break from Christmas preps to visit the GSL meeting in Decatur. And he won a Bodyguard 2.0! Congrats Santa. Safe travels, sir.



Jay Swidler from Above Biometrics came down to talk about state laws, electronic fingerprinting and more at our meeting at SCHEELS. If you have problems with your FOIA or CCW applications, he's your man.



Project Appleseed was on the agenda in Decatur! Learn American Heritage and marksmanship at Appleseed events.



And Ferrell won the Tisas 1911 .45 in Pontiac!



Retired US Army Col. Marc Sullivan speaks in Springfield at SCHEELS about his Red Devil Arms business in nearby Rochester. For more information, visit their website Red-DevilArms.com.



"They say you die twice. Once when you stop breathing and the second, a bit later on, when somebody mentions your name for the last time." - Banský

GSL family volunteers decorate Camp Butler headstones as part of Wreaths Across America

Springfield, IL (GSL) - On Saturday, December 14th, despite a driving rain and 33 degree temperatures, a number of our Guns Save Life family joined volunteers from other organizations to decorate the headstones at Camp Butler National Cemetery in Springfield.



A couple hundred patriotic Americans placed roughly 12,000 wreaths over the course of an hour or two. At each headstone, they spoke the veteran's name aloud and thanked them for their service, keeping their name alive.

Despite the bitter, wet cold, the experience of honoring our American heroes felt incredibly rewarding and more than a little like a religious experience on hallowed ground. God bless our veterans.

We mourn the passing of two GSL giants... John Wolf and Ron Beatty



Remember these folks from Pontiac?



John Wolf

A generous and prolific supporter of gun rights in general and Guns Save Life and other pro-gun, pro-veteran organizations, all of us will miss John Wolf. He passed away at age 75 on November 24th.

He served in the Navy's Seebies, was a proud union carpenter and also retired from a career at the Pontiac prison. His gregarious personality and enthusiasm for freedom, liberty and the right to keep and bear arms proved infectious to those around him no matter the setting.



Ron Beatty

Ron Beatty died suddenly Sunday, December 8th. The man served his nation as career military, doing everything from jumping out of aircraft to rescue and render aid to downed pilots to earning decorations for "bombing" the enemy out of the back of C-130s. Over the course of a highly decorated career, he topped out at an E-9 Sergeant Major (or was it Command Sergeant Major?).

He had a massive collection of classic firearms and lived a great life enjoying the shooting sports internationally. Ron also learned all he could and carried with him an encyclopedic knowledge of obscure firearms and the ammo that fed them. Better yet, he loved sharing that knowledge with others.

Justice For

CHRISTINA

Prosecute the Killer

MISOOK

Free Christina's Father

BART MCNEIL



Learn about an injustice. Appeal is at 4th District Court in Springfield, IL. Thank you.

Meeting updates

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. 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, our host location, is closed during the month of January so we will NOT have a January meeting. See you in February!

PEORIA: Peoria's chapter meetings will start sometime shortly after 6:30 beginning in January. Our goal is to get out of the venue a little bit earlier, especially for those with early bedtimes.



GOOD NEWS: New GunNews distribution hub in Springfield!

We have a new distribution hub for GunNews at Glisson Heating and Air, 4179 W. Jefferson Street in Springfield.

There may be limited availability to get them. Call Dave Walbaum at 217 341-6297 or Joel Gain at 217 632-3267.

We regret sending folks to Phoenix Autobody last month in GunNews. That was in error.

Important lessons to learn from others' terrible mistakes

Chasing robber leads to second crime scene, criminal charges for robbery victim who shot perp

by John Boch

Details are still sketchy, but in Peoria County, a CCW holder found himself the victim of an armed robbery. The victim didn't disclose the presence of the pistol, and after surrendering his wallet and phone, Mr. CCW chased after the bad guy.

Problem is they had another confrontation at a second location. Shots were exchanged and the robber soaked up a couple of rounds. Now the CCW holder is sitting in jail pending trial.

ing trial for charges related to shooting the robber who was no longer a threat.

The good news is that Mr. CCW was a US Law Shield customer, and he's got capable legal representation. The bad news? It's going to be a tough sell to the jury and he may be in jail for weeks or months pending trial.

I'm not sure which of the Steve Davis Rules involves "don't chase bad guys" but this guy either didn't know

better than to chase, or maybe he just couldn't help himself. Either way, he's stuck in jail until and unless his attorney can spring him. And the jury trial will be complicated - at best.

Don't pursue fleeing bad guys. Definitely don't shoot at fleeing bad guys. Worst case scenario, you might get shot dead. Almost as bad: you may find yourself on the Illinois Department of Corrections' extended stay program with a cellmate named Bubba.

Peoria man confronted quartet of 'scholars' breaking into cars, lucky shot killed him

God bless Clay Megan. The 22-year-old had the heart of a lion when he stepped onto his apartment's porch with a long-gun to yell at four young scholars breaking into cars in his apartment complex's parking lot.

The aspiring cancer researchers saw the man with a gun and beat feet into their car and drove away. They soon found a dead end and turned around. From there, they drove by Mr. Megan while making their escape.

Mr. Megan, with his wife and

a kid or two inside, fires a warning shot as they drove by. At least one of the car's occupants fires at Mr. Megan, scoring a lucky shot. The round hit the Mr. Megan in the throat killing him right there on his porch.

Here's another Steve Davis Rule: Don't engage bad guys committing property crimes. Call the police from inside your residence or a safe distance away. If the cops arrive in time, great. If not, that's great too. If you go outside and confront the perps, things may well escalate into a gunfight. You

might lose said gunfight, leaving you with permanent disability or even death. All for a Craftsman lawn mower or spare change in the car?

Even if you come out on top if the perp decides to escalate the situation into a shoot-out, how's that going to look to a jury of your peers? You shot and killed some physics scholar and choirboy for stealing your lawn mower out of your shed or garage?

That probably won't play well in Peoria. Or anywhere else for that matter.

Sauk Trail



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March 29 & 30, 2024

Open to the public
8:30 - 4p Saturday, 8:30 - 3p Sunday

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Tables must contain 90% arms & related items

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

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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 January: Rock Island .45

Sangamon January: Sig P365 Optics Ready 9mm

Sangamon February: Mossberg MC1s 9mm

Decatur January: Silver Eagle Arms Sporter 20ga.

NW Chicagoland January: Mossberg Maverick 88 Cruiser

Peoria January: Bodyguard 2.0

Rantoul January: Ruger LCP Max .380

Rantoul February: Rossi RP-63 .357

Executive Director's Report

It's nice to win

by John Boch
GSL Executive Director

Following the Danville meeting, one of our members asked me a simple question: "When are we going to win one of these court cases?"

In fairness, we won at the federal district court level in front of Judge Stephen McGlynn. However, I know what he meant. "When are we going to get this gun ban overturned?"

I wish I had a crystal ball. Given how the US Supreme Court is positioning itself on a host of other cases involving gun and magazine bans, along with actions lower courts may take to throw out gun control laws, it will probably happen next summer.

For years, the anti-gun attorneys general and even anti-gun judges have played a delay and obstruct game with gun law challenges. Their goal was to make the case last long enough that pro-gun SCOTUS justices would either retire or die, allowing Joe Biden to replace them with gun control advocates.

Here's the thing: Neither Joe Biden nor Kamala Harris will be making appointments for the next four, possible twelve years. Donald Trump and JD Vance will be making those appointments.

The "slow-walking" of these gun cases will end up biting the anti-gun forces in the butt. After January 20th, each passing week will see the courts becoming more and more favorable for gun rights. That's such a shame, isn't it? I know. Pass me a tissue please.



GSL's John Boch.

Learning from others

There are a couple of cases out of Peoria that have vividly important lessons for all of us when it comes to using force in self-defense. See page 3 for how you can learn from those folks' mistakes, including the 22-year-old man who died, leaving his wife and kids behind because he used poor tactics dealing with car burglars.

Legislative.

Turning to better news, the Illinois General Assembly has become so radical that they've turned their attention almost exclusively to thwarting their nemesis Donald J. Trump. In doing so, gun control schemes have fallen off their map. Bills to slash prison sentences in half, mandate locking up your safety at home and a lifetime prohibition on gun ownership if you fail to report two or more guns lost or stolen

within 48 hours have all gone to Rules Committee where bills go to die. ISRA says they could be resurrected from Rules, but I've been doing this a long time and I don't think I've ever seen that happen. But there's always a first. In reality, they might run something on a shell bill, but once something goes to Rules it's done.

I'll double down with good news on the legislative front: All JB's horses and all JB's men can't protect the illegal alien criminals that have poured into Illinois in general and Chicagoland in particular. Tom Homan, Trump's new Homeland Security Czar, seems intent on taking Pritzker up on ol' JB's bold statement about going "through" him to get illegals. "Game on," Homan says.



Ditto for efforts by Mayor Birdbrain Johnson's catering to illegals at the expense of natural born Americans in his crime-ridden cesspool city.

Once the deportations begin happening in earnest, I look for many of those here illegally to self-deport on their terms rather than while wearing handcuffs. As for families? Deport them together. If they really, truly are law-abiding people, let them apply for legal immigrant status and come in through the proper channels, not by crossing a river.

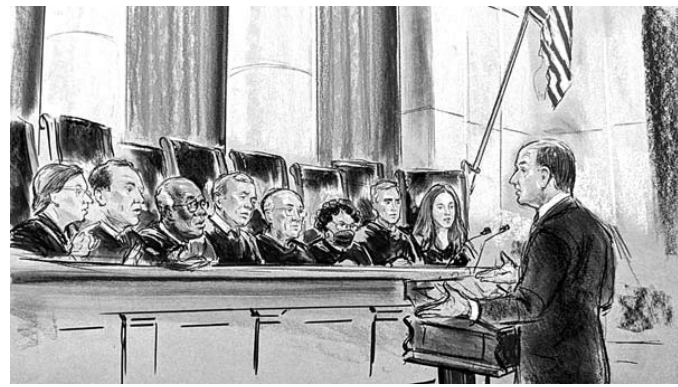
Great news from New York...

Daniel Penny was acquitted by a jury for his heroic act of stopping a drug-addict with dozens of felonies from carrying out this threats to kill people on a NY subway train. *The Babylon Bee* had a very appropriate story titled, "Prosecutors warn Daniel Penny acquittal could lead to rampant acts of heroism." Once again, *Babylon Bee* cements its role as America's true Newspaper of Record.

Chicago 'Gun Buyback' guns ending in the hands of gang bangers? Say it isn't so!

And did you ever wonder about guns "going missing" from Chicago gun buybacks? Well, rumor has it one went missing from a recent buyback and somehow it turned up in the hands of a dead gang banger who had been banging the sister of one of the cops working the buyback. *Second City Cop* got the tip and posed the question of how did that gang member get a gun surrendered to police.

Enjoy the Christmas season with your friends and loved ones. Better days await us very soon.



Litigation Update

by John Boch

As you read in last month's *GunNews*, we won our challenge to the Protect Illinois Communities Act gun and magazine ban. Legal experts widely expected any three-judge panel of the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals to extend the stay issued by District Court Judge Stephen McGlynn. And they did, dashing our hopes that it would be allowed to expire.

Sure, we hoped that they would not renew the stay, but just like life, "hope" doesn't usually get you far.

For what it's worth, most prosecutors in Illinois who had their doubts about prosecuting people under PICA before are now probably even less inclined to approve charges today. Of course, Cook, Champaign and a few other counties will cheerfully and enthusiastically prosecute good guy gun owners while looking the other way on career criminals victimizing the innocent on a routine basis.

The **really** good news is we drew a Trump-appointed judge in Amy St. Eve to replace the rabidly gun-hating Diane Wood who retired. At least now we can expect a fair hearing on the merits of the case after Illinois Attorney General Kwame Raoul appealed his loss in McGlynn's final judgement.

We don't know a whole lot about St. Eve, but we do know Trump didn't appoint many anti-gun judges to the bench in his first term in office. We will certainly learn more about her in the coming months - probably.

If the US Supreme Court takes the *Snope* case out of Maryland (which legal experts believe is inevitable), the Seventh might pause our appeal pending the outcome of that case. Of course, if SCOTUS rules against Maryland on the gun ban issue, then precedent would require Pritzker's beloved "Protect Illinois Communities Act" gun ban to likewise be stricken from the books, perhaps even more comprehensively than McGlynn's decision. (McGlynn allowed the ban on .50 caliber ban to stand.)

At that point it would simply be a formality to toss the PICA law into the dustbin of history, right alongside other mistakes in jurisprudence like "separate but equal."

SPOILER ALERT: There are a lot of moving parts in these cases, and nobody really knows exactly how it will all finally get settled. If you want to stay on the cutting edge of the most relevant cases and the analysis of the issue, subscribe to Four Boxes Diner and Washington Gun Law on YouTube.

Both channels are hosted by attorneys who know their stuff. Four Boxes is a little better on US Supreme Court analysis, but William Kirk says most of the same stuff just in fewer words (and less time). These two guys are where I get most of my information aside from what our legal team shares (and some of that I can't share with all of you.)

Legislative Update

The General Assembly is out of session until the "Lame Duck" session immediately before swearing in the next General Assembly class. While this sounds innocuous, in recent years, this is the session where the radicals and the wing-bats advance their pet causes. Need examples? How about the so-called "Protect Illinois Communities Act"? Or maybe the "Safe-T Act" otherwise known as No Cash Bail. There are plenty of other doozies, but these are the two that stand out most to me as of this writing.

So keep your eyes peeled, but honestly, the worst of the worst happens in the very early hours of the morning before the swearing in of the new legislature. In other words, it'll happen while you're asleep. They'll pass this fecal matter in the middle of the dark of night so nobody has an opportunity to say, "Hey, wait a minute. Maybe this isn't such a good idea!"



As for the elections, there's no change in party makeup of the Illinois Legislature. Dems very narrowly missed picking up a House seat (by a few dozen votes). Candidly, the gun control jihadists among the radical Democrats in Springfield can run just about whatever gun control they want through the General Assembly whenever they want.

Stay 'expected' per court experts

Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals stays McGlynn's ruling for duration of appeal

(The Center Square) – Illinois' gun and magazine ban will stay in effect pending the outcome in the Seventh Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals, the appeals court ruled Thursday...



After preliminary issues went all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court, Justice Clarence Thomas said the case was not ripe because it was not on final judgement. The Southern District of Illinois consequently found the law unconstitutional. Judge Stephen McGlynn issued an injunction against the law last month but put a 30 day hold on his order. That stay would have lifted Dec. 9.

The state appealed to the Seventh Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals, asking for a continued stay. The appeals court ruled Thursday McGlynn's injunction will be held and the state's gun ban will "remain in force until this court issued its mandate."



Hunters harvest 54,661 deer in first firearm deer season

(The Center Square) - Hunters in Illinois harvested a preliminary total of 54,661 deer during the first weekend of the Illinois firearm deer season between Nov. 22-24. That is more than a thousand more than in the two previous years. The highest total of deer harvested was in Adams County, followed by Jefferson and Jackson counties. Illinois' seven-day firearm deer season will conclude Dec. 5-8.



IL Supreme Court says skunk smell is probable cause for police search

(The Center Square) – Even though marijuana is legal in Illinois, the state's highest court has ruled that the smell of raw cannabis is enough for police to search a vehicle...

The 4-2 majority opinion, written by Justice P. Scott Neville Jr., highlighted a 2019 law that stipulates that marijuana in a car must be transported in a sealed, odor-proof container.

Standing up and speaking out works!
Another win for the John Birch Society

Plans withdrawn to build CO2 pipeline through Illinois, Iowa

(The Center Square) – Environmental groups are applauding a Colorado company's decision to withdraw an application to build a CO2 pipeline through Illinois.

Last year, Wolf Carbon Solutions withdrew its request to build a 260-mile pipeline from Iowa through Illinois after receiving a denial from the Illinois Commerce Commission. The company said it would refile the permit application, but had second thoughts.



Happy endings & Happy Meals at Chicago McDs

Chicago (CWB Chicago) — A man who robbed a McDonald's customer at gunpoint on the West Side was hospitalized after the restaurant's patrons ganged up on him and beat him until Chicago police arrived, officials said. And, prosecutors claim, it was the second time in ten days that the gunman had robbed the same victim inside the same restaurant.



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LOOKING FOR A PLACE TO SHOOT?

DeWitt County Sportsmans Club

Clinton, IL



BREAKFAST! First and Third Sunday. 8:30a.m.
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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 or by mailing a request to DCSC, PO Box 322, Clinton, IL 61727.



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:
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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)

You like to shoot? Ammo isn't getting any cheaper... **BUY NOW!**

How is your ammo inventory?

By Damon Williams
GSL Member

(GSL) - I recall from ammunition shortages past how many low-information consumers complained of ammo price gouging. In reality, prices simply showed the relationship between price and demand.

Thankfully, in recent months, prices have settled to what we all accept as a new norm and supply is once again plentiful from the most recent "run" on ammo we all saw during COVID.

In October of 2024, Winchester released a formal statement warning that ammunition prices will rise 5-10% starting January 1, 2025. If one ammunition manufacturer is announcing this move, you can bet the rest will soon follow.

Unless there's civil unrest or another precipitating event, most gun owners will probably snooze when it comes to buying ammo when it's plentiful and (relatively) inexpensive.

Take my own son, for example. In 2018, I helped my son set up his reloading bench. When I commented on his dearth of supplies, he replied: "Why worry about it? I can have a case of 9mm delivered for \$180."

A year later he couldn't afford a case.

Once a panic takes hold, people react irrationally. Remember the toilet paper shortage of 2020? Or the gasoline lines on the day of September 11, 2001?

Thankfully, the market has stabilized and the ammo availability pendulum has swung back to the "mostly plentiful" end of the spec-



trum.

Locked and Loaded in Pana has 9mm for as low as \$199/case for steel-cased ammo, and \$220 per thousand for brass cased varieties. If you have followed my previous articles, you simply cannot reload it for that price.

So buy it "cheap" now and stack it deep.

Again, did you learn your lesson from the last ammo shortage? I remember buying a case of 9mm practice ammo for \$500 during one "run" on ammo. I still feel the sting of that purchase.

This brings me to a few final thoughts on my series of articles about reloading.

Folks, buy now while it's plentiful and available.

I recently had a conversation with a reloader who disagreed with my findings.

After going back and forth, I learned he bought six-figures of primers and bullets, along with lots of powder during the Bush administration. He is loading ammo at Y2K prices with a big grin on his face. Yeah, I would be too.

What's more, regulations on purchasing reloading components are relatively scarce for now, but that could change.

Some states are registering ammo sales by requiring background checks. ISP tipped their hand in early 2024 seeking to do the same. However, ISP did it outside the rule of law and got shut down.

Illinois could pass legislation to further regulate reloading components, and many even implement registration schemes. Buy now, with cash, while you can remain anonymous.

on the other hand, pupils will learn the basics of shooting with a practical part conducted with the use of safe tools for shooting practice, such as e.g. ball guns, air guns, replicas small arms ASG, virtual or laser shooting ranges.

According to the regulation, the teaching content will be expanded to include the identification of challenges to individual and collective security, the importance of cyber threats in the civilian dimension, and preparation for rescue operations in emergency situations (mass accidents and disasters).

Shooting classes now mandatory in Polish elementary and high schools

Poland (Dignity News) - From the start of the new school year, Polish pupils will learn to shoot as part of their classes. The regulation, which was signed by the Minister of Education and Science Przemyslaw Czarnek, also envisages extending the content of teaching to include the importance of cyber threats and preparation for rescue operations in emergency situations. A transitional period of two school years has been provided for shooting classes.

In the case of shooting training at primary schools, pupils will primarily learn how to handle weapons safely and their lessons will be theoretical. In secondary schools,

The 'obsolete' shotgun that made hunting fun again

Who would have thought an 80-year-old bolt-action 16 gauge would be the ticket to making hunting fun again? Get a gun that challenges you to be better.

by Ken Frey

Being an avid hunter I usually look forward to hunting season. But for a few years I felt less than enthusiastic. I was getting bored with hunting.

Maybe I just needed a new gun. I have multiple pumps, semi-autos, side-by-sides and over-unders in various gauges.

I needed a new shotgun like my wife needs another set of shoes or a new purse. But a shiny new shotgun was what I thought I needed.

Several gun stores and weeks later, I found my Holy Grail at a small town gunshop. The clerk went off to check on gauge availability, he returned the very cool and sexy semi-auto shotgun back to the rack next to an old bolt shotgun.

When I asked him about the old bolt gun he replied "it's a old 16 gauge" as he handed it to me. For an old used gun I found it in remarkably good shape. Yep, a bolt-action, tube-fed 16-gauge shotgun, with a full-choke 26" barrel, probably from the 1930s - well before my time.



Just for grins, I shouldered it and worked the bolt several times. The action ran silky smooth, like guns used to be a long time ago.

Looking it over again, all of a sudden a thought entered my head: "This could be a really fun gun!"

Suddenly, I just saved myself a bundle of money. The guy working the store seemed happy I took the bolt-action orphan off his shelf, even if I didn't buy the sexy new scattergun for something approaching two thousand dollars.

For me, this old dog would be my "new" shotgun! I filled out the paperwork and paid the man.

On the way home, I asked myself, "What did I just do?"

It turns out I didn't need a shiny new gun, just a different kind of shotgun, one that presented a challenge for me. A plain-Jane old hardware store gun for just a tick under \$200 dollars.

Yeah, I can hear you laughing from here, saying "that ain't no hunting gun" and

"I wouldn't be caught dead with one of those!"

Well let me tell you, I took this old girl down to the range and practiced with it every chance I could before hunting season started. I must have run several hundred rounds through it shooting clays until I got decent, even hitting a few doubles.



Of course, last year's hunting season came and went.

I used my new bolt action shotgun exclusively all season long!

I shot squirrels and rabbits, along with doves and pheasants. The guys might have snickered at me when they saw what I pulled out of the case but they weren't laughing when we finished up!

I even shot a couple of ducks and geese.

Deer season came and those old Foster slugs work just fine from this old workhorse, even at 100 yards and beyond. I filled my tags and basked in the nostalgia of using that old bolt-action shotgun like men like me eighty years ago used to do.

Last but not least, 16 gauge does just fine on coyotes. I got several.

For the first time in a long time, I had a fantastic hunting season that I enjoyed.

This old bolt-action shotgun has me giddy as a school boy on his first date and I can't wait for my next hunting excursion!

For me, this shotgun can really do it all. It kind of makes my other shotguns obsolete!

So if you're getting bored with hunting because it's not challenging enough, don't just go out and buy any gun, get one that challenges you. If you're out hunting and happen to come across someone using an old bolt-action shotgun, chances are they're smiling ear to ear having the time of their life!

Ask them how much they enjoy it.

Illinois Freedom Alliance column to return next month

A host of factors contributed to no column from the Illinois Freedom Alliance this month. We anticipate its return next month. In the meantime, you can visit their website at IllinoisFreedomAlliance.us.





In regione caecorum rex est luscus

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



Death by toad poison

So you get a call from Lukoil Oil Company in Moscow. Or another Russian energy company. They want you as a senior executive. Somewhere north of \$20,000,000 a year salary. New S680 Mercedes-Benz Maybach – every year. Your own executive jet and crew. Eight weeks paid vacation annually. Huge mansion. Tell us what else you want and we'll accommodate it.

Sounds great. But just say "No." Because Lukoil and the other energy giants have maybe the worst retirement plans on earth. They're short and certainly not sweet.

Mikhail Rogachev, former vice-president of Yukos oil, was found dead in October 2024 at the entrance to his home in Moscow. The guy who found him was an employee of Russia's foreign intelligence agency, the SVR, and said the injuries were characteristic of a fall. Mikhail lived on the tenth floor. State news say it was suicide, and that he left a note. His family says no way. What was the SVR guy doing there? He said he had been walking his boss's dog when he saw the body.

Last May, former top Lukoil manager Alexander Subbotin died under "mysterious circumstances" in "the basement of the home of a shaman." The Russian news agency said Alex had died of a heart attack after consuming toad poison. Another source said that Alex had heard that the shaman had a really good hangover cure involving the toads. And I thought that was hair of the dog. Who knew?

Leonid Shulman, a chief at Gazprom Invest, handling investment projects for the state-owned gas giant, was found dead in a cottage north of St. Petersburg in January 2022, just a month before the 2nd Russian invasion of the Ukraine – the first was in 2014 when Russia

annexed the Crimea. He died in Gazprom's heavily-guarded Leninsky corporate village in the Leningrad region, near St. Petersburg. That's odd, as Leonid was found dead with multiple stab wounds in a pool of blood on his bathroom floor. So we can rule out suicide, I think. In September 2022, Ravil Maganov, chairman of Lukoil, was found dead after falling from a sixth floor window at the Moscow Central Clinical Hospital. Lukoil said Maganov had died "after a serious illness" after hospitalization for a severe heart attack. Unfortunately, close circuit TV footage was unavailable because cameras had been "turned off for repairs." Jeffrey Epstein could tell you how often that happens.

Nooses and pistols, axes and knives. Sergey Protoposenya, former top manager of Russia's energy giant Novatek, was found hanged in the garden of the villa in Lloret de Mar by Catalonian police on April 19, 2022, Spanish media reported, while his wife and daughter were found in their beds with blunt axe wounds and knife stab wounds on their bodies. An axe and a knife were found next to his body. Spanish media theorized that either Sergey killed his wife and daughter and then hanged himself, or the entire family was murdered and the crime scene later staged to appear as a murder-suicide. The day before, former vice-president of Gazprom Bank, Vladislav Avaev was found dead in his ritzy apartment on Universitetsky Prospekt in Moscow, along with his wife and daughter. The apartment was locked from the inside; a pistol was found in Avaev's hands, leading the theory that Vlad shot his wife and his 13-year-old daughter before killing himself. And Yuri Voronov, CEO of a subcontractor of Gazprom, was found in a swimming pool, dead, on July 4, 2022, of gunshot wounds to the

head. A pistol was nearby; the casings were found at the bottom of the pool at his home in the ultra-wealthy Vyborgsky district of the Leningrad region. C'mon, man! They're going to have to drain the pool now!

And my favorite? Probably Anatoly Gerashchenko, who died after falling down multiple flights of stairs! Guess he bounced off the wall just right after each flight and kept going each time. Sort of like shooting a ball off multiple rails in billiards. Hope somebody called that shot first!

Why could all this be happening? *The New York Times* uses the phrase: "Under Murky Circumstances." In a statement to customers, staff and shareholders, in 2022, Lukoil's board of directors called "for the soonest termination of the armed conflict" in Ukraine. Maybe somebody didn't like that. To be sure, all the deaths are not necessarily connected. It is far more likely some really are suicides (I think that suicide rate in Russia is the third-highest in the world.) Some could be killings by competing influential clans to wipe out competitors without a centralized Kremlin effort led by Vladimir Putin. The Kremlin has denied responsibility for any of the deaths.

Sir William Felix Browder, the CEO and co-founder of Hermitage Capital Management, who was deported from Russia because his investment strategy supported shareholder rights activism for companies HCM supported there, has his own theory. The sanctions imposed by the West against Moscow because of the Ukraine war meant that the economic pie had shrunk. And, "Whenever there's limited resources and very powerful people – people start getting killed."

Death by toad poison. How fitting.



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Mike Buis on preparedness: 'Hope' is not a strategy

Mike Buis, a firearms, personal defense and preparedness instructor shared a timely presentation on Winter Weather Preparedness in Springfield at SCHEELS. No, this wasn't a "put a sleeping bag in your car and don't eat the yellow snow" speech.

He began by telling folks "Hope is not a strategy." Well, it's not a *winning* strategy. It is a strategy - one that will help you to fail, or become a refugee, or worst case scenario, to die.



Mike Buis.

Make plans. Plan for contingencies and emergencies in your everyday lives with family members. This includes known routes from home from work, agreements on who gets the kids/grandkids if something happens while the kids are at school, and safe places of refuge if getting home isn't feasible. As an example, Mike said his wife works a ways from home and they positioned a bike at her office if her car won't run. It's cheap insurance and it beats walking. Mike knows her designated route home and he'll try to meet her on her way home if communication isn't possible.

Speaking of walking, Mike shared some advice for those not accustomed to walking serious distances. Walk at a modest 2mph pace and take a ten minute break every hour. Stay hydrated, of course.

In your car, have a change of weather-appropriate clothes, along with comfortable shoes (especially for ladies). Boots are ideal, and avoid cotton fabrics for these because once they get wet, you get cold and hypothermic. "Cotton kills."

Pack spare socks, specifically wool or synthetic. Wear dry socks! Change them out every few hours when you take a break.

Have a "Get Home" bag. Stock it with a water purification filter (you gotta have wa-

ter), along with a reflective tarp for shelter from elements, 550 cord and tent stakes. You will want a sleeping mat or some way to insulate yourself from the ground (contractor clean up garbage bags stuffed with dry leaves works - or maybe a hammock for warmer weather). A sleeping bag is nice, but adds a lot of bulk to your pack.

Also include first aid gear (including moleskin or duct tapes), along with a couple days' of your life-sustaining medications.

For food, pack some of those life boat survival rations. They're not thirst-provoking, and one bar will sustain you for three days at 1200 calories per day. If you want to get fancy, pack some sort of stove with a metal cup for heating water for instant oatmeal or hot chocolate as morale boosters for when weather gets cool.

Other things to put in your get home bag? A compass is good, along with ways (plural) to make fire. Make sure you have soap and wet wipes. And feminine supplies for the ladies in your world. Insect repellent? For summers in Illinois, you bet.

Amongst the usual car emergency gear like flashlights/headlamps, flares and a warm blanket, make sure you have a small shovel and a jump pack and/or jumper cables. For warmth, pack a pint-sized metal paint can heater. You can open it with the screwdriver on your multi-tool (you have one of those too, right?).



How do you make such an animal? Stuff a roll of toilet paper in the paint can (after you remove the cardboard center tube). Fill Mr. Can about a third- to a half-full of 70% rubbing alcohol and it'll keep the inside of your car toasty warm when ignited (crack the windows to admit oxygen and let the water vapor escape). Cover the mouth of the can with the lid to extinguish the flame.

Mainstay 'Emergency Food Rations' tasty & edible

Even 10 years after expiration date when stored in a trunk in IL weather!

by John Boch

So I sifted and sorted through my emergency stuff in my ride after the bodyshop fixed it. Among the finds: Some Mainstay "lifeboat" rations that expired in 2013. They had a manufactured date of May 2008!

On a whim, I opened one and found no obvious signs of spoilage. At first I was just going to sample it, but even after close to 15 years of riding around in my trunk getting baked and frozen each year, I found them quite yummy, kind of like lemon cake. A couple of samples turned into eating a whole darn 400 calorie bar. I had to throw the rest away before I ate them too and blew a bigger hole in my daily diet. No adverse effects visited me the next day, either.

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Folks, these are less than \$20 each or about \$120 for a ten-pack. Clearly they last forever even stored in very adverse conditions. And they taste good, bordering on downright delightful. Buy yourself one or two for each of your cars and each of your get home bags. Just in case. They are cheap insurance.

Firearms and explosives recovered...

Police thwart church attack in Texas

White Settlement, TX (TTAG) - A man who intended to carry out an attack on a North Texas church has been arrested in White Settlement, according to an incident report from the Fort Worth Fire Department. Police found the man in the Texas suburb parked in a van filled with firearms and live explosives.



The suspect has yet to be named by authorities because he has been hospitalized since his detainment and police have not yet been able to charge him formally. White Settlement police say, however, that he will be charged upon release with possessing prohibited weapons, unlawful carrying of a weapon, and resisting arrest, search, or transport.



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David Pike: Unrehearsed responses to scenarios & Leadership traits during emergencies

Dr. David Pike joined us in Rantoul and hosted a panel discussion of sorts on preparedness. He asked for unrehearsed answers to some potential emergencies and picked apart the answers. This compared and contrasted both the "male" point of view with John Boch who lives in a "city" with the female point of view of Adrienne Logue who lives in a rural setting. It proved both educational and entertaining.

Pike's first scenario involved a "derecho" causing mass power outages and a lot of damage. Communication was spotty at best and emergency services are likewise occupied. "You are home and your family is elsewhere, out of town. What do you do in the first hour or so?"

Pike picked on Boch first. John started with saying he would assess his own property and set up the generator if the sump pump was running. Then he would check on the neighbors he liked, then others in the neighborhood.

Adrienne's answer was similar in many ways except that her neighbors are a good distance away and likely self-sufficient as well.

The second scenario involved waking up on a Monday morning to the news that electronic payments were down, nationwide, for whatever reason. Cash only.



Adrienne shrugged her shoulders. "We have everything we need. We're not

doing anything."

John said if it seemed reasonably safe, he would probably contact one or more friends who he knows have cash and as a group go out to smaller grocery stores (Krogers, not Walgreens) to pick up some fresh foods and things like milk and other perishable items, paying cash. "We would do things as a group to provide security for one another." Gas, he said, wasn't really an issue as he keeps his tank full but they could fill any friends' tanks that needed it as they were already out.

The longer the outage of electronic payment systems, the "sportier" things might well become, so acting sooner rather than later seems like a smart move. Along with avoiding trouble magnets like Walmart stores.



Good leadership traits Pike then shared some thoughts about the elements of a good leader during and after an emergency.

A good leader will **assess first before taking action.** Identifying potential hazards seems prudent, especially as traditional forms of help may be delayed.

During the assessment, the good leader will **prioritize mitigating further damage.** As in firing up a generator to power a sump pump to keep your basement from flooding and/or food from spoiling.

A good leader **will work to stabilize the situation.** They'll also **adapt and over-**

come as needed by using American ingenuity because they know that no plan survives first contact.

And leaders will **communicate clearly with others.** This might even involve writing down specific tasks for others to accomplish and encourage those people to take notes and return with a simple written report.

People who are freaked out in the aftermath of a disaster will often respond well when given tasks to keep their minds focused on something besides dwelling on the disaster. Having them check on others' condition is a good place to start and then build from there. And gently direct them in ways they can help instead of asking "if" they can help will get you better results.

Making life easier

HF fuel transfer pump, Horusdy fluid extractor

"Work smarter, not harder." We've all heard that expression. The older I get the greater the wisdom I see behind it. With that in mind, I'd like to share a couple of products to make your life a lot easier.

First, I used to lift 5 gallon gas cans and pour them into a funnel into my car when rotating my gas each year. That sucked all manner of farm animals. Those new-fangled spouts made spills inevitable, some bigger than others.

Harbor Freight to the rescue! Their \$12.99 (sometimes on sale for half-price) battery-powered Chinese-um fuel transfer pump will slip right into a 5-gallon gas can and in a couple of minutes, transfer the contents of that can into your car, snow blower, or anything else. It'll also suck out last year's gas (stabilized, right?) from small engine gas tanks so you can replace it with fresh, stabilized fuel. They go from

between \$12.99 to half that on sale. Let's see: bathed in gasoline or spend 13 bucks? This isn't complex math.

Get a second one to transfer kerosene from your 5-gallon kerosene cans into your heater(s). It's easy, safe, and neat, plus you don't have to mess with those new-fangled pour spouts.

Do you wrestle with oil changes for small engines? Horusdy has a 200cc fluid extractor for \$9.99 at Amazon. Using the included tubes, you can change the oil neatly and cleanly without turning the whole engine upside down if it doesn't have a drain plug. In fact, the engine can be warm or even hot when changing your oil every year or hundred hours of use, whichever comes first. This thing is almost as good as sliced bread.



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To sign up for this new Life Membership option, fill out the form on the back page of this issue of *GunNews* and send it in today.



Sounds great except she may apply it to righteous self-defense cases too...

New state's attorney vows to seek pre-trial detention for all violent crimes

Chicago (CWB Chicago) — Within hours of taking office as the new Cook County State's Attorney this month, Eileen O'Neill Burke and her team announced some new ground rules for how prosecutors will handle their most serious cases...

In a press release, O'Neill Burke's office enumerated a lengthy list of crimes that will automatically prompt prosecutors in her office to ask a judge to keep the defendant in jail. Among the crimes listed were murder, carjacking, armed robbery, home invasion, aggravated battery of a child, domestics involving a weapon, and any detainable felon offense where a defendant is accused of using or possessing a ghost gun, extended magazine, or machine gun...

With crime spiraling out of control and half of the highest priority 911 calls having no officers available to respond, slashing 1000 cop jobs seems like a bold strategy, Cotton. Let's see if it pays off for 'em...

Mayor seeks to axe 1,000 cop positions to help balance city budget

(GSL) - Already almost two thousand officers shy of full strength, Mayor Brandon Johnson has cancelled police academy classes as far as the eye can see as a cost-saving measure. He also asked the department's leadership for an additional \$70 million in cuts weeks ago.

Now there's talk that he's considering a proposal to further defund the department by permanently eliminating 1,000 police officer positions to save the city \$170 million to help balance the budget.

Does the mayor really hate the people he claims to champion? He already cancelled the ShotSpotter contract which notified first responders of gunfire so victims to get prompt medical attention. Now he's moving to reduce police numbers even more?

Eileen O'Neill Burke
Democrat for State's Attorney

You may be surprised to learn that the majority of sexual assault cases filed in the city involve child victims. You'll probably be even more surprised to learn that, in our random sampling, prosecutors only sought detention in 83% of cases where the victims were under 13. And judges only granted 42% of those requests...

By asking for detention in 100% of serious crimes, O'Neill Burke moves all responsibility for a defendant's release to the judge. That's smart politically. Whether it will result in judges granting detention requests more often remains to be seen.

Unbelievable!

- Chicago pays \$100,000 to estate of would-be cop killer...
- Three days later the dead perp's brother caught with two guns

Chicago (CWB Chicago) — One week ago, the day before Thanksgiving, lawyers quietly filed a two-page stipulation to dismiss a lawsuit at Chicago's federal courthouse.

According to the paperwork, the city has already reached a settlement agreement with the estate of Dexter Reed, the 26-year-old who was shot dead by Chicago police officers after he opened fire on them during a traffic stop on March 21...

Three days after the filing, shortly before 6 p.m. Saturday, Chicago police officers arrested Reed's 25-year-old brother after they allegedly found two loaded firearms inside his SUV during a traffic stop. He was arrested, charged, and released to await trial without incident.



Moron Cook Co. inmate surrenders gun shortly before his release... he's now on the extended stay plan

Chicago (CWB Chicago) — Investigators are still trying to determine how a firearm surrendered by an inmate at the Cook County jail last week was brought into the facility.

Officials said Kemari Johnson, 18, handed over a loaded handgun and ammunition magazine while he was being outfitted with an ankle monitor shortly before he was supposed to be released last Wednesday.

"Can I surrender something?" he supposedly asked before reaching into his pants pocket and crotch to pull out the contraband.



She supports illegal aliens, but not your gun rights... Nice woman, right?

Chicago Rep pledges 'resistance' to deportations; Homan says 'Game on!'

Chicago (FoxNews) - Incoming border czar Tom Homan is not backing down from his plans to lead President-elect Trump's mass deportation operation in Chicago after a Democratic congresswoman told him to "be ready to meet the resistance."

"Message received. Please review 18 USC 111 and also see 8 USC 1324 (iii)," Homan told Fox News Digital in an interview on Wednesday. "Game on."



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Great Guns Custom GSL-19 Edition Great Guns 2025 has landed!

(GSL) - John Drummond from Wayward Son Custom Gun has donated a custom GSL-19 for our first Great Guns drawing of 2025. We plan to pull the winning ticket at the Mattoon GSL meeting on February 13th, 2025.

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.



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 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 along with a Fenix PD-36R tactical flashlight and some Winchester Ranger +P defensive ammo (added by John Boch) and more.



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

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.

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Trends in concealed carry

- Women getting licenses up 255%
- Black application growth outpaces whites by 283.9%
- 29 states no longer require licenses to carry
- 8.2% of Americans have carry licenses
- 23.1% of Indiana residents have licenses

(NRA-ILA) - The Crime Prevention Research Center (CPRC) has released the latest in its series of annual reports on trends in concealed carry permits in America.

The report, Concealed Carry Permit Holders Across the United States: 2024 (Nov. 29, 2024), by Dr. John Lott, Jr., Carlisle E. Moody, and Rujun Wang, looked at the trends accompanying the exponential growth in carry permits. Although the permit number peaked in 2022, the drop in the number of concealed carry permits in 2024 compared to 2023 was relatively small (less than 2%), with at least 21.46 million adult permit-holders currently in the United States.

This minor drop was attributed to the recent, sharp rise in the number of states – currently 29 – that allow constitutional carry, pursuant to which qualified adults may carry without a permit (and without the fees and government paperwork that a permit requires). There were only 13 constitutional carry states seven years ago, but thanks to the NRA and sustained guns rights advocacy (here and here, for example), the growth in constitutional carry since then has been nothing short of remarkable. Florida tipped the United States into a majority constitutional carry nation in 2023 when it became the twenty-sixth state to pass a constitutional carry

law, followed by Nebraska (2023), and Louisiana and South Carolina this year. "[W]hile permits are increasing in the non-Constitutional Carry states, they fell in the Constitutional Carry ones even though more people are clearly carrying in those states," the report noted.



Another very positive metric in the CPRC report is that now close to half of all Americans live in a constitutional carry jurisdiction: "46.8% of Americans (157.6 million) now live in Constitutional Carry States, with 67.7% of the land in the country (2.57 million square miles)."

Permits, though, remain popular. Overall, 8.2% of American adults have permits; outside of the restrictive states of California and New York, that rises to about 9.8% of adults. Indiana has the highest concentration of concealed carry permittees, at 23.1% of the population, followed by Alabama (20.5%) and Colorado (17.7%). More than 10% of adults have a carry permit in each of 16 states. In terms of raw numbers, Florida is the top state with 2.46 million in-state permit holders.

Another noteworthy trend is that in jurisdictions that record gender and/or race of permit holders, the percentage of permit holders who are women or minorities (or both) has increased significantly. In the seven states with data by gender available for both 2012 and 2023/2024, the number of permits increased by 255% for women compared to 120% for men. In the four states with records regarding race for 2015 and 2021/2023/2024, "the number of permits grew 283.9% faster for blacks than for whites. Permits for Asians grew 219.2% faster than whites..."



While the report recognized the relationship between concealed carry permit numbers and violent crime rates is complex, "[v]iolent crime fell from 4.77 per 10 million people in 2007 to 3.64 per 10 million people in 2023, a 24% drop," which occurred over the same period in which the percentage of adults with permits soared by three-fold. Given that permit-holders are extremely unlikely to commit crimes, more permits clearly don't correlate with increased crime.

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Self-improvement

Testosterone Replacement Therapy: A year+ later

Unhappy with loss of muscle, a pear-shaped upper body, and other "male" issues? TRT can help bring profound, life-changing improvements to your life...

by John Boch

When I find something that really works, instead of hiding it under a basket, I like to share the news.

In the past few years, I felt the effects of age and I'm not just talking about the hair loss. At first I chalked it up to a lack of sleep and stress of bringing twin premature babies home at age 51. But things just kept getting worse. The pounds kept stacking up past 224, along with bouts of depression, mental fatigue and more. To add insult to injury, my 34" pants began unbuttoning themselves.

I didn't like it. So I saw my doctor. My testosterone tested low (400ish), but not low enough that insurance would cover testosterone replacement therapy. So I went private pay with Life Plus MD (offices in Bloomington and Peoria). I spent \$300 for the initial consult, and now about \$175/month for doctor access, testing and meds. *Best money I ever spent!* I took my first injection the week before Halloween last year.

The once-weekly injections brought my "T" up to about 1000-1200, or about what I had in my teenage years. In a matter of weeks, my mental fog and depression vanished. My strength grew while the pounds started to melt.

Coupled with smarter eating and time at the gym with a trainer, the results speak for themselves. I've lost 40+ pounds, almost 6 inches around the waist, a pair of man boobs, and some serious GERD (google it). I've gained a ton of muscle and even more strength. My body fat via Fit3D scans is now 12.24%, down from 21.07% in April and just shy of 30% in the fall of 2023.

TRT has proven a miracle treatment for me. Today I can lift my kiddos with ease and I climb rock walls like I'm Spiderman.

I admit to some downsides. I

had to buy all new pants (size 32 for first time since college and I now see 30" pants on the horizon). I'm two belt sizes smaller (at \$75+ each). Holsters wear differently and are now less comfortable.



The biggest unwelcome side effects? I think about sex like I did at age 16. The sex thing may appeal to some spouses or girlfriends - or both. Your mileage may vary.

Is this TRT for you? If you're feeling or looking like an old, fat man prematurely, I **strongly recommend looking into TRT.** Have you wondered how Sylvester Stallone (78 years old!), RFK Jr. (70) and so many other Hollywood types look so healthy and ripped in their older years? They might call it an "anti-aging protocol" but it's really just TRT.

You've only got one body. Treat it well. If your family doc is leery, visit a hormone replacement practice for an expert's second opinion.

With proper testing and medical supervision, the risks are very low. What's more, it comes with huge health-related upsides. A healthier, stronger you will allow you to navigate life more confidently, with greater productivity, and live longer. It'll also make you harder to kill if you tangle with a bad guy.

I recommend Life Plus MD in Central Illinois, but there are others. Watch out for ones that will try to gig you for huge fees (a more common issue in Chicagoland).

Diet: I trimmed my caloric intake, but I didn't do anything radical - at first. Getting rid of fast food, soda, booze and candy jump started things,

getting me down the first 30 pounds in four months - even with holiday feasting. I still eat food I like, including burgers, pizza and even a donut now and then.

At the insistence of a personal trainer, I began tracking my dietary intake with the *My Fitness Pal* app on my phone. It proved *hugely* educational tracking calories as well as how much fat, carbs and protein consumed. That helped me shed more weight by killing off carbs more aggressively.

Starting around my birthday back in October this year, I decided to chase six-pack abs. Yes, sometimes I wonder if I'm crazy. To get there, I'm becoming a little more careful on intake. As of this writing, I'm at 181 pounds and 12.24% body fat. I probably need to shed another 2-4% of body fat to see those abs - so for now I will continue to lean out so long as I can maintain muscle strength.

Worth noting: I went to a bodybuilding competition recently and a third or more of the competition's athletes age 40 and over didn't have six-packs. Maybe I am foolish chasing this at close to 60.



Protein! Experts recommend keeping up protein intake to minimize muscle loss while shedding those excess pounds. Buy non-soy protein powder and use it to supplement dietary protein. Sam's has RAW protein powder at a good price if you like chocolate flavor. Drink them in mornings, after workouts

Continued on page 21.



Joe Biden's 'War On Guns' was never aimed at criminals. IT WAS AIMED AT YOU.

(Shooting News Weekly/NRA-ILA) - We've routinely pointed out that it's more informative to watch anti-gun politicians and officials' behavior than to listen to the platitudes they spew about enacting gun control to protect the public. This is often made manifest when officials in jurisdictions with burdensome gun control laws fail to vigorously enforce their onerous rules against dangerous criminals. The obvious takeaway for a rational individual is that the gun control measures these politicians advocate aren't about improving public safety, but rather are designed to diminish the Second Amendment right and burden law-abiding gun owners.

In a similar vein, it would be hard to concoct a more instructive episode than the Hunter Biden firearm prosecution saga. Boastful anti-gun President Joe Biden's pardon of his son Hunter's federal gun convictions has made a complete mockery of the cornerstones of the federal gun control regime the president ceaselessly champions.



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Attorney Michael Johnson in Pontiac Justifiable Use of Deadly Force

*And what to expect after you exercise defensive force...
and how to avoid becoming a victim of the criminal justice system*

US Law Shield's Illinois program attorney Michael Johnson addressed a full house in Pontiac on the Justifiable Use of Deadly Force.

It proved educational, especially for those with little or no good formal training. It's one thing to read the law. It's another thing to know how the courts interpret the law through precedent.

He covered the basics of when the law allows a person to use force in self-defense, both non-lethal and lethal force. The use of force has to be proportionate. For example, a toddler trying to hit you with a baseball bat is entirely different than Mongo the Mauler who just got out of prison pumping iron for fifteen year swinging that same bat.

Of course, lethal force is only allowable when you face the immediate threat of death or great bodily injury as an innocent party. If you initiated the confrontation or escalate the situation, your right to self-defense diminishes rather quickly.



The threat also has to be imminent, and the attacker has to have the ability to inflict death or great bodily injury. You can't smoke someone who says they're going home to get their gun to settle the matter. Likewise, someone threatening you with a knife on the other side of a busy six-lane highway doesn't really pose an imminent threat either. You would be better off to employ the Nike defense and run the other direction, even though Illinois legal doctrine doesn't require retreat.

Johnson shared some basic rules, including you can't shoot criminals over property-only crimes.

Do you talk to police? NO! Don't talk to the police. Period. You don't have to be rude. Johnson says you can tell them your name. But you have to clearly express that you wish to talk with your attorney before making any statements or answering any questions. If you don't do that, they can continue to ask questions. Heck, they may even approach you after you're talked with your attorney to test your assertiveness in refusing to answer any questions without counsel.

Attorney Johnson also spoke of the cases US Law Shield will defend a subscriber: "We take a liberal view on self-defense claims" and seldom refuse a case. What's more, even if there's a conviction at the trial court level, they will represent the defendant in an appeal. They also cover civil liability from the use of force as well. Fortunately there's a two-year statute of limitations on those lawsuits.

The audience gave him some great ques-

tions, too. Like about traffic stops. Roll down your windows, turn on the interior lights at night and keep your hands visible. Tell the officer: "Officer, I've got a carry license. I have it on me. What's the best way to proceed?"

Don't give the cop a hard time on the side of the road, even if you believe what he or she is asking is inappropriate or unreasonable. There's no need for that. Litigate that later in court if you feel the need. Communicate and move slowly and deliberately.

Asked if you should have someone else at the scene of a self-defense incident call 911 instead of you, Johnson shook his head no. "I'd rather keep them as a witness than muddy the water with them becoming a participant."

Speaking of the 911 call, Johnson shared a suggested format. Give your immediate address as best you can. Tell them your name and that you were the victim of a crime. Perhaps give a description of what you're wearing... and that you're armed. Tell them to send the police and two ambulances. Then HANG UP.

Sure, they're going to call back. Don't answer. (Hint: This might be a good time to call your US Law Shield Emergency Contact number...)

Johnson also shared information from a couple of cases he's handled in Illinois including an acquittal on a murder charge a couple of years ago. A man signed up over the previous weekend at an event just like this one at the Pontiac Sportsman's Club and later that next week, he shot and killed a violent man who tried to knife his friend. The two of them were trying to help the friend's mom get her stuff and leave an abusive relationship.

"He hugged me so hard when the jury read the verdict that my ribs were sore for weeks," Johnson laughed. He's got a couple of pending cases currently and routinely answers member questions.

It keeps him busy but the self-defense cases where he helps good people beat bad prosecutions are the highlight of his 43-year career practicing criminal defense cases.

Asked if he planned to retire soon, he said he had no such plans, not unless his wife stopped shopping. In fact, his wife told him to keep working. He's working on a second edition of his book on the law of self-defense here in Illinois.

[Editor's Note: US Law Shield is one of the three legal defense products that we as GSL endorse currently. They offer great coverage at a good value. Some of their add-ons are very interesting, including the "minor" coverage to represent your minor children living at home should they use force in self-defense. The only downside we see to US Law Shield is that you have to use Michael Johnson and he's up there in Chicagoland and that's a long way from Central or Southern Illinois, although he's certainly willing and able to drive.

If you sign up for US Law Shield as a GSL



US Law Shield's Illinois program attorney Michael Johnson speaks in Pontiac to a crowded house.

member, they will waive the account set-up fee for you (I think that's \$20ish) and give you two free months if you sign up for a year's coverage on the spot.

For the record, the two other companies we like are Armed Citizens Legal Defense Network and US Concealed Carry Association. Either of those companies allow you to bring your own attorneys if you have one, or they can recommend outstanding counsel where ever in the nation you might happen to find yourself needing representation.


Discounts are available with these other companies as well. ACLDN will knock \$25 off your first year's dues if you mention

John Boch or Guns Save Life. (We don't get kickbacks, they simply track referrals.) USCCA will give you 15% off your dues if you sign up through group sales. (We could have accepted a 40% commission to refer people to USCCA, but our recommendations and positive reviews aren't for sale.)

We don't really care where our members and friends get coverage, just have coverage so you don't go bankrupt defending yourself against the legal system after righteously exercising your right to self-defense.]

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At least he wasn't gonna catch COVID

Masked Chicago armed robber fails victim selection

Chicago (CWB Chicago) — An armed robber is dead, apparently shot by his own firearm as the would-be victim tried to gain control of the weapon on Saturday afternoon, Chicago police said.

Second servings are free

Chicago food truck owner serves hot lead

Chicago (CWB Chicago) — A food vendor licensed to carry a concealed firearm shot and killed a man who tried to rob him on the West Side on Friday evening, Chicago police said.

The vendor was working in the 300 block of South Central when a gunman approached him around 8:50 p.m. Police said a struggle ensued, and that quickly developed into a shootout between the robber and concealed carry holder.

The would-be robber, who police said was about 30 years old, suffered multiple gunshot wounds and was pronounced dead at Mt. Sinai Hospital.



Shot him at the ER entrance. How handy.

Road raging bullies meet Mr. CCW in Urbana, IL

Urbana, IL (WAND) - Police said a road rage incident has ended with a driver in intensive care after being shot.

Around 4:30 this afternoon, UPD went to the intersection of Busey Ave. and Park St. for a shooting with injuries.

Police said they were made aware the shooting stemmed from a road rage incident that happened near Five Points and continued through Busey Avenue and Park St. A female driver and a male passenger engaged in a verbal fight with another man driving by himself. The female driver followed the car into Carle Hospital's emergency department parking lot...

The female driver and the male passenger exited their vehicle near Park St. The woman allegedly was armed with a baseball bat. The man walked toward the other male driver with his hand under his shirt. The solo driver believed he was armed with a gun. The driver, a concealed carry permit holder, then drew out their legally concealed gun and fired several shots, hitting the male passenger. The driver called 911.



Parolee breaks into Decatur home, ending his criminal career

Decatur, IL (GSL) — Decatur police say a home intruder recently released from prison on a host of violence-related convictions died from multiple gunshot wounds Monday evening around 7:38pm. Anthony Beckley, 35, of Decatur found out the answer to the age-old riddle about prunes: Is two enough or is four too many? In Beckley's case, it applies to bullets in addition to prunes and four was the magic fatal number.

The big bad wolf Beckley, all 5' 10" and 240 pounds of him, broke into the 66-year-old woman's home intent on having his way with her. He didn't count on a family member with a carry license showing up during his attack. Shots were fired and Beckley's rampage was tamed.

Unfortunately, the homeowner suffered a minor gunshot wound during the incident. We wish her a speedy recovery.



'He wasn't afraid of me'

70-year-old shoots aggressive intruder

Rancho Cordova, CA (KCRA) — A Rancho Cordova man said he was defending his family when a burglar broke into his property early Sunday morning.

Investigators with the Sacramento County Sheriff's Office said the man shot and killed the suspect at a business on Folsom Boulevard and West La Loma Drive just after 1 a.m.

The man said his name is Robert and that he did not want to give his last name.

"All of a sudden, the guy kicked the door. Boom and boom! It was that quick," he said.

That was the moment Robert, 70, said he was forced to defend his life and the life of his grandsons, ages four and 14.

"We'd have been dead if he would have got my gun when I pulled it out because he continued to go towards me, he wasn't afraid of me," Robert said.

[Editor: The perp fled a few steps out of the business and died in the parking lot outside.]



SPOILER ALERT: Fewer and fewer Americans support gun control

Lagging indicator polling finally reflects what the gun industry has said for years

(Shooting News Weekly) - New polling on gun control from a leading firm could show lagging indicators that Americans aren't buying what gun control activists are selling. Specifically regarding federal bans on modern sporting rifles, or the popular and commonly-owned centerfire semiautomatic rifles gun control activists love to refer to as "assault weapons," support has dropped again. That's at the same time that the survey shows that the vast majority of Americans flat-out reject calls for bans on handguns, something failed presidential candidate Vice President Kamala Harris openly supported in the past.

The change in attitude towards firearms and gun ownership reflected in the most recent Gallup poll on firearms isn't surprising in the least to those in the firearm industry. We've seen a sea change over the past four years, not just among who is purchasing firearms, but also those pursuing extra training and education, as well as their understanding about how different types of firearms operate and the various laws that affect their ability to buy and possess them.

The firearm industry knows the Gallup survey is just the polling catching up to reality within the firearm-owning community.

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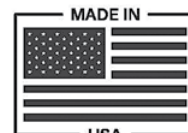
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From canceling Christmas to murdering family members, Democrats are not coping with Trump's win very well

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.



First up, white "liberal writer" Andrea Tate of *Huffington Post*, who penned an essay for the outlet in which she detailed her growing resentment for her husband... all because he voted for Trump, then had the audacity to make a social media post that read, "God Bless America. God bless #45, 47." The horror.

"How could a Latino vote for Trump?" Tate wondered. Well, apparently quite easily; Trump "broke a record with Latino voters" and earned a "highest-ever" percentage of the Latino vote. Andrea, I know this is probably hard for you to understand with your white savior complex mentality, but people are individuals, not groupthink cattle divided by skin color like your party implies, and many of them can in fact think for themselves, Latinos included. And, American Latinos also want their dollar to be worth something, they too want safe streets and communities and a good education system, and like every other American, Latinos want to achieve prosperity, which cannot be done under big government Democrat rule.

Here's what else she wrote: "Later that night, I briefly glanced at my husband and found myself not wanting to look into the eyes I love. I hated this divide. I wanted to touch his forearms and feel our connection, but I also felt an urge to punish him and deny him my touch."

Oh, and she is canceling Christmas because she cannot stand to be "celebrating the birth of Jesus" with people who would ever vote to protect babies in the womb knitted together by the Father. Lady, I think you might be the lukewarm water Jesus spits out (Revelation), the practitioner of lawlessness He commands to depart (Matthew).



They're vindictive and awful little brats aren't they? What's really ironic, is the attractive traits and characteristics that Tate lists are no doubt because he's conserva-

tive. He's a "strong" and "good man" who would give of himself to others sacrificially—these are not traits of leftists. If she wants a Kamala Harris voter, she's going to get someone like Doug Emhoff, a philandering, abusive man who uses women for sex before pressuring them into abortion to avoid responsibility and accountability for his actions.



But hey, at least Andrea Tate is holding it together a little better than some of her fellow Democrat comrades.

Many of you may have already heard about the rabid anti-Trump Minnesota dad who shot his ex-partner and two precious sons, but there's been another one, via a report at the *New York Post*: *Wife of prominent trans writer hacked father to death with ice ax after Trump's election night victory: cops*

Burke had been upset about the election and knew Trump would handily beat Vice President Kamala Harris when she allegedly snapped — apparently when her father, Timothy Burke, refused to turn off the lights.

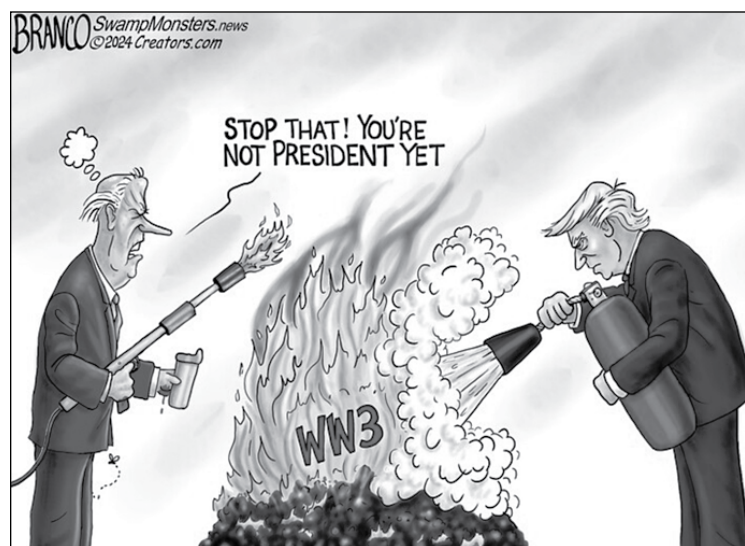


She then went upstairs, grabbed an ice 'pickax,' tripped her father, choked and bit him on the floor, and struck him repeatedly with the blunt and sharp ends of the tool, police said.

Vice reported today that the number of LGBTQ "crisis hotline" calls have spiked a whopping 700% since Trump's victory—how often have we seen in-crisis "trans" people acting out in homicidal rages? Too many to count.

These people are deranged, having been whipped up into states of hysteria by a Democrat media and Democrat politicians, and they're growing more violent. Earlier this week, I wrote a blog on a viral movement spreading across the leftist side of social media, encouraging women to lethally poison Trump-voting men.

Is it any surprise that mentally ill people are drawn to the party that affirms their delusions and paranoia? Hardly.



MAIL CALL



'Mysterious Drones' won't be so mysterious after Jan. 20th

To the Editor:
Last week the national news was all a buzz about the "mysterious drones" appearing along America's East Coast since first reported on November 18th.

Biden's National Security flunky, John Kirby, reassured the public Friday, by dismissing more than 3,000 reports of car-sized drones as misidentifications of everyday aircraft, essentially telling folks they didn't see what they saw.

When called out for his laughable statement, Kirby backtracked and said he was only repeating the WH narrative and refused to even look at the photos presented by Fox's Martha McCullum. This was a shameful performance by one of the WH's most accomplished prevaricators

and Kirby looked to be quite uncomfortable trying to sell this pantsload of WH BS.

The Ocean County, NJ Sheriff had enough of the WH smoke screen and launched his own "industrial-grade" drone on Thursday to track one of the 50 drones a local police officer spotted coming ashore, but they easily evaded contact. The state police, FBI, and the Coast Guard were notified by police, and Coast Guard officials reported that "13 drones, with wingspans of eight feet, following one of their vessels."

NY's governor and Biden stooge, Kathy Hochul, ordered NY's Stewart Airfield shutdown on Friday night. It would take a giant leap of faith to believe NY's governor would order an airport closed because airplanes

have been spotted in its vicinity! Really? *C'mon man!*

Eric Utter, writing at the *American Thinker*, offered some possibilities: 1) We have all been hallucinating, or 2) The drones are alien-sent, or 3) WH officials are lying through their teeth.

If I had to wager, I'd bet on 3). To believe otherwise, you would have to believe Biden's fairy tale about how he was appointed to the US Naval Academy without the Naval Academy knowing anything about it. The Biden WH has zero credibility.

The truth is out there, as they say, but you're gonna have to wait for Trump to get it.

Gary Hetherington
Springfield, Illinois

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The monthly journal of
Guns Save Life

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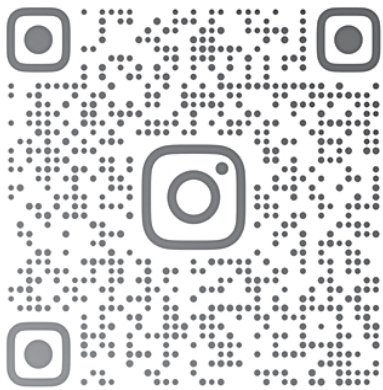
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SPOILER ALERT: Just like with pistol rounds, it depends. It's not for everybody.

Reloading cost-benefit analysis: Shotshells

by Damon Williams

(GSL) - Over the past three months, we've looked at the cost-benefit of reloading. If you have followed along, reloading may not be financially justifiable. It depends upon what caliber you shoot, how much you shoot, along with the time and space required along with the cost of the equipment and components.



SHOTSHELL RELOADING

As a final installment of this series, I'd like to look at shotshell reloading using the same template from earlier.

First, there are a variety of shotshell loads but I'm only going to do the most common one out there: the one ounce field load. A fellow can use it for upland game, trap, skeet, and target shooting.

But before I delve into specifics, let's talk about how reloading shotshells differs from metallic cartridge reloading. What these discipline's parameters have in common are caliber, projectile weight, powder type, and powder charge. However, shotshells must follow even more parameters which include: Hull brand and model, primer brand and wad type.

In all, to safely load shotshell, one must follow seven different parameters. Instead of simple load data, your chosen load must follow a published load recipe.

Components:

Time: Let's continue to assume \$15.00/hr at 100 rounds/hr = \$0.15/ea.

Hull: 12 GA Winchester AA Compression Formed Hull. Assuming that you already have an inventory, let's assume five loadings and depreciate the replacement cost per loading. Replacement hulls are \$10.00/100 or \$0.10 each / 5 loadings = \$0.02

Powder: 21 grains Winchester WST @ \$56/lb @ 7000 grains/lb x 21 grains = \$0.17 each

Wads: Claybuster (WAA12SL equivalent) \$14/500 = \$0.03 each

Primer: Cheddite (W209 equivalent) \$70/1000 = \$0.07 each

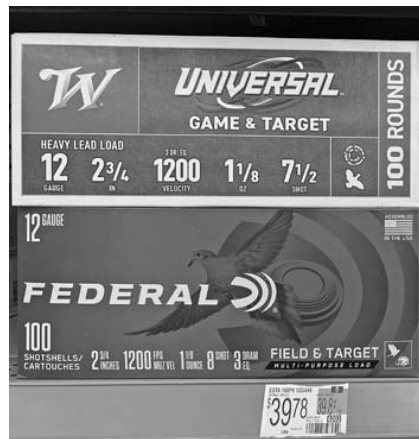
Projectiles: Eagle Brand 7.5 shot-25# bag @ \$60/400 oz bag = \$0.15 each (one ounce load)

Mr. Reloader's cost is... \$0.59 per round or **\$14.75 per box**. Compare that to \$12 retail.

But let's not forget the equipment. For the average reloader, the most popular loading machine is the MEC 600 Jr Mark V which retails for \$255.00 (ouch!). Alternatively there is the Lee Load All 2. It retails for \$75.00. The MEC is the more popular machine, with many who argue that the Lee machine is mostly plastic. I concur, it is mostly plastic, but you are going to have to make that argument to

me over 15,000 times because that is the number of shotshells that I have safely loaded on my Lee.

Rolling that equipment cost into the first 500 rounds loaded, those rounds will cost you \$18.50/box. If you go with the MEC 600, you're looking at an additional \$12.75 per box on top of the \$14.75 in components. Ouch! Clearly putting down plastic to buy your shells at a local gun shop or other retailer is a lot cheaper and less time intensive.



Remember when these used to be 17.88 at Walmart? That ship has sailed.

There is no argument that 12 gauge is the most common shotshell used today. While 20 gauge does have a significant following, 16, 28, and 410 are not too prevalent on the market.

I concede that there may be some cost savings in pursuit of loading these last three gauges, but it is my opinion that these gauges serve special purposes and would not be of interest of a lay person looking into getting started into reloading these shells. It has, however, never ceased to amaze me when comparing .410 to 12 gauge; .410 has half the plastic, half the brass, half the powder, half the shot and is twice the retail price of 12 gauge.

So why would anyone pay out the extra money and invest the time to load shotshells? As a cowboy action shooter, I am willing to part with the time and money for the peace of mind knowing that I don't have to shop around looking for a particular load, or pay shipping on heavy items such as ordering a case at a time, or worrying if a particular load is in stock. My load is always a few lever pulls away. I am sure that the same applies to many trap and skeet shooters who want a specialty load for different competition parameters. Or how about that finicky semiauto that wants a hotter load in order to cycle properly?



Is shotshell reloading for everyone? Let's put it this way: even many competition shooters do not reload shot shells, but it is worth evaluating for yourself.

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Testosterone Replacement Therapy: A year+ later

Continued from page 12.

and in the evening - all three. Aim for at least .8 gram of protein per pound of bodyweight each day to minimize muscle loss during dieting.



The only other supplements I take are creatine and Vitamin D oil. I've tried a couple of pre- and intra-workout supplements. Most are loaded with caffeine. Instead of spending \$50 or more on those, I make my own with 1-2 tablespoons of honey for carbs (fuel), a sugar-free drink mix packet for flavor and a couple pinches of "Lite Salt" for electrolytes.

You can easily spend a *ton* of cash on a myriad of supplements that *don't* really make a *difference*. Why do you think there are scores of companies hawking the stuff? Save your cash - skip the snake oils and powders.

No, I'm not taking any Ozempic or other weigh loss drugs. However, I am working out five-ish days a week for 90-150 minutes. I

hire talented personal trainers which make all the difference in the world. They correct my weaknesses and make sure I'm working out safely to minimize risk of injury. They also help me with mobility and flexibility exercises. As an added bonus, the better ones can also coach you on your diet to eat healthier.

Testosterone. I inject 200-240mg of "T" each week. It's pre-mixed Testosterone Cypionate and Testosterone Enanthate. I also take a 1mg tablet of Anastrozole, an estrogen antagonist. Excess testosterone will break down into estrogen in the body and too much estrogen is... not a good thing for men unless you want to grow boobs and cry watching the Hallmark Channel. I'll pass.

Don't be tempted to order the drugs online and foolishly cut the doctor and blood testing out of the equation. Medical supervision and periodic bloodwork tests will keep you from straying into dangerous waters.

Stick with your doc's guidance and watch for the big warning signs like nipple sensitivity (suggesting you need to suppress your estrogen more) and headaches (your hemoglobin is too high).

Bottom line: it's good to look and feel like a new man. I look and feel better now than anytime in my entire life. I only wish I'd known about this twenty years ago.

You too can share these benefits. It does require the expenditure of some time, effort and money, but I'm telling you, the payoff is priceless.

What are you waiting for? Get on this. You can thank me later.

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2025 Events... Mark your Calendar! All open to public.

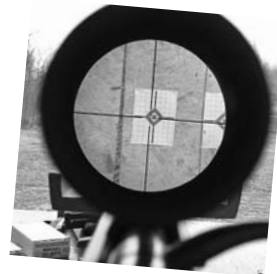


Bowling Pin Shoots

Reminder: Kids shoot free!

Mar 8, Apr 12, May 3, Jun 7, July 12, Aug 9, Sep 6, Oct 4, Nov 1

subject to weather-related cancellations



Rimfire Shoots

Reminder: Kids shoot free!

Mar 22, Apr 26, May 17, Jun 21, July 26, Aug 23, Sep 20, Oct 18, Nov 15

subject to weather-related cancellations

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

Matches start at 9a.m.

\$10 per firearm. Kids free.

Sign-in and warm up starting at 8a.m.

All dates are subject to the weather.

Follow us on Facebook for updates.

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Calendar



DeWitt County Sportsman's Club
Breakfast, 1st & 3rd Sundays 8:30am.

Sullivan Gun Club LLC.
Every Friday night: Trap shooting under the lights. Open at 6p, Derby starts at 7pm.
Oak Park Sportsman'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. Dec. 24 & 31: Cancelled for Christmas/New Year's.
Jan 6: USPSA Night at Pana (Conditional upon range ventilation repairs completed), Locked and Loaded
Jan 13: USPSA Night at Effingham Accuracy Firearms
Jan 28: USPSA Night at Effingham Accuracy Firearms

For more info, visit prairiestatetactical.com.



Feb 1: US Grant at Elizabeth Community Building, Elizabeth, IL.
Feb 1: Local County at KC in Lincoln, IL
Feb 20: Salt Kettle at St. Mary's Hall in Westville, IL.
Feb 22: Illinois Valley at The Auditorium Ballroom in LaSalle.
Mar 1: Madison County at Collinsville VFW Post 5691 in Collinsville.
Mar 6: McHenry County at VFW Post 4600 in McHenry, IL.
Mar 8: Northwestern, IL at Eagles Club in Freeport, IL.
Mar 8: Shoal Creek at Farm Heritage Museum in Greenville, IL.
Mar 13: South Eastern IL at Smoke Rise Steakhouse in Olney, IL.
Mar 15: Kishwaukee Valley at Ferandas in Dekalb.
Mar 22: Macoupin County Patriots at Concordia Hall in Staunton.

For more info, visit FriendsofNRA.org.

GUN SHOWS...

January

Jan 12: Kane County Sportsman's Show, Kane County Fairgrounds, St Charles, IL Mick Stout (815) 217-2266
Jan 18-19: Kankakee Gun Show, Kankakee County Fairgrounds Kankakee, IL. Mike 630 254-0221 or Julia (630) 363-3131.
Jan 25-26: Sauk Trail Gun Show, Bureau County Fairgrounds, Princeton, IL. Marla P. 815-252-4842

February

Feb 1-2: Bloomington Gun & Knife Show, (Under new management) Interstate Center, Bloomington, IL Mark Craft / Pope Creek Shows (309) 582-6268
Feb 8-9: Quad Cities Gun Show, QCCA Expo Center, Rock Island, IL. Mark Craft / Pope Creek Shows (309) 582-6268
Feb 9: Kane County Sportsman's Show, Kane County Fairgrounds, St Charles, IL Mick Stout (815) 217-2266
Feb 15 & 16: Central IL Gun Collectors New Berlin. Sangamon County Fairgrounds, New Berlin, IL. Patrick Keen oldcarbines@gmail.com.

March

Mar 1-2: Kankakee Gun Show, Kankakee County Fairgrounds Kankakee, IL. Mike 630 254-0221 or Julia (630) 363-3131.
Mar 9: Kane County Sportsman's Show, Kane County Fairgrounds, St Charles, IL Mick Stout (815) 217-2266
Mar 29-30: Sauk Trail Gun Show, Bureau County Fairgrounds, Princeton, IL. Marla P. 815-252-4842

GUN CLUBS

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

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GUNNEWS



SECOND AMENDMENT NEWS PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY GUNS SAVE LIFE VOLUME 22, NUMBER 8 AUGUST 2016
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Half page vertical	5" x 12.375"	\$150	\$125	\$100	\$1200
Half page horizontal	10.375" x 6"	\$150	\$125	\$100	\$1200
Quarter page vertical	5" x 6"	\$100	\$80	\$65	\$780
Quarter page horizontal	10.375" x 3"	\$100	\$80	\$65	\$780
Eighth page vertical	2.5" x 6"	\$65	\$50	\$40	\$480
Eighth page horizontal	5" x 3"	\$65	\$50	\$40	\$480
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Sixteenth page horizontal	5" x 1.5"	\$40	\$35	\$25	\$300

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Wanted posters pop up after violent rhetoric following the murder of healthcare CEO

(GSL) - America's Left adopted the killer of United Healthcare CEO Brian Thompson even before police identified and arrested him. Some even called him a "hero". Senator Elizabeth Warren even went on TV to say "you can only push people so far" in essence justifying Thompson's murder. Even some in the media asked if assassination of health care execs was a good thing given how many people hate health insurance companies.

Here's something these media types should ponder: your industry is also hated by millions of Americans. Just sayin'.



Michigan moves to ban colored firearms

(TTAG) - Senate Bill 1134 seeks to regulate firearms by restricting the finish to consist primarily of government-approved colors: black, brown, dark gray, dark green, silver, steel or nickel.



Drone problem solved after they try flying over Texas

Texas (Babylon Bee) — The recent issue of unidentified drones hovering over American skies was solved suddenly today after the drones attempted to fly over Texas.

Within seconds of the drones entering the Lone Star State, the sound of heavy gunfire split the air as Texans pumped thousands of rounds of ammunition into the sky.

Teen 'swatter for hire' pleads guilty to making more than 375 swattings and fake mass shooting and bombing calls

(Tom's Hardware) - The U.S. Department of Justice announces that California-based teenager Alan W. Filion, currently 18, has pleaded guilty to four counts of 'making interstate threats to injure the person of another' as a result of over 375 swatting and threat calls made since August 2022 up to January 2024. Filion will likely face a maximum penalty of up to five years for each count, scheduled for sentencing on February 11, 2025.



They want us dead

Illinois man arrested in assault upon Rep. Nancy Mace on Capitol Hill

Washington (MSNBC) - A man accused of assaulting Rep. Nancy Mace, R-S.C., on Capitol Hill was arrested Tuesday night, U.S. Capitol Police said.

The man was identified as James McIntyre, 33, of Illinois, NBC News reported. He is charged with assaulting a government official.

Mace, who has faced criticism for introducing a bill to ban transgender women from using the women's restrooms at the U.S. Capitol, wrote on X that she had been "physically accosted" by a man advocating for trans rights. Capitol Police said a House member's office had reported an incident in the Rayburn House Office Building.



Final judgment brings New York AG's suit against the NRA to an end

by Dan Zimmerman (Shooting News Weekly) - A final order issued by New York Supreme Court Judge Joel M. Cohen today brings to a close the six-year battle between Attorney General Letitia James and the National Rifle Association. The AG's lawsuit was filed in the aftermath of disclosures of years of mismanagement and malfeasance on the part of NRA officers including former Executive Vice President Wayne LaPierre.

In the grand tradition of paying public relations people to make virtually any noteworthy event sound like a good thing, both the Attorney General and the NRA are painting the final outcome of this years-long epic battle as a win. The AG touts the millions in fines to be paid by both LaPierre and former NRA Chief Financial Officer Wilson "Woody" Phillips, along with significant governance and compliance measures that are to be instituted by the NRA...

Our quick reading of the outcome — and one that was echoed by another knowledgeable long time watcher of this years-long drama — is pretty much what we thought and hoped would be the result when the lawsuit was announced, lo these many years ago.

To wit: The Attorney General of New York, one of America's most anti-gun states, has accomplished what the NRA's board of directors and its five million members had been unable to do. Her legal action has managed to flush the most venal rats out of their lucrative holes in Fairfax. And the judge has imposed what appear to be basic, common-sense reforms that any responsible non-profit that actually cares about serving its members should be eager to put in place.

We shall see.

Illegal migrant crime cost \$166.5 billion, three times the price of deportation

(Washington Examiner) - The cost of crime from 662,000 criminal illegal migrants sought for deportation has been pegged at three times the much-hyped price of President-elect Donald Trump's "mass deportation" plan.

In an analysis from the Crime Prevention Research Center, the costs of crime from the top targets of ICE Enforcement and Removal Operations was set at \$166.5 billion. That number is based on the cost to victims, a price list developed by the National Institute of Justice.



Perfect way to ensure future failure! Can we endorse him?

Hogg running for Vice-Chair of DNC

(Breitbart) - Gun control activist David Hogg is running for the position of vice chair of the Democrat National Committee.



Nobody will be coming to save you... you will be your own first responder

The 'Islamic Army' - headed by Osama bin Laden's son Hamza - planning massive, coordinated attacks against Trump, America's homeland

by John Boch

(GSL) - Did you know Osama Bin Laden's son Hamza remains alive and well? Did you know that he's brought all of the major Islamic terror groups together under the banner of the "Islamic Army?" If you're like 99.44% of Americans, you probably had little or no idea.

Do you remember the "Mumbai" terror attacks in India? Where 10 of those "fight until you're dead" Islamic terrorists rampaged over four days in India's financial, commercial, and entertainment capital before they were shot down like feral dogs? (Or hogs?)



Hamza's bin Laden's "Islamic Army" plans for at least one thousand of its most highly trained operatives to replicate those attacks across America in a coordinated fashion. And livestream their raping and savage killing of innocents via social media. These barbarians dream of bringing an "October 7th" style attack as Israel experienced to America - only ten-fold larger.

These terrorists have spent the better part of 2024 in training - paid for with \$60 to \$80 million of American foreign "aid" *each month(!)* sent to Afghanistan, Syria and other unfriendly nations. Now that training has completed, these "fighters" have come to America in recent weeks through fake travel documents or by crossing America's southern border after coming through Central America.

Suicide bomber attacks will comprise just one prong of the Homeland attacks. Americans have never experienced suicide bomber attacks up close and personal. Reportedly the "Islamic Army" has even developed suicide bomb vests that will sail right through traditional metal detectors used to "secure" many government buildings and installations. It could be a bad day at the Illinois State Capitol building, for instance. The terrorists also use new components that our explosive-sniffing dogs haven't been trained to detect. Add onto that information that Russia is helping to facilitate supplies for these teams as payback for all of the armament the US has sent to the Ukraine war. It will be ugly.

Many if not most of the (non-suicide bomber) attackers come trained in advanced urban combat. Bin Laden's goal? To kill 50,000 - 60,000 Americans as well as crippling our nation's infrastructure in a coordinated series of attacks throughout our nation. Targeting the grid, electrical substations, water plants, refineries and communications could cripple large swaths of our nation. They also want to take out bridges too. Schools, hospitals, and daycares and other soft targets will round out their target lists.

Under Hamza bin Laden, the Islamic Army has spent \$180 million *each month* training up another special cadre intent on taking out

GunNews Magazine - 24 - January 2025

President Trump in revenge for the killing of Qasem Soleimani, the Iranian general cut to ribbons during DJT's first term. This is a separate group dedicated to killing Trump and attacking American government. Among their desired targets besides assassinating government leaders: the US Capitol Building because it represents American government leadership.

Another area of attacks that may happen before the American "Homeland" attack and the attempt on Trump will be embassy attacks in Europe and Africa. The Islamic Army has 1000 fighters dedicated to European attacks against America's embassies and those of our allies, as well as other targets.

Are they any good? Trained Islamic Army members conducted the Oct. 7 attack against Israel. How did that turn out? They also sent 10,000 trained fighters to Syria and you see what happened there.

What can you do as a good American?

Practice good situational awareness. If you see something, say something. Carry your gun each and everyday - and carry something bigger than a North American Arms .22. And practice shooting - more than 30 rounds every five years. The life you save might be your own.

What else can you do? Keep your car's gas tank full, and ditto for your medicine cabinet, particularly when it comes to life-sustaining medications for members of your household. Make arrangements with friends or family members to live with them if the utilities go down if you live in an apartment. If you live in a house, have a well-maintained generator, spare fuel, parts and oil. That will keep your food from spoiling and your basement from flooding.

If/when attacks do happen, don't panic. Don't disseminate graphic videos. Minimize personal risks to you and your family by avoiding crowded public locations. If you venture out, do so with armed friends where feasible as there is safety in numbers. Hospitals, schools and daycares might be good places to avoid in the short term, along with any other area where large groups assemble for whatever reason. As for "No Guns" signage? Ignore them. Concealed means concealed. If Johnny Jihad shows up, you can't burn him down if you left your little friend in the car or at home.

Practice "home carry" *especially* if you live in apartment complexes or other high-density housing. If not home carry, have your gun (preferably a long gun) very handy inside the home. Consider proclaiming your own "take your gun to work" day and practice it religiously. Speaking of religion, definitely take your gun to church.

Be safe, prudent and prepared. Be the lion, not the sheep.

For more information on this brewing plot, read the book Al-Qaeda 2.0: The Upcoming Attack on the United States and Europe Unveiled (Understanding Global Jihad) by William Archer.

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