

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

COMPLIMENTARY. TAKE ONE.

# GUNNEWS



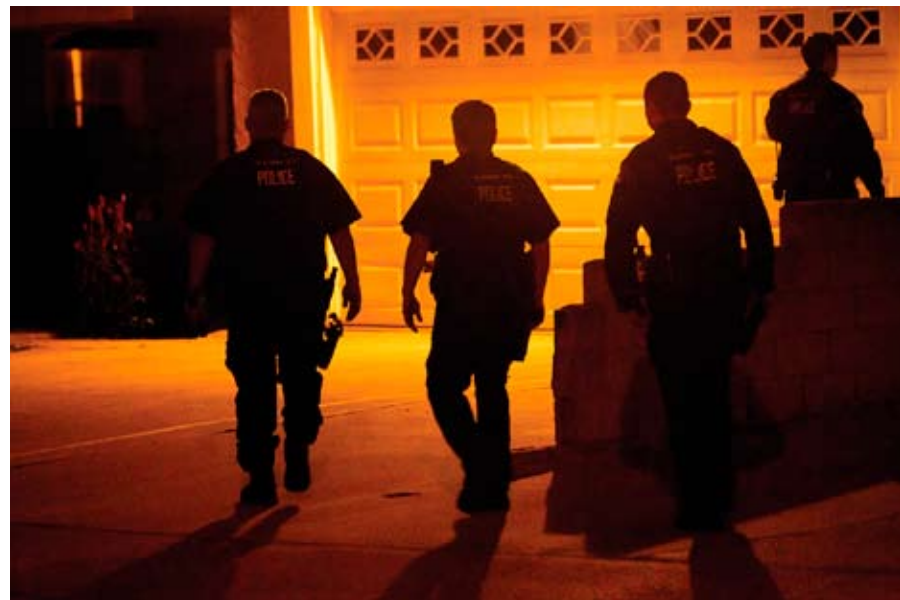
SECOND AMENDMENT NEWS AND MORE

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

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

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FEBRUARY 2025



Illinois adopts gun confiscation without due process protections during lame duck session

## GUN CONFISCATION Without Due Process

Springfield, IL (GSL) - In the waning hours of the last legislative session, gun control advocates with the help of a few turncoat Republicans who campaigned as "pro-gun", passed a bill that allows for gun confiscations without due process.

Democrat party leaders gutted a bill about fire hydrants and replaced that with language that would require police to seize firearms, gun parts and ammunition from anyone who gets served with an Emergency Order of Protection or a Red Flag

Emergency Order. These orders are issued when one person claims another is a danger to themselves or others. They are often filed as part of hard-nosed child custody and property settlement negotiations in divorce proceedings.

In the past the guns could be temporarily relocated to a third party friend or relative. Now, police will show up and seize the guns.

Continued on page 5.

**Fight crime. Shoot back.**

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**Rich Goodall, President**  
Guns Save Life.com  
P.O. Box 51  
Savoy, IL 61874



### Inside

#### Hurricane Helene AAR

page 8

#### Good therapy can help

page 9

#### GSL WINS IN COURT. Again.

page 10

#### Islamic Army attacks on America's homeland coming

page 11

#### Church safety & security

page 13

#### The .32 S&W

page 18

#### Join GSL.

page 24

This issue dedicated to Cheryl Buhr. RIP.

## February 2025

- **Quincy:** Last Wednesday: **February 26**, March 26  
Eagles Club, 3737 N. Fifth Street, Quincy
- **Chicagoland:** Last Sunday: **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: **February 3**, March 3  
SCHEELS, 3801 S. MacArthur, Springfield
- **Pontiac:** First Tuesday: **February 4**, March 4  
Pontiac Sportsman's Club. 18663 4-H Park Road, Pontiac
- **Decatur:** First Wednesday: **February 5**, March 5  
Coz's Pizza, 1405 East Village Parkway, Mt Zion (*Program at 6:45pm*)
- **Peoria:** First Thursday: **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 **February 10**, March 10  
Ela's Restaurant, 1111 E. Voorhees St., Danville
- **Champaign County:** Second Tuesday: **February 11**, March 11  
KC Hall, 1001 N. Ohio St., Rantoul
- **Northwest Chicagoland:** Second Wed: **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: **February 13**, March 13  
The American Legion Post 88, 1903 Maple Ave, Mattoon
- **LaSalle County:** Third Thursday: **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.**



# Our meetings and our members...



We have it on good authority that Santa and Mrs. Claus both pack. Nick Klementzos and Rosie Delgado brought Christmas cheer to the late December LaSalle Co. meeting.



GSL members State Rep. Chris Miller, Congresswoman Mary Miller and GSL's Executive Director John Boch at the Matton GSL meeting from December.



Playing around with Santa and Mrs. Claus at the LaSalle County meeting in late December.



Dee won the Sig P365 in Springfield.



Two in a row! Ferrell won another 1911 at January's Pontiac meeting. Our thanks to Runnings for providing the gun!



Mike won the gun in Peoria. He's pictured with Peoria's Regional Director Richard Parks.



GSL member Congressman Darin LaHood at the Inauguration. And below, in a selfie with Argentina's President Javier Milei.



Sign Repairs!

GSL members rehab fourth set of signs



Rob Lewis, left, and George Eames join Dale Lock out rehabing the fourth set of signs this fall.

## GSL DEFENSE TRAINING

Firearm training for everyone

### Essential Carry IL 16-hour Concealed Carry

2025 DATES

**April 5 & 6**

**June 21 & 22** (Free to educators!)

**Sept. 20 & 21**

At DeWitt Co. Sportsman's Club near Clinton  
\$200 or BOGO half-off (2 for \$300)

- **Legal Lectures by LAWYERS**
- **REAL SHOOTING!** 250 rounds fired
- **EXPERIENCED**, friendly instructors
- **FEMALE- & new-shooter friendly**
- **HIGH instructor to student ratios**
- **FREE** loaner guns and gear as needed
- **FREE** bonus materials
- **SKILLED instructors.** *No PowerPoint!*

**The best carry class in the state.** Legal considerations taught by attorneys. Tactics taught by experienced pros. Shoot 250 rounds live fire over two days, including one-handed strong and support side, instinct shooting (from the hip), barricades, malfunction drills, movement, communication and more. Learn situational awareness and conflict avoidance, home defense, post-shooting interactions and much more.

To register, or for more information, visit

**GSLDefenseTraining.com**





# PSA: OIL YOUR GUNS!

by Ken Frey (GSL) - By the time you read this, hunting season may well be over. Or, maybe not. Either way, trust me: this is worth reading.

I know, I hear you now! You're either glad it's done with because you had a rough season. Sorry if that happened to you! Or maybe you had a great season. If so I'm truly happy.

Either way, it's time to put those firearms up for several months. Whether in a gun safe, closet, down in the basement or in a case under the bed, they need some TLC.

First off, clean them even if you didn't shoot them. After cleaning, give them a generous wipe down with some oil.

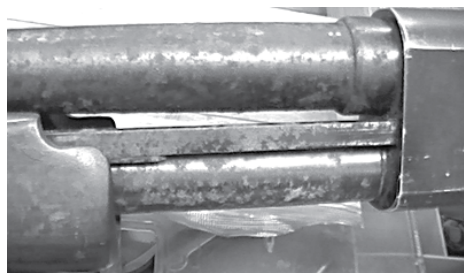
Rust is your enemy and mine. It's even more relentless than the computer spam calls you get on your phone. Without cleaning and lubrication, you might pull your gun out a month later and there's RUST on it! In this instance, "rust" is very much a dirty, 4-letter word!

If you're lucky it's just one small spot but it could be much worse! It could look like the gun has Chicken Pox with spots of rust all over it!

I've also seen guns with perfect fingerprints of rust on the receiver! Now that's a crime!

I know, life gets in the way sometimes and you forget but it only takes a few days for

rust to start forming. At the bare minimum, wipe them down after each use with an oily rag.



Someone's got their work cut out for them with some 0000 steel wool.

It doesn't have to be a fancy rag. Use an old rag, towel, wash cloth or similar. I know a guy who uses his old underwear. That's not for me, but I'm sure it works just fine. Put some clean oil on it and wipe things down. This will at least protect them until more time is available to do a proper job.

Being in a case doesn't help either. In fact, it's worse as it traps moisture. This especially applies to a gun that's brought in from the cold! Moisture will condense on guns just like it does on eyeglasses. Once the gun comes up to room temperature, wipe it with an oily rag. Open up the case and let Mr. Gun Case thoroughly dry out too.

The worst rust happens when stored guns aren't checked periodically. Every 6 months or so pull out stored firearms and wipe them with an oily rag making sure rust

never takes hold. Yes, even if they're in a safe with a goldenrod! There's nothing worse than pulling out a gun that was buried way in the back and finding rust all over it.

So give your guns the TLC they deserve. A good cleaning followed by a generous rub down with oil. Kind of like a spa day for your guns!

That'll keep them ready to go when you are.



## Live Free USA's RADIO COMMUNICATIONS SEMINAR

Saturday, March 8 1-3p.m.  
Cabela's in Hammond, IN

Learn to use radio communications in the outdoors and during emergencies...

- Learn use & limitations of FRS & GMRS radios, channels, etc.
- Learn how to comply with FCC rules when using handheld radios
- Learn how to get a free, no test GMRS license from the FCC
- Learn proper radio use & protocols

We will give away a free Baofeng radio!

[AmericanSurvivor.org](http://AmericanSurvivor.org)



# Sauk Trail GUN SHOW



Fairgrounds - Princeton, Illinois  
Open to the Public! FREE PARKING. Lunch available.  
Buy - Sell - Trade / Modern & Antique

## 2025 Show Dates

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

Open to the public  
8:30 - 4p Saturday, 8:30 - 2p Sunday

Dealers: 8' tables \$30 for up to two days, payable in advance.  
Tables must contain 90% arms & related items

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

Overnight accommodations, Free Parking, Lunch available on premises

NEW DEALER SPECIALS.

Contact: Marla P. 815-252-4842

# Sauk Trail Gun Collectors, Inc.

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

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

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

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

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

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

### GSL Monthly Gun Lineup!

Here are a few of the drawing guns!

Pontiac February: Ruger Max 9  
Pontiac March: S&W Bodyguard 2 .380  
Pontiac February: Ruger RXM 9mm

Sangamon February: Mossberg MC1s 9mm  
Sangamon April: Kimber Ultra Carry 9mm  
Sangamon May: Taurus Judge Polymer .45 Colt/.410

Decatur February: Silver Eagle Arms Sporter 20ga.

Rantoul February: Rossi RP-63 .357  
Rantoul March: Rossi RP-63 .357

Sangamon February: Rossi RP-63 .357

Mattoon February: Bodyguard 2.0 .380

Chicagoland January: Taurus G3c

## Executive Director's Report

### 'Pro-gun' Republicans that aren't

by John Boch  
GSL Executive Director

#### Republican Quislings.

Color me unimpressed with the Republican leadership in the Illinois House and Senate who voted for gun confiscations without due process. They apparently didn't read the memo about *not* sodomizing your donors and core constituents.

They may have thought, "Oh, my voters will forget about it by the time the next election rolls around." They do have a point. 18 months is effectively a generation in the political world.

However, Guns Save Life will remind gun owner voters about this back stabbing stunt throughout 2025 and 2026.

Sure, getting your home searched as part of an Order of Protection will only happen to maybe ten thousand people each year, but if you're one of those folks, it's a really big deal. Especially if it's a baseless allegation that a judge used to sign off on the Order and the search warrant.

There's no penalty for false allegations in these cases. Moreover, these emergency Orders of Protection are *commonly* used as a negotiating tactic to gain leverage in child custody and property settlement proceedings during divorces in our state.

We at Guns Save Life don't make good battered spouses. You stab us in the back with votes like this, we don't forgive and forget. If the leadership of the House and Senate are so far gone to think that they can vote against law-abiding gun owners' fundamental 2A rights, they don't deserve your hard-earned money for their campaigns. Don't donate money or your time and talents. Don't donate to the Illinois Republican Party until they get their heads on straight. Don't donate to the House and Senate Campaign funds.

Donate only to candidates who don't stab you in the back. The Republican caucus in the House and Senate might need to shrink by four or five members before the rest of them learn not to shiv their donors, friends and allies.



GSL's John Boch.

#### Inauguration.

Tomorrow is Inauguration Day and I'm giddy. I've got the champagne chilling. Yeah, I'm on a pretty strict diet, but this is a once-in-a-lifetime celebration. Good riddance to the freak show clowns and radical extremist appointees that were

the Biden regime. The adults have returned. I've also got my popcorn ready and plenty of butter to pour on top. The liberal tears will keep me warm even with the temps in the single-digits.

#### GSL won in court... again. But...

You'll see a story or two about GSL winning in court again, striking down the Cook County gun and ammo tax ordinance. For the second time in four years. Problem is the bureaucrats in Cook County have told our team they have no intention of ceasing collections of the taxes.

All I know is that people a whole lot smarter than me are saying that those Cook County officials are flirting with federal civil rights lawsuits for Deprivation of Civil Rights Under Color of Authority.

Meanwhile our legal team has a surprise for Cook County. I'm keeping it close to the vest for now because I want them to learn about it the hard way. Rest assured we are not throwing up our hands and walking away. Far from it.

#### Thank you.

Thanks to our members for helping make our wins possible in a host of ways. Thanks even to some non-members who help GSL in countless small ways alongside our members. While I know the word snowflake has a bad connotation today, but the little good works our friends and family members do are like snowflakes falling from the sky. And a whole lot of those snowflakes together can and do turn into an avalanche with the right circumstance. Right now, our litigation is like an avalanche that the gun grabbers are trying to avoid. Again, thank you for all that you do. It might seem insignificant or small, but I assure you it adds up.

#### Intolerance for violent crime goes a long way to discouraging it...

Have you noticed the great disparity between how the people in Cook County tolerate crime compared to those downstate? If you haven't let me share an example involving homicides.

In Normal, IL a man was convicted for killing another man. The judge effectively threw the book at him, handing him an 87-year sentence in McLean County Court. He won't return from his vacation in a lockup anytime soon.

Meanwhile, in a Chicago homicide case, cops nabbed a man and the courts found him guilty of two homicides and shooting seven additional folks. Thankfully they survived. How many years did he get? Would you believe 43 years for the whole thing? It's true.

Serious violent crime in Chicago just isn't taken as seriously as it is in the downstate Illinois. It's just another reason why they have so much more crime there in Murder City USA.

### Continued persistent problems with US Mail

Have you not received your copy of *GunNews* in a timely manner (or not at all)? You're not the Lone Ranger, my friends. We believe that someone at the Peoria Post Office is slow-walking distribution of *GunNews* after we deliver them on the day after they are printed.



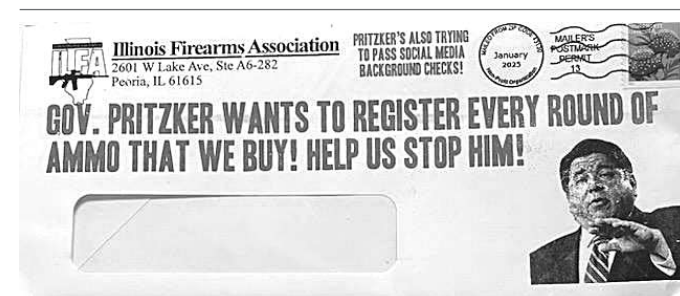
Each month we print *GunNews* on the third Tuesday evening. They get to the Peoria Post Office usually before 10am the next day.

Recent issues have taken 28-45 days to reach our members. In some cases they

aren't getting to our members at all. This despite us writing a check for many thousands of dollars for postage each month.

What are we doing about it? We're asking some of our Congressional friends to have their offices investigate this with the appropriate officials with the USPS. We may also have a meeting with the Postmaster there. In any event, we strongly believe that we're receiving poor service because of the nature of our publication, not the content of our characters.

The Illinois State Rifle Association is reporting much the same problems with their mail, even though it doesn't go through the Peoria Post Office as far as I know. Perhaps there's another mail sorting hub where *GunNews* and ISRA mail are handled staffed by people willing to break federal law to delay and obstruct gun our mail.



Don't feed trolls with donations! Starve them so they go away.

### The 'Illinois Firearms Association' has returned with more fundraising appeals...

by John Boch

(GSL) - When you see the Illinois Firearms Association, please don't think scammers and grifters. Please don't think of them as frauds either.

With that out of the way, we thought the Illinois Firearms Association (IFA) had packed its professional fundraising bags and went back home to Georgia. Alas, they have not. Or maybe they just thought they could fool another round of Land of Lincoln gun owners into sending them money with a new claim of impending doom.

The latest claim of the Dorr Brothers, famous for fleecing well-meaning gun owners of donations? "**Governor Pritzker wants to register every round of ammo that we buy! Help us stop him!**" Well, that's not exactly it. On their envelope, they write it in all caps.

Ammo is plentiful right now, and as cheap

as it's ever going to get. You should be buying it "cheap" and stacking it deep. But nobody's going to require you to register every round of ammo. Not today, tomorrow or the next day, regardless if you send a small fortune to the Dorr Brothers' do-next-to-nothing front group known as the IFA or not.

If you want to donate to legitimate pro-gun organizations in Illinois, particularly ones that are actually getting things done and winning victories, we can offer a couple of suggestions: Guns Save Life, the Second Amendment Defense and Education Coalition, FFL-IL and the NRA's Institute for Legislative Action.

If you want to send money to the IFA, that's your choice, but you'll just be (greatly) increasing your junk mail if you do. Your donation to IFA will paint you as an easy mark for the rest of the Dorr Brothers fundraising schemes, for starters.



**GROSS' BURGERS**  
25 Henderson Street  
Danville, IL 61832  
(217) 442-8848



# GSL's FOID lawsuit features raucous oral argument hearing at state's Fourth District Court of Appeals

Springfield, IL (GSL) - Just before Christmas, Guns Save Life's FOID card legal challenge had its day in state court. The Fourth District Appellate Court out of Springfield held oral arguments in the case and it did not go well for Attorney General Kwame Raoul's representative Jane Notz.

and outright falsehoods. "I thought he was going to tell her to shut up and quit lying to him... I feel sorry for her," Boch said of Notz. "She's probably having a drink right now."

there will appeal to the Illinois Supreme Court.

Given how JB Pritzker effectively "owns" a couple of the justices after bankrolling much of their campaigns for the court, it's far from a sure bet that the Illinois Supremes will do the right thing.

If they get it wrong, it seems very likely that Guns Save Life will appeal that to the US Supreme Court. After all, there's zero historical precedent for FOID card schemes from the colonial times.

Ultimately Guns Save Life may win at the Fourth, but regardless, whoever loses



GSL's Executive Director described his take on the hearing to Greg Bishop of America's Talking Network immediately after the hearing. Boch said Judge DeArmond savaged Notz, calling her out repeatedly on her misstatements, creative interpretations

Good luck... but at least they're trying

## Illinois Supreme Court asked to toss law prohibiting open carry of firearms

(The Center Square) - The Illinois Supreme Court is considering whether to find a state firearms statute prohibiting open carry unconstitutional in the case Illinois v. Tyshon Thompson.

Thompson was found guilty of violating state law for having a firearm in a vehicle without a permit in 2020. Despite having a Firearm Owners ID card, he was sentenced to 30 months in prison.

Tuesday, Eric Castaneda with the Office

of the State Public Defender urged the Illinois Supreme Court to find Illinois' aggravated unlawful use of a weapons statute unconstitutional.

"Here, Mr. Thompson was convicted under a statute that completely prohibits the public open carry of a firearm in Illinois and that punishes the failure to undergo a double licensing regime under the [Concealed Carry License] Act," he said.

## Illinois passes gun confiscation without due process

Continued from cover.

The new law poses all manner of problems for gun owners. Again, police get a warrant to search the entire property for guns, gun parts and ammunition. If they find narcotics or other controlled substances, with the presence of guns, that becomes an Armed Violence charge with something like a 15-year mandatory minimum sentence. That doesn't apply to you? Are you sure you don't have a pill bottle from a deceased relative's pain pills or leftover ADD medications for a kid who doesn't live at home any longer?

claims that the agency seizing the guns will return the firearms within 14 days if the order is vacated.



The firearms will be returned only if, however, the Illinois State Police has reinstated the person's FOID card. And from experience, the ISP typically acts over a period of months to restore a FOID card after an order is vacated, not hours and certainly not within 14 days. Not

presently. So while you might think this probably won't ever impact you personally, hopefully you're right. Hopefully your spouse will never decide to divorce you and level vexatious allegations against you to leverage favorable divorce settlement terms. Or for those not married, hopefully you'll never have a bad Tinder date (or Grindr, as appropriate). Or you won't anger a health care worker or a school official. Particularly when the State of Illinois is spending millions to advertise the availability of Red Flag Firearm Orders on TV, on the internet and on radio.

What's more, the bill



## National reciprocity would force Illinois to recognize other states' CCW licenses

(The Center Square) - With the U.S. Congress in Republican control and the new Trump administration in power, the possibility of a national concealed carry reciprocity law is increasing. Some are speculating how that will impact Illinois.

[Editor's note... National Reciprocity isn't going to happen as a stand-alone bill. There aren't sixty votes in the US Senate to pass it and everyone knows it, including a RINO Republican Senator John Cornyn who introduced it in the Senate.

In its current form, this bill is nothing but political posturing - red meat for the Republican base. The squishy Republicans can pretend to have hard-core support for gun rights, knowing this is symbolism over substance.

How will you know these bozos are serious about passing National Reciprocity? When they attach it to a must-pass omnibus bill, then it will happen. Until then, they're playing us for fools.]

## IL Republicans want to lower the age to get a FOID card

Springfield, IL (WAND) - A new bill filed in Springfield could lower the age requirement for a FOID card from 21 to 18.

The plan also states people could be eligible for a FOID card if they have never been convicted of a misdemeanor, other than a traffic violation or delinquent crime.

State Rep. Charlie Meier (R-Highland) says the age should be lowered so Illinois high school students can participate in trap shooting.

"We have a lot of trap shooting teams even in our schools in southern Illinois," Meier said. "If you're going to run traps or go rabbit hunting you have to have a parent to go with you. It just seems ridiculous."

[Editor's note: No, Charlie. That's not the case at all. If they have a FOID card they don't need a parent to accompany them anywhere with an unloaded, encased firearm and ammunition.]



## LOOKING FOR A PLACE TO SHOOT?

# DeWitt County Sportsmans Club

Clinton, IL



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

**JOIN US! Open to all.**

See Calendar for Shoots & Events (p. 22)

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

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

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





Hello? Are you talking to me?

## EAR PRO: Hearing protection

by Dr. David Pike

Hearing protection is an essential consideration for shooters. Period. Firearms, regardless of caliber, produce extremely high noise levels that can cause immediate and irreversible hearing damage. The sound produced by firearms typically ranges between 140 and 170 decibels (dB) - louder than a jet engine. A single gunshot can result in permanent damage, including long-term conditions like tinnitus (ringing in the ears) and high-frequency hearing loss.

### What? Are you talking to me?

With that in mind, shooters should use ear protection that provides adequate noise reduction. Earplugs, earmuffs, or a combination of both (especially on indoor ranges) will effectively eliminate the risks to hearing.

Modern electronic earmuffs have become quite affordable while providing an excellent option for both home defense and field use.

These allow shooters to amplify conversations and environmental sounds while simultaneously blocking most of the harmful noise levels. Many old timer hunters don't use hearing protection because they believe it may prevent them from hearing game movements or ambient sounds. However, devices such as electronic earplugs or muffs amplify soft sounds, such as leaves rustling, while instantly suppressing gunshot noise. This allows hunters to remain alert and aware of their surroundings without sacrificing safety. All for less than \$100.

Moreover, better modern ones will have Bluetooth technology, allowing them to connect to cell phones and some higher level handheld radios. And then there's always the corded option too that will plug into your walkie-talkie radios.

This ability to connect hearing protection to cell phones or radios makes communica-

tion with others much easier without the need to take off your hearing protection to take a call or answer a radio.

When considering your purchase, first evaluate the rated noise reduction. Ear protection for shooters should have a minimum of 23dB (decibels) Noise Reduction Rating (NRR). For every three dB of noise reduction the sound is reduced by half.

For range shooting indoors, or shooting in groups (like at classes) or for large bore rifles, seek out protection approaching 30dB. If indoors, especially if someone's firing a centerfire rifle, double up on protection by using ear plugs *and* high noise reduction "Mickey Mouse" headsets. Wearing earplugs under your muffs will give you an additional 5dB of protection.



Walker Razor slim-line electronic muffs. 23dB NRR. \$50ish.

Also, shop for comfortable ear pro. If you don't wear it because it's bulky, uncomfortable or it doesn't play nicely with your hat/head gear, it's not doing you any good.

A significant issue for rifle and shotgun shooters is often the bulk of the hearing protection may interfere with the cheek weld in sighting a long gun. Fortunately there are a number of slim-line designs to select from. Slim-lines typically have lower noise reduction ratings, so

there's always a trade-off.

The third factor is price and durability. You get what you pay for. If you're on a budget, Harbor Freight's black and red hearing protection units work nicely (NRR 26dB) for under \$10. Amazon has some 29dB units for under \$10 as well. Those do a great job, even in heavy gunfire on busy ranges.

The good news is that you no longer have to shell out \$300 or more for really decent electronic gear. If price is no issue for you I would recommend getting ear pro muffs with Bluetooth connectivity. These will start at about \$70 and go up from there. More reasonably priced electronic hearing protection devices that allow connectivity via audio cable will start at about \$35 dollars. There are many reliable brands in this lower priced category. At \$35-50, you can afford to put a set in your nightstand in case you have to investigate things going "bump" in the night.



3M electronic muffs. 26dB NRR, \$80ish.

Ultimately, whether you are at the range or in the field, protecting your hearing should be a top priority. Investing in quality hearing protection ensures that you can continue enjoying your sport while hearing your spouse calling for you and enjoying classical music later in life.

Remember: wear some form of hearing protection every time, because one shot without protection is all it takes to cause damage that lasts a lifetime.

Time's running out! Act now...

## Great Guns 2025 drawing Feb. 13th

(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](http://www.youtube.com/@WaywardSonCustom) Then smash the "subscribe" button.

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

It's a package deal, too. Gun, holster, mags, hard case, mag pouches, a Case EDC blade 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.

Attn: Great Guns 2025  
Guns Save Life  
PO Box 8  
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:  
SADEC.org  
2nd Amendment Defense and Education Coalition (SADEC)  
P.O. Box 300  
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## 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](http://IllinoisFreedomAlliance.us).



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In regione caecorum rex est luscus

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

## Dilbert the Drone

Hi! I'm Dilbert the Drone. Recently members of my family have been getting too much publicity, and we need to nip that in the bud, because us Drones really don't like to be on the front page of the news. We have changed industries with our versatility, efficiency, and advanced technology. We are revolutionizing the military and war now, because we can do things that people cannot do. Drone is sort of a nickname; our birth certificate says Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV). The patron of the family was old Kettering Bug, an unmanned flying bomb developed at the end of World War I for the US Army Air Corps, by a bunch of smart guys including – now get this – Orville Wright. THAT Orville Wright.

Like humans, we come in all sizes. My biggest brother is Stratolaunch Roc, a platform for launching rockets and satellites into space. He has dual fuselages, a payload capacity over 550,000 pounds, and a wingspan of 383 feet, because he launches these heavy loads at high altitudes. But, that wasn't him over New Jersey. One of the smallest guys in my family is the Black Hornet, only 6.6 inches in length and weighing under 33 ounces. I'm told Special Forces might have these because the Black Hornet has a nearly undetectable visual and audio signature for discreet operations. He has optical and thermal cameras, can relay video at distances up to a mile and a quarter, and has a flight endurance of almost half an hour. That wasn't him over New Jersey either.

So who has drones? Well, almost everyone. You can buy one. Dozens of entities in the US operate drones, from delivering goods to checking farm fields; most operate during the day. The Israelis, Chinese, Russians, Iranians, Germans, British have them too, and the list goes on and on. Some people believe that the scariest drones are ones that carry weapons, like the General Atomics MQ-9 Reaper. This bad boy has a payload capacity of 3,747 pounds, 65-foot wingspan, 36-foot length, a 950-horsepower turboprop engine, top speed of 300 miles per hour, and can operate at altitudes up to almost 50,000 feet. It is widely used for precision-strike and surveillance missions, with an endurance of 27 hours.

Most impressive, though, it can carry a variety of weapons, including missiles and laser-guided bombs –and maybe the baddest-ass of all, the AGM-114 R9X Hellfire, a guided missile with a kinetic warhead, equipped with six sharp, tilting blades that spring open before impact. It's designed to cut a bad guy in two – maybe more – pieces and has the appropriate nicknames of "Ninja" and "Flying Ginsu". It's "supposed" effectiveness? Ask al-Qaeda leaders Jamal Ahmad Mohammad al-Badawi, Abu Khayr al-Masri, and Ayman al-Zawahri. Oh, wait: they're not available anymore for interviews. My guess is a MQ-9 Reaper wasn't over New Jersey either.

In my opinion, though, the scariest drones don't carry weapons, but sophisticated sensors that collect information. In the US, these types of operations and equipment are known as "Special Access Programs," intentionally designed to keep even people with the highest security clearances – maybe

above Top Secret – from ever knowing about them, because even those people do not have what is called a "need to know."



Governors, Senators, Congressmen, most generals and admirals, and every reporter do NOT have a need to know. So they aren't told about them. They don't even know the names of these programs. They don't know the funding streams. Who knows all those details? Maybe a dozen folks. Maybe a few hundred know some details, but what they are told is "compartmentalized," and not the whole picture.

How high are the officials kept out "of the loop?" Well, after President Franklin D. Roosevelt died in 1945, Secretary of War Henry Stimson told new President Harry Truman only that the US was developing a new weapon. Twelve days later, General Leslie Groves gave Truman the details on the Manhattan Project. Until then, the former Vice President had no knowledge of the effort. Because he had no "need to know."

Fast forward to now. You want to know what the heck is going on. Let me make a few educated guesses. I believe not all the objects in the skies over New Jersey, New York, and Connecticut are drones. But some are. Of the countries with drones, all but Russia, China and Iran have no desire to piss off the US, because we could make life really difficult. But those last three are countries of interest.

Aliens are beyond the scope of this discussion. That leaves one or more US "Special Access Programs." Maybe these drones have different types (high-definition, infrared or thermal) of cameras. Or maybe they have technology that "grabs" all the cellphone data in an area. Not your actual conversation with grandma, because that would be illegal without a valid warrant. But just the signature of millions of cellphones, to test if that can be done. Would a small nuclear weapon, like a suitcase nuclear device, emit detectable radiation? Could sensors in drones pinpoint that? The lights? So they don't get rammed by a commercial aircraft, because its night and maybe the drones are difficult to "see" on radar.

How would we ever know what's up or who's flying them? Maybe the key is who the drones "talked" to; what is the "length" of the information sent by the drone? Did a drone share data with another drone? If so, we would know that the two were in the same drone "network." From where did they take off and land? But I don't have a "need to know." So I'm just guessin'. And so is everyone else.



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# Hurricane Helene After-Action Report

by John Boch

On YouTube, Jeff Gray, one of the millions impacted by Hurricane Helene shared some tips about what worked very well for his family in the aftermath of the storm. His family was without electricity for 12 days and internet for 14. Thanks to their preparedness, they fared pretty well with their six kids. Moreover, they created a bevy of goodwill helping friends and neighbors in the aftermath of the storm.

Here is his list of what proved especially useful and why.



**1. Generator.** Including spare spark plugs, oil and related maintenance gear. "Everything revolved around the generator," Gray said. He used a portable 2,000 watt inverter generator that sipped about 2 gallons of gas per day. They rotated loads so as not to overload the unit. Some folks near them had larger generators, which drink more gas, and they had problems securing additional fuel. TIP: Don't run out of gas before you run out of emergency.

It kept his freezer cold, saving hundreds of dollars in meat, as well as his refrigerator. It charged his batteries and power packs, ran tools, as well as a kept a Crock Pot running to heat water next to his kitchen sink.

Gas stations near him were mostly out of gas, and if they had some it was cash only, with ten gallon limit and a multi-hour line to wait your turn for your ration.

**2. Extra gas.** Gas powers your life after a disaster. It fuels your generator, chainsaws and other equipment along with your car. He recommends a *minimum* of 20 gallons *just* for the generator. Consider *much* more if you live in a tree-rich ecosystem (see #3). You'll want enough to gas your cars up as well, in addition to some for unexpected needs. [Editor: You might also have some to barter with...]



**3. Chainsaw(s), along with support gear.** He said they burned through five gallons of gas *each day* for their two chainsaws sawing up big trees blocking the entrance to their subdivision. It took them several 8-hour days of cutting to clear the entrance. Don't forget extra chains, bar and chain oil and two-cycle oil additive.

**4. Cold hard cash... on hand.** Without internet, it's back to cash only. Period. Grocery stores, gas stations, pharmacies, hardware stores - if they don't have internet, they can't take your credit and debit cards. Have at least \$500 to \$1000 in cash in small bills (5s, 10s, 20s).

**5. A gas cook stove.** He said hot meals are a huge morale boost. "You can only eat cold foods so long..." Have propane cans to run those stoves. Also, during an emergency is a poor time to figure out how to season and use cast iron cookware over open flames.



Flammable storage sheds are a good idea.

**6. Water.** Without water, you're in trouble. Have a way to filter water in addition to bottled water. Not only that, but if you have a way to collect rainwater (like a rain barrel), that beats carrying water from a surface sources to your house to filter it.

**7. Lots of lighting.** Without electricity it's "really dark" after the sun goes down. He said they built a ton of goodwill by giving away a lot of cheap lights to neighbors who didn't have adequate lighting. "Get a bunch from Amazon. They're cheap." And safer than candles.

**8. A Crockpot** next to kitchen sink provides hot water for washing.

**9. Have some way to do your laundry.** Doing it by hand sucks. Another huge reason to have at least a 2000 watt inverter generator to run your washer. But what if the municipal water goes down? Have a plan. If you have a gas dryer that allows you to dry your clothes. No gas dryer? Have a plan.



**10. Have portable battery stations.** They helped keep freezers going, and helped earn massive goodwill with neighbors by allowing them to keep *their* freezers cold to save their meat. He likes the Jackery or similar units of the 1000-2000 watt size that will charge quickly so you can hand it off.

[Editor's note: With a little bit of knowledge you can build a DIY unit for a quarter of the price. We'll have more on that in a coming issue.]

**10a. Cellular phone battery chargers.** While the internet was dead on the phones and voice calls often didn't work, text messages would go through now and then. These cell phone charger batteries are relatively inexpensive. Handing one off to a fellow church member or neighbor so they could charge their phone scored lots of positive karma.



**11. Compassion.** Lots of people have zero or near zero emergency gear. Have some extras for the less-prepared. Water, batteries, a cell phone charger, a flashlight... these inexpensive items can make a huge difference for those desperate and without. The people you help will probably look out for you in the future because of what you did for them.

For example, if you have water filtration (you should), providing potable water to others costs you next to nothing, but will earn you priceless goodwill. Like for the elderly shut-in without family who can reach him or her. Or a family where the husband can't get home to help the wife and kids.

If you're extra nice and have the means to do so, you can help them keep their freezer cold so they don't lose their meats, and ditto for refrigerators if you have a Jackery or a spare small generator.

**11a. Be willing to help others.** If you see people trying to saw up downed trees so traffic (both emergency and non-emergency) can make it through, don't turn around and go back home. Put on some gloves and go help. Or better yet, bring your saw. Especially if you're young(er) and in decent shape.

If you have emergency supplies, your family will suffer less. You'll also have time and availability to help your friends, neighbors and fellow church members instead of waiting endless hours in line each day for food relief supplies or gas.



**12. Finally, marry someone who can deal with adversity without becoming a miserable person, and making everyone around them miserable as well.** This one's not available on Amazon. Kudos to those of you who have found one of these.



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## LESSONS LEARNED: Good therapy can help for victims of violent attacks

by John Boch

We carry a gun so we're harder to kill, and know the law of self-defense so we're harder to convict. As much as we try to avoid crime, sometimes life gives us a crap sandwich and forces us to take a bite.

And sometimes you get injured.

Physical injuries are easy to see. Meanwhile, mental injuries aren't so easily discerned. Yet they can and do pose serious problems for the afflicted.

Sometimes, even normally big, strong men (and women) can benefit from professional help to heal mental trauma and to help them restore peace of mind.

On September 19, God gave me one of those crap sandwiches. A driver and a passenger had worked themselves up to a road-raging frenzy, and they focused their anger on me. Not getting the reaction from me they hoped for, the driver decided to use someone else's brand new F-350 pickup towing a trailer (probably a car hauler) to physically force me off Interstate 55 near Pontiac, Illinois.

The raging driver came into my lane and at first I gave him lots of room to the point of taking half of the shoulder. Slowing aggressively wasn't really an option with a big truck behind me, and staying on the shoulder was far from optimal due to debris.

As the other driver kept coming, the little voice in the back of my head changed from "He's trying to run you off the road" to "People die in ditches."

Instead of allowing the truck to push me off the shoulder and into the grass, I opted to stand my ground. At that point we collided. His brand new F-350 and nice trailer were no longer pristine. Lord knows my pride and joy Explorer took plenty of abuse as well – about \$8,500 worth in fact.

I had 911 on the phone to report a road rage attack and collision even before pulling onto the side of the road. Maybe 10 minutes later the state trooper arrived, took statements from both sides and then he returned to my car. I asked him what he thought. He chuckled.

"As you might imagine, their statement is about the dead opposite of yours. They said you were the one suffering from road rage and you swerved into them in the passing lane out of anger," he told me.

A few minutes later, I took the dash cam's memory card and adapter back to his squad and we watched the video together. It wasn't exactly as I remembered it. I had the gist correct. And it clearly showed the statements of the guys in the truck to be somewhere between misleading and downright false.

But there were two big takeaways from watching the video. The distances weren't exactly as I remembered them. And the whole incident took place in a little over two seconds in real time. It seemed like it took a

lot longer – like 10 or 15 seconds as my mind remembered it. These distorted perceptions of distance and time were psychological effects of a high-stress incident that I'd learned about in courses on deadly force. Now I'd lived them first-hand.

The lawman copied the footage to his laptop and said he wanted to review it with his supervisor before making a decision on tickets.

### The Waiting and Worrying Game

I drove away with a banged up car and a lot of loose ends. Would I get the tickets or potentially get arrested? My anxiety continued steadily growing throughout the day into the evening. My lovely bride was angry that she had to leave work to pick up the kids. She offered zero support and voiced her criticism of my decision-making from start to finish.

"You should have left the roadway to avoid the collision, or stopped," she said. Leave the roadway? From my time as a fire department photographer many years ago, I saw more than a couple single-vehicle *fatal* crashes where people left the roadway. Not only that, but the speed limit back then was 55. As for getting rear ended? That didn't seem appealing to me either. Thanks for the second guessing, honey. That planted more seeds of doubt in my mind.

It infuriated her when I said I was comfortable with how I handled it. It turned a big argument, and she shouted that I needed to get professional help. Another day in the life of marital bliss.

Sleep that night was difficult. The next morning, I was angry – very angry – that another driver would try to run me off the road at 70+ MPH in a fit of childish road rage. They could have killed me trying to bully me like a schoolyard thug. My mind raced and emotionally I felt... unstable. One moment I was angry. Another moment I almost felt euphoric that I survived physically unscathed. The next moment I was fearful of worst-case scenarios.

Physically, I felt hot flashes, dry mouth and lots of tension to the point of nausea recalling what happened. Then thoughts would turn to deep anger at my wife for

her utter and total criticism. And once again a big bucket of worries about how badly this could go wrong – arrest, conviction, loss of my job and the right to own firearms. I broke down sobbing in the locker room at the gym.

I knew I needed to get some help before I let this eat me up from the inside. At the same time I didn't want to just randomly approach a therapist. The last thing I needed was to get a gun-hating kook therapist to tell me I should submit and hope for the best.

### Getting Help

So I reached out to the local sheriff and the assistant chief at the local PD. I texted them both asking who their department's go-to therapist for crime victims or cops who have used deadly force. In a couple minutes, they both came back with the same person, Emily Barker, a nurse practitioner who specializes in PTSD and trauma, based in Normal, Illinois.

I called her immediately and left a (still sobbing) voicemail. She got back to me in a couple of hours and we settled on a session a couple of days later. The services weren't cheap, but she came highly recommended by men I respect. I sent her the dashcam footage and a narrative so she could see what happened for herself ahead of the appointment.

It marked the first time I'd ever reached out for "therapy." Going in, I'd always had kind of a dismissive view of therapists and their work "helping" people. And who can forget the commercial where R. Lee Erney plays a therapist?

At the same time I figured I didn't have anything to lose except my freedom were I to over-react to an incident in my then-emotionally unstable and rattled state. Or my sanity as doubts and PTSD ate me up on the inside.

Walking into the appointment, I felt tense and unsure about things. We talked about the incident in great detail, eliciting some strong feelings of anxiety, anger, uncertainty and all the physical symptoms as well. I relived some of the bullying I'd experienced as a youngster, too. She had me practice some treatment techniques including alternating movements while recalling (and re-living) the incidents in vivid detail, over and over. As I did so the anxiety tension began to fade as she

practiced her black magic. Four hours later I felt mentally exhausted and utterly spent physically.

Before I left, she warned me to avoid any intoxicants.

"Just go to bed when you get home," she said. "You'll be emotionally raw for a few days as you heal." Indeed, I felt just as she warned me.

While that first session did wonders, I still felt all those emotions rushing back when I gave my statement to the insurance company. And again when the other party's insurance initially refused to accept any financial responsibility for the crash.

In the next couple days, I learned that the other driver was cited and the insurer of the truck accepted fault after getting a copy of the dash cam footage. Both the ISP and State Farm cleared me of any wrong doing and State Farm's claim investigator said they would stand behind me all day long on this incident. The dashcam proved priceless for me.

A few more therapy sessions filed off the remaining burrs causing me anxiety and emotional distress. Writing about this a couple of weeks after my final session I feel minimal anxiety compared to post-incident.

If I could leave our readers with anything: don't be afraid to seek out therapy if you're the victim of an attack. Your gun might save you during an incident, but it won't help you fix mental trauma from that attack.

Seek out help. You're not weak for asking for help, and they're not going to take your guns away unless you're talking about self-harm.

Your family will likely thank you for it down the road. For me, it also helped me overcome long-held anxieties from serious physical abuse from my childhood. That was an added bonus. Your mileage may vary.

Lastly, if you drive like a decent human being, put a dashcam in your car. Like yesterday.

Seriously. Do it today.

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# GSL WINS IN COURT... AGAIN!

Cook Co. adamant they will continue to collect gun & ammo taxes despite court's order

by John Boch

Chicago (GSL) - Cook County, Illinois, home of the nation's largest open-air shooting gallery, otherwise known as Chicago, has a long and storied history of crime, corruption, and Second Amendment infringement. And today, between the gang members and the politicians who support one another in an unholy alliance, that disregard for the rule of law and enumerated civil rights continues.

The latest involves Cook County's ordinance establishing targeted taxes on guns and ammo. Guns Save Life filed a lawsuit challenging the gun and ammo tax shortly after it was enacted in 2015. In 2021, the Illinois Supreme Court ruled that the tax ordinance was unconstitutional. The Illinois Supremes ordered the trial court to enter a summary judgement in favor of Guns Save Life.

Cook County then amended their ordinance and has been slow-walking the legal

process with endless filings ever since.



At long last, on January 10, 2025, a Cook County trial court judge struck down the ordinance, again at the direction of the Illinois Supreme Court.

Since then, the brain trust within Cook County government has made it perfectly clear to our side that they have no intention of ceasing the collection of gun and ammo taxes on purchases made in Cook County stores.

Gun control is almost a holy jihad for these people. Chicago (and State of IL) officials see anti-gun measures

as not only "good public policy" but as part of what they perceive as a righteous battle to uphold their twisted idea of civilization, enlightenment, and decency against the evil, knuckle-dragging rednecks bitterly clinging to their guns.

They see gun control not as a precursor to tyranny but as a righteous pursuit against the forces of evil.

How will this turn out for the Cook County government? Time will tell, but you can bet that Guns Save Life's not just going to walk away from this.



Go ahead and put some popcorn in the microwave 'cause this is going to get good. I'll have double butter and extra salt on mine.

Disarmed victim zone appealing to thugs



## CTA crime up sharply

Chicago (The Center Square) - With the number of crimes being committed at Chicago Transit Authority stations now sharply on the rise, Violence Interrupters Executive Director Tio Hardiman is demanding top city officials do more to keep riders safe.

[Editor: Spoiler alert... his solution involves the city paying for more "violence interrupters." Here's our take: How about allowing CCW holders to carry their guns?]



Nobody can apply for cop jobs

## Johnson's stealth plan to 'defund the police' via attrition

Chicago (GSL) - Want to apply for a job as a Chicago cop? Ordinarily one would go the City of Chicago website and hit a link for police officer applications. However, according to the *Second City Cop* blog, all those links are broken.

We know that Johnson cancelled all of the police academy classes through the end of 2024 as a budget cutting measure. But if people can't apply for the job, that'll make filling future academy classes... challenging.



The ICE men are coming to town.

## IL has 5th most illegals of any state, spends over \$1B

(The Center Square) - A new Center for Immigration Studies report finds that Illinois is now home to the fifth most foreign nationals in the country with at least 530,000 migrants residing across the state.

Former Illinois state Rep. Dan Caulkins, R-Decatur, reacted to the CIS report. "This is what happens when you make your city and your state a sanctuary state or a sanctuary city," Caulkins told The Center Square.



Chicago residents get what they voted for

## Chicago City Council votes 39-11 NOT to work with ICE to deport illegals for sex crimes against kids

Chicago (GSL) - The Chicago City council members voted 39-11 to block consideration of a measure that would have allowed police to assist federal immigration officials deport illegal aliens involved with sex crimes against minors, human trafficking, prostitution, gang activities and drugs.



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## ICE raiding Chicago on day after Inauguration Day

**Chicago (GSL/SNW)** - The Land of Lincoln's Governor JB Pritzker famously said immediately after the election that "anyone who intends to come take away the freedom and opportunity and dignity of Illinoisans... You come for my people, you come through me."

Pritzker's big mouth has earned him the head of the crackdown line for the incoming border czar Tom Homan. Media outlets now report that starting Tuesday, January 21, ICE is coming to Pritzker's hometown - Chicago. You know, Murder City USA. And the Mexican drug cartel members there along with Tren de Aragua gang members better be on the lookout. Because

they've got a one-way ticket home waiting for them.



*Buh bye.*

Yes, even the ones who might violently resist taking the trip back to their home nations.

The endeavor will feature hundreds of ICE agents who don't give a damn about Illinois' and Chicago's respective "Sanctuary" laws and ordinances. Or big mouth governors or even Hispanic Congresscritters who boast they will actively thwart ICE deporting illegals with their

own bodies. Raids in other so-called "Sanctuary Cities" including New York City will soon follow.



*Even our women are tougher than Tren de Aragua gang thugs.*

In fact, some are describing it as a "big f\*\*king operation." Or, as Joe Biden might have described it back when he was compos mentos, "This is a big f\*\*king deal!"

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

## UPDATED: The 'Islamic Army' planning massive attacks against America

*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"? It's true.

He's trained two groups of 1,000 of his best battle-hardened jihadists over the course of 12-18 months - using tens of millions of American tax dollars *each month*. 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.

Are they any good? Ask Israel. A big part of the October 7th attackers were trained in these Islamic Army camps in Afghanistan. In fact, the attacks against Israel were a dress rehearsal for the American "Homeland" attack.

10,000 more were trained and then sent to Syria. In a matter a weeks they overthrew the Assad government, breaking a multi-year stalemate in that nation's civil war.

Do you remember the "Mumbai" terror attacks in India? Hamza bin Laden's plan is for scores of similar teams to wreck havoc in twenty or more cities across our nation. They will attack public venues with a goal of killing 50,000 to 60,000 in addition to hitting infrastructure targets like pipelines, railways, our power grid, communications (including internet) and even taking out bridges and aircraft. Their goal is to cripple our nation's infrastructure and our economy in addition to paralyzing people with fear.



They will livestream the rapes and savage killing of women and children via social media. Imagine them roaring through a maternity ward at your local hospital live-streaming the killings of newborns and the moms in hospital beds nearby.

Not only that but Americans have never experienced suicide bombers up close and personal. Reportedly the "Islamic Army" has even developed new suicide bomb vests that will sail right through traditional metal detectors used to "secure" many government buildings and installations. It's detonated through a slow chemical reaction, so it doesn't need any wires. And the terrorists use new components in these vests that our explosive-sniffing dogs haven't been trained to detect. It will be ugly.

### What can you do as a good American?

Practice good situational awareness. If you see something, say something. Trust your intuition.

Carry your gun each and everyday. And practice shooting - more than 30 rounds every five years. The life you save might be your own - or someone in my family.

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.

For those living in large apartment complexes or high-density housing (think college dorms), make arrangements with friends or family members to live with them for a short period of time, particularly if the utilities go down.

If/when attacks do happen, don't panic. Don't disseminate graphic videos. Stay away from any attack locations. Secondary attacks will likely take place in an attempt to wipe out first responders and spectators. In fact, a bombing or initial shoot spree might just serve to lure first responders to (or away from) the main attacks.

Minimize personal risks to you and your family by avoiding crowded public locations (sports venues!) in addition to schools, daycares and hospitals. If you venture out, do so with armed friends where feasible (safety in numbers). Specifically, armed friends who shoot more than 30 rounds every five years...

As for "No Guns" signage? Ignore them if you don't already. Concealed means concealed. If Johnny Jihad shows up, you can't burn him down if you left your little friend outside in the car or at home.

Practice "home carry" *especially* if you live in high-density housing or are at a hotel for any reason. Proclaim 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.

### Training Camps

Officials have told Guns Save Life that there's a Muslim-owned compound not even a half-hour west of Chicago's western suburbs where neighbors report a high volume of gunfire each and every day into the darkness of evening. Even when it's 35 degrees and raining, they're out training.

On top of that we were told of a similar compound near Avon, Indiana, about 15 minutes west of Indianapolis. And another in southern Illinois.

Folks, they're here. And these "Islamic Army" trained fighters aren't counting the Hezbollah sleeper agents already here.



*A MANPAD - man-portable air defense system missile.*

### MANPADS

What's more, new open source intelligence reports on *at least* one shipment of Iranian-made man-portable anti-aircraft missiles has made it into America in recent weeks.

Again, they are here. They're training. And they will likely hit us soon. Be ready.

*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.*

## Join Guns Save Life today.



*Membership application on back page.*

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We welcomed Latvian-born Agnes as our main speaker in Mattoon.

## 'I like the American spirit'

by John Boch

(GSL) - Meet Agnes. As our guest speaker at the Mattoon GSL meeting, she shared her worldly experience on living in America as compared to multiple other nations. While you might think that our freedoms have been curtailed in recent years, to hear her tell it, we are still light years ahead of Europe and Russia.

Born in Latvia, she's lived in multiple countries and societies ranging from Russian communism to European socialism and now America's Constitutional Republic. She speaks four plus languages, and while English wasn't her native tongue, she communicates quite well and effectively.

"A bad joke in Russia might get you a free trip to Siberia to visit the polar bears," she smiled. "They aren't friendly."



And while living one's life as a good communist would get you a car (someday) or a better apartment, the stores still didn't have much food.



Nevertheless, people did what they had to do to eke out of an existence. That includes a strong barter system/black market. Two of the biggest barter items were booze (vodka) and cigarettes - along with skills to repair things and fabricate parts. Spare parts, she told us, simply didn't exist back when she grew up there.

As a student in school, she questioned some of the communist dogma and that terrified the school's officials. Why? They would be blamed (and punished) for not properly inculcating Agnes on the great benefits of Stalinism. Her parents weren't too happy with her either.

Eventually she moved to Europe as an adult. She didn't care for the non-assimilating immigrants. And the occasional terrorist attacks were just the added bonus, along with government surveillance and control of your life. For instance, there's a huge push in Europe to digital currency which can be easily controlled by government if they don't approve of you, your beliefs or your expenditures.

Moreover, the citizens there are prohibited from carrying weapons of any sort, especially guns or knives. Unlike Americans, Europeans are utterly defenseless against criminals and terrorists.

Agnes left Brussels and moved into the countryside. Then she emigrated to America. By plane she explained when asked. Obviously.

Before she left though, she said the Ukraine war weighs heavily on the minds of Europeans. They worry about an expanded war... and their media outlets have people largely brainwashed.

European media hates Trump (sound familiar?) and fear mongers to no end about the horrors allegedly to come under a second Trump term. Nevermind the peace and prosperity that most enjoyed during his first term.

And she knows that the Ukrainian leaders are far from freedom-loving heroes fighting communism. Instead they are thoroughly corrupt authoritarians. They even pay a \$190 bounty for young men kidnapped off the streets and presented to the government to be sent to the war fronts.

Now that she's made her home in America (and is now married to one of our members), she says America is easily the best place to live. "I like the American spirit," she observed. "You're free here." At least compared to everywhere else she's lived.

## Prepare for emergencies!



Weren't 'White Supremacists' America's greatest threat? Or 'Global Warming'?

## FBI's Wray shares 'Chinese infiltration' threat against America's critical infrastructure

(ZeroHedge) - While the FBI - the same FBI that participated in the Rus-siagate hoax, polarizing half of America into focusing on the Kremlin for a decade, the Chinese government - the same one that enriched the Biden family to the tune of millions, has apparently been 'lying in wait' all over America and is ready to attack critical infrastructure at a moment's notice.

Chinese government is prepositioning on American civilian critical infrastructure to lie in wait on those networks to be in a position to wreak havoc & inflict real world harm at a time & place of their choosing."

According to outgoing FBI Director Christopher Wray in a Sunday appearance on "60 Minutes," - "The Wray described the CCP as "the greatest long-term threat" and the "defining threat of our generation" due in part to its state-funded cyber program that's poised to "wreak havoc" on a whim - targeting water treatment plants, the electrical grid, natural gas infrastructure and other systems.



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It is hard to believe such imprudence still exists in today's world...

## Some churches *still* don't have safety & security teams

by John Boch

Denial has no survival value. And pretending that the threats faced by Christian churches in today's world only apply to "other" churches in "other towns" is both imprudent and foolish.

This year, I visited a local church with family for Christmas Eve services. We arrived early and I had a chance to people watch. I saw one or two individuals who looked like they *might* be armed judging by their bearing, their dress and other clues. Those men were with their respective families, not seriously watching for external threats.

The church had pleasant greeters, but they had no radio communications. Moreover, more than a few of us entered from the lower parking lot through a dimly lit, unmanned entrance. At no time was anyone anywhere near the pastor in a protective role.

I spoke about this dearth of best practices on security with a couple of church security experts. One suggested that maybe this place of worship maybe had an exceptionally discrete team. I chuckled, given multiple open entrances, some unstaffed? No way. That's a rookie mistake that can cost a lot of lives if evil comes a-knockin'. That and a lack of communications and any semblance of protection for the pastor left me pretty sure this place was hopelessly unprepared for bad things that might happen.

There are a host of short-sighted reasons why some might be opposed to an organized church safety and security team. Those reasons usually involve fragile people who would rather not acknowledge that evil exists... and of course those icky guns. A failure to plan is a plan to fail. Especially in a world where incidents ranging from vandalism to violence against churches doubled last year over 2023, and the rate of attacks is *accelerating*.

### Why have a safety and security team?

A safety and security team will welcome people to each service, and they may even direct traffic (both foot traffic and vehicles). More importantly, they stand trained and ready to assist rendering aid in medical emergencies. Teams also monitor weather- and environmental-related threats as well as help look after the safety and security of child care areas.

Perhaps their most important function is to protect the congregations from nut jobs, violent criminals and others with ill intent. They do so outside in the parking lots, at the front door and inside the sanctuary, communicating with one another via radios and their earpieces. Video surveillance assists in monitoring the exterior as well as entrances for potential problems, including medical emergencies.

Not having a team to mitigate risks and deal

with threats can have costly and lasting impact to the church's long-term viability. If something serious happens and the church had not taken reasonable steps to mitigate that risk ahead of time, people will stop coming to that church. People go to church to find peace and sanctuary, not to risk experiencing a criminal attack or victimization.

Failing to use best practices for church security in today's world is as imprudent as leaving your house unlocked and your car's keys in the ignition.

Barely a week goes by where there's not an attack on churches somewhere in America. These are usually carried out by social misfits and society's losers.

Fortunately, most are thwarted by safety and security teams and these incidents hardly make the news. Sometimes these even happen at high-profile venues like Joel Osteen's Lakewood church in Houston where that church's security team stopped a bloodbath earlier in 2024.



Sadly, some attacks are not thwarted and people get victimized. Some even die.



First Baptist Church, Sutherland Springs, TX. No security team. Nov. 5, 2017. 450 rounds fired. 26 people killed. Plenty more wounded.

If there's no team, there's little hope of deterring or thwarting a criminal attack, especially if it happens during service. Moreover, without a team, there's scarcely any chance of an organized response to a serious threat.

Ensure the safety of church guests and the long-term viability of a church. Make sure your place of worship has a safety team and plans for emergencies of all sorts.

If it doesn't, maybe it's time to find a new place of worship that takes security seriously.

Lt. Col. Dave Grossman's first ever

## Bulletproof House of Worship Safety Conference

Thursday, April 24 - Saturday, April 26th

Central Christian Church, 301 N 10th. St., Mount Vernon, IL

(GSL) - The Department of Homeland Security's 2024 Homeland Threat Assessment details a heightened threat environment in our nation, and that certainly applies to houses of worship. Terrorists, political extremists and social misfits all have an axe to grind with Christians, faith-based institutions and religious-themed public gatherings.

The Family Research Council identified over twice as many incidents ranging from vandalism to arson to violence against US churches in 2024 compared to 2023. Incidents are not only growing but accelerating.



With all that in mind, one of America's foremost experts on mindset Lt. Col. Dave Grossman will be headlining a three-day Bulletproof House of Worship Safety Conference April 24-26, 2025 in Mt. Vernon, IL. He has a host of nationally-known speakers lined up to share important information and even some tactics for church security folks nationwide.

Topics include:

- Do you have the right mindset?
- Lessons learned from The New Life Church tragedy
- Verbal De-escalation
- Tragedy in Sutherland Springs, TX
- The aftermath of use of force
- Sex crimes prevention
- Protecting the flock
- Explosive devices
- What does the prepared person look like on Sunday?
- Stopping the killers
- David Grossman's *Bulletproof Mind* presentation




Tickets are just \$80. Register at [bulletproofworship.com](http://bulletproofworship.com)

[Editor's note: GSL not only endorses this event but **strongly recommends** church safety and security team members attend.]

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## Dad protects family from 19YO lunatic thug on Christmas eve at a Walmart

*Clarksville, TN (Clarksville Now)* – Additional details have emerged about the shooting at Walmart on Christmas Eve, including that the 19-year-old held a gun to a woman's head and threatened her children before he was shot several times.

On Dec. 24, at approximately 12:45 p.m., Clarksville Police responded to reports of shots fired inside the Walmart at 1680 Fort Campbell Blvd. Police later said Labron Gibson, 19, was the primary aggressor and was shot several times. The man who shot him acted in defense of his family, they said.

According to an arrest warrant obtained by Clarksville Now, officers observed security footage that showed an argument between Gibson and a couple.

Gibson pulled out a gun and placed it on the head of the woman, cutting her eye in the process. Gibson made threats to kill the couple and their two children, ages 4 and 2, while waving the firearm. The man then retrieved his own gun, firing several rounds at Gibson.

## Self-defense at Amazon facility parking lot near Indy

*Hancock County, IN (Greenfield Daily Reporter)* — Officials from the Hancock County Sheriff's Department say a 39-year-old Indianapolis man is dead following a shooting at the Amazon Distribution Warehouse located at 7114 West 200N, Greenfield.

Officials say the shooting was in self-defense and happened in the parking lot during an incident between two employees who worked at the facility.

## Knife wielding perp meets armed security

*Philadelphia, PA (WPVI)* -- Philadelphia police say a security guard shot and killed a person who was wielding a knife outside of a nightclub.

Police responded to a report of a person with a gun in the 5500 block of Germantown Avenue, at Treasures Banquet Hall, around 8:15 p.m. on Tuesday.

When they arrived, officers found a man unresponsive with a gunshot wound to the chest, as well as multiple self-inflicted stab wounds, according to officials.



## Stupid games, stupid prizes in Roswell, NM

*Roswell, NM (KRQE)* – Roswell police are investigating a shooting as self-defense after one person was killed Friday night. Police were called near Montana Avenue and College Boulevard, finding 27-year-old Alvin Sedillo unresponsive with multiple gunshot wounds.

Police believe Sedillo threatened a man and his girlfriend with a gun, asking for their phones, and other personal items, and demanding to be driven to another location. When the man refused, police say Sedillo shot at the two, who returned fire.

Sedillo was shot multiple times and was pronounced dead by medics. Police say the man suffered non-life-threatening injuries. Roswell police are continuing to investigate, and no charges have been filed against the injured man.



Try that in a small town...

## Would be home intruder shot in tiny little Arcola, IL

*Arcola (County Chronicle)* - A male intruder was shot as a result of attempting to break and enter a home at the 200 block of South Pine in Arcola, according to sources.

*[The ISP released this:]* The Illinois State Police Division of Criminal Investigation Zone 5 was requested by the Arcola Police Department to assist with a shooting investigation. On January 17, 2025 at approximately 12:00 a.m., Arcola PD responded to the report of a shooting in the 200 block of South Pine Street. One male was located with injuries sustained from a gunshot and was transported to an area hospital. There is no threat to the public. The investigation is ongoing and there is no additional information to share at this time.



## 76% of Americans want judges to follow 2nd Amendment

*(Breitbart)* - A poll conducted by McLaughlin & Associates and released by the Second Amendment Foundation shows three-quarters of American voters believe it is "important" to see pro-2A judges nominated and confirmed at the federal level.

The poll asked, "How im-

portant is it to you to get judges confirmed and nominated to the federal courts who make it a priority to try their best to strictly follow the 2nd Amendment of the U.S. Constitution?"

Seventy-six percent of respondents said it is "important."

Another question asked, "How important is it to you that our political leaders in Washington, D.C. protect and defend the 2nd Amendment Rights in the U.S. Constitution of law-abiding gun owners?"

Seventy-seven percent of respondents said this is "important" as well.



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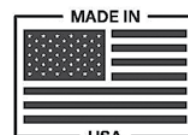
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## Freedom's Forum

"Reach across the aisle" establishment Republicans can't figure out why voters stay home

### 'Pro-gun' Republicans voted for gun confiscations without due process

Maybe the House and Senate Republican caucuses need to shrink by a few more members before remaining members read the memo on not fornicating their prime constituents and donors.

by John Boch

Would you believe multiple so-called "pro-gun" Republicans joined the gun control jihadists in the Illinois General Assembly to pass a new law that allows gun confiscations without due process?

Yes, they did. Even worse, a number of these people serve in leadership positions in their respective chambers.

Those supporting these gun confiscations include **Senate Minority Leader John Curran** as well as **Sue Rezin the Deputy Minority Leader**. They were joined by two members of the **House Republican leadership, Jackie Haas and Brad Stephens**.

These boneheads clearly don't understand the breadth and depth of gun owner opposition to having the government take their guns *without any due process*. They don't have a clue.

Maybe these political geniuses understand *fewer* resources for the next election cycle or two?

That's right: Given the attitudes of leadership, don't donate to the Republicans' House or Senate Campaign Committee funds when asked.

Don't donate your time, money or talent to John Curran, Sue Rezin, Erica Harris or Craig Wilcox in the Senate. Ditto for Jackie Haas, Mrs. America Nicole La Ha, Jennifer Sanalidro, Patrick Sheehan or Brad Stephens in the IL House.

Maybe the House and Senate Republican caucuses need to shrink by a few more members before remaining members read the memo on not fornicating their prime constituents and donors.

They'll begin to see the light when they feel the heat. Until then, let them starve and twist in the wind. Go vote... just not for them. Donate if you feel so inclined, just not to them.



Illinois Senate Minority "Leader" John Curran.

## How I became a gun person

The 'not-a-gun-person' expects someone else with a gun to come and protect them at just the right moment.

by Karol Markowicz

(Substack) - It was Shani Louk's mangled body that was keeping me from sleeping. She had been beautiful and bright, a real person, having a good time on a warm night. Then she was dead, her body mistreated, the girl gone. She could have been me. I used to dance all night at festivals under the stars too...



Shani Louk in happier times.

The days and months after October 7th caused sleeplessness like I had not experienced before. Wide eyed, middle of the night, a stress knot in my chest, a tightness I had never known.

When the panic of the first few days subsided, my sleeplessness took on a new pattern. It wasn't fear or despair anymore. It was anger. "How could they have been so defenseless," I'd ask myself in the dark, sick with the knowledge that our family would have been just as helpless as any family that day. They were me, I was them...

"I thought you felt safe in Florida. Why have guns?" a visiting friend from Israel asked us. We do feel safe in Florida, especially as we watch the eruptions of Jew hatred in our old city. But the idea that New York City could become a hotbed of Jew-hatred was once far-fetched too. It's exactly the "it could never happen here" feeling that has lulled so many Jews before me into complacency. We have not just been killed by our enemies in places like Israel. We've been killed by friends and neighbors, in Spain, in Poland and so on. Our guns say: not us, not this time.

There is no reason for a Jew not to be armed in 2024. So much of Jewish culture revolves around being the helper. We expect people to help those in trouble. We count on armed people to step in. When the call comes "someone should do something!" we don't plan to wait around. That someone will be us.



Karol Markowicz.

"We aren't 'gun-people,'" some people say. There's some pride in it. Who, me? Oh no, I don't own guns, I'm not that kind of person. But unsaid is that the not-a-gun-person expects someone else with a gun to come and protect them at just the right moment. They count on police, security, military to come and help in a real crisis. The not-a-gun-person can never step up and stop a violent attack on someone, they can never protect others, can never be the hero themselves. They can save themselves, maybe, but they'll never be the one that everyone turns to at a time of emergency. There's something intrinsically anti-Jewish about this. We have an obligation to each other but the anti-gun Jew can't meet it. That should be a source of shame not pride. You're not just a not-a-gun-person. You're a can't-help person.

What I want is for my kids to say something else. Yes, we are gun people, actually. I want my kids to grow up shooting, to be good at it, to be comfortable with it, to know their role is not to wait for someone else. We'll also deter. We send the most peace-bringing message of all: We own guns, we train with guns, we have an arsenal, you do not want it with us. We will help others, we will be the people that step in.

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





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A fun, mild-shooting centerfire handgun round still in production for good reason

## History of the .32 S&W

by Ken Frey

About 150 years ago, Smith & Wesson along with Union Metallic Cartridge Company launched a new centerfire cartridge, the .32 S&W. It grew to become a best-selling caliber in revolvers of the time. Today, you can still find commercially loaded .32 S&W guns and ammo. They provide hours of nostalgic fun for newbie shooters as well as aficionados.

Initially in the "new" .32 S&W, 9 grains of black powder launched an 86gr. round-nosed lead bullet at 680fps. No, it didn't exactly set the world on fire with a staggering 88 foot pounds of energy. They still beat the muzzle-loading and Single-Action Army revolvers of the time in ease of use, size, and weight.

As such, these guns became quite popular for discrete self defense. Small-framed pocket guns were easy to carry, not terribly expensive and adequate to discourage misbehavior from most bullies and crooks. A riverboat gambler might carry one along with the guy dealing the cards. Store clerks, businessmen and even ladies carried these little wheel guns.

There are many used .32s still out there in great shape too. People still like them because it's a fun, well-behaved low-recoiling round that everyone can enjoy. In larger-framed guns they will leave you grinning from ear to ear. It behaves nicely in smaller-framed guns too.

Roughly 25 years after the .32 S&W's introduction, complaints over the meager stopping power of the round led S&W to introduce the .32 S&W Long along with a new gun, the Model 1896 Smith & Wesson Hand Ejector model.



S&W Model 1896 in .32 S&W Long.

The longer case of this new cartridge increased powder capacity, allowing it to launch a heavier 98 grain bullet at 717fps. That boosted muzzle-energy to 112 ft-pounds.

An added bonus is that the .32 S&W Long guns would still shoot the .32 S&W cartridges.

.32 S&W Long ammo is readily available at reasonable prices. Why you can even find

jacketed hollow-points for under \$30/box of 50. Buffalo Bore does its best to make a modern-day self-defense round too.

Fast forward to 1984. In a desperate attempt to save the company, Harrington & Richardson along with Federal Ammunition developed the .32 H&R Magnum, AKA the .32 Mag.

A longer case and more powder gave it something approaching respectability in modern defensive pistols. Buffalo Bore has a load firing a 130 grain hard cast bullet at 1133 feet per second out of a 3" inch barrel. This gives the .32 H&R Magnum 371 foot pounds of energy! WOW!

People noticed thanks to marketing. The major gun companies chambered small revolvers for the round anticipating sales would match the marketing. Sales didn't. Two years later, in 1986, H&R folded. But the guns, and the ammo remain on the market today.

But wait, there's more!



From left, .32 S&W, .32 ACP, .32 S&W Long, .32 H&R Magnum, .327 Federal Magnum.

Ruger and Federal Ammunition introduced yet another new cartridge, the .327 Federal Magnum into the mix. They worked jointly to launch it with great hype. Ruger went in whole hog and they had the widest variety of revolvers chambered for the cartridge. After all, they had a hand in the development of the cartridge.

They did this despite continued declining revolver sales. Again, they lengthened the cartridge case, added more fast-burning powder and a heavier projectile. Muzzle energy approached .357 Magnum territory! And the fireball at the muzzle would cook meat nearby when fired. It gave an extra round capacity - to 6 - in small-framed revolvers (over 5 rounds in .38 Special).



Ruger SP-101 in .327 Federal Magnum.

Ruger and Federal spent a bunch on marketing. While sales were better than the H&R effort, they didn't make the new round a success manufacturers had hoped for.

As for the fireball, Bond Arms aptly named their .327 Federal Magnum derringer the Stinger "Fireball." (*Hello, there's a clue.*) The NRA actually "featured" this towards women on their *NRA Women* website, claiming "This lightweight double-barrel pistol can be a low-recoil option with the right ammunition." Yeah, that's an understatement.



.327 Federal Magnum Stinger "Fireball".

### You don't need to shoot the magnum rounds

Although not nearly as popular as they were almost 100-plus years ago, shooting an old revolver chambered in .32 S&W or .32 S&W Long gives great pleasure and satisfaction for the shooter. New shooters will love the mild recoil and lack of muzzle blast. And the newer "magnum" guns will still shoot the mild-mannered .32 S&W Long and .32 S&W rounds.

Especially when one considers the storied history and humbling beginnings many generations ago, shooting this gun today should make you bask in nostalgia. You can imagine travelling back in time a hundred

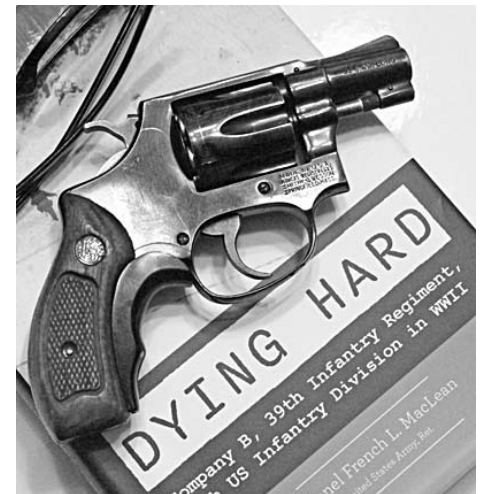
years to experience what people like us shot back then. Nostalgia or not, it always brings a smile to my face.

Try one sometime. If you find an old .32 - even those old break-action pocket guns from a friend or relative and it looks serviceable, don't be afraid to take it out to the range.

They might even let you keep it if you give them \$25 or \$50. You'll probably have a fun day and might even decide you want to keep it for fun and recreational shooting instead of dropping it off at a gun buyback somewhere.

And again, if it shoots the .32 S&W Long, with a \$30 box of hollow-points, you can have a nice, defensive handgun for a new shooter, a young shooter or someone with limited hand-strength.

After all, a .32 in the hand beats a .45 in the safe.



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I am asking for your vote for the NRA Board of Directors



Richard "Dick" Fairburn  
GSL Member  
Canton, IL





## Kydex holsters: Retail or BYO?

By Damon Williams  
GSL Member

Shortly after acquiring my concealed carry license, I purchased a Taurus PT-709. Things went south when I couldn't find an inside the waistband (IWB) holster for it.

Determined to carry my new gun, I checked out some videos on making your own kydex holsters. The process looked easy (fun?), but the price of the equipment didn't make sense. So, I saved time and bought retail.

About a year later I acquired a Canik. Like the Taurus, my choices were limited and pricey. Still, I bought retail to avoid buying a bunch of equipment to do my own rigs.

A few months later, I upgraded my carry gun and... well, you get the idea.

After some time, my son enrolled at Sonoran Desert Institute (SDI). One of the subjects of his curriculum was kydex holster making. His equipment was provided by the school, so I finally had a chance to experience this project with his assistance.

First, he had to build the press. Simple enough, the press is a couple of 8 inch by 16-inch slabs of 3/4" plywood screwed into a 2x4 8" long. The 2x4 acts as a spacer for the high temp/high density foam which has one piece glued to a hinged lid and the other glued to the base. Three-inch gate hinges work best.

You will need:

- Insulated leather gloves; Welding or winter gloves.
- An IR temperature gun.
- An assortment of Chicago screws (Amazon)
- A Dremel with cutting wheels
- A drill with a 7/32" bit
- Two heavy ratcheting wood clamps
- Permission from your spouse to use the oven and a cookie sheet. (Or pick up a little toaster oven at a garage sale).

You will also need sheets of kydex, in the color/pattern of your choice, regardless of the size of the firearm. Often, there is enough kydex left over to reheat and make a magazine carrier.

When you order your kydex, order the style of belt clip(s) that you want. Got a 3D printer? You can make them there too.

Clippings made from 1/4" automotive fuel or vacuum line make fully functional screw spacers with enough flexibility to adjust the retention.

My son was approached by his cousin to make a holster for his S&W5904 because he could not find one retail anywhere in kydex.

The process starts by creating channels which will allow protrusions from the firearm controls to slide into the holster. Every protrusion must be channeled all the way to the back of the slide or frame. This is done

by taping a 3/8" wooden dowel between the sights and shaped wooden tongue depressors behind each protrusion. The trigger guard must be filled in with cut-to-fit 1/4" thick wood inserts. The inserts must not sit flush with the sides of the trigger guard as this serves as a key pressure area for holster retention. Finally, a 1.5" X 3/4" wooden block is taped to the area where the belt clip will be mounted.



The most popular design is a taco holster. With this design, the kydex is heated in an oven to 350-380 degrees, as measured by the IR temperature gun. As soon as it is to temperature, without delay, the now flexible kydex sheet is removed from the oven and laid onto the base of the press. The prepared gun is laid on top of the sheet. Pulling a fold tightly over the slide or top strap, the hinged lid is closed, and the press is clamped tightly with the wood clamps. Allow the press to cool for thirty minutes.



Upon removal of the roughly shaped holster from the press, use the Dremel to trim excess material to the shape of the holster you desire. Leave opposing flaps under the trigger guard for the installation of (a) tensioning screw(s). Set the desired angle of your belt clip. Drill your mounting holes for your Chicago screws. Decide where you want your tensioning screw(s) on your flaps. Space the flaps with the proper length Chicago screw(s) and cut the 1/4" rubber tubing to fit as a spacer.

Without detailing each expenditure, each holster is going to cost you about \$15 in kydex, Chicago screws, and the belt clip alone. Depending on your tool, hardware, and lumber inventory, you may have a head start if this is a project that you desire to undertake.

The more holsters that you make, the lower the cost of each one will be. There is a retail demand out there for custom-made holsters. In fact, this process may be a customer's only option for a custom holster fitting an uncommon or obsolete gun. Or those with lights or optics.

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Like the Islamic Army, China is not our friend. Prepare for infrastructure disruptions!

## Roundup of China news from the last couple of weeks...

by Noah Smith

- Chinese ships have been cutting internet cables in the Baltic Sea and near Taiwan, and in fact has developed technology specifically for the purpose of cutting undersea cables.
- The FBI has revealed that Chinese hackers are "prepositioning" themselves to be able to swiftly destroy critical US infrastructure.
- China's drone manufacturer, DJI, has weakened the "geofencing" of its drones in the US, making it easier for people to fly these drones over military bases.
- China's hackers have penetrated America's phone networks, meaning the Chinese government can listen to Americans' phone calls and read their

texts. Former US National Security Advisor H.R. McMaster has said this is part of laying the groundwork for a nuclear strike.



- China is actively preparing for an imminent war in Taiwan, building fleets of purpose-built barges for landing an army on the island.

## As he's leaving the FBI, Director Wray dispenses with 'white nationalist' threat B.S. and speaks some truth: China is the 'defining threat of our generation'

(ZeroHedge) - FBI Director Christopher Wray, who is stepping down from his role at the helm of the agency, has penned a public farewell message in which he delivers a stark assessment of the dangers facing America, while identifying hostile actions by the Chinese regime as "the defining threat of our generation."



## Sullivan Gun Club

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

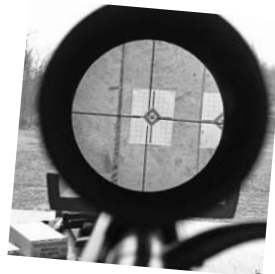


### Bowling Pin Shoots

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**

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# Calendar



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

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

**Crete Gun Club.**  
Monthly meetings at 7pm on the **First Monday**. 1962 W. Exchange, Crete, IL. Open to all. Contact Howard Kaye at [fxrt1984@gmail.com](mailto: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 5-7:30p unless otherwise noted.  
**Jan 28:** USPSA Night at Effingham Accuracy Firearms

**Feb 4:** Prairie State Tactical - Pana (Locked and Loaded)

**Feb 11:** USPSA Night at Effingham Accuracy Firearms

**Feb 18:** Prairie State Tactical - Pana (Locked and Loaded)

**Feb 25:** USPSA Night at Effingham Accuracy Firearms

**Mar 4:** Prairie State Tactical - Pana (Locked and Loaded)

**Mar 11:** USPSA Night at Effingham Accuracy Firearms

**Mar 18:** Prairie State Tactical - Pana (Locked and Loaded)

**Mar 25:** USPSA Night at Effingham Accuracy Firearms

For more info, visit [prairiestatetactical.com](http://prairiestatetactical.com).

## GUN SHOWS...

### January

**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](mailto: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.

**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.



**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](http://FriendsOfNRA.org).

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# GUNNEWS



SECOND AMENDMENT NEWS

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY GUNS SAVE LIFE

VOLUME 22, NUMBER 8

AUGUST 2016

AFFILIATED WITH JIFFO, CIVILIAN MARKSMANSHIP PROGRAM, NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION, ILLINOIS FEDERATION FOR OUTDOOR RESOURCES, ISRA, AND OTHERS

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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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Email ads to [jboch@gunssavelife.com](mailto:jboch@gunssavelife.com) or mail on media to *GunNews*, PO Box 51, Savoy, IL 61874. For payment and scheduling, email [jboch@gunssavelife.com](mailto:jboch@gunssavelife.com).

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**Advertising deadline:** Please submit advertising by the **SECOND TUESDAY** of the month for the following month's issue. For instance, submit by the second Tuesday in March for inclusion in the April issue.

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Unfounded, irrational anxiety over getting thrown in camps needs treatment, not guns

### LGBT liberals discover the 2nd Amendment over fears of being 'thrown in camps'

(ZeroHedge) - LGBT liberals are reportedly buying firearms over fears they'll be rounded up and placed in "concentration camps" under the incoming Trump administration, according to the *Philadelphia Inquirer*...

[Editor's note: Nevermind how Trump has nominated a whole slew of LGBT individuals to positions in his administration.]



## WaPo cartoonist who mocked conservative concerns about sex grooming arrested for kiddie porn

Sacramento, CA (Bee) - A prominent Sacramento-based comic strip creator, cartoonist and author has been arrested on suspicion of possession and creating child pornography.

Darrin Bell, 49, who won the 2019 Pulitzer Prize for Editorial Cartooning, was arrested Wednesday morning at his south Sacramento home by Sacramento County Sheriff's Office investigators. Deputies had served a search warrant against Bell following an investigation by the Sacramento Valley Internet Crimes Against Children Detectives task force.



Darrin Bell, 49.

## The Washington Post has lost 90% of its readership

(Daily Caller News Foundation) - The Washington Post's web traffic has taken a nosedive since 2021, with its digital readership declining by nearly 90%...

The corporate media outlet has also seen an immense drop off in revenue, which decreased from \$190 million in 2023 to \$174 million in 2024. On Tuesday, the Post began laying off approximately 4% of its workforce in a bid to improve its financial health, with the outlet's publisher revealing in May that it had lost \$77 million in the last year.

The newspaper lost over 200,000 subscribers in October alone...

## Armed homeowners patrolling burnt-out LA neighborhoods

Los Angeles (NY Post) - Armed residents of wildfire ravaged communities in Los Angeles county have reportedly taken to guarding their homes in defiance of government-mandated evacuation orders.

A contingent of homeowners in Altadena and the Pacific Palisades have been on a desperate neighborhood watch amid the ongoing blazes that have wrought destruction and resulted in looters attempting to take advantage of tragic circumstances, the Wall Street Journal reported.

## The Left is now more unpopular worldwide than any time since the Cold War

(NY Post) - Lefty political parties across the world are now more unpopular than any time since the Cold War, a staggering analysis of recent elections shows.

The Left suffered a record-low average of just 45% of votes in dozens of ballots held globally last year, according to the analysis of 73 democratic elections, conducted by the Telegraph.

In the United States and Western Europe, progressives were even more unpopular — with the left-leaning parties securing only 42% of their respective votes.



When law and order breaks down, gun owners step up to keep people safe

## ATF reverses 'Zero Tolerance' enforcement that shut down hundreds of FFLs nationwide

(Center for the American Future) - The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives ("ATF") under President Biden has reversed a policy that required inspectors to revoke the federal firearms license ("FFL") of American gun stores over simple paperwork errors and other non-willful violations of the Gun Control Act.

Together with the Texas Public Policy Foundation and America First Legal, Austin gun store owner Michael Cargill had sued the ATF over the "zero tolerance" approach. The Biden approach was illegal under the Gun Control Act, which only allows revocation for "willful" violations, and the Second Amendment, which protects the rights of

Americans not only to own guns, but to purchase them, as well.



Michael Cargill. Image by Dan Z for SNW.

The new enforcement guidance reinstates the decades-long understanding that an honest mistake — like writing "USA" in the field for "county" on a background check form — is not a willful violation of federal law. "For purposes of the regulatory provisions of the GCA, the

terms 'willful' and 'willfulness' mean a purposeful disregard of, a plain indifference to, or a reckless disregard of a known legal obligation. Willfulness requires fact specific application of law," says the new guidance.

Crucially, it also adds that "Not every repeat violation is per se willful. A single, or even a few, inadvertent errors in failing to complete forms may not amount to 'willful' failures even where the legal requirement to complete the forms was known."

In light of his victory, Cargill has filed an unopposed motion to voluntarily dismiss the case, without prejudice, with the trial court.

## AI 'Facial Recognition' software used by police agencies fueling false arrests

(ZeroHedge) - Police nationwide are misusing facial recognition software, relying on it to arrest suspects without additional evidence, according to a new investigation by the Washington Post.

Most departments aren't required to disclose or document its use. Among 23 departments with available records, 15 across 12 states arrested suspects based solely on AI matches, often

violating internal policies requiring corroboration.



One report called an unverified AI match a "100%

match," while another claimed the technology "unquestionably" identified a suspect. At least eight people have been wrongfully arrested in the U.S. due to AI matches, two of which were previously unreported.

All cases were dismissed, but basic police work—such as checking alibis or comparing physical evidence—could have prevented these arrests.



Not America's best or brightest

## Rapper's negligent discharge caught on camera

(GSL/SNW) - Imagine you're tough-guy rapper named Cedric White in the middle of a podcast when the host starts talking about life choices. That's when you decide to reach into your front left pocket and BLAMMO! You illustrate the consequences of questionable life choices by triggering a negligent discharge, on camera, launching a round across your thigh and out your pants, along with a healthy muzzle flash. But at least he didn't drop his joint.



The left loves tyranny

## Government begins disarming AfD political party members

(ZeroHedge) - Authorities in Germany have begun withdrawing gun ownership licenses from Alternative for Germany (AfD) members, who are deemed a "danger to public safety."

So far, five AfD members have received a notice that their gun license would be revoked, while another member voluntarily returned his license after a revocation procedure was initiated. Another 51 cases are currently being examined by authorities, according to data released by the Saxony-Anhalt Interior Ministry in response to a request for information from the Left Party.

Hunters and sport shooters will also have their gun licenses canceled by authorities. In total, there are 74 members of the AfD in Saxony-Anhalt that hold a firearms license, with 49 registered as sport shooters and 25 as hunters.



Are you safe in a Leftist city?  
Are you really safe in a leftist city?

- 65 year old DEI police chief
- Ran over 2 people in New Orleans
- \$337,943 salary
- Teaches a course on DEI at the FBI
- Didn't know about city's anti-terrorism barriers



NY Gov. Kathy Hochul: See, it's perfectly safe on NYC subways...



**Welcome to California**

Remember kids: "If you are trapped in your burning house and your home lacks a wheelchair ramp for the firefighters to get in, that's *you* problem."



Daniel Penny is back on the subway

I just hope an obese, lesbian, woman of color reaches us before a white man.



My teacher told me guns kill people...



I told her my pencil failed my math exam.

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- **Pride of ownership in our famous highway signs**  
Yes, you may call them "your own" when telling friends about them.
- **Members-only Legal Defense Fund.**  
Access to legal support for those who are victims of subject to inappropriate or unjust firearm-related arrests, as well as arrests following justifiable use of force in self-defense incidents.

Sign up online at: **GunsSaveLife.com/join**

**SIGN UP HERE!**

Clip this application and mail it along with your check to  
Guns Save Life, PO Box 51, Savoy, IL 61874

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State and Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

(for urgent alerts only)

We need your email to allow you access to Members' Only content on the GunsSaveLife.com website.

**Membership:**

- o \$30 - Annual membership / Renewal
- o \$20 - Sign up a friend (with regular annual membership or renewal)
- o \$90 - Three-year membership / Renewal
- o \$60 - Sign up three friends (with a three-year membership/renewal)
- o \$50 - Family membership
- o \$150 - Family membership three-year
- o \$50 - Business membership
- o \$1000 - Life membership
- o \$500 - Life membership for over age 65

\$\_\_\_\_\_ Total enclosed. Is this a gift? From whom? \_\_\_\_\_

Mail this form and payment (checks payable to Guns Save Life) to:

**Guns Save Life  
PO Box 51  
Savoy, IL 61874**

Contributions or gifts to Guns Save Life are not deductible as charitable contributions for federal income tax purposes.

