



Allegheny County Sportsmen's League Legislative Committee Report

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ALLEGHENY COUNTY SPORTSMEN LEAGUE ON THE INTERNET <http://www.acslpa.org>

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Rendell Budget Speech Draws Cross-Hairs on Gun Owners

In his recent budget address, Governor Rendell focused direct attention on his long held goal of attacking gun owner's rights. His statements covered the following:

And while it is not a formal part of the Prescription for Pennsylvania, any serious effort to improve the health and safety of our fellow citizens must also include a comprehensive effort to address the epidemic of gun violence that is occurring throughout the Commonwealth. Just last week, the front page of *The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* reported, "Pa.'s black homicide victim rate leads nation." A new report from the Violence Policy Center in Washington revealed that Pennsylvania's homicide rate among African-Americans is more than one and one-half times the national average, and that nearly 86 percent of these homicides involved handguns.

Gun violence is not just a Pittsburgh problem, or a Philadelphia problem. In fact, in 2005, the rate of gun violence rose twice as fast in the rest of the state than it did in Allegheny and Philadelphia Counties. Gun violence is destroying the sense of community that connects us all. Ladies and gentlemen, is this the way we want to lead the nation? As a national homicide headline?

As Governor, I have attacked the problem of gun violence on several fronts. Together, we have increased state funding to support the efforts of local police departments and law enforcement agencies to fight violence in our cities, with a particular focus on cities dealing with rising gun violence. We have also dramatically increased resources in public education, helping young people understand the consequences of violence and the need to make better choices.

But we must do more. I urge the General Assembly to address the issue of gun violence in the following ways: first, by upgrading possession of a stolen gun to a felony, so that the penalties can be significantly upgraded. Today, the penalty for possession of a stolen television is more severe than the penalty for possession of a stolen gun. Second, I urge passage of

legislation making it mandatory to report the loss or theft of a gun to police, which will have a dramatic impact on illegal gun trafficking in Pennsylvania. We require you to report the theft of a car; we should do no less for the theft of a gun. Third, I will support legislation that enables local communities to enact their own restrictions on the flow, distribution and use of handguns. Fourth, it is time for this state to end gun trafficking by enacting a one handgun a month law. Such legislation will put a stop to gun runners who sell so many of our crime guns and will put no burden on lawful gun owners who can still purchase 12 handguns a year - or 24 handguns if they are married.

In a recent column in *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, an unnamed Pennsylvania legislator said that in a secret ballot the General Assembly would pass one gun a month by a three to one margin. So I call on you to show the courage of your convictions and rid Pennsylvania once and for all of the devastation of gun trafficking.

If any of us were uncertain about what we would see from a lame duck Rendell administration it should be clear to all right now that we are in for a terrific fight ahead of us.

County Council Votes to Send Sheriff Position to the Voter's to Decide

This past Tuesday, Allegheny County Council voted to send to a referendum vote the issue of electing or appointing a Sheriff. Despite evidence presented to Council on the consistently clear intent of our founding fathers on the issue of election of representative officials by the citizens, they chose the politically expedient route of handing this controversial issue off to the ballot machine.

It should be made clear that there hasn't been any fact finding, fiscal impact studies or hearings to gauge the support of the people for this measure. Political powerhouses like Elsie Hillman and others are

supporting this change without any indication as to why.

Gunowners should be especially concerned since this office is the highest law enforcement office and is directly responsible for the issuance of concealed carry licenses.

At this point there is nothing left to do but to awaken our fellow sportsmen and women and gun owners to this change and choice in the Primary ballot.

Pro-Gun News Conference to be Held In Harrisburg—April 24th

Building on the success of last year's pro-gun news conference, gun owners and pro-gun legislators will be introducing our package of pro-gun legislation on April 24th. This legislation will contain an expanded list of bills that address last year's uncompleted legislative initiatives as well as several new ones.

More on this effort in the March Report.

SAF-NEWS RELEASE

U.S. ATTORNEY LETTER TO BLOOMBERG 'A SIGNIFICANT VICTORY,' SAYS SAF

BELLEVUE, WA – A letter to the office of New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg from the U.S. Department of Justice scolding the mayor's infamous 2006 gun sting operation and advising that Bloomberg's administration could face "potential legal liabilities" over such stings was called a "significant victory" against the Big Apple mayor's anti-gun antics by the Second Amendment Foundation.

Earlier this week, SAF was advised by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) that the agency is investigating Bloomberg's multi-state sting operation "in order to determine if violations of Federal firearms laws have occurred."

"This new development," said SAF founder Alan M. Gottlieb, "adds insult to injury for Bloomberg. We were adamant early on that this vigilante attack on gun dealers by Bloomberg and his posse of private investigators went way beyond his legal authority. Now it appears the Justice Department believes likewise."

The New York Daily News reported Thursday that Michael Battle, director of the executive office for United States Attorneys at the Department of Justice, sent the letter warning Bloomberg's administration that it could face "potential legal liabilities" if such sting operations continue. Battle also said the Justice Department will not

be filing criminal charges against any of the 15 gun dealers targeted by Bloomberg's 2006 lawsuits over alleged "straw man" purchases. Such operations lack "proper law enforcement authority," Battle's letter stated.

"Bloomberg's house of cards is starting to crumble," Gottlieb stated. "This underscores why SAF called upon Attorney General Alberto Gonzales to investigate Bloomberg's rogue operation last August, and why we were delighted to learn earlier this week that ATF is conducting a thorough investigation of this enterprise.

"It is both sad and revealing," Gottlieb added, "that more than 150 mayors around the country have been drawn into Bloomberg's folly by joining his anti-gun mayors' coalition. That group's launching pad was this bogus gun sting, which is now imploding. Every one of these city leaders is now linked to this misadventure. These mayors let their anti-gun bias, rather than good sense, lull them into joining and supporting what is becoming a colossal blunder, and now might be a good time to reconsider that participation."

News Briefs:

Industry, Gun Activists Alarmed By Surge in FFL Revocations

A report in The Baltimore Sun newspaper that the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) revoked 131 federal firearms licenses in 2006 has alarmed the National Shooting Sports Foundation and gun rights activists.

The newspaper reported that this number is "nearly six times as many federal firearms licenses" than were revoked in 2001.

"We are concerned about this seemingly sudden spike in license revocations and will attempt to determine why so many more dealers are now having their license revoked by ATF," said Lawrence Keane, NSSF senior vice president and general counsel, in a statement. "This statistic would appear to further demonstrate the need for reforms and improvements to ATF's licensing and enforcement powers, including alternative sanctions short of revocation."

Activists posting remarks on KeepAndBearArms.com, the nation's busiest gun rights forum, were somewhat less diplomatic.

One man wrote, "How about we start by firing 132 BATF employees just for a start and then eliminate 22 supervisors' positions just to even things out? With little fanfare of course."

Another post came from an activist who indignantly suggested gunowners should begin wearing "yellow stars" as Jews were forced to do in Nazi-controlled Europe.

But a third was pointed in his observation: "Liberty weeps that a license from the government is required to obtain the means of dissolving the government."

Legislation aimed at reforming the ATF and providing some alternatives to outright license revocation passed the House last year, but was blocked in the Senate by perennial anti-gunners Charles Schumer (D-NY) and Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), who are now in the majority. With Democrats in control of Congress for the first time in 12 years, it is doubtful that such legislation will gain much traction.

The Sun reported that in 2001, only 22 FFLs were revoked. Quoting unidentified gun control proponents, the newspaper said these advocates believe an increase in revocations "is more than appropriate after years of poor regulation."

"It's out of control," said Joseph J. Vince Jr., former chief of ATF's firearms division, and now a member of the board of directors of the American Hunters and Shooters Association (AHS). The newspaper quoted Vince stating, "There is no responsibility. There is no accountability. There is a problem in the neighborhoods in this country with the drastic proliferation of guns. The laws are so lax that there is almost no enforcement."

Vince now operates a consulting company involved in tracking firearms. According to the newspaper, Stephen Schneider, president of the Maryland Licensed Firearms Dealers Association, observed, "There is a Damocles' sword that's hanging over dealers' heads. We're a legitimate business, and yet they feel like they may not be in business the next year for record-keeping violations."

One of the more prominent revocations last year was from Maryland's Valley Guns, owned by Sanford Abrams, a former member of the National Rifle Association's board of directors. Abrams allegedly had more than 900 record-keeping violations. He stepped down from the board last year.

Among the high-profile license revocations last year were Lou's Loans in Upper Darby, PA, and Trader Sports in San Leandro, CA. The Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence crows about these revocations on its website. [The New GUN WEEK](#), February 1, 2007

Thief Steals Guns From Indy Cop Car

Indianapolis police need your help to recover some stolen police guns; reported station WTHR in Indianapolis on Dec. 22.

The guns were taken from a squad car parked on the city's south side at about 9 p.m. the night of Dec. 21.

The broadcast said someone broke into the police car and several other vehicles. The suspect took off with a so-called patrol rifle and a .22-caliber rifle.

Listeners were urged to call police if you have any information. [The New GUN WEEK](#), February 1, 2007

Court Slaps City In Warrantless Search Lawsuit

The 9th Circuit Court of Appeals has slapped the city of Tacoma, WA, for what it said was a "frivolous" appeal of a lawsuit that found in favor of a Tacoma resident whose home was invaded by police officers who searched the home and held her at gunpoint, all without a search warrant, according to The Tacoma News Tribune.

Susan Frunz won a \$138,000 jury award for the November 2000 incident. But the city appealed that March 2005 verdict, the newspaper reported, to "protect the right of police to make a mistake in discharging their duties." The court upheld the verdict last year, but did not issue its scathing admonishment of the city until last month.

The federal court rejected that claim, and sanctioned the city. The court ordered Tacoma to pay Frunz' attorney and "double costs" of the appeal.

The newspaper reported that not only did the police not have a warrant, they also never filed a report on the incident, which ended with no arrests.

The court ordered City Attorney Elizabeth Pauli's office to advise the City Council of the sanction, the newspaper reported.

Police claimed they entered Frunz' home because they thought a burglary was in progress, the newspaper said. [The New GUN WEEK](#), February 1, 2007

Actor Sorvino Pulls Gun on Daughter's Ex

Actor Paul Sorvino, who has participated in National Rifle Association celebrity shoots and starred in such movies as "Goodfellas," reportedly drew a handgun on his daughter's ex-boyfriend.

According to Associated Press, the 67-year-old Sorvino was called by his daughter, Amanda, after ex-boyfriend Daniel Snee showed up at her Vermont hotel room and began pounding on the door and making threats to kill her. Amanda Sorvino had also called the police, but her father arrived first and drew his handgun.

Days after that Jan. 3 incident, Amanda Sorvino petitioned a court in Monroe County, PA, for a protection order against Snee.

She and Snee had reportedly dated after he was hired to take care of her horses. That relationship did not last, and Snee allegedly began threatening her. Sorvino is 36 and Snee is 21.

On the night of the incident, which happened in Stowe, VT, Sorvino locked herself in the bathroom when Snee showed up at the hotel. She called police and her father for help, and when the police finally arrived, Snee was arrested and charged with disorderly conduct. [The New GUN WEEK](#), February 1, 2007

Study Linking Gunowners To Murder Enrages Activists

A study by researchers at the Harvard School of Public Health that links gun ownership with higher murder rates has angered gun rights activists who insist the work is flawed.

Many activists chimed in on the Keep And Bear Arms (KABA) website after the study was made public by a report carried by the Reuters news service. That report quickly made several of the gun chat rooms and websites.

According to the Reuters report, the Harvard study suggests that states with a larger population of gunowners have higher murder rates.

"Our findings suggest that in the United States, household firearms may be an important source of guns used to kill children, women and men, both on the street and in their homes," noted study leader Matthew Miller, an assistant professor of public health policy and injury prevention, quoted by Reuters. CDC Data

Data in the study came from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which conducted a survey of 200,000 Americans in all 50 states. Those states were split into four categories, ranging from those with households that have the most firearms to those with the least per capita gun ownership. The study said that states with the greatest firearm ownership also have the greatest number of homicides.

One man writing on the KABA website noted, "Harvard School of Public Health has a proven decided bias against private gun ownership by American citizens. It has been crystal clear for decades that Harvard has a socialist slant. Sickening when it is considered it was once a well respected institution of higher learning. Now, they are just an arm of the subversive propaganda machine trying to pervert and subvert our Constitutional Republic. They should be ashamed of themselves."

Another simply observed, "Only liars make up statistics."

Activists questioned the use of a telephone survey to contact the 200,000 people interviewed. They were asked the following question: "Are any firearms now kept in or around your home? Include those kept in a garage, outdoor storage area, car, truck or other motor vehicle."

The study reportedly gathered data on mortality rates from the states, and then broke it down into two categories, one for firearm-related deaths and the other for non-firearm related deaths. These groups were then divided into age categories.

Researchers reportedly acknowledged that the problem is more complex than just examining the number of homicides compared to gun-owning households. The study did determine that one in three homes in this country has a gun.

The study claims that states in the top 25% of gun-owning households had murder rates 114% higher than states with the fewest number of armed residences. Overall homicide rates reportedly were 60% higher in gun states.

There was a caveat however, with the study authors insisting that their report doesn't establish what they called a "causal relationship between guns and homicide". [The New GUN WEEK, February 1, 2007](#)

NSSF Bullet Points:

Jan. 08, 2007-Feb. 5, 2007/-Vol. 8 Nos. 2-6

- **HUNTING LICENSE SALES GENERATE RECORD CONSERVATION FUNDING . . .** A [new report](#) shows hunting license sales -- the main funding mechanism for state conservation agencies -- set a new record in 2005, topping \$723 million. The 2005 figures, just released by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, show total sales rose 2.8 percent from the previous year, although the number of customers slipped 1.4 percent, from 14.7 million to 14.5 million. Arizona led all states with an 8.3 percent increase in license sales, while Tennessee added 45,000 more hunters, the most of any state. [See how your state did.](#)
- **WELCOME AND THANK YOU . . .** NSSF is pleased to welcome U.S. Senate Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus (D-Mont.) as the new co-chairman of the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus on Capitol Hill and also thanks former co-chairman Sen. Ben Nelson (D-Neb.) for his tireless efforts on key issues facing sportsmen and the firearms industry. [Full Story](#)
- **GUN DEALER PLEADS GUILTY . . .** The former owner of a Connecticut firearms retailer avoided most charges in a 12-count indictment by pleading guilty to possession of an unregistered destructive device, U.S. Attorney Kevin O'Connor announced Thursday. According to court documents, several federal criminal defendants reported that Frank D'Andrea openly and knowingly allowed straw purchases to take place in his store. [Read the full story with comments from NSSF.](#)
- **GANDER MOUNTAIN TO PULL REALISTIC REPLICA GUNS FROM STORES . . .** Outdoor retailer Gander Mountain Co. [announced today](#) that it is pulling realistic replica guns from its stores in Minnesota and will sell only airsoft guns that are obviously and unmistakably toys. The company said it will phase out realistic replica guns in all its 105 stores as soon as possible.

- **HUMANE SOCIETY BECOMES PROVEN POLITICAL FORCE . . .** The Washington Post reports that the Humane Society of the United States is no pussy-cat, but, in fact, with a \$120 million budget and 10 million donors, a political tiger. The animal-rights, anti-hunting, anti-trapping organization's president said it has committed itself to political activity as never before in its 52-year history.
- **CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE UPDATE . . .** Although the public and media frenzy over CWD was a bit quieter during the big-game hunting seasons of 2006, the disease is still being monitored by wildlife experts across the continent. The latest updates, including news from Alberta, West Virginia, Wisconsin and Wyoming, are available at www.cwd-info.org.
- **SENATE BILL TO PREVENT LOSS OF FEDERAL HUNTING LANDS . . .** State Sen. Saxby Chambliss of Georgia introduced the Hunting Heritage Protection Act, a key element of which allows no net loss of hunting on federal lands. It would generally require maintaining current levels of federal hunting lands and opening compensatory huntable land if an area is closed to hunting. The bill, SB 408, awaits debate in the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.
- **New Hunters, Big Spenders--27,000 NEW LICENSES COULD EQUATE TO \$2.5 BILLION RETURN . . .** During his or her lifetime, the average American hunter spends over \$96,000 on guns, supplies, gear, lodging, food, fuel, licenses, guide fees and more. So, it's easy to estimate the economic impact of new hunters in Michigan and Ohio, two states that created new opportunities, as well as new apprentice licenses, for novice hunters in 2006. A combined 27,000 licenses were sold, which promises a total economic return of over \$2.5 billion. Families Afield, an initiative that's reducing legal barriers and encouraging more newcomers to try hunting, inspired the new laws.
- **FAMILIES AFIELD LEGISLATION ADVANCES . . .** Utah, North Dakota and Nebraska state legislatures have all taken initial steps to eliminate barriers preventing youths and other newcomers from hunting. Legislative committees in Utah and North Dakota approved lowering, respectively, the big-game and deer-hunting age from 14 to 12. In Nebraska, legislation has been introduced to create an apprentice hunting program. All of these bills have the backing of the Families Afield initiative of NSSF, the National Wild Turkey Federation and U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance.
- **BLOOMBERG ATTORNEYS REVEAL CITY CONDUCTED ADDITIONAL 'STINGS' . . .** Last week, lawyers representing New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg in his lawsuit against out-of-state firearms dealers revealed that the city had conducted additional "sting" operations against firearms retailers within New York state and the city. The city refused to produce the tapes of these latest stings, telling the court the dealers were not yet aware they had been "stung." Commenting on this latest development, Lawrence G. Keane, NSSF senior vice president and general counsel, said, "It is imperative that all firearms dealers review their sales practices. Every dealer in America that hasn't done so already should train its sales staff

on the joint ATF/NSSF Don't Lie for the Other Guy program." The program is designed to better educate FFLs on how to spot would-be straw purchasers and to warn the general public that it is a serious crime to straw purchase a firearm. NSSF can provide every Type 1 and Type 2 dealer in America with a free retailer Don't Lie kit. If you have not yet obtained a kit, or if you would like a new one, contact NSSF's retail partnerships director at 203-426-1320 or tlarson@nssf.org.

- **MAYORS MEET IN WASHINGTON . . .** Last Tuesday, more than 50 mayors, led by New York City's Michael Bloomberg and flanked by the deceptively named anti-gun group the American Hunters and Shooters Association, met with lawmakers on Capitol Hill demanding public access to gun trace data that is currently maintained by ATF. The groups' desire for trace data stems from anti-gun officials wanting to bring civil lawsuits against firearms industry companies, especially smaller businesses, and spread a failed strategy of gun control that seeks court settlements and judgments. Bloomberg has already used such data to "investigate" and sue 27 federally licensed firearms dealers.
- **INDUSTRY, SPORTSMEN'S EFFORTS HELP DELAY ANTI-GUN BILLS . . .** Last week, anti-gun legislators in Connecticut attempted to ramrod through the Public Safety Committee without a meaningful legislative hearing more than a dozen gun-control bills -- including a one-gun-a-month bill, ballistics imaging bill and numerous versions of a "lost and stolen" bill that was soundly rejected by the General Assembly last year. NSSF, the recently formed Connecticut Association of Firearms Retailers, the Connecticut Coalition of Sportsmen and NRA jumped into action by alerting their members. Because of the strong unified voice of opposition from industry, sportsmen and gun owners, this strong-arm tactic was rebuffed. These bills are now set for hearing on Feb. 6. Please continue to contact your state representative and senator to express your opposition to all of these gun-control measures.
- **GUN SHOP OWNER GETS PRISON . . .** A Pennsylvania gun shop owner was sentenced to 57 months in federal prison Wednesday after falsifying records, selling to a convicted felon and other violations, reports the Philadelphia Inquirer. Michael McGinnis, 59, owner of Mac's Gun Shop in Clifton Heights, sold a gun for \$500 in cash to an ATF informant posing as a convicted felon and did not prepare paperwork for the sale.
- **MONTANA LAWMAKERS FORM SPORTSMEN'S CAUCUS . . .** Montana state legislators have created the Montana Legislative Sportsmen's Caucus, the 32nd in a national network of state caucuses focused on promoting a pro-sportsmen's agenda in state government, reports the National Assembly of Sportsmen's Caucuses (NASC). In other caucus news, the Georgia Legislative Sportsmen's Caucus paid tribute to Gov. Sonny Perdue and his support of sportsmen's issues at the 5th Annual Sportsmen's Day at the Capitol, while members of the Idaho caucus met with sportsmen at the state's first ever Camo Day at the Capitol.
- **FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE TO CUT STAFF . . .** The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is cutting 27 staff

positions at Minnesota's national wildlife refuges as part of that agency's planned reduction of 71 employees Midwest Region-wide over the next three years, [reports the St. Paul Pioneer Press](#). The reductions are necessary, says Jim Leach, refuge supervisor for Minnesota and Wisconsin, because the refuge budget has remained static since 2004 while costs have risen. "It will mean less management on the land," Leach said. "There will be tangible impacts."

- **GUNLESS TIJUANA POLICE ISSUED SLINGSHOTS . . .** The Tijuana, Mexico, police department has issued about 60 slingshots to officers due to the fact that their guns were confiscated by federal authorities, [reports the Associated Press](#). The city's 2,000 police officers have been without guns since Jan. 5, when their firearms were confiscated amid allegations that corrupt officers were supporting drug traffickers.
- **LADIES ACTION PISTOL CAMPS . . .** Ladies Action Pistol Camps has announced seven [camp locations](#) for 2007. The camps, sponsored by Smith & Wesson, NSSF and the U.S. Practical Shooting Association, offer practical pistol training for novice, intermediate and advanced shooters. Attendees receive instruction and coaching from top women shooters Kay Clark Miculek, Lisa Munson, Julie Goloski, Judy Woolley and Sheila Brey.
- **More States to Consider Families Afield Laws--FIVE STATES INTRODUCING LEGISLATION . . .** Tearing down age restrictions and other barriers that prevent people from hunting. That's the continuing goal of Families Afield, a campaign that so far has created new hunting opportunities in 12 states. Now [legislation](#) is being prepared and introduced in California, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wisconsin. [Families Afield](#) was established by the U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance, National Wild Turkey Federation and NSSF. The National Rifle Association is backing the new bills.
- **BLOOMBERG, MAYORS AND THEIR 'AGENDA' . . .** An Idaho mayor has dropped out of New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg's "Mayors Against Illegal Guns" coalition because he sensed it had "a little more of an agenda" aimed at law-abiding gun owners, [the New York Sun reports](#). Bloomberg and more than 50 mayors from his coalition [will meet Tuesday](#) in Washington, D.C. The mayor announced last week in his [State of the City address](#) that the group's goal will be "getting Congress to overturn a wrong-headed law." The legislation he is referring to currently protects the integrity of law enforcement investigations and the lives of undercover agents and witnesses from misuse of ATF's trace data. A prime example of such misuse was Bloomberg's own ["sting" operations](#) last year that interfered with numerous ongoing criminal investigations.
- **ATF/NSSF CAMPAIGN LAUNCHES IN DALLAS . . .** ATF, NSSF and northern Texas U.S. Attorney Richard B. Roper [came together](#) in Dallas today to announce the launching of the joint "Don't Lie for the Other Guy" program in northern Texas. The program will help educate area firearms retailers on how to better detect and deter illegal straw purchases, and it will send a loud-and-clear message to

the public about the penalties associated with participating in an illegal purchase. To learn more, visit www.dontlie.org.

- **NSSF PUBLICATION TARGETS RANGE MARKET . . .** NSSF's The Range Report magazine focuses on issues of importance for everyone involved in the range business. Read past issues at www.rangeinfo.org or [download a media kit](#) if you're interested in advertising to this targeted group of key decision-makers and buyers of range products and services from more than 7,500 shooting facilities across the country.
- **CONTEMPT CHARGES FILED AGAINST NEW ORLEANS OFFICIALS . . .** The [Second Amendment Foundation](#) (SAF), frustrated by the perceived failure of New Orleans' mayor and police commissioner to comply with a discovery order issued in November in a lawsuit filed by itself and the NRA, has filed a motion to hold the two men in contempt of federal court. The issue stems from New Orleans' confiscation of legally owned firearms in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and what SAF terms the officials' "deplorable" behavior in rectifying the situation and meeting court-appointed deadlines.
- **'GARDEN AND GUN' TO TARGET AFFLUENT SOUTHERNERS . . .** To be launched in May by publisher Rebecca Darwin, formerly of New Yorker and Mirabella magazines, [Garden and Gun](#) will be a high-end lifestyle magazine that reflects the unique culture of the South. It is scheduled to be published five issues for a mostly controlled circulation of 150,000.
- **TALE OF A NEW JERSEY GUN SHOP . . .** In its [Sunday edition](#), New Jersey's Hudson Reporter profiled one of Jersey City's two firearms retailers, focusing on its owner's "interesting" personality and his dedication to friendly service.
- **WOMEN IN INDUSTRY COME TOGETHER . . .** The presence of women in the firearms industry has grown considerably in recent years, both in the workforce and as consumers. A capacity crowd of women came together at SHOT Show's annual [Women in the Industry Luncheon](#).
- **D.C. MURDERS DOWN . . .** After banning handguns for several years, Washington, D.C., actually experienced a rise in its murder rate. Last year, however, the city found that going after the real problem (criminals) has [paid off](#).
- **FAMILIES AFIELD IN SOUTH DAKOTA . . .** In South Dakota, a state legislator has proposed lowering the age to hunt big game from 12 to 10. State Rep. Mike Buckingham's proposal also calls for the minimum small-game hunting age to be lowered. Both measures drew praise from NSSF, National Wild Turkey Federation and U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance, founders of the [Families Afield](#) initiative to help take down legal barriers to hunting participation.
- **TOWN RESIDENTS ENCOURAGED TO OWN GUNS . . .** New ordinances in towns like Greenleaf, Idaho, are giving new meaning to "gun control," [reports The New York Times](#). Greenleaf adopted an ordinance last month calling for its residents to own and keep a firearm in their homes in case of an emergency.
- **FBI PROBES VANDALISM AT GAMEBIRD FARM . . .** [The Associated Press reports](#) the FBI is looking for animal rights activists who vandalized holding pens at a New Jersey

gamebird farm before Christmas. The Animal Liberation Front claimed responsibility for the act, which included trespass, destruction of property and the release of pheasants, bobwhite quail and chukars. The group's Web site called it an "early Christmas present" for the birds. No birds have been recovered alive, several have been found dead and very few will likely survive in the wild.

- **PENNSYLVANIA LAWMAKER TO RE-INTRODUCE ANTI-GUN BILLS . . .** Pennsylvania State Rep. Dwight Evans has vowed to reintroduce a package of gun-control measures that were defeated before fall elections, [reports the Philadelphia Inquirer](#).

News Links:

07/02/05 Patience Wanes In Bid To Kill Gun Registry

Canadian gun owners are losing patience with the federal government as it tries to move ahead with legislation to do away with a controversial registry.

<http://calgarysun.canoe.ca/NewsStand/News/Alberta/2007/02/05/3531019-sun.html>

07/02/05 Hillary Clinton's Money Train

At this stage, there simply is no way of estimating how much money the Clinton fund-raising juggernaut is capable of collecting. <http://www.washtimes.com/op-ed/20070203-100319-4934r.htm>

07/02/02 Concealing The Facts

"In respect of gun control, we don't mind saying that it's not the issue that keeps us up at night. But as an emblem of the irrational streak in our political debate these days, it's without peer ... ," editorializes the New York Sun.

<http://www.nysun.com/article/47924>

07/02/02 An Armed Person is a Citizen; An Unarmed Person is a Subject

Contrary to the belief of many of our fellow citizens, the purpose of the United States Constitution is not to grant us rights. Our rights, given to us by our Creator, are inalienable. The purpose of the Constitution is to limit the powers of the federal government.

<http://laconicblog.blogspot.com/2007/01/armed-person-is-citizen-unarmed-person.html>

07/02/02 Introducing America's gun owners

The right of Americans to bear arms, as stipulated in the 2nd Amendment to our Constitution, will soon get a microscopic examination as different presidential candidates establish their positions on gun ownership.

http://www.gazettetimes.com/articles/2007/01/28/sports/venture/1ven01_wray.txt

07/02/02 Democrat Gun Owners Say, "We Want Our Party Back!"

It hasn't always been easy being a Democrat, even though we recently have been able to elect several very Pro-gun Democrats here in Ohio. Before 1994, we Democrats stood proud of the

leaders we helped to elect, but something happened to my party, and I WANT IT BACK!

http://www.ohioccw.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=3807&Itemid=83

07/02/02 Deliveryman Charged For Self Defense Shootings

A Wisconsin deliveryman who used a firearm in self-defense was charged with carrying a concealed firearm, another victim of Gov. Jim Doyle's veto of Right-To-Carry.

<http://www.jsonline.com/story/index.aspx?id=560194>

07/02/01 Stronger Self-Defense Law Backed

A coalition of Texas lawmakers that cuts across party lines wants to remove any doubt that Texans have the right to respond with force to protect their homes and belongings from unlawful intruders.

<http://www.dfw.com/mld/dfw/news/legislature/16595494.htm>

07/02/01 Evidence Says Gun Laws Don't Work

"The anti-gun op-ed by Dr. Clifford M. Herman certainly fits in with the renewed push by the P-I for more gun laws," writes Dr. Michael Brown. "As with previous articles, this one demonizes the NRA, offers anecdotal insights and questions the meaning of the Second Amendment. What it does not do is address the essential question."

http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/opinion/301881_gunrebut01.html

07/02/01 Lawsuits Threaten Traditional Outdoor Activities

Sportsmen and women, and the many activities they enjoy, continue to be targets of anti-hunting, anti-trapping and anti-fishing groups. The tactics used by many of these groups have changed in recent years, with less emphasis on public demonstrations and more on creating havoc through frivolous lawsuits.

<http://waldo.villagesoup.com/Sports/story.cfm?storyID=85978>

07/01/31 Gun Scruples

Professor John R. Lott, Jr. reveals misinformation provided by anti-gun legislator in Northern Virginia.

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/op-ed/20070127-092608-3686r.htm>

07/01/31 The Barrett Report

Let's return one year to the yellowing Barrett report. In February 2006, after nine years of hard labor, Washington lawyer David Barrett, the independent counsel appointed to investigate the Henry Cisneros scandal, finally published his 684-page report. His study provoked commentary mainly for what was missing- 120 pages of evidence, reportedly devastating to both Clintons, which Democratic congressmen, led by Sens. John Kerry, Dick Durbin and Byron Dorgan, had redacted by attaching a rider to another bill. <http://www.washtimes.com/op-ed/20070130-085828-2771r.htm>

07/01/30 Katrina-Inspired Bill Would Stop Gun Seizures

State lawmakers cited the chaotic aftermath of Hurricane Katrina they gave preliminary approval January 29 to legislation that would block government officials from seizing firearms during a

state of emergency in Georgia.

<http://www.ajc.com/news/content/metro/legis07/stories/2007/01/29/0130metlegguns.html>

07/01/30 National Right-To-Carry Bill Introduced In Senate

Sen. John Thune (R-S.D.) has introduced S. 388--the equivalent of H.R. 226--which is a national Right-To-Carry bill for reciprocity for state carry licensees. In short, any person with a valid carry permit issued by a state would be recognized to legally carry in any other state. The bill would require states to officially recognize each other's carry permits just like nationwide recognition of your driver's license.

<http://mensnewsdaily.com/2007/01/28/concealed-carry-of-weapons-superior-to-taking-weapons/>

07/01/30 Giuliani's Gun Policies

The Republican leading Rudy Giuliani's New Hampshire campaign said he thinks the 2008 presidential hopeful will be an "easy sell" and that the ex-mayor "satisfied" him that he won't support federal assault-weapons bans, as he has in the past. Giuliani's top adviser, however, insisted the ex-mayor's "position on this has not changed."

http://www.nypost.com/seven/01302007/news/regionalnews/rudy_s_gun_policy_on_target_goper_regionalnews_maggie_haberman.htm

07/01/26 British Crime Fears Fed By Robbery Rise

Robberies at gunpoint increased by 10% last year in England and Wales, according to newly published Home Office figures.

http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/newspapers/sunday_times/britain/article1296057.ece

07/01/26 Experts Weigh In On Validity Of Self-Defense Shootings

When a South Hall homeowner shot and killed an armed intruder, it was a fairly easy call by officials not to bring criminal charges. Prosecutors and police often must wrestle with the facts of each case, and, in recent years, legislators have passed new laws they say strengthen a citizen's rights to use deadly force in self-defense.

<http://www.gainesvilletimes.com/news/stories/20070128/localnews/152830.shtml>

07/01/26 New Demands For Armed Pilots

As the number of armed pilots aboard U.S. jetliners has steadily expanded in recent years, the program is showing signs of growing pains. Pilots and their labor groups complain about a lack of supervision and the difficulty in finding time to participate in training courses.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/01/23/AR2007012301529.html>

07/01/26 Nearly 260,000 Texans Have License To Carry

Nearly 260,000 Texans have a license to carry, according to revised figures released by the Department of Public Safety. At the end of last year, 258,162 people had permits, up about 4% from the year before and more than double the number in 1996, when Texas law first allowed people to carry.

<http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/metropolitan/4503603.html>

07/01/26 `Make My Day` Law Scope Might Expand

Lawmakers may soon expand Colorado's "Make My Day" law, which says people who use deadly force to protect themselves in their homes can't be prosecuted. A measure dubbed "Make My Day Better" would also protect people who use deadly force to protect themselves in their businesses and automobiles.

http://cbs4denver.com/local/local_story_028121343.html

07/01/25 `Castle Doctrine` Bill Picks Up Support In West Virginia

Shooting an intruder breaking into a West Virginian's home no longer would expose the homeowner to civil liability pressed by either the criminal or his family in a new Senate bill offered

January 24. http://www.register-herald.com/homepage/local_story_024225325.html/resources_printstory

07/01/25 `No Retreat` Bill Stalls In Committee

A bill to remove the requirement that civilians attempt to retreat before they can use deadly force made no headway January 24 in the Arkansas Senate Judiciary Committee.

<http://www.arkansasnews.com/archive/2007/01/25/News/339866.html>

07/01/25 Gun Show Sales Bill Is Rejected

A Virginia Senate committee voted January 24 to kill the latest attempt to more tightly regulate sales of firearms at gun shows.

<http://www.roanoke.com/politics/wb/101624>

07/01/24 Bloomberg Issues Threat To Capitol Hill Lawmakers

Taking his fight against guns to Capitol Hill, Mayor Michael Bloomberg has a warning for members of the new Congress: Vote for a measure backed by the gun lobby, and he'll remember in 2008. <http://www.nysun.com/pf.php?id=47280>

07/01/24 WHY THE INSTANT BACKGROUND CHECK IS A BAD IDEA *By Larry Pratt*

Congress has legislation before it to expand the Instant Background Check, aka the Brady Law. Rather than expand the program, it should be abolished.

<http://www.newswithviews.com/Pratt/larry73.htm>

07/01/24 PETA Foes Salivate At Cruelty Trial

Two employees of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, a radical animal-rights group that opposes meat-eating, are on trial for the strangest of charges: killing animals.

<http://www.newsobserver.com/102/story/535593.html>

07/01/24 Concealed Carry Valid for Kansas Visitors

A law allowing Kansans to carry passed the legislature last year and went into effect this month. Kansas also recognizes concealed weapons permits issued in other states. "There are 22 states that have reciprocity with Kansas," Shawnee County

Sheriff Dick Barta said.

<http://www.wibw.com/home/headlines/5328302.html>

07/01/24 Bill Would Let Workers Have Guns In Cars

Georgia lawmakers in both the House and Senate, backed by the National Rifle Association, are trying once again to pass a measure that would allow Georgians to leave legal firearms in their vehicles while they are at work.

<http://www.ajc.com/metro/content/metro/legis07/stories/2007/01/24/0124metleguns.html>

07/01/23 Gun Control Advocates Heading To Washington

Gun control advocates want their Democratic allies to pass legislation targeting gun dealers who send illegal guns onto the streets.

<http://www.cnsnews.com/ViewNation.asp?Page=/Nation/archive/200701/NAT20070122a.html>

07/01/22 PETA Trial Opens In Animal Deaths

It began as a bizarre small-town crime. Every Wednesday, in a Dumpster behind a Piggly Wiggly in northeastern North Carolina, a fresh load of dead cats and dogs appeared. The stakeout and the ensuing arrests only deepened the mystery. The people caught dumping garbage bags full of euthanized animals were employees of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, one of the largest and most radical animal rights groups in the world. Today, more than a year and a half after their arrest, the two PETA workers are to go on trial in Hertford County.

<http://www.newsobserver.com/102/story/534959.html>

07/01/22 Kansas Cities Move To Restrict Carry Law

The state law permitting license holders to carry concealed handguns includes a provision preventing cities and counties from regulating, restricting or prohibiting the practice within their jurisdictions. In recent weeks, though, some cities around the state, including Hutchinson, have done exactly that, adopting the law as a city ordinance and adding their own restrictions to it.

<http://www.hutchnews.com/news/local/stories/concealcarry012007.shtml>

07/01/22 Effort To Ban Semi-Autos Facing Uphill Climb In Annapolis

If at first you don't succeed, try again. And give the job to the freshman. It's a whole new ball game, said freshman Montgomery County Sen. Mike Lenett, who introduced the latest version of a statewide semi-auto ban. [http://www.examiner.com/a-519076~Effort to ban assault weapons facing uphill climb in Annapolis.html](http://www.examiner.com/a-519076~Effort_to_ban_assault_weapons_facing_uphill_climb_in_Annapolis.html)

07/01/18 Street Won't `Concede` On Crime, But Will Take Your Gun Rights

Philly Mayor Street won't accept that his "anti-crime" measures have not worked. Perhaps they have not worked, however, because his "anti-crime" efforts call for all kinds of programs but refuse to actually target criminals: "Street said he was "unwilling" to substantially increase funding for more prison space, more prosecutors, or more criminal courts." But of course:

"he will continue his call for stricter gun-control laws."

<http://www.philly.com/mld/inquirer/news/local/16484709.htm>

07/01/17 An Idaho Mayor Withdraws From Bloomberg's Gun Group

An Idaho mayor has dropped out of Mayor Bloomberg's coalition against illegal guns, city officials said. The mayor of Idaho Falls, Jared Mr. Bloomberg's coalition in October, but withdrew earlier this month because of pressure from constituents and what he told a local news organization was a sense that the coalition had an "agenda" of preventing guns from entering the hands even of law-abiding gun owners.

<http://www.nysun.com/pf.php?id=46799>

07/01/17 Justice Department Outlines Plans To Combat Uptick In Violent Crime

Bush administration officials are scrambling to demonstrate that they're addressing sharp jumps in violent crime in some cities, in an attempt to reclaim a traditionally Republican issue amid criticism from some Democrats, mayors and police chiefs.

<http://www.realcities.com/mld/krwashington/16475139.htm>

07/01/17 Replica Gun Ban Might Nail Parents

Should parents be held accountable when their children break the recently passed ban on replica guns? That was the question before the Aurora, Ill., Government Operations Committee.

http://www.suburbanchicagonews.com/beaconnews/news/21372_9_2_1_AU17_GUNS_S1.article

07/01/17 Sportsmen Feel Like Targets

Sportsmen want to amend Tennessee's constitution to protect the right to hunt and fish. They're concerned that animal-rights activists will use the courts to someday try to end all hunting and fishing here.

<http://tennessean.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070117/NEWS0201/701170419>

07/01/16 Once It's Star, Agent Assails ATF

After nearly two decades of service, Jay Dobyns, after being praised by ATF as a hero and earning national awards, the man known as "Jaybird" is battling his most formidable foe yet: his employer. Dobyns, 45, is one of dozens of current and former agents to allege mismanagement and misconduct in the ATF.

<http://www.azcentral.com/php-bin/clicktrack/print.php?referer=http://www.azcentral.com/arizonarepublic/news/articles/0114atf1014.html>

07/01/16 More Restrictions Urged On Gun-Show Purchases

Proponents of tougher state laws governing the sale of firearms, most of them from Northern Virginia, urged the General Assembly on Monday to require criminal background checks of all buyers at gun shows. <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/01/15/AR2007011501284.html>

07/01/16 Kentucky Moves To Allow Children To Hunt For Free

The Kentucky Wildlife Commission has taken steps to make it easier for children to hunt. The state Fish and Wildlife

Commission approved the regulation in December that sets the minimum age for children enrolling in hunter education training and test at 9. The regulation also increases the age at which children have to pass the test from 10 to 12, giving kids two more years of hunting before they face mandatory safety training. <http://www.kentucky.com/mld/kentucky/news/state/16460600.htm>

07/01/12 New TV Commercial Aimed At Gun Criminals

Television stations in the Baltimore area this week will begin playing a commercial aimed at a unique target audience: criminals. Starring the voice of Homicide actor and Emmy award-winner Andre Braugher, the ad by the Maryland EXILE program will attempt to threaten those who use guns illegally with the simple message: Gun Crime = Jail Time. http://www.examiner.com/a-502524~New_TV_commercial_aimed_at_gun_criminals.html

07/01/11 Pa. State Rep. Evans Vows New Effort To Revise Gun Laws

With one eye on the mayoral race in Philadelphia and another on the new Democratic majority in Harrisburg, State Rep. Dwight Evans has vowed to reintroduce the package of gun-control measures that the GOP-run General Assembly batted down before the elections last fall. <http://www.philly.com/mld/inquirer/news/local/states/pennsylvania/16431356.htm>

07/01/11 Support Growing For Sunday Hunting, Survey Shows

A decade ago a slight majority of Virginia hunters supported the state's ban on hunting on Sunday. Times have changed. A lot. According to a recent Department of Game and Inland Fisheries survey of the state's licensed hunters, 62% would like to see the ban lifted, compared to 34% who support the prohibition. <http://www.roanoke.com/outdoors/wb/wb/xp-99325>

07/01/11 TV Violence More Frequent, Graphic

America's children are being exposed to more dead bodies, fistfights and perverts than ever before, according to an analysis of violence on prime-time television released by the Parents Television Council. <http://www.washtimes.com/business/20070110-115757-9439r.htm>

07/01/11 Cops Not Kidding Around

Over the past several months, Jersey City police have grown aggressive about clamping down on juvenile violent crime, and arrests are up. But arrests alone won't solve the problem, police and other experts agree. <http://www.nj.com/search/index.ssf?/base/news-3/1168500094180900.xml?jjournal?njc&coll=3>

07/01/10 Advocates Seek Showdown Over Gun Rights

With the Ohio Legislature's override of former Gov. Bob Taft's veto of House Bill 347, municipalities trying to challenge the law of the state under the constitution's "home rule" clause had better

comply when pre-emption of about 80 gun laws in Toledo and other cities takes effect in March or prepare to face a fight with carry supporters. <http://www.toledofreepress.com/?id=4626>

07/01/10 Checkpoints To Combat New Orleans Crime

Police plan to set up checkpoints beginning January 10 to help curb a crime wave that has claimed nine lives since the start of 2007, Mayor Ray Nagin said, stopping short of imposing a curfew on this tourism-dependent city. <http://www.breitbart.com/news/2007/01/10/D8MI7FEG0.html>

07/01/09 Illegal's Become Repeat Criminals

Aliens set free on the streets of America--instead of being deported after serving their time--are being rearrested as many as six more times by U.S. authorities, according to a new government audit. <http://www.washtimes.com/national/20070109-122510-1365r.htm>

07/01/08 Kansas Recognizes Other Carry Licenses

Missourians licensed to carry can now carry in Kansas. Kansas Attorney General Phill Kline on January 5 announced the 22 states with carry licenses that will be recognized. <http://www.kansascity.com/mld/kansascity/news/local/16395662.htm>

07/01/08 First Applicants Defend Carry

Carry applications were issued for more than 60 Nebraskans during the first day under a new law on January 4. <http://www.ketv.com/news/10670049/detail.html>

07/01/08 Police Ramp Up Gun-Crime Crackdown

Cincinnati police say they're routing more gun-related cases to federal court because the sentences are much tougher-sometimes as much as 10 times longer-than sentences handed down by county judges. <http://news.enquirer.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070107/NEWS01/701070359/1077/COL02>

07/01/08 Boston Mayor Eyes New Curb On Gun-Law Violators

Mayor Thomas M. Menino wants the state to suspend driver's licenses and revoke the vehicle registrations of individuals convicted of firearms violations in Massachusetts and to list the charges on driving records available to police during traffic stops. http://www.boston.com/news/local/articles/2007/01/08/mayor_eyes_new_curb_on_gun_law_violators/

"If the federal government should overpass the just bounds of its authority and make a tyrannical use of its powers, the people, whose creature it is, must appeal to the standard they have formed, and take such measures to redress the injury done to the Constitution as the exigency may suggest and prudence justify."
-- Alexander Hamilton (Federalist No. 33, 3 January 1788).