



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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CCW Reciprocity Update--Again

Attorney General Tom Corbett continues to do a good job at pressing other states to enter into reciprocity agreements with PA for Concealed Carry of Firearms. In November/06 PA signed reciprocity agreements with **South Dakota** and **Tennessee** and in the first week of January 2007 another agreement has been signed adding **Virginia** to PA's list of states that have entered into reciprocity agreements for concealed-weapons permit holders.

That means the states listed below and Pennsylvania will now honor each other's concealed weapons permits. Pennsylvania now has reciprocity agreements with 13 states. **They are:**

1. **Alaska**
2. **Florida**
3. **Georgia**
4. **Kentucky**
5. **Michigan**
6. **Missouri**
7. **New Hampshire**
8. **North Carolina**
9. **South Dakota**
10. **Tennessee**
11. **Texas**
12. **Virginia**
13. **Wyoming**

The importance of Virginia cannot be overstated because this state requires 'mandatory' training and we have been told by many that we would never have an agreement with a state with this requirement unless we acquiesced to mandatory training here in PA. The ACSL held to our positions and we found that this issue was a minor one in the overall scheme of things and that the changes that we made to the CCW law in HB 1717 were substantial and helpful in this process. More states are coming!

PA Anti-Gun Legislators Begin Attack on Gun Ownership

As a continuation of the attack on gun owners and sportsmen and women in this state, State Rep. Dwight Evans, legislators from the Southeast and local mayors on January 10th pledged to join forces in a unified effort to pass legislation that will strengthen Pennsylvania laws and curb increased violence statewide associated with illegal guns and drugs.

They have a package of gun control bills sprinkled with minor changes in the mandatory sentencing laws that will only serve to distract public attention away from the real root causes of these problems—a revolving door justice system. Many of these bills were rejected during the committee of the whole and as predicted the outcome from the election has these same legislators feeling emboldened by their takeover of the PA House of Representatives.

Their package of bills are listed below:

- #1) Exceptions to the state preemption on local firearm regulation (HB 2483 in 2005/06 Session)
(Sponsor: D. Evans)
- #2) Armed Violent Career Criminal Statute (HB 1198 in 2005/06 Session)
(Sponsor: D. Evans)
- #3) Firearms storage requirement (HB 17 in 2005/06 Session)
(Sponsor: D. Evans)
- #4) Bail amounts for offenses involving firearms (HB 2916 in 2005/06 Session)
(Sponsor: James)
- #5) Statewide one handgun a month limit (HB 871 in 2005/06 Session)
(Sponsor: Myers)
- #6) Philadelphia one handgun a month limit (HB 872 in 2005/06 Session)
(Sponsor: Myers)
- #7) Mandatory tracing of recovered firearms from minors (HB 873 in 2005/06 Session)
(Sponsor: Myers)
- #8) Philadelphia assault weapons ban (HB 874 in 2005/2006 Session)

(Sponsor: Myers)

#9) Disclosures of grand jury matters (HB 2735 in 2005/06 Session)

(Sponsor: Parker)

#10) Witness relocation (HB 2736 in 2005/06 Session)

(Sponsor: Parker)

#11) Illegal possession of firearms (HB 954 in 2005/06 Session)

(Sponsor: Williams)

#12) Require the reporting of lost or stolen firearms (1113 1013 in 2005/06 Session)

(Sponsor: Williams)

#13) Statewide assault weapons ban (HB 764 in 2005/06 Session)

(Sponsor: Frankel)

It is clear to see that gun control dominates this package of legislation and that these legislators who privately will admit that the courts are NOT doing their job see no problem with attacking the law abiding citizen for the failure of the justice system to do its' job.

The upcoming session along with all the new legislators presents unique and incredibly important hurdles for all of us.

News Briefs:

Activists Alarmed at Reported Pelosi Pledge on Lobby Reform

Gun Rights activists in Ohio are sounding the alarm about a reported plan by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi to consider lobbying reform that includes new regulations regarding grassroots organizations.

Word about the new proposal was reported by *Human Events* magazine, and it did not take long for Ohioans For Concealed Carry (OFCC) to sound the alarm. The magazine said new legislation would change the legal definition of "grassroots lobbying." According to the report, any organization that "encourages 500 or more members of the general public to contact their elected representatives" would be required to file a quarterly report with the government about this activity.

Gun rights organizations, including the National Rifle Association, Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms, Gun Owners of America (GOA), and various state and local groups, might feel the pinch if such regulations were approved. GOA's Larry Pratt is among co

signers of a letter criticizing the proposal. In a statement about the proposal, OFCC noted, "The biggest strength of Ohioans For Concealed Carry has always been the efforts of our grassroots members. The ability to mobilize that base to contact their legislators has been crucial for gun rights reform in Ohio."

According to *Human Events*, a liberal "watchdog" group called Public Citizen actually spearheaded the effort to put these proposed regulations on Pelosi's radar screen. The package reportedly has a close similarity to Pelosi's "Honest Leadership and Open Government Act of 2006," which

gathered very little momentum in the last Congress. But with the change in party control, Pelosi's plan may now get traction.

But it will also face some stiff opposition, even outside the gun community. A spokesman for the Free Speech Coalition, Dick Dingman, told *Human Events*, "This is an effort that would become a major attack on the First Amendment." [The New GUN WEEK, January 20, 2007](#)

New Orleans Cops Indicted for Post-Katrina Murder, Shootings

More than a year after the city of New Orleans descended into anarchy in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, seven police officers in that city were indicted late last month on charges of murder or attempted murder.

The charges are related to two shooting incidents on the Danziger Bridge where hurricane victims were seeking refuge. According to Associated Press (AP), District Attorney Eddie Jordan described the indicted cops as having been "trigger happy."

"We cannot allow our police officers to shoot and kill our citizens without justification like rabid dogs," Jordan was quoted as stating.

The announcement brought a blistering reaction from gun rights activists who quickly argued that cops in New Orleans who confiscated firearms without probable cause or even legal authority should also face prosecution.

All the questionable shootings and the two killings occurred Sept. 4, about a week after the hurricane struck. Killed were 40 year-old Ronald Madison and 19-year-old James Brissette. Madison was shot seven times, and five of those bullet wounds were reportedly in his back.

The Danziger Bridge spans the city's Industrial Canal. It was "high ground" in a city inundated by flood water after levees failed in the hurricane's wake. Shots were fired by police after someone allegedly fired at workers from the US Army Corps of Engineers.

Indicted for murder are Sgt. Kenneth Bowen and Officers Robert Faulcon, Robert Gisevius and Anthony Villavaso. Charged with attempted murder are Officers Ignatius Hills, Robert Barrios and Mike Hunter.

AP reported that, according to a police report, New Orleans police responded to a call that two other officers had been injured. When the police arrived at the bridge, they reportedly saw several people running, and four of these people started shooting at them, so the police fired back. [The New GUN WEEK, January 20, 2007](#)

Homicides Rise In Some Major Cities in the US

Several US cities have experienced a spike in homicides in the past year, with the only decline in a

major city being New Orleans, primarily because so many people left that city and went elsewhere following Hurricane Katrina in 2005, according to Associated Press (AP).

Many of those people evacuated to Houston, TX, where not coincidentally according to police officials there, the city experienced a 15% increase in homicides.

New Orleans reported 154 murders last year, far down from the 210 posted in 2005. Crime in the Big Easy is back on the upswing; though, now that more people are returning to that city.

New York City had almost 580 killings through Dec. 24, up from last year's 539 murders but part of that is because victims of gunshot wounds or stabbings that occurred in the past died during the last year. There were 35 such deaths during 2006, according to AP.

Chicago reported a 3.3% increase in homicides, while New Haven, CT, reported 23 homicides as of Dec. 26, up from 15 in both 2004 and 2005.

The slight increase in Seattle, WA, murders, 29 last year over the 25 posted in 2005, can be attributed to a single event, the so-called Capitol Hill Massacre of March 29 in which a single gunman murdered six people at a party before taking his own life.

Oakland, CA, had 148 killings by Dec. 27, which is a 57% increase over the 2005 murder rate.

Philadelphia, PA, reported 403 murders by Dec. 27, which is up slightly from past years, when the number did not top 400.

In San Francisco, the murder rate fell about 15%, AP reported, while in Los Angeles, there was about a 4% decline with 464 killings posted through Dec. 23.

Many authorities blame the rise on drugs and gangs, with some also asserting that "easy availability" of guns is also a factor. [The New GUN WEEK, January 20, 2007](#)

Four Pistols Missing From Homeland Security

The Department of Homeland Security said on Dec. 26 that it is investigating how four handguns recently went missing from its headquarters in Northwest Washington, DC, according to The Press Democrat of Santa Rosa, CA.

Jarrod Agen, a department spokesman, said the guns belonged to Paragon Systems of Chantilly, VA, which provides security for the department's facility on Nebraska Avenue NW

"DHS is investigating the report," Agen said. "Paragon guns do not belong to DHS nor are they under the control of DHS."

A person familiar with the investigation and who requested anonymity while the probe is under way said four .40-caliber handguns vanished about two weeks before the

report dated Dec. 27 from a vault where Paragon security officers store their arms.

The newspaper's attempts to reach Paragon officials for comment the day after Christmas were unsuccessful.

[The New GUN WEEK, January 20, 2007](#)

Teachers Armed As Thai Schools Reopen in South

Schools in parts of Thailand's violence plagued southern province Pattani reopened on Dec. 4 and teachers were allowed to take weapons to protect their own safety.

According to Thai News Agency, schools in seven districts of Pattani, one of the three southernmost provinces in Thai south troubled by insurgent unrest, including the provincial seat resumed classes after a one-week closure from Nov. 27 due to frequent attacks on teachers.

However, more than 100 schools in remote and violence-prone areas in the province remain closed. The teachers' confederation in Pattani said all schools in 12 districts were to reopen on Dec. 6.

School reopening depends on the decision of local school administrators. Some educational institutions may remain closed if they are not ready to resume classes due to lack of confidence in the government's ability to provide for the safety of teachers and staff, the report said.

Education Minister Wijit Srisaarn said he believed self-defense measures, including allowing teachers to carry guns, will be effective in protecting the teachers. The educators themselves will also help security officials look after their colleagues, according to Wijit.

He said the ministry has already increased teachers' allowance to boost their morale and promoted temporary teachers to officially become civil servants. Only a small number of teachers have applied for relocation, he said. [The New GUN WEEK, January 1, 2007](#)

Philadelphia Gun Initiatives Target Parents and Businesses

The Philadelphia City Council is preparing to lower the boom on parents and guardians through a new gun law that could land them in jail for 30 days and trigger a \$2,000 fine if junior gets hold of a household handgun, according to The Philadelphia Daily News.

The Council is also looking to extend the hours of curfew for kids under 13 and to increase dramatically the fines for parents and guardians who let their kids run wild. Fines also would increase for businesses that let those kids hang around on their premises.

The two pieces of legislation moved out of the Council's Public Safety Committee on Dec. 5 along with another gun bill that would make illegal the failure to report a stolen or lost firearm.

Councilman Darrell Clarke, a co-sponsor of the gun bills, said the "failure to report" bill would require authorizing legislation from the state General Assembly, something that has not happened for a half-dozen other gun-control bills he's introduced along with Councilwoman Donna Miller. Those bills await final Council passage.

But after a careful analysis of state firearms laws, Clarke believes his latest attempt to stem the tide of gun violence in the city may pass legal muster.

"There is a window of opportunity to criminalize certain actions by the parent or guardian who allows access to dangerous weapons," he said.

While state law refers to "possession" of a firearm, Clarke's bill has language prohibiting children from "handling" or discharging a firearm and holding the parent or guardian responsible if they allowed the child to obtain unsupervised access to it.

The curfew law, which was introduced by Councilwoman Blon-dell Reynolds Brown, creates a new category for minors under 13 years old, the newspaper reported.

Under current law, all minors must be off the street during the school year by 10:30 p.m. during the week and by midnight on the weekends. The proposed law would require children under 13 to be in

side by 9 p.m. during the week and by 10 p.m. on weekends.

After notice of a prior violation, a parent faces a \$150 fine, up from \$50, and fines up to \$500 after that. For a business, the fine rises to at least \$250, up from \$150. [The New GUN WEEK, January 1, 2007](#)

Teen Imprisoned In Massacre Plot Admits Gun Thefts

A teenager imprisoned for plotting a massacre at his suburban Detroit, MI, high school in Mount Clemens has pleaded guilty to stealing two guns in an unrelated case, according to *The Macomb Daily*.

Andrew Osantowski, 19, also faces trial in two other cases.

Osantowski was convicted in June 2004 of threatening an act of terrorism and using a computer to threaten terrorism, after authorities found Internet chat room messages in which he said he might kill fellow students at Chippewa Valley High School. He was sentenced the following month to between 4^{1/2} and 22 years in prison.

Defense attorney Brian Legghio asked in August that the other charges against Osantowski be dismissed, arguing that his client had been denied the right to a speedy trial. Macomb County Circuit Judge Kenneth Sanborn rejected that request in September and again on Nov. 28.

Osantowski then pleaded guilty to charges of burglary of a business, larceny and malicious destruction of property for

the June 2004 thefts of an AK-47 assault rifle and a shotgun from a gun shop in Clinton Township. He is to be sentenced May 8. [The New GUN WEEK, January 1, 2007](#)

Chicago Gunman Violated Gun Laws, Felt Cheated by Lawyer

Chicago tower gunman Joe Jackson violated at least two gun control laws in his fatal attack Dec. 8 in the office of an attorney he reportedly felt had cheated him on an idea he had for a type of portable toilet.

According to *The Chicago 73-ibune*, Jackson was accompanied by his pastor, the Rev. C.L. Sparks, when they went to the downtown office of a patent attorney whom Sparks reportedly believes was Michael McKenna, one of three people killed in the attack. At that meeting, the newspaper reported, Jackson gave the attorney an envelope containing \$5,000 cash as a retainer for doing work on a patent for his toilet idea.

But instead, *The Tribune* reported, Jackson later found a similar invention being marketed on the Internet. Jackson allegedly believed McKenna had pirated the idea, and an attorney hired by Jackson to sue McKenna reportedly found a patent for a device "similar" to the portable toilet issued to a woman who may be related to the slain attorney.

But in going after the attorney, Jackson evidently violated Illinois law against concealed carry, and also violated Chicago's ban on handguns. Jackson shot and killed

McKenna, attorney Allen J. Hoover, and retired teacher Paul Goodson, who was apparently a part time employee at the Wood Phillips law offices in the Citigroup Center. McKenna's paralegal, identified as Ruth Zak Leib, was wounded in the foot. Goodson, 78, reportedly worked at the firm delivering mail.

A police SWAT unit responded, and a marksman shot Jackson dead from about 25 yards, *The Chicago Sun-Times* reported.

This attack is slightly reminiscent of an attack on a San Francisco law office in 1993 in which a former client went into the offices of Pettit & Martin and other offices, gunning down 14 people, killing eight of them, before he committed suicide. That gunman, Gian Luiti Ferri, was angered over a real estate deal. He also violated several California gun laws, and his action provided momentum for more antigun legislation, while providing the catalyst for the birth of the Legal Community Against Violence, an organization of antigun attorneys.

The Chicago shooting occurred just after 3 p.m. on a Friday afternoon. Jackson apparently was motivated by years of frustration over his dealings with McKenna, who rented office space from Pettit & Martin and was not on staff.

[The New GUN WEEK, January 1, 2007](#)

NSSF Bullet Points:

Dec.11, 2006 / Jan. 02, 2007/-Vol. 7 Nos. 50-52 & Vol. 8 No. 1

- **COLORADO GOVERNOR LASHES OUT AT PETA . . .** Colorado Gov. Bill Owens in a recent radio interview declared the anti-hunting People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) are "a bunch of losers" and "frauds," [reports the Center for Consumer Freedom](#). Owens' remarks were in response to a PETA spokeswoman saying the organization would not help Colorado ranchers with as many as 340,000 cows and steers left stranded by recent snowstorms.
- **STATES REPORT SURGE IN YOUTHS HUNTING . . .** Since NSSF helped launch [Families Afield](#) in 2004, 12 states have adopted new laws welcoming youths and other newcomers into hunting. Two of those states, Michigan and Ohio, also created apprentice hunting licenses allowing novices to give hunting a try under the watchful eye of an experienced mentor. First-year results appear extremely promising. More than 17,500 apprentice licenses were sold in Michigan, plus over 7,500 in Ohio, during 2006. These 25,000 new hunters suggest a 23 percent jump in the two states' combined population of hunters age 15 and under. NSSF's partners in Families Afield include the National Wild Turkey Federation and U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance.
- **NEWS REPORT: ATF REVOKED 131 FEDERAL FIREARMS LICENSES IN 2006 . . .** According to troubling [statistics](#) obtained by the Baltimore Sun, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives revoked nearly six times as many federal firearms licenses last year as compared to 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. "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." Legislation in the last Congress (H.R. 5092) passed the House by a broad bi-partisan margin but died in the Senate when it was blocked by Sens. Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) and Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.).
- **CONGRESSIONAL SPORTSMEN'S CAUCUS NAMES LEADERSHIP . . .** As the 110th Congress officially begins Thursday, the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus has announced new leadership to serve as the stewards of sportsmen's issues during the two-year session. Serving as co-chairs in the Senate will be Sens. Max Baucus (D-Mont.) and Mike Crapo (R-Idaho). The House co-chairs will be Reps. Ron Kind (D-Wis.) and Paul Ryan (R-Wis.). The caucus vice-chairs will be Sens. Ben Nelson (D-Neb.) and John Cornyn (R-Texas), along with Reps. Dan Boren (D-Okla.) and Steve Pearce (R-N.M.) in the House. Jeff Crane, Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation president, will speak at SHOT Show's Future Leaders Luncheon. [Click here](#) to request a free reservation.
- **COURT SIDES WITH SCI, DUCKS UNLIMITED, FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE . . .** The Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit has [ruled in favor](#) of Safari Club International, Ducks Unlimited and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in an appeal brought by the animal rights group Fund for Animals concerning Maryland's ability to manage the invasive mute swan. The Fund for Animals had sued USFWS claiming that it violated the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) by removing the mute swan from the list of birds protected by that act. SCI and DU intervened and helped the federal government defend the case.
- **NSSF DEALER TIP TO ATF BAGS ILLEGAL STRAW PURCHASING GANG . . .** Army & Navy, a Whitehall, Pa., firearms dealer that had earlier received NSSF's [Don't Lie for the Other Guy](#) dealer kit, suspected something was not right when two men handed over \$1,400 to a woman they hardly knew so she could buy them three handguns. The employees tipped off ATF, which resulted in the federal court indictment announced Friday of a straw purchasing gang that was illegally trafficking firearms to the criminal black market for guns in New York City. A store spokesman told [The Morning Call](#), "When we smell something funny, even the slightest indication that something is funny, we stop the sale. This is a tremendous responsibility, and we take it very seriously." NSSF senior vice president and general counsel Lawrence G. Keane applauded the actions of Army & Navy, noting that ATF has informed the industry that many firearm investigations and prosecutions are the result of tips they receive from firearm dealers. "We are pleased to see the Don't Lie for the Other Guy program in action," Keane said.
- **VICTORY FOR OHIO GUN OWNERS . . .** The Ohio Senate last week followed in the footsteps of the state House by voting to [override](#) Gov. Bob Taft's veto of legislation that will create statewide preemption regarding firearms laws and regulations. This action will ensure that municipalities cannot pass gun-control measures more stringent than that of the state. The bill will bring uniformity to Ohio's gun laws by preempting an estimated 80 local laws, including those restricting right-to-carry.
- **JUDGE: HANDGUN ORDINANCE VIOLATES LAW . . .** A state court judge last week ruled a Jersey City ordinance limiting handgun purchases to one gun a month violated the state's preemption laws, recognizing that the state of New Jersey has already enacted comprehensive regulations regarding the acquisition and sale of firearms and that municipalities do not have the right to enact additional gun-control measures. "Restricting the rights of law-abiding citizens and

bullying lawful firearms dealers is not the way to curb violent crime," said New Jersey Association of Firearms Retailers (NJAFR) president Bob Viden. "Judge Gallipoli made the right decision. State law must preempt any attempts by localities to unfairly restrict or hinder our constitutional right to keep and bear arms." The lead plaintiff in the case was NSSF and NJAFR member Frank Caso (Caso's Gun-a-Rama). Published reports indicate Ceasefire NJ and the city of Jersey City intend to appeal this decision.

- **MICHIGAN LEGISLATURE PASSES EMERGENCY POWERS PROTECTION ACT . . .** A [two-bill package](#), passed in the Michigan State Senate and House by votes of 37-1 and 105-0, respectively, prevents local governments from confiscating lawfully owned firearms during a state of emergency, as witnessed in New Orleans following Hurricane Katrina. In the first year since Hurricane Katrina, 10 other states and the federal government have passed similar legislation.
- **CITY FILES SECOND LAWSUIT AGAINST FIREARMS DEALERS . . .** New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg announced last week that the city has filed a [second lawsuit](#) against 12 additional out-of-state gun dealers. The lawsuit is similar to a suit filed in May against 15 out-of-state dealers, which [potentially jeopardized](#) more than a dozen ongoing criminal investigations. The suit filed last week names firearms dealers in Georgia, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina and Virginia.
- **CRANE TO SPEAK AT FUTURE LEADERS LUNCHEON . . .** NSSF is pleased to announce that Jeff Crane, president of the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation (CSF), will be the keynote speaker at the 2007 SHOT Show's [Future Leaders Luncheon](#). Crane is the primary CSF interface with the [Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus](#). He also oversees CSF's [State Caucus](#) program. The Future Leaders Luncheon provides a forum for young industry leaders to network and consider current industry issues. The luncheon is at noon on Saturday, Jan. 13, in Room 304AB of the Orange County Convention Center. Seating is limited. To request a reservation, contact Cindy Brutting at cbrutting@nssf.org.
- **ABC WORLD NEWS . . .** An increase in women hunters was the focus of an ABC World News report last week. ABC reporter Bill Redeker, in response to [new statistics](#) reported by NSSF, spotlighted efforts to recruit women and youth hunters and discussed hunting's role in conservation. [Watch the report at ABCNews.com](#).
- **ATF COMPLIANCE CONSULTATIONS FOR NAFR/NSSF MEMBERS . . .** Members of NSSF and the [National Association of Firearms Retailers](#) (NAFR) are now able to take advantage of a one-day training and consultation session with former ATF executive Walfred (Wally) Nelson. Nelson has more than 30 years' experience supervising and conducting

inspections and assisting retailers in complying with ATF policies and regulations, particularly in the area of best practices and the sale and transfer of firearms. For more details, visit the [member services section](#) of NSSF's Web site.

- **OHIO HOUSE OVERRIDES GOVERNOR'S CONCEALED CARRY VETO . . .** For the first time in his eight years as governor, Bob Taft saw his veto [overridden](#) by a chamber of the state legislature. The bill in question, H.B. 347, amends the state's existing concealed-carry law, and the governor objected to its pre-emption of local regulations. The state's Senate must also override the governor's veto for the bill to become law.
- **D.C. ATTORNEYS WISH TO RE-INTERPRET SECOND AMENDMENT . . .** In a case that could shape firearms laws nationwide, attorneys for the District of Columbia argued last week that the Second Amendment's right to bear arms applies only to militias, [reports The Washington Times](#). The attorneys are attempting to defend as constitutional the district's ban on handguns as it argues before the U.S. Court of Appeals.
- **NEW JERSEY COMMISSIONER PROTECTS 'CUTE BEARS' . . .** Ralph Knisell's [Dec. 7 column](#) in Today's Sunbeam and carried on NJ.com laments that the week should have included the state's black bear season, but the much publicized planned hunt was squelched by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's commissioner, Lisa Jackson, "probably at the request of Governor Jon Corzine, who had stated his distaste for the hunt." Outdoor writers attending the DEP's Fish and Wildlife Division workshop last spring should not have been surprised by Jackson's decision, Knisell writes. When then asked about the upcoming bear hunt, Jackson reportedly said, "I asked all the girls in my office and they all agreed that you shouldn't kill these cute bears."
- **NORTH CAROLINA COMMISSION WON'T RECOMMEND SUNDAY HUNTING . . .** North Carolina's Wildlife Resources Commission has backed off its decision to recommend hunting on Sundays to the state Legislature, [reports the Associated Press](#). The commission will send lawmakers a study conducted on the issue, but will not include a recommendation. A consultant hired to study the issue said 65 percent of the state's population opposes Sunday hunting, while 25 percent supports it.

News Links:

07/01/05 Lawmakers set sights on 527 political groups

Two Republican Colorado lawmakers want to rein in independent political groups known as 527s, complaining they operate in the shadows and make candidates bit players in their own elections.

http://www.rockymountainnews.com/drmn/government/article/0,2777.DRMN_23906_5257813.00.html

07/01/04 Chicago Mayor Daley renews push for more gun laws

Mayor Richard Daley and other elected officials renewed their call for stricter gun laws Wednesday, saying Democratic control of the General Assembly could lead to passage of legislation that has foundered in the past.

<http://www.belleville.com/mld/belleville/news/local/16380513.htm>

07/01/04 Some Perspective on call for gun control

"Because gun crimes make sensational news stories, generally reported without any proportionality, gun owners are easy targets," writes Peter Friedman. "When viewed in balance with other risks in society, firearms deaths are relatively uncommon. At the same time, firearms in the hands of the law-abiding have been proven to reduce crime."

<http://www.southcoasttoday.com/daily/01-07/01-04-07/02opinion.htm>

07/01/03 Nebraska Carry Law takes effect

Nebraskans will be able to apply for a permit to carry on January 3, and officials said interest is high.

<http://www.ketv.com/newsarchive/10655147/detail.html>

07/01/02 A Retreat on Rationing Free Speech?

"A three-judge federal court recently tugged a thread that may begin the unraveling of the fabric of murky laws and regulations that traduce the First Amendment by suppressing political speech," writes George F. Will.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/12/29/AR2006122901419.html>

07/01/02 More U.S. Gun Stores Closed

With little fanfare, the federal government has substantially increased the number of licenses it has taken away from gun dealers over the past five years, according to newly obtained statistics. http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/local/bal-te.md.license02jan02_0_5160217.story?coll=bal-local-headlines

06/12/29 FEC Fines Could Bring Undemocratic Silencing

Two weeks ago, the Federal Election Commission fined MoveOn.org, the Swift Boat Veterans for Truth and two other groups a total of \$629,500 for violating campaign-finance laws during the 2004 election. The elitist cognoscenti in Washington, who support anything they think will take money out of politics, are pleased, huffing only that the fines are too small.

<http://www.philly.com/mld/inquirer/news/editorial/16340275.htm>

06/12/29 Carry Law To Take Effect

Nebraska is about to usher in a new law that will allow people to carry but that doesn't mean you'll be able to carry everywhere.

<http://www.wowt.com/news/headlines/5031431.html>

06/12/29 Using Deadly Force Is Legal

"Hopefully this is going to send a message to people who are breaking into homes," Albuquerque police spokeswoman Trish Hoffman said Tuesday. "They're engaging in very dangerous behavior, not only to the people they're robbing, but to themselves." <http://www.abqtrib.com/news/2006/dec/27/using-deadly-force-legal/>

06/12/28 Kansas Carry Arrives Jan. 1

As Jan. 1 nears, a lot of Wichita businesses have prepared for the day when people with licenses can legally carry handguns.

<http://www.kansas.com/mld/kansas/business/16333799.htm>

06/12/27 The Dirty Little Secret Of "Gun-Free School Zones"

This October, there were three fatal attacks on school property in less than a week; more than 20 since February 1996 when a 14-year-old youth strolled into a junior high school in Moses Lake, Wash. and opened fire, killing two students and a teacher. The dirty little secret of all these atrocities is that they happened in so-called "Gun Free School Zones."

<http://www.hawaiireporter.com/story.aspx?115ec9d8-8c23-486a-8d12-a381c01822ef>

06/12/27 "Deactivated" Guns Made Lethal In Four Minutes

Gun crime victims have criticised the Government for failing to close a loophole that allows criminals to legally buy "deactivated" firearms that can be turned back into lethal weapons within minutes. The Home Office has decided not to introduce any restrictions on deactivated guns-modified so that they cannot be fired-as part of the Violent Crime Reduction Bill, which is due to come into force early next year.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml?xml=/news/2006/12/24/ngun24.xml>

06/12/27 Self-Defense Debate A Universal Right

There is universality to the firearms and self-defense debate that surfaces in almost every country of the world. The debates over public policy in each country sound very similar to those we experience in the United States.

<http://www.hawaiireporter.com/story.aspx?cde4e557-3773-42b1-a4a6-7229688f4b8f>

06/12/22 Lawmakers React Cautiously to Call for Gun Ban

Massachusetts state legislators had a cautious reaction to New Bedford Mayor Scott W. Lang's call for a statewide ban on the sale of military-style firearms like the AR-15 used in the fatal shootings of two employees at the Foxy Lady in New Bedford.

<http://www.southcoasttoday.com/daily/12-06/12-22-06/16local.htm>

06/12/21 South Africans long for justice as crimes rages

South Africa's crime statistics are staggering. In the 2005-2006 period there were 18,528 murders, 54,926 rapes, and 226,942 assaults, according to the Department of Safety and Security. But South Africa's crime now comes in unpredictable waves and tougher gun laws make it more difficult for anyone who wants to buy a weapon for self-defense. It can take a year to get a license after first obtaining a training certificate.

http://za.today.reuters.com/news/NewsArticle.aspx?type=topNews&storyID=2006-12-21T061438Z_01_BAN122451_RTRIDST_0_OZATP-SAFRICA-CRIME-20061221.XML

http://za.today.reuters.com/news/NewsArticle.aspx?type=topNews&storyID=2006-12-21T061438Z_01_BAN122451_RTRIDST_0_OZATP-SAFRICA-CRIME-20061221.XML

06/12/20 Legislature Supports Gun Owners

"Most of us learn about the Constitution in school and, over time, grow to appreciate the rights and privileges this important document grants us. However, on occasion, there have been some who have questioned the merit of these freedoms and have done their best to restrict them. In particular, a number of anti-gun activists have fought hard over the years to place restrictions on our Second Amendment right to keep and bear arms," writes State Senator John Carey. "In the midst of this struggle, the Ohio General Assembly has taken a number of important steps to ensure law-abiding citizens are able to exercise their Constitutional rights."

<http://www.timesgazette.com/main.asp?SectionID=1&SubSectionID=1&ArticleID=141818>

06/12/18 Great Britain: Middle Classes Tooling Up

Many country people consider a sawn-off 12-bore to be the most effective and easily available short-range firearm. Owning a shotgun is becoming a habit for rural homeowners who feel unprotected now that so many police stations have closed.

<http://www.thefirstpost.co.uk/print.php?menuID=2&subID=1205&p=2>

06/12/18 PA landowner support Sunday haunting

Several landowners are for an expansion of Sunday hunting in Pennsylvania. While they are in the 20% minority, since they own private lands that might be open to hunting not only for themselves, but other hunters, their voice must be articulated in this discussion.

http://www.thedailyreview.com/site/news.cfm?BRD=2276&dept_id=470581&newsid=17602012&PAG=461&rfti=9

06/12/15 215th anniversary of the adoption of the Bill of Rights

http://www.moultrieobserver.com/local/local_story_345230818.html

06/12/15 Minnesota courts rules BB gun a Firearm

A convicted felon barred from carrying a firearm broke the law when he started toting a BB gun, the Minnesota Court of Appeals has ruled.

<http://www.twincities.com/mld/pioneerpress/news/local/16223874.htm>

06/12/15 'Facts' support liberal gun laws

There have been at least 15 studies on the defensive use of firearms in America. Without exception, the studies find approximately 1 million to 4 million defensive uses of firearms annually, which is approximately four times the number of criminal uses.

<http://www.clarionledger.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20061215/OPINION02/612150312/1009/OPINION>

06/12/15 Tuscaloosa City Council Approves Employee Gun Ban

The Tuscaloosa City Council has banned its workers from bringing guns into the workplace. The city's policy also goes against a 2001 Alabama Attorney General opinion that says city governments cannot restrict their workers regarding guns. Other weapons, though, can be limited.

<http://www.tuscaloosaneews.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20061215/NEWS/612150336/1007>

06/12/15 Jersey City gun ban Defeated! Court voids illegal gun rationing law

In a lengthy and carefully reasoned decision read from the bench, New Jersey Superior Court Judge Maurice Gallipoli declared Jersey City's one gun a month handgun rationing law null and void, holding that it violates state pre-emption, equal protection, and was arbitrary and capricious.

<http://www.nraila.org/Legislation/Read.aspx?ID=2508>

06/12/14 Groups Penalized For Breaking Campaign Finance Laws In 2004 Election

Three independent political groups paid six-figure settlements to resolve charges that they broke campaign-finance laws in the

2004 presidential election, the Federal Election Commission says.

http://www.usatoday.com/news/washington/2006-12-13-fec_x.htm

06/12/13 Keeping our land for hunting important

<http://www.argusleader.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20061213/OUTDOORS01/612130313/1004/LIFE>

06/12/10 Resident wants guns allowed in parks

Coweta Georgia's ordinance prohibiting firearms at recreation facilities might be in violation of state law, claims a local resident who wants it repealed. The county's rule, which prohibits the possession "on or about Coweta County recreation facilities, sports fields or any surrounding areas being property of the county," is a violation of the state's preemption statute, said Ed Stone, an attorney and former law enforcement officer.

<http://content.times-herald.com/295363219650554.bsp>

06/12/11 Pelosi's Promise

In the run up to the Democratic takeover of Congress, Rep. Nancy Pelosi crisscrossed the country promising to make passing ethics reform her first order of business as speaker. But now, even before she takes the reins in January, she is being confronted with a series of tough ethics decisions that will determine whether her party will succeed at changing the culture of Capitol Hill. That culture—an ethos of rewarding power, electoral success and years of seniority—won a not so surprising endorsement in Louisiana on Dec. 9.

<http://www.opinionjournal.com/diary/?id=110009370>

06/12/11 Constitution says gun rights belong to 'the people'

"Doug Pennington's take on the Second Amendment is no longer accepted in mainstream legal scholarship," writes Jim Coombe.

"To believe his claim that the amendment only protects the National Guard, one would have to believe that "the people" in the amendment somehow refers to the federal government (since the Guard can be federalized with one stroke of the presidential pen) while "the people" in other amendments references an individual right.

<http://news.enquirer.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20061211/EDIT02/612110323/1090>

06/12/10 County to considers gun code

http://www.dailyprogress.com/servlet/Satellite?pagename=CDP/MGArticle/CDP_BasicArticle&c=MGArticle&cid=1149192108383

"[W]hen the resolution of enslaving America was formed in Great Britain, the British Parliament was advised by an artful man, - who was governor of Pennsylvania, to disarm the people; that it was the best and most effectual way to enslave them; but that they should not do it openly, but weaken them, and let them sink gradually, by totally disusing and neglecting the militia."

-- **George Mason** (speech in the Virginia Ratifying Convention, 14 June 1778) - [Reference](#): The Debates of the Several State, Elliot, vol. 3 (380).