



Allegheny County Sportsmen's League Legislative Committee Report

April 2007 □ Issue 150

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

Contacts: Legislative Committee Chairman, Kim Stolfer (412.221.3346) - activist@fyi.net

Legislative Committee Vice-Chairman, Mike Christeson - acslvchair@yahoo.com

Anti-Gun Hysteria Sweeps Through Harrisburg Threatening Gun Owners and Sportsmen

Gun owners throughout PA are alarmed and angered by the recent introduction of HB 760, which calls for the mandatory registration of 'ALL' firearms. As if this wasn't enough this bill also calls for the assessment of an annual \$10 fee for EACH firearm as well fingerprinting and mandatory liability insurance. Of course there is also a provision of punishment for those who will not comply with this law.

While this bill certainly deserves ALL of the bad press it has recently received it is by 'no' means the only bill offered in the House that would violate our rights. There are twenty directly anti-gun bills now in the House of Representatives alone. There are five more in the PA Senate.

What ALL these bills share is a common thread of denial of freedoms and a fixation on growing government to deal with the problem of crime when government is at the heart of most of today's problems with violent crime. They also share a common viewpoint of those who co-sponsor them and that is a disdain for the very freedoms they are sworn to uphold.

In fact most of the supporters of this attack on gun owners comes from the very same legislators who tried the same tactics last year in the Committee of the Whole and lost. The one thing that has invigorated them is the fact that gun owners lost dozens of key gun rights legislators in the 2006 elections. There are currently 43 House members who have refused to

answer questionnaires on their position on our 'Right to Bear Arms'.

With only 203 members in the PA House of Representatives and the fact that we could count on 140 or so legislators to stand with us in the past against gun control and for sportsmen, we are truly in a difficult position. It is conceivable that we could lose a significant number of these votes IF they are held now. Many of these freshmen legislators are having their arms twisted to support these so-called 'reasonable' gun laws.

This leads us to the *importance* of the April 24th Pro-2nd Amendment News Conference. Legislators are being told that gun owners support more restrictions. While we know the lie that this is, it is IMPORTANT that we put a face and an individual stamp on the rejection of this clear violation of our heritage and constitutional freedoms.

Proposed Anti-gun Legislation:

HB 0018	HB 0020	HB 0021	HB 0022
HB 0023	HB 0024	HB 0025	HB 0028
HB 0029	HB 0030	HB 0073	HB 0277
HB 0291	HB 0452	HB 0467	HB 0485
HB 0608	HB 0649	HB 0760	HR 0035

Pro-Gun News Conference Developments-Harrisburg—April 24th

Thus far the ACSL has reserved nine buses for member clubs to bring their members to Harrisburg for this event. From Pitcairn-Monroeville to McDonald Sportsmen's Assoc. gun owners and sportsmen and sportswomen are joining together to make their voices heard.

Every club and their members who hear what is at stake to not only our freedoms but to everyone of the members has voted to send as large a contingent as possible to Harrisburg to support Rep. Daryl Metcalfe and Rep. Marc Gergely and ALL of the other pro-gun legislators who are standing shoulder to shoulder with us at this time of need.

These legislators will be introducing a dozen new pro-gun/pro-freedom bills on this day that encompass ending the registration of PA gun owners to protecting gun owners with the Castle Doctrine principle to fixing vagueness in the law and ordering the DCNR to respect Concealed Carry Permit holders right to self defense in State Parks.

The itinerary for this news conference is as follows:

- 9:30AM** – Gun Owners meet at the rotunda steps inside the Capitol Building & Organize into teams.
10:00AM – News Conference begins
11:00AM – News Conference ends
11:05AM – Picture on steps with legislators
11:15AM – Gun owners begin 2nd phase of program – Teams fan out to lobby legislators.

There is a cafeteria on the lower level for lunch and departure times can be varied to meet the needs of each club and each team.

All materials and research information will be provided.

This is YOUR opportunity to change the way YOU are viewed in the halls of Harrisburg! Please don't let this chance slip by!!!

ACSL & PA Sheriffs Assoc. Stop Proposed Change in the Sheriff Office

On March 28th Judge Strassburger ruled against Allegheny County Council and Chief Executive Dan Onorato on their attempt to place this office into the hands of the voter's as a referendum on whether or not it should remain an elected office.

While Judge Strassburger did not get into the Constitutional issues raised by the ACSL he did side with our view, and the view of the PA Sheriff's Association who worked in conjunction with the ACSL, that this process was restricted by a five year limitation between changes.

Case law of 16 years shows that in every instance the five year limitation for home rule communities has been upheld.

This decision is final and no appeals are planned.

Philadelphia Chief of Detectives Speaks Out!

Apr. 10, 2007- **ONE READER'S VIEW**

Put the blame where it lies: The killers

We have to stop pointing the finger everywhere but at the very people who prey on us each day. Over time we have allowed our value system to erode. We refuse to hold people accountable for their actions and constantly make excuses for their inexcusable behavior. The incessant cry for tougher gun laws is a good example. Until we're ready to strictly enforce the current laws there is no reason for tougher ones.

Yes, there is a need to work on the social ills at the core of much of the unrest, but that does not mean we should accept those ills as a reason to excuse the behavior. Those engaged in this violent lifestyle know exactly what they're doing. They also know it is wrong. And they also know there are no serious consequences for their actions. It's not a matter of not knowing right from wrong, it's a matter of weighing the risk. And today they face very little risk.

Time after time these budding killers are arrested with guns, only to be returned to the streets with a slap on the wrist. Is it any wonder we have trouble getting witnesses to speak up? Instead of holding vigils at murder scenes, groups like Men United for a Better Philadelphia and Mothers in Charge should throw a ring around the Criminal *In-Justice* Center and demand that our judges hold the criminals accountable.

More than 80 percent of Philadelphia's cold-blooded killers have criminal records. Most of those records are lengthy, many for violent crimes. Every one of those arrests represents an opportunity to send a clear message, before they take another life.

Joseph Fox
Chief of Detectives
Philadelphia Police Department

NSC Reports Gun Accidents at Record Lows

A new report from the National Safety Council (NSC) shows that accidental firearm-related fatalities remain at record lows, and accidents involving youths continue to decline significantly.

The downward trends are occurring even as firearm ownership rises in the United States, the National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF) noted in its report.

The declining trends reported by the JSC are also supported by research available from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). According to the CDC, in the past decade, all four regions of the US have witnessed dramatic declines in the number of accidental firearm-related fatalities, NSSF said.

Statistics in the NSC's 2007 "Injury Facts" annual report show a 40% decrease in accidental firearm-related fatalities over a 10-year period ending in 2005. The report also shows firearm-related accidents involving children ages 14 and under declined 69% between 1995 and 2003.

The safety council's most recent statistics show 109,277 US residents died in accidents of all types in 2005. Less than 1% involved firearms. The most common deadly accidents involved motor vehicles, poisonings and falls, claiming 75% of all accidental deaths.

Meanwhile, the estimated number of citizen-owned firearms in the US has risen to more than 290 million, while the number of American households with at least one firearm is now about 47.8 million, according to NSSF.

"By continuing to heighten awareness of gun safety and responsible firearms storage, these record low numbers can be driven even lower," said Doug Painter, president of NSSF, the trade association for the firearms industry.

NSSF directs and funds a number of initiatives focused on firearms safety, including Project ChildSafe®, which, in cooperation with the US Department of Justice, has distributed more than 35 million free gun safety information kits-including gun locks-nationwide. NSSF also distributes safety literature and videos that emphasize outreach to schools. Additional support by NSSF is provided for hunter safety programs.

"Programs and efforts that communicate the importance of firearms safety have undeniably played a part in bringing these numbers to record lows, and continuing that awareness will only help ensure they continue downward," Painter added.

The report comes just weeks after the National Rifle Association reported that its Eddie Eagle GunSafe® accident prevention program for children in pre-K

through third grades has now reached 20 million students since it was started in 1988.

Other findings in the NSC annual report show that there were 730 accidental firearm-related fatalities in 2005, down from 750 reported in 2004. The 2005 figures are down 40% from the 1,225 accidents reported in 1995.

Accidental firearm-related fatalities among children 14 and under declined 7% in 2005 compared to 2004 data and down 69% between 1995 and 2003. Those involving teenagers (ages 15-19) were also down, 11% fewer in 2005 than the previous year. [The New GUN WEEK](#), March 10, 2007

Brit Gun Ban Advocate Admits UK's 'Bans Have Failed Utterly'

by Dave Workman Senior Editor

One of the United Kingdom's (UK's) foremost advocates of the British gun ban following the Dunblane, Scotland school massacre 11 years ago has now admitted in The Scotland Sunday Herald that he was wrong.

"**Bans have failed utterly,**" wrote prizewinning journalist Ian Bell in a February commentary.

The rare admission by an anti-gun journalist got the attention of Wayne LaPierre, executive vice president of the National Rifle Association, who did a commentary about it on the NRA's website.

Gun rights activists have slowly begun picking up on the transcript of LaPierre's commentary, but Gun Week obtained the original Bell column. While he admits the post-Dunblane gun bans haven't worked, he is not entirely prepared to give up on trying to keep handguns out of the country.

But in what appears to have been something of a moral epiphany, Bell admits that "guns have become commonplace, so commonplace that every would-be terrorist worth his salt must be armed to the teeth."

He further acknowledged that skeptics of his gun ban mantra 11 years ago stressed "that it is easy to impose laws on the law-abiding. Criminals, by definition, don't take much interest in well-meaning legislation. If they chose to arm themselves while the rest of society was, in effect, disarming, outraged newspaper commentators and their quick fixes might merely make matters worse."

He had decided to declare verbal war on anyone who did not support the notion of a complete gun ban.

"I was going to take on anyone who failed to support the banning of handguns," he recalled.

But now, 11 years after Thomas Hamilton's March 1996 rampage claimed the lives of what Bell called "16

infants" and then their teacher, the columnist sings a slightly different tune

"What I say then becomes obvious: my idea didn't work," he wrote.

Bell admits that now, more than a decade afterward, he reads of "**three London teenagers murdered in the space of 11 days**. I read of firearms 'incidents' spreading like an epidemic across our cities."

Further, Bell's commentary appears to acknowledge something that increasing numbers of American citizens have long since learned about dealing with violent criminals: "Many things may have changed since my working-class youth, but I am certain that one piece of logic persists. If he is armed, you had better be armed too." His remark, though, seems more of an admission that in a dangerous environment, it is necessary for a person to have the means to defend himself, or he will be a victim.

However, in the end, Bell still falls back on his anti-gun posture, when he acknowledges that "I cling, nevertheless, to one near-instinctive conclusion from 11 years ago. Guns breed guns. When they enter a society they multiply like a pestilence." He ultimately admits, despite tight customs checks at entry points, "Let's concede that all the bans have failed." [The New GUN WEEK](#), March 20, 2007

West Virginia Signs into Law Two Gun Bills

HB-3074 amends reciprocity requirements as well as authorizes the state's Attorney General to execute reciprocity agreements with other states pertaining to the recognition of permits to carry concealed handguns. Unfortunately this bill requires a determination of similarity of laws between both states seeking an agreement that could, as this language has in the past in other states, inhibit the successful consummation of agreements. This measure was opposed by some in state grassroots gun groups but was supported by NRA.

HB-2223 would restrict public access to the records of concealed carry permit holders, thus ensuring their right to privacy in a similar fashion to laws that currently protect PA concealed carry permit holders.

Guns in Chicago Police Custody Trafficked into Criminal Hands

Here's a case that Mayors Against Illegal Guns (MAIL) should get on right away, and one case where one of their own prominent members-Chicago Mayor Richard Daley-should be the least investigator, or investigatee.

An audit Chicago kept secret for more than a decade shows the Chicago Police evidence warehouse was in such disarray in the 1990s that guns vanished from the facility and were later recovered from criminals, The Chicago Sun Times reported.

A federal judge in late February lifted a protective order on the audit reports, which revealed the status of 133 guns was "undetermined" because of a failure to record the movement of evidence. Officials also could not account for nearly \$7 million in drugs.

The audit showed at least four confiscated handguns disappeared from the warehouse between 1991 and 1995, and were seized again in weapons and drug arrests on the South Side of the city, The Sun Times added.

Since the 1996 audit, two police employees have been sent to prison for stealing drugs from the warehouse controlled by the police Evidence and Recovered Property Section. No one has been arrested for the guns that left the facility.

In 1996, police Inspector Robert Voight warned that the department should immediately padlock the warehouse-then located in the basement of the court building at 26th and California-and move evidence to another facility, according to the unsealed documents.

The warehouse was a mess, with "thousands of boxes of narcotics lying in open boxes on the floor" and "marijuana scattered on the floor," Voight said. A lack of security compromised the value of the evidence, he said.

Then in 1998, civilian police aide Jill McClendon was sentenced to 10 years in prison for trying to steal \$1.1 million of confiscated drugs from the city facility.

But it was not until 2001-when Officer John L. Smith was arrested for stealing 44 pounds of cocaine from the warehouse that the department moved to open a more secure warehouse on the West Side and started tracking items with a computerized bar-code system.

Smith was sentenced to 24 years in prison. He had bought an Olympia Fields home, a Chicago apartment building, a Rolls-Royce, fur coats, jewelry and cases of Dom Perignon by selling the stolen cocaine, prosecutors said, according to The Sun Times. [The New GUN WEEK](#), March 20, 2007

Schumer Files Bill To Harass FFLs, Increase Lawsuits

by Joseph P. Tartaro, Executive Editor

Sen. Charles Schumer, (D-NY) has introduced S-77, captioned the "Anti-Gun Trafficking Penalties Enhancement Act of 2007," a measure that directly threatens federal firearms licensees (FFLs) and gun buyers in two important ways. So far Schumer's bill has no co-sponsors, but has been referred to the Senate Committee on the Judiciary.

First, S-77 would require that currently confidential Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) records on firearms traces be turned over--on demand--to any government entity, for any purpose. Currently, under the amendment to the ATF's operating budget authored by Rep. Todd Tiahrt (R-KS) information from firearms traces can

only be used in bona fide criminal investigations by law enforcement agencies.¹⁰

S-77 would require that these gun trace records be made available to any government agency for any reason, or for no stated reason whatsoever, without any justification or respect for privacy.

The National Rifle Association (NRA) and other gun-rights groups have fought for years to maintain the confidentiality of this data and not allow it to be abused by anti-gun politicians. S-77 would reverse those victories.

Anti-gun activists and politicians such as New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg as well as the Brady Center to Prevent Gun Violence have sought this confidential data to bolster their lawsuits against the firearms industry. They claim the data will help them prove in court that a tiny percentage of FFLs are responsible for trafficking guns to criminals in states with highly restrictive gun laws. If the ATF data were released they would lead directly to increased levels of harassing lawsuits and more firearms dealers being forced out of business. Gun buyers would find fewer dealers, higher prices and a smaller selection of firearms, the NRA claims.

As damaging as this provision of Schumer's bill would be to firearms dealers, another provision could do even more harm. S-77 would unleash the federal government to harass FFL holders at will on fishing expeditions, for any reason, as often as it chooses.

S-77 would remove the restriction on ATF that allows it only one regulatory inspection of dealers per year, and instead grant unlimited authority to go after dealers without need to show cause. This change is completely unnecessary. ATF already has significant legal methods for regulating dealers and enforcing firearm transfer laws.

Finally, and perhaps most ominously, the NRA explains, S-77 would define certain already-illegal firearm transactions as "racketeering activity" under the "Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act" (RICO) statute.

Under RICO, if a person commits two or more acts of "racketeering activity" within 10 years, that "pattern of racketeering activity" can subject the violator to an additional 20-year prison term and seizure of assets, on top of current sentences for the actual firearm violations. Finally, and perhaps even more disturbing, anyone "injured" by a "pattern of racketeering activity" can bring a civil suit to "recover threefold the damages he sustains and the cost of the suit." [The New GUN WEEK](#), March 20, 2007

Study Says Illegal Aliens Kill More Americans than Iraq War

by Dave Workman Senior Editor

A conservative think tank based in Washington, DC, recently released a report that asserts more Americans are

being killed by illegal aliens in the US than are dying in the Iraq war.

Family Security Matters (FSM) issued the report last month. The group estimated that 2,158 murders are committed annually by illegal aliens, which is greater than 15% of all US homicides reported to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

FSM estimates that some 267,000 illegal aliens are now imprisoned in this country for a variety of crimes. The Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms (CCRKBA) two years ago launched a campaign demanding that the White House concentrate on "border control, not gun control." CCRKBA had learned that there is no accurate estimate on the number of state and federal prison inmates who are in this country illegally.

The report quoted Mike Cutler of New York, former senior special agent with the Immigration and Naturalization Service who is now a fellow at the Center for Immigration Studies. Cutler said the murder rate of American citizens by illegal aliens is "collateral damage" that comes with tolerating illegal immigration.

Cutler told *Gun Week* that the estimate of homicides committed by illegal aliens is based on the number of total murders reported annually to the FBI (about 14,000 to 16,000) and the number of illegal aliens now in prison here. He estimates that about 30% of the criminal population consists of illegal aliens.

"All things being equal," he said, "you're probably getting more than 3,000 (homicides) a year by people who shouldn't be here."

Cutler suspects that the number of crimes committed by illegal aliens is on the rise. The reason, he said, is that increasing numbers of illegals are entering the country, not just across the remote border areas, but through ports of entry.

"The reality is," he cautioned, "the entire immigration system is crumbling. We don't know who we're giving citizenship to."

Cutler said the government has been trying to convince American citizens that it is once again safe to go to sleep, so they can go to sleep, themselves. Border security efforts, he said, are largely an illusion, and he is concerned that this will not simply lead to increasing violent crime here, but another terrorist attack.

"I live in New York," Cutler said, "and the ashes of 9/11 landed on my house, and many of those ashes were my former neighbors."

The FSM report claims that 95% of some 1,500 outstanding criminal warrants for homicides in Los Angeles, CA, are for illegal aliens, and about 67% of the 17,000 outstanding fugitive felony warrants are also for illegals.

FSM also contends in its report that there are presently more than 400,000 unaccounted for illegal alien criminals with "outstanding deportation orders" in this country. It also estimates that between 80,000 and 100,000 illegal aliens who have been convicted of serious crimes are now "walking the streets."

The report also asserts that "Illegal aliens are involved in criminal activities at a rate that is 2-5 times their representative proportion of the population." [The New GUN WEEK](#), March 10, 2007

News Briefs:

Learning Murder from Mama

Apparently, in some places, youngsters still learn things at their mother's knee.

A New Orleans, LA, woman accused of giving her teenage son a handgun and telling him to take revenge after he lost a fight was arrested on Feb. 8 after another boy was killed, police said.

According to Associated Press (AP), Police were searching for her son, Clarence Johnson, 17, who faces a charge of second degree murder in the death the other 17-year-old, New Orleans Police Sgt. Joe Narcisse said.

He said both teens had walked away after the original fight the previous evening.

"Detectives learned Johnson went home and shared the details of the fight with his mother. Johnson's mother, 44-year-old Vanessa Johnson, gave him a handgun and instructed him to exact revenge on the victim because Johnson had apparently lost the fight," Narcisse said.

Clarence Johnson found the other youth shortly afterward and fired several rounds, hitting him once in the abdomen, Narcisse said. The other teen died at the city's trauma center.

Vanessa Johnson was arrested at her home and booked with being a principal to second-degree murder.

Narcisse also said officers confiscated about eight grams of cocaine from the house, AP reported, but didn't say whether it belonged to the mother or the son. [The New GUN WEEK](#), March 20, 2007

Invader Shot with Own Gun

From the "How It Should Always Work" file comes the story of alleged home invader Bryan B. Green, 18, of Charleston, SC. He's the guy who, according to a report in *The Charleston Post and Courier*, "burst through the back door of a house" and wound up being shot with his own gun. Seems he tangled with a homeowner identified as Jamond M. Simmons, who obviously had no intention of being robbed on Feb. 19.

Simmons reportedly did not know Green, who allegedly came in and demanded money. Simmons told the

gunman there was no cash in the house, at which point the suspect threatened to start shooting people if they didn't "give him something of value," the newspaper reported.

Something got the gunman's attention long enough for Simmons to make his move, grabbing the gun and putting a bullet into the robber's mid-section. He was taken to the hospital and underwent surgery. [The New GUN WEEK](#), March 20, 2007

Cop Faces Menacing Beef

From the "Only Cops Should Have Guns" file comes the story of Denver, CO, police Officer Christopher Dobson, who has been suspended without pay and ordered to stand trial on a felony menacing charge for allegedly having pulled his gun on a snowmobiling neighbor in January. -

This may be a new twist on road rage, because the neighbor, identified as 33-year-old Jayson Osborne by *The Rocky Mountain News*, was riding in the middle of the street when the incident occurred Jan. 3. Dobson was off duty and not in uniform when the incident occurred, the newspaper said.

The report said Dobson apparently was on foot. He allegedly drew his gun and aimed it at Osborne's head before Osborne called to his brother. The brother apparently came outside and both brothers knocked the cop's gun away. They kept the gun until uniformed officers arrived to sort out the situation.

Dobson reportedly had called 911 over concern that the snowmobile was presenting a safety problem. [The New GUN WEEK](#), March 20, 2007

NSSF Bullet Points:

April 9, 2007/-Vol. 8 Nos. 12-15

- **NSSF ON THE LEGISLATIVE FRONT . . .** A bevy of e-mails, letters and phone calls by firearms enthusiasts, sportsmen and firearms retailers was aimed at thwarting two Sacramento City Council proposals that would target law-abiding businesses and gun owners. Consideration of the proposals is being held over until an undetermined time in the future, following an exceptionally strong response from an NSSF legislative alert and grassroots efforts led by NRA and the California Rifle and Pistol Association. [Full Story](#).
- **ALBANY MAYOR BACKPEDALS ON ANTI-GUN PROPOSALS . . .** Following a strong public outcry by sportsmen and gun owners, including a legislative alert from NSSF, Albany, N.Y., Mayor Jerry Jennings, a member of anti-gun New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg's "Mayors Against Illegal Guns" coalition, [appears to be backpedaling](#) on his anti-gun [proposals](#) that would mandate registration of all firearms, outlaw private sales, require firearms dealers to report all sales to police, ban various types of ammunition and mandate how gun owners must store their guns. The package of proposals was never voted

on and referred to an unnamed committee. Jennings did not even attend the meeting.

- **TIME CHIMES IN ON LEAD DEBATE; NSSF PRESENTS INDUSTRY'S SIDE . . .** Following legislative and regulatory threats to ban lead ammunition in California, Time.com, the online version of Time Magazine, [ran a story last week](#) presenting both sides of the contentious debate. NSSF director of public affairs Ted Novin, who was interviewed for the story, was quoted as saying, "I think it's certainly possible that the gun-ban lobby and anti-hunting groups will use the unwarranted fear of lead ammunition to help achieve their goal." He added, "Similarly flawed legislation has failed in each of the past two years in California. We are working to make sure lawmakers, regulators and the general public understand the facts. Once they do we are confident common sense and sound public policy will prevail and the legislation will again be defeated." [Public testimony](#) on the issue will be heard by the state Fish and Game Commission Friday in Bodega Bay.
- **ROMNEY RIPPED OVER 'LIFELONG HUNTER' COMMENT . . .** Republican presidential contender and former Arkansas Gov. Michael Huckabee took rival Mitt Romney to task following a [statement by Romney](#) that he is a "lifelong hunter," a seemingly erroneous claim as the former Massachusetts governor has only hunted twice before. "It'd be like me saying I was a lifelong golfer because I played putt-putt when I was 9 years old and I rode in a golf cart a couple of times," Huckabee said.
- **CONNECTICUT RETAILERS GROUP PRESIDENT RESPONDS TO EDITORIAL . . .** In response to a [Hartford Courant editorial](#) praising legislation targeting law-abiding gun owners, Scott Hoffman, president of the Connecticut Association of Firearms Retailers (CTAFR), submitted his thoughts to the newspaper. Hoffman's letter, printed in today's Courant, focused on why it would be "better to educate rather than legislate" when it comes to preventing straw purchases. CTAFR is an affiliate of NSSF's National Association of Firearms Retailers (NAFR). [Read Hoffman's letter](#) (third down).
- **EDITORIAL PLAYS PART IN POLICE CLOSING LIST OF GUN OWNERS . . .** After a Roanoke Times editorial writer encouraged his readers go online to see who in the area was "packing heat," state police closed the once open list of 135,000 state residents licensed to carry concealed handguns, [the newspaper reports](#).
- **UPDATE ON ILLINOIS BULLET SERIALIZATION THREAT . . .** Following timely and strong opposition to a bill in the Illinois Senate Judiciary Committee (SB 1095), legislation that would have mandated ammunition being sold and possessed in the state carry a serial number, the sponsor, knowing she did not have the votes, failed to attend the hearing and the anti-gun legislation was never brought up. NSSF is confident the legislation will not advance out of committee at this point. NSSF led a coordinated campaign to stop the bill. Special recognition for this sound defeat goes to Sen. William Haine as well as Winchester, which wasted no time in working the phones, contacting organizations and

dispatching its people wherever they were needed. Still a threat to Illinois sportsmen is a proposed semi-auto ban and .50-caliber ban.

- **BILL WOULD CREATE UNNECESSARY RESTRICTIONS ON RETAILERS . . .** A firearms dealer liability bill, [AO6525](#), has been re-introduced in the New York State Assembly, claiming to "reduce gun trafficking by making it more difficult for criminals to obtain firearms, rifles and shotguns from gun dealers." This legislation would only serve to further inhibit firearms dealers by creating restrictive and overbearing commercial practices, including more stringent and redundant recordkeeping, increased liability insurance, additional sales restrictions, additional employee training and additional licensing requirements. This legislation stands no chance of curbing the illegal acquisition and use of firearms. NSSF is urging all FFLs and firearms enthusiasts in New York to [contact their state legislators](#) to oppose this bill.
- **VIRGINIA GOVERNOR STANDS STRONG AGAINST BLOOMBERG . . .** New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg will have a harder time targeting Virginia gun dealers for lawsuits under legislation signed Friday by Gov. Tim Kaine, reports [The Roanoke Times](#). The legislation (House Bill 2653) restricts "simulated straw purchases," the modus operandi of Bloomberg's civilian investigators. The mayor has used simulated transactions to allege wrongdoing and file suit against out-of-state firearms dealers. The U.S. Department of Justice has said the "evidence" derived from Bloomberg's private investigators does not warrant prosecution and has further admonished the mayor for his operations. NSSF has repeatedly warned that Bloomberg's actions have endangered law enforcement and interfered with ongoing criminal investigations, warnings that have now been validated by the DOJ.
- **LINDENWOOD LOOKS TO EXTEND STREAK AT COLLEGE CHAMPIONSHIPS . . .** In most sports, the story of Lindenwood University would be a classic David-and-Goliath saga: little school from St. Charles, Mo., chops down giants more than twice its size -- Texas A&M, Mizzou, Kentucky, Purdue and others -- on its way to a national title. But in shotgun sports, it is Lindenwood who stands as the titan. With three consecutive national championships, the Lions aim to continue their impressive run at the upcoming [ACUI Intercollegiate Clay Target Championships](#) this week at the National Shooting Complex in San Antonio. NSSF is a major sponsor of the annual event, which will be taped and later televised on [ESPN U](#).
- **NEW YORK BILLS FOR JUNIOR BIG-GAME HUNTERS NEED SUPPORT . . .** New York is the only state in the nation that does not allow 14 year olds to hunt deer with firearms, but various state assembly and senate bills in the spirit of the [Families Afield](#) initiative would lower the New York minimum age from 16 to either 14 or 12. Assemblyman Robert Sweeney, new chairman of the state Assembly's Conservation Committee, has indicated that he has received no e-mail support from sportsmen for Bill A6900, which would permit a junior hunter who has

completed a hunter education class and has reached the age of 14 to hunt deer with a parent or guardian. Sportsmen are encouraged to e-mail support for A6900 to Assemblyman Sweeney at Sweeney@assembly.state.ny.us and to also contact their district's assemblyman.

- **ZUMBO SUBMITS LETTER FOR CONGRESSIONAL RECORD . . .** After Michigan Sen. Carl Levin chose to attack firearms owners by using outdoor writer and TV personality Jim Zumbo's remarks on black guns as his launch pad, Zumbo submitted an [explanation](#) of his ill-advised comments, as well as an overview of Levin's anti-gun record, and demanded that this letter to the U.S. Senate be entered into the Congressional Record, as Levin's had been.
- **POSITIVE MOOD AT EUROPE'S IWA SHOW . . .** [IWA & OutdoorClassics 2007](#) closed with more than 30,000 trade visitors attending the show in Nürnberg, Germany, the most in the 34-year history of the International Trade Fair for Hunting and Sporting Arms, Outdoor Articles and Accessories. Attendance was up 12 percent from the previous year. Attendees expressed interest in products and services offered by the 1,055 exhibitors.
- **OLYMPIC MEDALISTS LEAD U.S. WORLD CUP TEAM . . .** Olympic gold medalist Matt Emmons and silver medalist Maj. Mike Anti have led a strong team of American shooters into the first rifle/pistol International Shooting Sports Federation [World Cup](#) of the season. The action at Ft. Benning, Ga., began on Saturday, March 31, and continues through Sunday, April 8. The tremendous number of entries from more than 60 nations makes this the largest shooting World Cup in a non-Olympic year to be held on American soil.
- **WHITE HOUSE NOMINATES FEDERAL PROSECUTOR TO HEAD ATF . . .** President Bush last week nominated [Michael Sullivan](#), U.S. Attorney for Massachusetts, to head the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. Sullivan is currently serving as acting director of ATF. Under a recent change in federal law, the Senate must now confirm the ATF director. "Mr. Sullivan would appear to be well qualified for this important position. We look forward to continuing our cooperative relationship with ATF under the leadership of Mr. Sullivan as he moves ATF forward in a positive direction," said Lawrence G. Keane, NSSF senior vice president and general counsel.
- **NORTHWEST ELIMINATES DISCRIMINATORY FEES . . .** Last week it came to our attention that Northwest Airlines and its partner KLM Royal Dutch Airlines had implemented a new policy that singled out overseas travelers with long-gun cases for an enormous additional luggage fee of \$300. But by the end of the week, thanks to efforts by SCI and NRA, Northwest had amended its policy, eliminating the exorbitant fee and accepting long-gun cases on overseas flights under the "free luggage allowance" as long as travelers comply with firearms regulations in the countries they are traveling to, including those in which connections occur. [Read the new policy.](#)

- **MARYLAND SPORTSMEN'S CAUCUS LEADING THE WAY . . .** The Maryland Legislative Sportsmen's Caucus has publicly opposed a ban on many semi-automatic rifles and shotguns (Senate Bill 43) based on cosmetic features, and legislation (House Bill 441) to mandate an additional 10 percent state tax on so-called "assault weapons" that, when coupled with existing state and federal taxes, would raise the final tax bill to over 25 percent on the cost of a firearm. By taking a strong position on these anti-gun bills, the Maryland Legislative Sportsmen's Caucus, led by leaders Senator John Astle and Delegate Richard Weldon, is not only doing its part to protect Maryland sportsmen and firearms enthusiasts, but demonstrating how a proactive state caucus can positively affect legislation. Sen. Astle is also the chairman of the [National Assembly of Sportsmen's Caucuses](#).
- **NSSF HELPS OUT NAM WITH CONGRESSIONAL RECEPTION . . .** The [National Association of Manufacturers](#) (NAM) recently honored members of Congress with excellent pro-manufacturing, pro-growth voting records in the 109th Congress with NAM's Award for Manufacturing Excellence at a Capitol Hill reception for freshman members of the 110th Congress. NAM has scored congressional votes on bills important to the firearms industry like the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act. NSSF was proud to help sponsor NAM's Congressional reception.
- **Semi-Auto Ban Headed for Defeat STATE LEGISLATION ROUNDUP . . .** Efforts to [ban semi-automatic firearms](#) in Maryland appear to be headed for defeat once again, while anti-gunners continue to push for bans on 50-caliber rifles, guns that have never been used in crimes, in New Jersey and Illinois. Grassroots efforts, including a rally last week in Illinois, are showing positive results as lawmakers continue to debate a proposed semi-auto ban there. The gun-ban lobby in the Garden State is also pushing for mandatory Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology to be incorporated into all handgun sales for post-sale tracking. In Maryland, there is legislation pending to tax ammunition and require "bullet serialization." And in California, a bill to mandate microstamping has been introduced again this year. Rest assured, NSSF is fighting these and other efforts by anti-gun legislators in state capitals across America.
- **USA SHOOTING, SCTP FORM COMBINED JUNIOR OLYMPIC PROGRAM . . .** [USA Shooting](#) and NSSF's popular [Scholastic Clay Target Program](#) have joined forces to create one combined Junior Olympic Shotgun Program. The new program's objective is to develop and promote Olympic-style shooting among the nation's youth, while creating a competitive atmosphere at the national level. Through the program, states will conduct qualifier matches. Each state's top SCTP team and top SCTP male and female shooters in international skeet and bunker trap will earn an invitation to the National Junior Olympic Shooting Championship (NJOSC) in Colorado Springs, Colo. Clubs interested in hosting a state junior Olympic event as well as

SCTP teams interested in participating may [click here](#) to learn more.

- **COMMITTEE TAKES NO ACTION ON PROPOSED VERMONT LEAD BAN . . .** [Legislation](#) that would allow for a ban on the manufacturing, sale and possession of lead ammunition in Vermont appears to be headed for defeat following a strong campaign from NSSF, NRA and the Federation of Vermont Sportsmen's Clubs. Because a House committee did not take action by the March 16 crossover deadline, the legislation is dead for the year, and only extraordinary measures by legislators could save it. It is important to note that anti-gun forces are lobbying hard to revive the legislation. Attorney General William Sorrell, who has been championing this bill, has teamed up with anti-gun New York Attorney General Andrew Cuomo **in an effort to export similar legislation into other states.** NSSF is continuing to educate lawmakers in Vermont and other states on this dangerous legislation.
- **RANGE OWNERS: TAKE ADVANTAGE OF FIRST SHOTS . . .** NSSF's [First Shots](#) program is currently scheduling dates throughout the year. Ranges interested in hosting First Shots seminars can receive industry support, including cooperative advertising funds and loaner handguns, to facilitate the program. Funds and loaners are limited and are provided on a first-come, first-served basis. So, don't delay; [schedule your seminars now.](#)
- **NEBRASKA RANGE-PROTECTION BILL ADVANCES . . .** [LB 352](#), state legislation to provide shooting range operations with guidelines and protections that would allow these facilities to continue operating when faced with urbanization, has passed through the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee. Next stop is the Senate floor, and Nebraskans are being asked to call their state senator at 402-471-2311 to urge them to support the bill.
- **VERMONT'S HUNTING FUTURE . . .** A group of Vermont landowners, hunters and government and business leaders came together last summer to outline initiatives on the future of hunting in the state. Now, the state is following through on those initiatives, namely creating a plan to encourage more youth hunters, reports the [Rutland Herald](#). A conference, dubbed the "Future of Hunting in Vermont," was held in August with the help of a grant from NSSF's [Hunting Heritage Partnership](#).
- **OHIO BRINGS UNIFORMITY TO GUN LAWS . . .** An Ohio law creating statewide preemption on firearm laws and regulations took effect last week. The law preempted an estimated 80 local laws, including those restricting right-to-carry and bans on many semi-automatic firearms. After the law took effect Tuesday, Cleveland filed a lawsuit in an effort to regain the right to enact its own laws, and Columbus is considering a lawsuit as well, [The Columbus Dispatch](#) reports.

News Links:

07/04/10 Registry Would Treat Gun Owners Like Criminals
"If someone told you he had been forced to provide the

Pennsylvania State Police with their fingerprints, photograph, Social Security number and a host of other personal information, you'd probably assume they were arrested and charged with a crime," writes Christian Berg.

<http://www.mcall.com/sports/columnists/all-bergcolumn0410apr10,0.6671220.column?coll=all-randomcolumnistssport-misc>

07/04/11 Gun owners up in arms over Pa. bill

House Bill 760 has outraged gun owners across the state because it would require annual registration of every weapon they possess other than antiques -- guns manufactured before 1898

http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/pittsburghtrib/search/s_502099.html

07/04/10 Flawed Laws Help Stalkers Victimize Women

What do you do when the police cant protect you? Police may be the single most important factor for reducing crime, but there is something the police themselves understand: They almost always arrive at the crime scene after the crime has occurred.

<http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,264896,00.html>

07/04/10 The Florida Senate Judiciary Committee Passes Individual Personal Private Property Protection legislation!

Senate Bill 2356, sponsored by Senator Durell Peaden (R-2), passed the Senate Judiciary Committee with a vote of 8 to 3! SB 2356 would protect employees and customers from having their private vehicles searched and protects against punitive action by anti-gun business owners who would deny you your right to have a firearm in your car for personal protection and other lawful purposes. <http://www.nraila.org/Legislation/Read.aspx?ID=2865>

07/04/10 Privacy vs. The Right To Know

Even after acting recklessly by publishing the names of Virginia Right-to-Carry permit holders, the Roanoke Times editorial page still does not understand that the privacy of firearms owners should be respected.

<http://www.roanoke.com/editorials/wb/112456>

07/04/09 Bureau of Land Management Proposes Closing of Recreational Shooting In Nye County, Nevada!

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) plans to close certain areas in Nye County to recreational shooting. The BLM's stated reason for the closure is the rapid increase in population and growth of Pahrump, which the agency says has created conflicts between new residential owners and target shooters.

<http://www.nraila.org/Legislation/Read.aspx?ID=2863>

07/04/07 Va. Police Make Right-To-Carry Database Off-Limits

Virginia State Police are no longer making public a database of carry permit holders after the attorney general said yesterday that it should be off-limits to citizens.

http://www.timesdispatch.com/servlet/Satellite?pagename=RTD%2FMGArticle%2FRTD_BasicArticle&c=MGArticle&cid=1173350616567&path=%21news&s=1045855934842

07/04/08 Fight Against D.C. Ban Grew Out Of Fear, Frustration

Shelly Parker did everything she could to keep her home safe. She owned a dog. She called D.C. police when she suspected illegal activity on her block. She installed a security camera on her front window. Her crime-fighting efforts made an impression. One night, Parker found her car window smashed and saw rocks scattered around the vehicle. She felt it was retaliation for her vigilance.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/04/07/AR2007040700983.html>

07/04/08 Gun Bill May Get Second Life In Georgia Legislature

One of two gun bills lawmakers have been considering may have a second chance in the Georgia Legislature. The legislation, introduced into the Senate in January, would allow workers to leave registered guns locked inside their cars in their employers' parking lots.

http://www.gwinnettdaily.com/index.php?s=&url_channel_id=32&url_subchannel_id=&url_article_id=26664&change_well_id=2

07/04/09 GOP's Huckabee Aims At Romney Over Hunting

Mitt Romney is drawing criticism from a rival Republican presidential contender, Michael Huckabee, who said it was a "major mistake" for the former Massachusetts governor to portray himself as a lifelong hunter when he had hunted only twice. <http://www.nysun.com/article/52053>

07/04/06 West Virginia Governor Signs Important Right-To-Carry Bill!

Governor Joe Manchin signed House Bill 3074, RTC reciprocity, legislation earlier this week. Please call Governor Manchin and your State Legislator and thank them for supporting our Second Amendment rights.

<http://www.nraila.org/Legislation/Read.aspx?ID=2857>

07/04/06 ABCs "20/20" Seeking "Armed Citizen" Stories

Gun ban groups often claim that private citizens rarely, if ever, use guns in self-defense. ABC News "20/20" is now putting that claim to the test, asking viewers to submit their own real-life "Armed Citizen" stories.

<http://www.abcnews.go.com/2020/story?id=3015150>

07/04/06 Guns And The Workplace

"A company's property rights must not trump an individual's right to life and self-defense. The bills you describe in "Workers' Safety and the Gun Lobby" (editorial, March 30) protect property owners and employers from liability, while giving employees a means for self-defense while in their employer's public-access parking lot," writes NRA-ILA Executive Director Chris W. Cox.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2007/04/06/opinion/105guns.html>

07/04/04 Taking Aim At Hunters' Ammo

The ammunition used by the 25 million people who hunt for sport and food is being targeted, as states across the country consider enacting bans on the use of lead for hunting.

<http://www.time.com/time/nation/article/0,8599,1606660,00.html>

07/04/06 Remington Agrees To Sale

Remington Arms Co., the gunmaker that has equipped U.S. soldiers for 150 years, has agreed to be acquired by a New York equity firm Cerberus Capital Management LP for \$118 million.

<http://charlotte.com/122/story/76082.html>

07/04/06 Albany City Is Just Shooting Itself In The Foot With Gun Registry Idea

"What are they smoking down in Albany City Hall? It's making them wacky. Mayor Jerry Jennings has proposed a piece of purported gun-control legislation for his city--a new handgun registry that is breathtakingly useless because it duplicates existing laws and practices," writes Fred LeBrun.

<http://www.timesunion.com/AspStories/story.asp?storyID=578500&category=OPINION&newsdate=4/6/2007>

07/04/06 North Dakota Castle Doctrine Self-Defense Bill Making Progress!

House Bill 1319 passed the State Senate on Friday, March 23, but still requires House approval. HB 1319 simply states that if a criminal breaks into your home, your occupied vehicle or your place of business, you do not have a duty to retreat. Please contact your State Representative at 1-888-NDLEGIS (635-3447) or 701-328-3373 (local) and respectfully urge him or her to support HB1319.

<http://www.nraila.org/Legislation/Read.aspx?ID=2795>

07/04/09 Judges Give Ammo to Gun Owners

And look at what just climbed out of its coffin--the Second Amendment, the orphan child of the Bill of Rights. The U.S. Appeals Court for the District of Columbia threw out a law in the nation's capital that made outlaws of those keeping a gun, even in their own homes.

http://www.observer.com/20070409/20070409_Nicholas_von_Hoffman_opinions_nationalobserver.asp

07/04/04 Red's Trading Post Fight Draws National Support

When Ryan Horsley created a petition to demand that the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives discontinue the way it treats licensed firearms dealers, he never thought it would receive this kind of response.

http://www.magicvalley.com/articles/2007/04/04/news/local_state/109479.txt

07/04/03 Bill To Preserve Arizona Hunting Tradition Moves To Governor

A bill that would allow hunters to transfer coveted big-game permits to their grandchildren would help preserve Arizona's hunting tradition and ensure that the permits get used, its sponsor says. <http://www.azcentral.com/news/articles/0403IC-cns-huntingpermits03-ON.html>

07/04/04 A Victory For Conservatives

"[I]t's worth noting that one of the greatest conservative victories of the last 40 years is quietly unfolding right in front of us," writes Jonah Goldberg. "On March 9, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit issued an epochal ruling. The

court found that the Second Amendment actually protects the right to bear arms for individuals."

<http://www.miamiherald.com/851/story/62770.html>

07/04/04 L.A. City Council Gives Supports For "Shooting Victims Bill Of Rights"

- *NBC4 Los Angeles*

The Los Angeles City Council went on record April 4 in support of four state gun-control bills mis-named the "Shooting Victims Bill of Rights." <http://www.nbc4.tv/news/11522079/detail.html>

07/04/05 Legal Battle Over Texas Drivers` Gun Rights

Defiant police officers and prosecutors, saying they retain law enforcement discretion, have continued arresting and bringing cases against motorists found with unlicensed handguns. The conflict has led to a legal standoff and a new effort by legislators to resolve the issue.

http://www.nytimes.com/2007/04/05/us/politics/05guns.html?_r=1&ref=us&oref=slogin

07/04/04 Quebec Government Hopes To Pass New Gun-Control Laws

Premier Jean Charest's minority government hopes to pass a new gun-control law when the legislature resumes in early May.

<http://www.canada.com/montrealgazette/news/story.html?id=6d2f2dae-fb4e-4a69-a1af-ef7fc8c6552d&k=84204>

07/04/05 The Soros Influence

- *Washington Times*

Who is George Soros and why is he saying such awful things? Most Americans do not know this billionaire investor, but, using his vast wealth, he has become a force in left-wing political circles. <http://www.washtimes.com/commentary/20070404-091436-2400r.htm>

07/03/30 Florida's Orlando Sentinel Opposes Your Second Amendment Rights!

On Sunday, April 1, the *Orlando Sentinel* printed an editorial opposing the Personal Private Property Protection Act. Today, two insightful and thought provoking response letters were printed. Those letters can be viewed by clicking the links below.

http://www.orlandosentinel.com/news/opinion/orl-letbox03_807apr03.0.1199293.story

http://www.orlandosentinel.com/news/opinion/orl-letbox03_707apr03.0.675004.story

07/04/03 Bill Would Protect Right To Possess Guns During Emergency

Texans could get some legal protection against having their firearms and ammunition seized by law enforcement officers if a bill that bulleted through the Senate with unanimous approval is signed into law.

<http://www.statesman.com/news/content/region/legislature/stories/04/03/3guns.html>

07/04/02 Gun Ban Doesn't Reduce Crime

"Men and women dedicated to taking away our Second Amendment rights to keep and bear arms are on the march,"

writes Matt White. "Chief among these gun-banners is Michael Bloomberg, the mayor of New York City, but he has some lousy cohorts from Ohio, including: Akron Mayor Donald Plusquellic, Cleveland Mayor Frank Jackson, Columbus Mayor Mike Coleman, Dayton Mayor Rhine McLin, Mansfield Mayor Lydia Reid and Youngstown Mayor Jay Williams."

<http://media.www.stateronline.com/media/storage/paper867/news/2007/04/03/Opinion/Gun-Ban.Doesnt.Reduce.Crime-2818921.shtml>

07/04/03 Rudy Bumpo

Rudolph Giuliani has a problem with guns. Seems that when he was cleaning up New York, Sheriff Giuliani took a hard line on hoglegs. As part of his campaign to make the streets safe, Giuliani's administration sued 30 American arms manufacturers, and his police commissioner proposed a nationwide system of registration under which citizens would be required to demonstrate good moral character and a reason for owning a gun.

<http://article.nationalreview.com/?q=NWM0OGMxZWYwZmYwNWU5Zjc2ZGJmZBkNDg0Y2ZIITY>

07/04/03 Pennsylvania Considers Sunday Hunting Ban Repeal

The Sunday hunting ban would be repealed by House Bill 779, introduced by Rep. Edward G. Staback (D-Lackawanna). If adopted, the bill would give the Game Commission authority to expand Sunday hunting opportunities as commissioners see fit.

<http://www.mcall.com/sports/columnists/all-bergcolum0403apr03.0.7457656.column?coll=all-randomcolumnistssport-misc>

07/04/03 Illegal Immigration Effects To Be Studied

The Virginia State Crime Commission has formed a subcommittee to assess the effect illegal immigration is having on Virginia's criminal justice system. Sen. Kenneth W. Stolle (R-Virginia Beach), the commission chairman, said the topics to be studied include crimes committed by and against illegal immigrants, the costs such crimes incur on the justice system and what measures might be taken to alleviate problems.

http://www.timesdispatch.com/servlet/Satellite?pagename=RTD%2F2FMGArticle%2FRTD_BasicArticle&c=MGArticle&cid=1173350544620&path=%21news&s=1045855934842

07/04/01 Too Many Deer

Depending on who is rendering judgment, Ohio has a deer population problem or it does not.

http://www.dispatch.com/dispatch/content/insight/stories/2007/04/01/deer_in_ohio.ART_ART_04-01-07_B1_6S67V6J.html

07/04/02 Women With Guns A Growing Phenomenon

Kimberly Shrum grips a Smith & Wesson .357 Mag. revolver and aims at a target 25 yards away. Bang. A hot shell casing hits the floor, joining hundreds of others littering the concrete at Jackson Arms Indoor Shooting Range in South San Francisco. Shrum centers herself and aims again.

http://www.insidebayarea.com/search//ci_5555670

07/03/31 Why Gun Rights Matter For All

Must you show several forms of photo identification to vote? Are you allowed to mention God in school? Do you need to apply for and be granted a permit in order to own a gun? If you support individual freedom and rights, these are fascinating times.

<http://www.lenconnect.com/articles/2007/04/01/news/news05.txt>

07/04/02 Carry Permit Demand Skyrockets After Shootings

Utah's Bureau of Criminal Identification, already overwhelmed by an upward swing in Right-to-Carry permit applications, is seeing a further wave in demand following the Trolley Square tragedy in February. http://www.sltrib.com/news/ci_5574360

07/03/30 Gingrey Introduces Fairness In Firearms Testing Act

U.S. Congressman Phil Gingrey today introduced H.R. 1791, the Fairness in Firearms Testing Act. This legislation improves consistency and accountability in firearm testing by giving U.S. gun manufacturers access to video documentation of their products' testing at the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

<http://gingrey.house.gov/News/DocumentSingle.aspx?DocumentID=61972>

07/03/30 Pennsylvania County Sheriff Against Effort To Limit Handgun Sales

Berks County Sheriff Barry J. Jozwiak asked a panel of state lawmakers in Reading to shoot down any legislation that would limit handgun purchases, claiming it would not curb crime or gun violence. "Gun control does not reduce crime," Jozwiak said. "In fact, criminals prefer their victims to be unarmed."

<http://www.readingeagle.com/article.aspx?id=26350>

07/04/02 U.N. Rights Council Vs. Freedom

The closer one observes the United Nations, the more one notices how disconnected it is from reality--especially when debating human rights. Its bias and politicization was on full display recently at the fourth session of the U.N. Human Rights Council.

<http://www.washtimes.com/commentary/20070401-101451-5625r.htm>

07/03/29 Alexander, Corker Cosponsor Bill To Lift D.C. Gun Ban

U.S. Sens. Lamar Alexander and Bob Corker have announced that in support of Second Amendment rights, they are cosponsoring Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison's (R-TX) bill to repeal the ban on certain firearms in the District of Columbia.

http://www.chattanooga.com/articles/article_104497.asp

07/03/30 Interpreting The Second Amendment

How to interpret the Second Amendment--a question raised anew by the March 9 ruling by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit, which many believe may prompt a High Court review--is a subset of how to interpret any provision of the Constitution. Happily, one of the Federalist Founders, Alexander Hamilton, provided a very handy guide.

<http://frontpagemagazine.com/Articles/ReadArticle.asp?ID=27587>

07/03/30 Taking Aim At Bullets In Canada

Police officers should be the only people allowed to carry handgun bullets outside of a shooting range or sanctioned competition, an Ontario Liberal backbencher said as he called on the province to find new ways of keeping ammunition off the street.

<http://www.edmontonsun.com/News/Canada/2007/03/30/3870231-sun.html>

07/03/30 Governor Rendell Pleads For Gun Control Measures at Pennsylvania Press Club Luncheon

During his address at the Pennsylvania Press Club on Monday, March 26, Governor Ed Rendell (D) called for additional restrictions on our Second Amendment freedoms. Governor Rendell criticized lawmakers for supporting law-abiding gun owners Right to Keep and Bear Arms, claiming, "No one who is sane and rational would vote against one handgun a month. Please contact the Governor at (717) 787-2500, your State Senator at (717) 787-5920, and your State Representative at (717) 787-2372 and respectfully urge them to oppose any gun control measures.

<http://www.nraila.org/Legislation/Read.aspx?ID=2808>

07/03/28 Guns And Poses: Democrats In Concert

Gun Control: Democrats are noticeably silent as freshman Sen. James Webb packs heat and leaves an aide literally holding the bag. So why should their constituents not have the same right to self-defense?

<http://www.investors.com/editorial/editorialcontent.asp?secid=1501&status=article&id=259974513164131>

07/03/28 Criticism Of "Castle Doctrine" Bill Way Off-Target

"Last week, Texas joined 15 other states that have adopted "Castle Doctrine" or "Stand Your Ground" legislation to protect citizens from criminal prosecution and civil lawsuits if they use force to defend themselves against violent attacks," write Sen. Jeff Wentworth and Rep. Patrick Rose. "We take strong exception to the American-Statesman's Friday editorial "Gun Bill Encourages Violent Confrontations" and its inaccurate portrayal of the intent and the scope of Senate Bill 378."

http://www.statesman.com/opinion/content/editorial/stories/03/28/28rose_edit.html

07/03/28 Keep On Cracking Down

More than a decade after a revolutionary approach to policing sent crime in New York City tumbling to lows not experienced since the early '60s, new evidence suggests that it continues to work. Consider it the latest validation of the so-called "broken window" theory of policing: Cracking down on petty crime not only leads to the apprehension of wanted felons, but stops low-level criminals before they move on to more serious crimes.

<http://www.investors.com/editorial/editorialcontent.asp?secid=1501&status=article&id=259974513164131>

07/03/26 The Crime-Statistics Con Job

"It is a remarkable con job," comments John Lott. "Over the last

six months, the Police Executive Research Forum, the chief executives of primarily large police departments, has gotten the media concerned that the country is threatened by a sudden upsurge in violent crime and murder. A New York Times story on March 9th started the current round of hysteria with the headline that "Violent Crime in Cities Shows Sharp Surge." <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,261047,00.html>

07/03/25 Mike Cox Upholds The 2nd Amendment

A rare victory for those of us who love and respect guns was scored when a federal appeals court tossed out Washington, D.C.'s police-state gun law in a ruling that opens the door for the Supreme Court to settle once and for all whether the right to keep and bear arms belongs to the individual or the state. And right there on the side of the good guys is Michigan Attorney General Mike Cox.

<http://www.detnews.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070325/OPINION03/703250304/1271>

07/03/24 Illegal Gun Purchase Bill Signed

New York City officials may have a harder time targeting Virginia gun dealers under legislation signed by Gov. Tim Kaine. The bill, sponsored by Del. Scott Lingamfelter (R-Prince William Co.) prohibits anyone but law enforcement officers from trying to make an illegal gun purchase from a firearms dealer. A violation of the law would be a felony with a maximum penalty of five years in prison. "We can't have a situation where people are running stings just for the fun of it," said Lingamfelter, who blasted New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg for going after Virginia firearm dealers.

<http://www.roanoke.com/politics/wb/110097>

07/03/19 "ISRA: \$300 Million Gun Ban Could Bankrupt Illinois"

http://www.prnewswire.com/cgi-bin/stories.pl?ACCT=ind_focus.story&STORY=/www/story/03-19-2007/0004549117&EDATE=MON+Mar+19+2007,+05:01+PM

07/03/12 "A Victory for Self-Defense"

Sadly, if someone breaks into their homes, their only choice is to call 911 and pray that the police arrive quickly. That's not good enough. The right to keep and bear arms, guaranteed by the Second Amendment to the Constitution, includes the right to protect your property and your life. No government should be allowed to take that right away.

http://www.cato.org/pub_display.php?pub_id=8126

07/03/11 THE ALL-AMERICAN GUN"

**Did you know that in New York City through 1969 virtually all the public high schools had riflery teams?

Thousands of students carried their rifles on subways, buses and streets on their way to school, when they went to practice in the afternoon and on their way home. And until 1963, all commercial pilots were required to carry guns and were allowed to carry guns until 1987.

http://www.nypost.com/seven/03112007/postopinion/postopbooks/the_all_american_gun_postopbooks_john_r_lott_jr_.htm

07/03/06 N.J. to consider .50-caliber gun ban

http://www.boston.com/news/nation/articles/2007/03/06/nj_to_consider_50_caliber_gun_ban/?rss_id=Boston.com+%2F+News

"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)