



Allegheny County Sportsmen's League Legislative Committee Report

March 2007 □ Issue 149

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

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ACSL & PA Sheriffs Assoc. File Suit Over Proposed Changes to Sheriff

Thursday, March 08, 2007 the ACSL and the PA Sheriffs Association filed a joint lawsuit to seek an injunction against the move by Allegheny County Council to put to the voters the proposed change to appointing the Allegheny County Sheriff.

This action became necessary due to the unwillingness of council to address our concerns over the unconstitutionality of this change as well as the disenfranchisement of gun owners and sportsmen and women to choose their elected representatives.

It is also a fact that Home Rule and the County Charter permits changes to the form of county government to take place every 'five' years. The five year window for a legitimate petition for change will not open for years and that is why the changes to the Sheriff's office would not take place until 2010 according to the measure passed by Council.

Since 1701 the Pennsylvania heritage has been to elect our representatives to office while at the same time recognizing the importance of modifying the 'form' of government that represents us. To consolidate the power of appointment in just a few, or one, elected officials is a rejection of one of the most important concepts of man – an elected representative government. The answer to corruption (which has been with us since the dawn of time) is not to take the power of the people away BUT to hold those who are guilty of crimes and conduct unbecoming RESPONSIBLE for their acts.

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

We all knew the challenges we would face after last year's election and our darkest fears are being realized. The only way to defeat this is to join together once again and show those who would take our freedoms that we will not yield.

We will join together for an early preemptive strike on our issues by having a lobbying and education day, focusing on freshmen legislators, and connect that with launching our pro-gun agenda, as we did last year. Members of the Pennsylvania grassroots and gun owner's coalition, which has been so successful for us on other issues, met with Representative Daryl Metcalfe in early December to devise a strategy for the upcoming session so that we would be prepared to deal with these issues. The date we have agreed upon is April 24th and we will combine our meeting and lobbying with another Pro-Gun Press conference to introduce our pro-gun/pro-sportsmen agenda of legislation. We can also use this opportunity to excoriate the anti-gun forces, legislators and issues.

The pro-gun/pro-sportsmen legislation introduced last session (minus HB 2563, 2134 & 1717 which passed) is listed below along with previous sponsors.

- **SB 1156** – End Gun Registration (Pippy)
- **HB 2946** – Emergency CCW License for Domestic Violence Victims (Metcalfe)
- **HB 2789** – Hunting Rights & Due Process (Petarca)
- **HB 2536** – End Gun Registration (Metcalfe)
- **HB 2231** – Castle Doctrine (Cappelli)
- **HB 1181** – PA Employees & CCW (Forcier)
- **HB 544** – Election Code Changes (Stevenson)

There are four additional legislative concepts that we are considering for inclusion to the list above:

1. Turnover of PA Instant Check Responsibilities to the National Instant Check System

2. Legislation that would protect gun owners and prohibit seizure of firearms during a crisis or emergency like what happened in New Orleans.
3. Alaska style (two-tiered) Concealed Carry of Firearms System.
4. Eliminate redundant background checks for firearms purchased by individuals licensed to carry a firearm.

If there are any additional thoughts on legislation we welcome your thoughts.

We are deeply concerned, borne out by recent events, that with control shifting in the House that the anti-gun forces would perceive this session as their best opportunity to pass legislation which was soundly rejected during the committee of the whole last year. Rep. Dwight Evans and his anti-gun coalition are proving our concerns to be well founded.

As you know Rep. Evans and his 'Committee of the Whole' cronies have put together a package of bills that includes "a ban assault weapons, limiting handgun purchases to one a month, and allow Philadelphia to establish its own gun rules" to mention a few of the proposed gun control measures. Evans predicts that the package will have an easier time in the newly elected legislature. "*What is different is that we have 50 new members in the House who are not entrenched in their thinking, who will listen to reason,*" Evans said. Evans now believes that a crackdown on gun ownership has strong support among suburban legislators as well as officials in other Pennsylvania cities such as Reading, which is also the home of the incoming Judiciary Committee chairman, Thomas R. Caltagirone (D., Berks). Caltagirone stood with Evans at his news conference and vowed that the bills would not be bottled up in the committee. "We will get it to the floor of the House and have a vote," Caltagirone said.

To achieve these ends the House has put together a series of so-called '*informational hearings on Gun Violence*', which are listed below. Like last year this is a blatant attempt to manipulate public opinion by any means necessary including using the anti-gun agenda of the media to help them.

- March 16th Wilkes Barre
- March 23rd South Philadelphia
- March 27th Erie
- **March 28th Pittsburgh (Oakland neighborhood)**
- March 29th Reading
 - Chester (Delaware County)
- March 30th West Philadelphia
- April 13th North Philadelphia
- April 20th Center City Philadelphia
- April 27th Harrisburg - Final policy hearing.

Please take this opportunity to provide us with your thoughts and suggestions so that we can make this effort as successful as possible. WE NEED EVERY GUN

OWNER TO TRY TO BE THERE ON THIS DAY! If your club wants to send a bus (large or small) we can help you organize it for this effort.

CCW Reciprocity Update--3

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 with **Virginia** was added to PA's list of states that have entered into reciprocity agreements for concealed-weapons permit holders. Now **Oklahoma** joins this growing field of reciprocity agreements.

That means the states listed below and Pennsylvania will now honor each other's concealed weapons permits. Pennsylvania now has reciprocity agreements with 14 states. **They are:**

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

From the Virginia Citizens Defense League:

****URGENT** **URGENT** **URGENT****

VCDL has just learned from our sources on Capitol Hill that the Department of the Interior (DOI) is ****livid**** over the National Park Service's (NPS) asinine rejection letter sent to VCDL concerning VCDL's Petition for Rule Making!

(http://www.vcdl.org/pdf/NPS_Denial_of_VCDL_PRM.pdf)

That petition would allow a law-abiding citizen to carry a handgun for self-defense in a National Park if the state in which the park is located allows such carry.

Apparently the National Park Service DID NOT CLEAR that rejection letter with their parent - the Department of the Interior!

The Department of Interior had been telling VCDL and key Congressional members that DOI would seriously consider VCDL's petition.

The ensuing NPS rejection letter made DOI look like fools and liars. DOI doesn't like that at all, and I don't blame them.

The word that I am hearing is that the Department of the Interior is investigating how to OVERTURN that rejection letter and soon!!!

We have an incredible opportunity to save TWO years of work and pull off a victory for all gun owners! But we must make our voices heard LOUD AND CLEAR.

I need all of you to do the following FOUR things NOW and URGENTLY no matter where you live, as this this is a NATIONAL effort:

1. CALL the DOI Legislative Affairs and leave a message for the Secretary of the Interior, Dirk Kempthorne.

Say something like this:

"I encourage Secretary Kempthorne to implement the Virginia Citizens Defense League's Petition for Rule Making that the National Park Service has rejected out-of-hand. Law-abiding citizens should be allowed to protect themselves and their families while visiting a National Park."

PLEASE MAKE THAT CALL - WE WANT DOI'S TELEPHONE LINE LIT UP BIG TIME!

Mr. Kempthorne's telephone number in Washington, DC is: 202-208-7351

2. Call your U.S. Senators and Congressman. Their names, phone numbers and email addresses can be found by clicking here and entering your zip and address:

<http://capwiz.com/nra/officials/congress>

Say something like this:

"Please have the Senator [Congressman] contact the Department of the Interior's Secretary, Dirk Kempthorne, and ask him to overturn the National Park Service's rejection of the Virginia Citizens Defense League's Petition for Rule Making. Law-abiding citizens should be allowed to carry a handgun to defend themselves while visiting a National Park if the state in which the park is located allows such carry!"

PLEASE MAKE THAT CALL - WE WANT CONGRESS' TELEPHONE LINES TO LIGHT UP AS BRIGHTLY AS DOI'S!

3. After calling your Senators and Congressman, follow up with an email.

Here is a sample email you can use:

Please ask the Department of the Interior's Secretary, Dirk Kempthorne, to overturn the National Park Service's arbitrary rejection of the Virginia Citizens Defense League's Petition for Rule Making and to implement that petition!

VCDL's Petition for Rule Making, representing over ONE MILLION gun owners, would allow law-abiding citizens to carry a handgun for self-defense in a National Park as long as the state in which that National Park is located allows such carry.

The National Park Service's rejection letter was not only asinine, but condescending towards America's gun owners.

My family member and I are given but one life each. I ask that you make sure that I can defend those lives while visiting a National Park!

Please let me know what you are going to do.

4. After calling and leaving a message for DOI, follow up with an email to Secretary Kempthorne:

Email address:

exsec@ios.doi.gov

Suggested email subject:

Please approve VCDL's Petition for Rule Making!

Suggested email text:

Dear Secretary Kempthorne,

I ask that you approve and implement the Virginia Citizens Defense League's (VCDL) Petition for Rule Making that would allow a law-abiding citizen to carry a handgun for self-defense in a National Park as long the state in which the park is located allows such carry.

The National Park Service sent a rejection letter to VCDL listing four very poor reasons for the rejection. None of the reasons listed legitimately justifies denying a person the right to defend the only life they have been given.

The Petition, representing over ONE MILLION gun owners, was basically rejected out-of-hand.

Please let me know what the Department of the Interior is going to do regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

[YOUR NAME]

[YOUR ADDRESS]

News Briefs:

[Philadelphia] Diner Owner Shoots Armed Robbers One Dead, Other Wounded

by Erin O'Hearn, David Henry, Matt O'Donnell, Corey Herman and Bob Monek

WEST OAK LANE - March 8, 2007 - A diner owner turned the tables on two would-be robbers on Thursday, killing one and wounding the other.

"Self defense, self defense," said Jason Lee. "I did what I had to do."

Lee said he was defending his own life and the lives of his wife and co-worker. Early Thursday morning two masked gunman barged into the Sunrise Breakfast Shop in West Oak Lane demanding cash.

<http://abclocal.go.com/wpvi/story?section=local&id=5102499>

GEORGIA LEGISLATIVE NOTEBOOK

ATLANTA -

SENATORS: GUNS OK IN PARKING LOTS

Legislation that would bar employers from prohibiting their employees from keeping a gun in their locked cars easily passed a Senate committee Thursday, even though numerous groups spoke out against it.

Senate Bill 43 would make it illegal for an employer to ban guns in publicly accessible parking lots. It includes exceptions, though, allowing employers to restrict weapons in secured parking lots and parking lots at jails and in several other cases.

But, generally, employees would be allowed to have guns in locked cars at work.

Sen. Chip Rogers, R-Woodstock, the sponsor, said he considered the bill a protection of Second Amendment rights. The National Rifle Association backed the bill.

But several groups, including the Georgia Chamber of Commerce and the Georgia Coalition Against Domestic Violence, lined up against the bill.

State Sen. Robert Brown, D-Macon, who sits on the Senate Judiciary Committee, didn't vote on the measure, saying he'll make up his mind and vote on the Senate floor.

To become a law, the measure must get a majority vote there, pass the House and get the the governor's signature.

Media Manipulation Challenged:

New York Sun: Letters to the Editor

February 7, 2007

'Concealing the Facts'

Thank you for your editorial correcting some of the mistakes in the New York Times recent attack on Florida's concealed carry law [Editorial, "Concealing the Facts," February 2, 2007]. Yet, there were still other errors in the New York Times piece.

First, these supposed felons who obtained permits were not convicted of "felonies." Florida judges have the power to take a plea, impose probation without entering a conviction and once the person completes that, "withhold conviction."

These individuals are eligible for a permit because they were not convicted of anything. If the cases are as horrible or the evidence as clear as you claim, why are the judges withholding convictions?

But what is the bottom line? During over 19 years from October 1, 1987 to December 31, 2006, Florida issued 1,206,616 permits but revoked just 158 for any type of firearms violation. Almost all of those were for non-threatening incidents such as accidentally carrying a gun into a restricted area such as an airport. Over the last year, only one out of 410,000 permit holders lost a permit for a firearms related violation.

JOHN LOTT

Dean's visiting professor

Department of Economics

State University of New York at Binghamton

Binghamton, N.Y.

NSSF Bullet Points:

Mar 5, 2007/-Vol. 8 Nos. 9-10

Firearm-Related Fatalities at Record Lows

THE NATIONAL SAFETY COUNCIL REPORTS .

.. A new report from the National Safety Council 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 *U.S. Statistics in the council's 2007 "Injury Facts" report show a 40 percent 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 percent between 1995 and 2003.

Downward trends also are being reported by other sources, such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

- **FFL's EFFORTS TRIGGER MAYOR'S RESIGNATION FROM COALITION . . .** When the owner of NSSF-member retailer and range Tripoli's Triggers noticed his mayor, Mary Wolf of Williamsport, Pa., was a member of New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg's Mayors Against Illegal Guns Coalition, Frank Tripoli wasted no time in contacting her about Bloomberg's anti-gun history and agenda. As a result of a strong lobbying campaign by Tripoli and NSSF, Bloomberg received Wolf's letter of resignation.
- **CALIFORNIA'S TEJON RANCH BANS LEAD AMMO . . .** A California ranch and popular hunting area, Tejon Ranch, has banned the use of lead ammunition because of concerns it has over whether the state's condor population is harmed by ingesting lead from ammunition. "We are disappointed by Tejon Ranch's unwarranted decision to ban traditional hunting ammunition. Instead of overreacting, the ranch could have implemented science-based management practices supported by the California Department of Fish and Game, Condor Recovery Team Executive Committee, hunters and the shooting sports industry that would disrupt any potential exposure pathway to lead," said NSSF senior vice president and general counsel Lawrence G. Keane.
- **TWO STATES PUSH FOR HUNTING IN NATIONAL PARKS . . .** Though National Parks have been off-limits to hunters, Colorado continues to call for elk hunting in Rocky Mountain National Park to reduce the population and its habitat destruction, and a similar movement is targeting North Dakota's Theodore Roosevelt National Park elk herd. Rep. Mark Udall of Colorado and Sen. Byron L. Dorgan of North Dakota have introduced legislation to their respective houses of Congress to address their states' concerns.
- **SAFE DEER SEASON IN ALABAMA . . .** For the first time since records began in 1973, Alabama reports there were no fatal firearms- or treestand-related incidents this past deer season. Nine non-fatal firearms incidents have been reported since the opening of dove season in September, and only four of the nine occurred as a result of deer hunting activities.
- **SUNDAY HUNTING BACK ON MAINE AGENDA . . .** Sunday hunting has been rejected 25 times over the last 30 years in Maine, but a proposal is back on the agenda this year, the Bangor Daily News reports. The new proposal, LD 307, is somewhat different than past bills. It would permit hunting on Sundays by landowners and their immediate family, but would require those landowners to leave their land open for public hunting the rest of the week.
- **WASHINGTON TIMES: REPEAL GUN BAN . . .** In 1976, gun-control advocates promised that enacting a gun ban would lead to safer streets in our nation's capital. Three decades later, quite the opposite has occurred. Illegal-gun-wielding criminals continue to terrorize defenseless, unarmed residents stripped of their Constitutional right. Former anti-gun

Mayor Marion Barry has proposed temporarily suspending the city's handgun ban for 90 days, but some question Barry's intent. In an editorial last week, The Washington Times urged the city council to face the facts and repeal the ban altogether.

- **SILVER ANNIVERSARY OF CITY'S MANDATORY FIREARM LAW . . .** In the face of gun-control legislation from various levels of government, a very different law -- one that requires that every head of household must own a firearm and appropriate ammunition -- is about to reach the milestone of having been on the legislative books of Kennesaw, Ga., for 25 years, reports The Atlanta Journal-Constitution. The city has grown since the law's passage, and it is making efforts to attract more businesses and residents, and the mayor says the law doesn't conflict with those aspirations. "We're not looking to change [the law]," he said. "I think it helps to deter crime."
- **VILSACK OUT OF 2008 RACE . . .** Iowa's former anti-gun governor Tom Vilsack on Friday dropped out of the 2008 presidential race. Vilsack cited a lack of funding as the reason for his decision.
- **SPORTSMEN'S GROUP ADDRESSES SENATORS ON POLAR BEAR . . .** Disagreeing with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service proposal to list each of the 19 polar bear populations as "threatened," which would bar hunting for the species, the U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance appeared before the U.S. Senate Environment and Public Works Committee. The alliance's president, Bud Pidgeon, delivered the message that "listing" the polar bear puts conservation for these animals in jeopardy. Listing would not address the environmental factors posing a long-term threat and would prevent the funding for research and conservation that results from hunting licenses and other related hunting expenses, he said.
- **HUMANE SOCIETY BECOMES PROVEN POLITICAL FORCE . . .** The Washington Post reports that the Humane Society of the United States is no pussy-cat, but, in fact, with a \$120 million budget and 10 million donors, a political tiger. The animal-rights, anti-hunting, anti-trapping organization's president said it has committed itself to political activity as never before in its 52-year history.
- **THE WASHINGTON POST REPORTS ON VIRGINIA HUNTER NUMBERS . . .** "There's a declining species in the woods of the Old Dominion, a blaze-orange, two-legged, gun-toting creature under threat from every new subdivision and Nintendophile teenager: the Virginia hunter," writes The Washington Post's Nick Miroff. While the Post notes that hunter numbers have been on the decline in many states, it reports on efforts such as Families Afield that are working to reverse that trend.

News Links:

07/02/28 Proposals Would Arm Owners With Right To Self-Defense

Burglars beware: Lawmakers are working to give Texans the right to use deadly force to protect their homes, cars or businesses-without having to prove they first tried to flee. http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/dws/news/texasouthwest/stories/DN-castle_28tex.ART0.State.Edition2.43eea81.html

07/02/28 Let's Not Copy The Canadians

"An interesting story about animal protection comes from Saturday's Toronto Star," writes Gene Mueller. "The story at first appeared to be innocuous. After all, who would object to protecting animals? But at the heart of the matter, it's just one more ploy to stop people from hunting and fishing."

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/sports/20070228-122727-1576r.htm>

07/02/28 High Court And Low Politics

The late Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan said you are entitled to your own opinion but not to your own facts. However, many on the political left act as if they are entitled to their own facts -- and especially the "fact" that those who oppose their ideas are either intellectually or morally inferior.

<http://www.washtimes.com/commentary/20070227-084731-8766r.htm>

07/02/27 Ammo Permit Measure Weighed In North Carolina

North Carolina Gun owners looking to reload would have to show a permit every time they buy ammunition, if a bill backed by Durham officials gains state approval.

<http://www.billingsgazette.net/articles/2007/02/27/news/state/56-legiguns.txt>

07/02/27 Arizona Legislature OKs New Law To Bolster Self-Defense Plea

Trying to help a hiker who was sentenced to prison for a fatal shooting, the Arizona Legislature completed action Monday on a bill to explicitly make a 2006 self-defense law apply retroactively to his case and an unknown number of others. The 2006 law shifted the burden of proof in cases when people charged with a crime are claiming self-defense. The new law says prosecutors must prove beyond a reasonable doubt that a self-defense claim was unfounded. The old law made defendants prove that they acted to protect themselves.

<http://www.azstarnet.com/metro/171101>

07/02/27 Montana House Backs Gun-Rights Expansion

The Montana House endorsed a proposal to let residents brandish firearms if they feel threatened.

<http://www.billingsgazette.net/articles/2007/02/27/news/state/56-legiguns.txt>

07/02/26 Second Amendment Revisionists At It Again

Sadly, the Second Amendment revisionists are at it again, selectively misinterpreting the Constitution. As the 2001 James Madison Fellow for Florida, may I offer a more complete reading?

<http://www.sun-sentinel.com/news/opinion/letters/sfl-brmail943xfeb23,0,415434.story?coll=sfla-news-letters>

07/02/26 Guns Don't Kill People, Gun Control Kills People

For months now, Ugandan army troops have been garrisoned in the northeast part of the country under orders to disarm the local populace-pastoral, cattle-herding tribes known as the Karamojong. The army is attempting, and failing, to quash an uprising which was caused by a prior attempt to disarm the same tribes.

<http://www.reason.com/news/show/118708.html>

07/02/26 Bills Will Ban Some Gun Seizures

Some gun advocates are concerned a flood, earthquake or other emergency could wash away gun-owners' rights. Bills that already have cleared Missouri House and Senate committees

would bar state and local officials from restricting the lawful possession of a gun.

<http://www.news-leader.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070224/NEWS01/702240385>

07/02/26 Security Scanner Can See Through Clothes

Sky Harbor International Airport became the country's first to begin testing a controversial new federal screening system that takes X-rays of passenger's bodies in an effort to find concealed explosives and other weapons. The Phoenix airport has started testing the new technology, and it can see through people's clothes and show the body's contours with blush-inducing clarity. Critics have said the high-resolution images created by the "backscatter" technology are too invasive.

<http://www.businessweek.com/ap/tech/D8NG0B381.htm>

07/02/26 Wal-Mart Firearm Removal Puzzling

A decision by Wal-Mart to stop selling guns in their Hanover, Pennsylvania-area stores has area gun shop owners questioning the retailer's reason. The company, according to spokesman Kory Lundberg, decided in late 2005 to remove firearms from select locations throughout the United States based on the demand in local markets. Local gun retailers, however, said the demand is here.

http://www.ydr.com/newsfull/ci_5307070

07/02/22 Protection Against Gun Seizures In The Offing

Arizonans are on the verge of getting some legal protection against having their guns seized by the government. Sen. Jay Tibshraeny (R-Chandler) said representatives of Gov. Janet Napolitano and the NRA have agreed to a change in state law that would restrict the power of any governor to confiscate firearms in time of emergency.

<http://www.azstarnet.com/metro/170395>

07/02/22 Black Market Rises From Ban

California's ban on tobacco in prisons has created a burgeoning black market behind bars, where a pack of smokes can fetch up to \$125.

<http://www.washtimes.com/national/20070220-105234-2780r.htm>

07/02/22 Illinois State Rifle Ass'n Takes Action Against Cook County Ban

The ISRA is seeking injunctive relief against a gun ban recently enacted by the Cook County Board. In filing its complaint with the Cook County Circuit Court, the ISRA is asserting that compliance with the vaguely-worded ordinance would be impossible for most citizens of Cook County and, further, the method by which the ban was passed violated the Illinois Open Meetings Act.

<http://www.prnewswire.com/cgi-bin/stories.pl?ACCT=104&STORY=/www/story/02-21-2007/0004532014&EDATE>

07/02/21 How Hollywood Produced A President

February marks the birth of presidents Washington and Lincoln. Another president was born in February: Ronald Reagan. While his Hollywood background was ridiculed, it gave Reagan the platform to issue robust messages. Further, his tough negotiations on behalf of his fellow actors, and the death threats he faced in battling communists infiltrating the industry--he slept with a Smith & Wesson revolver--further steeled him.

<http://www.washtimes.com/commentary/20070218-101231-4819r.htm>

07/02/21 Freedom From Fear Is Also A Right

Washington, D.C., residents have been the guinea pigs in a failed 30-year-old experiment in social engineering. Three decades of strict gun control laws have not made the capital city's streets safer. On the contrary, since 1976, D.C.'s murder rate has increased 32%, and violent crimes committed during the first few weeks of 2007 by gun-wielding thugs are up a staggering 50% over the same period last year.

[http://www.examiner.com/printa-573391~Freedom from fear is also a right.html](http://www.examiner.com/printa-573391~Freedom_from_fear_is_also_a_right.html)

07/02/21 Trio Of Bills Aim To Protect Gun Rights

Utah lawmakers advanced three pro-gun bills that would protect the rights of firearms owners from employers, innkeepers and even natural disasters.

http://www.sltrib.com/utahpolitics/ci_5271100

07/02/21 Reciprocity Bill Sparks Dispute

A verbal shootout erupted in the Colorado Senate over a bill that would make carry permits issued by other states worthless to Coloradans. Some Republicans blasted the measure as an infringement on the personal freedoms of law-abiding citizens.

http://www.rockymountainnews.com/drmn/government/article/0_2777.DRMN_23906_5366498.00.html

07/02/21 Campus Gun Compromise Advances

A compromise bill that balances the wishes of gun-rights advocates and Utah's higher education leaders passed the Senate February 20.

http://www.sltrib.com/news/ci_5271084

07/02/21 Maryland Democrats Eye Felon Voting Rights

Democratic lawmakers and church leaders have called for more voting rights for ex-felons in Maryland. State law now requires former felons who have been convicted twice to wait three years before they can vote again. Felons serving sentences are not allowed to vote.

<http://www.washtimes.com/metro/20070219-110614-8905r.htm>

07/02/20 Gun Show Proposal Triggers Debate

State Rep. David Orentlicher (D-Indianapolis) has introduced legislation to restrict gun show purchases in Indiana.

<http://www.indystar.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070218/LOCAL190110/702180421/-1/ZONES04>

07/02/20 Dems Load Up For Expanded Gun Rights Law

Not only did Rep. Cory Gardner get his so-called Make My Day Better bill through the Colorado House, but he picked up another supporter along the way.

<http://www.chieftain.com/metro/1171673005/13>

07/02/20 Promote Gun Skills Along With Rights

Montana's House of Representatives has passed a bill clarifying the right to use a gun for self-defense without necessarily shooting it. House Bill 340 codifies common sense. That is, it makes clear that a lawful gun owner may brandish a weapon in a moment of danger in order to ward off a potential attacker. The bill also makes clear that failure to immediately retreat from danger doesn't negate anyone's right to self-defense.

http://www.missoulian.com/articles/2007/02/20/opinion/opinion_3.txt

07/02/20 Some Mull Idea Of Senator Bill

If Hillary Rodham Clinton wins the presidency, some top Democrats would like to see her husband, former President Bill Clinton, appointed to serve out Hillary's unexpired Senate term.

http://www.examiner.com/a-573127~Some_mull_idea_of_Sen_Bill_Clinton.html

07/02/20 Billings Mayor Tussing Anti-Gun

Billings Mayor Ron Tussing says he has no plans to resign from a anti-gun coalition known as "Mayors Against Illegal Guns."

<http://www.billingsgazette.net/articles/2007/02/20/news/local/20-nra.txt>

07/02/20 Gun Laws That Constrain The Law-Abiding

We have, post-Dunblane, what are said to be the toughest gun control laws in the world. They have actually proved strikingly ineffectual.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/opinion/main.jhtml?xml=/opinion/2007/02/16/dl1601.xml>

07/02/20 Britain On The Side Of The Criminals

If you want a gun in Britain today, there are two ways you can go about it. If you are of sound mind and have no criminal record, and somewhere legal to shoot, you can go through a lengthy and intrusive procedure with the police before (if you are lucky) being issued with a gun license.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/opinion/main.jhtml?xml=/opinion/2007/02/17/do1703.xml>

07/02/20 Kennesaw Sticks To Its Guns: Law Requires Firearms

Marjorie Lyon, a Kennesaw resident who works at Wildman's Civil War Surplus, wears her pistol (she has a permit for it) at work. But in one way, Kennesaw is different: Next month, Kennesaw marks the 25th anniversary of what a local historian called the ordinance "that rocked the world."

<http://www.ajc.com/metro/content/metro/cobb/stories/2007/02/18/0219kengun.html>

07/02/20 Crime Turning New Orleans Into Big Uneasy

New Orleans, the "Big Easy" city famous for its good times and relaxed attitude, has become the Big Uneasy in recent weeks as its murder count has soared and anger grown at local leaders unable to stop the violence.

http://today.reuters.com/misc/PrinterFriendlyPopup.aspx?type=opNews&storyID=2007-02-19T230335Z_01_N19404375_RTRUKOC_0_US-NEWORLEANS-CRIME.xml

07/02/16 Gun Owners Press Hutchinson Stores To Allow Carry

When Kansas began allowing qualified citizens to carry, A.J. Conard posted a sign at her business prohibiting them. When two members of a gun club objected to the sign, she took it down.

<http://www.kansas.com/mld/kansas/news/state/16713227.htm>

07/02/15 Judge Cites Nagin, Riley

A federal judge has held New Orleans' mayor and police chief in contempt of court because a city lawyer repeatedly ignored deadlines for answering questions from two gun-rights groups that succeeded in stopping police from seizing guns from law-abiding citizens after Hurricane Katrina.

<http://www.nola.com/search/index.ssf?/base/news-19/117152496865700.xml?NZNPMT&coll=1>

07/02/15 Fortify 'Make My Day'

After a couple of weeks of stalling by opponents, the state House on Wednesday voted 34-30 to expand Colorado's "make my day" law so that a strengthened right to self-defense would apply not only to homes but also businesses.

http://www.rockymountainnews.com/drmn/editorials/article/0.2777.DRMN_23964_5352382.00.html

07/02/15 Gun Control: Brady Misfires On Castle Doctrine

The proposed Castle Doctrine law being considered in the Texas legislature is getting the typical Brady Campaign treatment. An examination of their tactics is a good study for any state considering the law. Does Brady Care More About Criminals Than Law-Abiding Victims? asks Howard Nemerov.

<http://newsbusters.org/node/10830>

07/02/15 Massachusetts DA Sutter Calls For Tougher Gun-Crime Penalties

Bristol County District Attorney Sam Sutter Wednesday called on the state Legislature to pass tougher gun crimes penalties. Under Sutter's proposed legislation, any person found guilty of committing assault and battery by means of a firearm will face a maximum penalty of life in prison or no less than 10 years behind bars.

http://www.zwire.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=17853246&BRD=1710&PAG=461&dept_id=99784&rfi=6

07/02/14 Tennessee Bill Would Allow Deadly Force Against Carjackers

Spurred by violent crime in Memphis and elsewhere, Tennessee legislators have filed several bills to expand the legal rights of people to use deadly force when threatened by would-be attackers.

http://www.commercialappeal.com/mca/midsouth_news/article/0_1426.MCA_1497_5349925.00.html

07/02/14 1-A-Month Limit On Gun Purchases Proposed For N.J.

New Jersey could become the nation's fifth state and the first in nine years to make it illegal for people to buy more than one handgun a month.

http://www.philly.com/mld/inquirer/news/local/states/new_jersey/16693893.htm

07/02/14 Minority GOP Isn't Playing The Punk On Gun Bills

Republican lawmakers, often lining up with Democrats on renewable-energy bills this session, are drawing the line on gun issues.

http://www.rockymountainnews.com/drmn/government/article/0_2777.DRMN_23906_5349962.00.html

07/02/14 Campus Gun Bill Advances Despite Lots Of Opposition

A compromise between university leaders and legislators to create gun-free areas on campuses passed out of committee Tuesday but not without a parade of opposition from students and gun-rights advocacy groups. The 3-2 vote came after more than an hour of testimony against the bill by students who say they will feel unsafe if they are not allowed to carry guns and by citizens who say they are being stripped of their rights.

<http://deseretnews.com/dn/view/0,1249,660195371,00.html>

07/02/14 Shimkus Moves To Ban Live Bird Shoots In Pennsylvania

A House committee has delayed action on a bill banning live pigeon shoots so public hearings can be held on the controversial

topic. The National Rifle Association's Institute for Legislative Action has called on gun owners to urge lawmakers to oppose the bill, suggesting animal rights activists were aiming toward broader shooting restrictions.

http://www.thetimes-tribune.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=17848365&BRD=2185&PA G=461&dept_id=416046&rft=6

07/02/13 NRA President Sandra Froman Hails Free Speech, Gun Rights

Twenty-six years ago, Sandra Froman heard a strange sound coming from her front door in the middle of the night. She looked through the peephole to find a large man attempting to break her lock and enter her house. Petrified, Froman screamed to make it clear that someone was home. But her effort to scare the would-be intruder off was to no avail.

<http://daily.stanford.edu/article/2007/2/13/fromanHailsFreeSpeechGunRights>

07/02/13 Georgia House OKs Carry In Cars

The Georgia House jumped back into the long-running debate over gun rights Monday, approving legislation that would allow motorists to carry firearms in their cars without a permit.

<http://www.ajc.com/metro/content/metro/legis07/stories/2007/02/13/0213metlegguns.html>

07/02/13 North Dakota House Oks Castle Doctrine Bill

The North Dakota House narrowly approved a measure Monday to allow homeowners greater latitude in using deadly force on intruders.

<http://www.bismarcktribune.com/articles/2007/02/12/news/update/doc45d0f7a278eab217387901.txt>

07/02/13 Bills Filed In Austin To Protect Right Of Self-Defense

Sen. Jeff Wentworth of San Antonio and Rep. Joe Driver of Garland have sponsored bills to have Texas join more than a dozen states with the so-called "Castle Doctrine,"

<http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/headline/metro/4547130.html>

07/02/13 Senators Consider Gun Law Changes

A homeowner shoots a burglar who has crashed through a window and now stands in the living room, ready to hurt those inside the house. Under current Missouri law, the homeowner would be a criminal, too, for shooting the intruder. That was the scenario offered by gun-rights supporters Monday night in a Senate committee hearing on a bill that would make it easier for homeowners to use deadly force.

<http://www.kansascity.com/mld/kansascity/news/local/16685366.htm>

07/02/13 Not Sold On Clinton

The buzz in Democratic circles for the past two weeks has been over the decision to raise money for Sen. Barack Obama by two or three multimillionaire liberals from Hollywood who were thought to be supporting Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton for president.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/02/11/AR2007021101168_pf.html

07/02/12 Bloomberg's Smackdown In Gotham

New York Mayor Mike Bloomberg's war on gun owners received a major hit yesterday, courtesy of the U.S. Justice Department, but Bloomberg is so far refusing to back down. A

letter by Michael Battle, director of the executive office for United States Attorneys at the Department of Justice, has been made public and it paints a blistering attack on Bloomberg's actions over the past several months.

http://www.townhall.com/columnists/CamEdwards/2007/02/09/bloombergs_smackdown_in_gotham

07/02/12 Giuliani: Gun Control Helped Lower Crime

Rudy Giuliani addressed a potentially troublesome issue with conservative voters, saying his policies as mayor to get handguns off the street helped reduce crime in New York.

<http://www.foxnews.com/wires/2007Feb11/0.4670.Onthe2008Trail.00.html>

07/02/12 Tennessee Lawmakers Want To Protect Citizens Right To Self Defense

Crime in Memphis and Shelby County may technically be down, but it's not out. It's why State Rep. Curry Todd of Collierville wants to help fight back. Todd wants to build on an existing law passed back in 1999. In Tennessee you can already use deadly force if there is reasonable belief your life is in danger. But Todd wants to broaden that law and close what he calls loopholes.

<http://www.wreg.com/Global/story.asp?S=6060633>

07/02/12 Gun Bans Don't Save Lives

"I sympathize in part with Jeremy Burnside, who lost his friend to gunfire ("Guns kill people," Feb. 4). Shortly before my high school graduation nearly 20 years ago, one of my oldest friends took his own life with a shotgun," writes NRA-ILA Grassroots Director Glen Caroline. "While blaming the gun used to take a life may help one cope with such situations, such blame is misplaced and does nothing to prevent future tragedies."

<http://wvgazette.com/section/Opinion/200702109>

07/02/12 Georgia Legislative Notebook: Guns OK In Parking Lot

Legislation that would bar employers from prohibiting their employees from keeping a gun in their locked cars easily passed a Georgia Senate committee February 8.

<http://www.macon.com/mld/macon/news/politics/16657404.htm>

07/02/12 Hillary: "I'm The One Person They Are Most Afraid Of"

"I know what Gingrich tells people privately, I know what DeLay tells people privately, I know what Karl Rove tells people privately," Hillary Clinton said February 11 at the Nashua home of Debra and Mike Pignatelli. "I'm the one person they are most afraid of. Bill and I have beaten them before and we will again."

http://blogs.abcnews.com/politicalradar/2007/02/clinton_on_rove.html

07/02/09 Feds Shoot Down Mike's Gun Suit

The federal government will not file criminal charges against any of the 15 out-of-state gun dealers accused by New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg in a federal lawsuit of selling guns illegally, the Daily News has learned.

<http://www.nydailynews.com/front/story/495852p-417714c.html>

07/02/09 Running A Yellow Light

The Bloomberg administration is brushing off the warning it received from the federal government in respect of the mayor's tactics against out-of-state gun dealers. The federal government decided that there were no criminal violations by the dealers the mayor went after. <http://www.nysun.com/article/48335>

07/02/09 Despite DOJ Decision, Gun Cases Will Go Forward

Legal analysts expect the city to be able to proceed with civil lawsuits against 15 gun dealers targeted by Mayor Bloomberg's out-of-state sting operations, despite the Department of Justice's decision not to file criminal charges against them.

<http://www.nysun.com/article/48320>

07/02/09 Repeal D.C.'s Gun Law

Mayor Adrian Fenty has acknowledged the obvious: "We have one of the highest homicide rates in the country but at the same time have the strictest [gun] law." Of course, his solution was that every place else needed more gun control. Then, D.C. Council member Marion Barry and three other lawmakers proposed suspending the city's 30-year-old handgun ban. For 90 days, Washingtonians should be able to buy and register handguns. It is a good start, though a permanent repeal would make more sense.

<http://washingtontimes.com/op-ed/20070208-084406-2231r.htm>

07/02/09 LAPD Targets 11 Violent Gangs

Los Angeles Police Chief William J. Bratton says he is assigning more than 200 officers to a crackdown on the city's most dangerous street gangs, even as officials acknowledged that their plan of attack was controversial. "Eleven gangs and their 800 members committed over 1,700 violent crimes last year," Bratton said. "That's 6% of all the violent crime in the city. It makes sense to focus our very limited resources on these criminals."

<http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-gangs9feb09.0,1849929.story?coll=la-home-headlines>

07/02/08 Cook County Takes A Shot At 10-Cent-A-Bullet Tax

What could be the nation's first tax on bullets is being floated as a way to help balance Cook County's budget. Commissioner Roberto Maldonado wants to slap a 10-cent-a-bullet tax on those buying ammunition in the county.

<http://www.suntimes.com/news/politics/248646.CST-NWS-amm08.article>

07/02/08 Time To Bite The Bullet On Gun Ban

In a letter to the British Home Secretary, MP Kate Hoey writes: "As I am sure your officials will tell you, there was absolutely no evidence to suggest that by banning legally-licensed cartridge pistols and closing legally-operating shooting clubs, we would all sleep safer in our beds. Yet today there are more hand guns on our streets than 10 years ago."

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/sport/main.jhtml?xml=/sport/2007/02/08/sohoey08.xml>

07/02/08 Concealing The Facts

"Thank you for your editorial correcting some of the mistakes in the New York Times recent attack on Florida's concealed carry law [Editorial," writes John Lott. "Yet, there were still other errors in the New York Times piece."

<http://www.nysun.com/article/48182>

07/02/08 U.S. Asks To Arm Pilots Abroad

For the first time, the U.S. government is asking foreign countries to allow pilots to carry guns in the cockpit when they fly overseas. The Homeland Security Department, working with the State Department, is trying to expand a 4-year-old program that allows thousands of pilots to carry guns on domestic flights.

http://www.usatoday.com/travel/news/2007-02-07-us-pilots-guns_x.htm

07/02/08 Sponsor Will Revise Self-Defense Gun Bill

The sponsor of a proposed "Stand Your Ground Law," which would eliminate the requirement to attempt retreat before using deadly force in self-defense in certain circumstances, agreed to make revisions after opponents claimed the legislation would be a boon to violent criminals.

<http://www.nwanews.com/story.php?paper=adg§ion=News&storyid=181126>

07/02/08 PETA Shows Its True Colors

The trial of PETA employees ended in at least a partial vindication of the defendants, who were convicted only of littering, not animal cruelty. But People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals was revealed as a dishonest and misleading organization, which raises millions of dollars for its campaign to place all animals on the same plane as humans.

<http://www.wilsondaily.com/Opinion/Editorials/300718245342361.php>

07/02/08 PETA: An Animal's Worst Nightmare And Enemy

During a four-week period in 2005, 100 dead dogs were found in a trash receptacle behind a supermarket in Ahsokie, N.C.

According to the Associated Press, police forces decided to stake-out the area and eventually saw two people, Andrew B. Cook and Adria Joy, step out of a van and start heaving heavy plastic bags into the dumpster. After detaining the suspects, the officers found an additional 18 dead dogs in the dumpster and 13 still left in the van, which was registered to the headquarters of PETA.

[http://media.www.westerncourier.com/media/storage/paper650/news/2007/02/07/Opinion/Peta-](http://media.www.westerncourier.com/media/storage/paper650/news/2007/02/07/Opinion/Peta-Animals.Worst.Nightmare.And.Enemy-2704389.shtml)

[An.Animals.Worst.Nightmare.And.Enemy-2704389.shtml](http://media.www.westerncourier.com/media/storage/paper650/news/2007/02/07/Opinion/Peta-Animals.Worst.Nightmare.And.Enemy-2704389.shtml)

07/02/08 PETA: Animal-"Rights" Group Gone Awry

When someone mentions PETA, several ideas come to mind. Some would say "People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals" with a smile on their face, while others would say "People for the Eating of Tasty Animals" with a smile on theirs. In the context of this article, PETA will stand for "People for the Euthanizing of Tiny Animals."

<http://media.www.dailytrojan.com/media/storage/paper679/news/2007/02/08/Opinion/Peta-AnimalRights.Group.Gone.Awry-2705384.shtml>

07/02/07 Second Amendment Freedoms Aided Civil Rights Movement

"Prominent and indispensable among our rights is the "right of the people to keep and bear arms." Second Amendment rights, never to be infringed, were posited by our nation's founders as among the most essential tenets of the free and just republic they sought to establish," writes Ken Blackwell.

http://www.townhall.com/Columnists/KenBlackwell/2007/02/06/second_amendment_freedoms_aided_the_civil_rights_movement

07/02/07 Barry Aims For Gun-Ban Hiatus

D.C. Council member Marion Barry has introduced legislation that would suspend the District's 30-year ban on handguns, providing gun owners a 90-day period to register handguns they would then be allowed to legally own.

<http://washingtontimes.com/metro/20070206-115722-3302r.htm>

07/02/07 Shooting Sports Still A Powerful Economic, Political Force

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reports national hunting license sales--which provide the bulk of funding for state wildlife agencies--set a new record in 2005 at more than \$723 million.

<http://www.mcall.com/sports/columnists/all-bergcolumn0206feb06.0.3394406.column?coll=all-randomcolumnistssport-misc>

07/02/07 Fighting Crime Tops GOP Priorities

On February 6 House Republicans outlined a legislative package to curb drug crime, gang violence and child pornography--pushing domestic safety issues they say will help them win back a majority.

<http://www.washtimes.com/national/20070206-111241-1615r.htm>

07/02/07 Student Group Advocates Second Amendment Rights

The ground clicks like a hand jingling loose change as members of Second Amendment Students of Utah walk out onto the firing range. Abandoned bullet shells littering the ground below clank beneath their feet. Most of the club members have been around guns for years, so any nervousness in handling them isn't obvious. But Brent Tenney, a senior in business and president of the club, is nervous about restrictions that could be instated if Utah Senate Bill 251 is passed.

<http://media.www.dailyutahchronicle.com/media/storage/paper244/news/2007/02/07/News/Sticking.To.Their.Guns-2701979.shtml?sourcedomain=www.dailyutahchronicle.com&MIIHost=media.collegepublisher.com>

07/02/07 Firearms Industry Warns: Giuliani No Friend To Gun Owners

In response to New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani's filing of a statement of candidacy with the Federal Election Commission, indicating that he would enter the 2008 presidential race as a Republican, the firearms industry's trade association, the National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF), reminded America's sportsmen and gun-enthusiasts of the former mayor's record of hostility toward firearms and gun owners.

http://www.nssf.org/news/PR_idx.cfm?AoI=generic&PRloc=common/PR/&PR=020607.cfm

07/02/06 Strengthening Our Rights And Freedoms

"Firearms are a historic part of the culture and traditions of South Dakota and our great nation. However, each year, our Second Amendment rights are being threatened and chipped away by activists who unfairly attempt to lay blame for illegal violence and recklessness on law-abiding gun owners," writes U.S. Sen. John Thune.

http://www.zwire.com/site/news.cfm?BRD=1300&dept_id=374730&newsid=17812561&PAG=461&rft=9

07/02/06 Sen. Nelson Proposes National Carry Standard

U.S. Sen. Ben Nelson (D-Nebr.) is trying to ensure your carry permit is good in all other states. Nelson is calling for a national standard for the Right-to-Carry.

<http://khastv.com/modules/news/article.php?storyid=8431>

07/02/06 Britain Tops European Crime League

Britain has one of the worst crime rates in Europe, a new report states. It is the most burgled country in Europe, has the highest level of assaults and above average rates of car theft, robbery and pickpocketing.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml?xml=/news/2007/02/06/ncrime06.xml>

07/02/06 Campus Gun-Rights Duel Erupts Again

Legislation that could restrict guns on college campuses hadn't even been released to the public when gun-rights advocates are lobbying to kill it.

http://www.sltrib.com/ci_5166204

"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).