



# Allegheny County Sportsmen's League Legislative Committee Report

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

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## Next President & Supreme Court: lessons learned in 'Hanoi Hilton'

by James H. Warner

I know that there are many gunowners who do not want to vote for Sen. John McCain for president. Most of you have had many policy differences with him over the years. I myself have disagreed with him on a number of issues. Nevertheless, I am telling you, as a fellow gunowner, that you must vote for McCain. If he is not elected president our gun rights will be in greater danger than ever before. Let me explain

I know the importance of judges who can read the Constitution and understand it to mean exactly what it says. I am an attorney, retired from the legal office of the National Rifle Association. While I was at the NRA our office had several occasions to participate in legal actions defending your rights. Although I am otherwise retired, I recently wrote one of the briefs (a written legal argument) submitted to the US Supreme Court in the recent case challenging two restrictive gun laws in the District of Columbia. Our side argued that these laws violated the individual right to keep and bear arms which is protected by the Second Amendment. We succeeded. This was the first time in the history of our country that the Supreme Court has recognized that the Second Amendment protects an individual right.

You may think that the battle is over. You would be wrong. Our gun rights are in greater danger today than ever before. Let me explain.

The decision in the Supreme Court was 5-4. That is a razor thin margin. One of the justices who voted against us was Justice John Paul Stevens. He is 88 years old. Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, who also voted against us, is 75 years old and is believed to be in poor health. If two justices leave the Court the next president of the United States would appoint their successors. If Barack Obama is elected, and these two justices leave the Court, he could appoint nominees like Charles Schumer and Dianne Feinstein to the bench. If that were to happen, nothing would have changed and our margin would remain a razor thin one vote margin. However, if they were to be replaced with justices who take our view of the law, our majority would then be 7-2, a much safer margin.

But what if three justices, or even four, were to leave the Court? Justice Anthony Kennedy, who voted with us, is 72, as is Justice Antonin Scalia, who was also in our corner. What if they left the Court and President Obama replaced them with Hillary Clinton and Richard Durbin? The anti-gun crowd would have a 6-3 majority. Where would our gun rights be then? For that matter, where would our guns be? If there should be a Democratic president and a Democratic

Congress, you can be sure that there would be a flood of new gun laws. You can be sure that many of the guns that are currently in your gun locker would be made illegal.

I know that there are others who don't trust McCain. I have a different perspective. He has been my friend for 37 years. I didn't meet him at a Washington fundraiser, or a lobbyist's cocktail party. I met him when 36 of us were taken from Hoa Lo prison (the infamous "Hanoi Hilton") and put in cramped 6 1/2 by 3-foot cells in a place we were told was a "punishment camp." I would trust his integrity if my life depended on it. I say this because I saw how he performed when we were forced to trust in the integrity of our comrades. I have seen, with my own eyes, that John McCain's word can be trusted. He has said that if elected he would appoint judges whose view of the law is similar to that of Justice Samuel Alito and Chief Justice John Roberts. I believe him and I urge you to trust him also.

Regardless of any other differences you may have with McCain, you must help elect him so we can keep our guns. I was disarmed once (when I was captured) and it did not work out so well. I don't want that to happen to you. *James H. Warner is an attorney who is retired from the legal office of the NRA. He served as a domestic policy advisor to President Ronald Reagan from 1985 until 1989. He was a Marine officer in Vietnam and was held as a POW in North Vietnam for years. [The New GUN WEEK](#), September 15, 2008*

## Philly, Baltimore test preemption with lost gun laws

Both Maryland and Pennsylvania have state preemption for gun laws, but the largest cities in each state pushed the envelope in August by enacting new ordinances that would punish the victims of firearms thefts.

Philadelphia's ordinance puts the squeeze on gunowners by requiring them to report a lost or stolen firearm within 24 hours

or face a fine up to \$1,900. If anyone fails to report missing firearms in the future, after a first offense, residents will either face another steep fine or 90 days in jail.

The strict penalties are part of the so-called Lost or Stolen Firearm Ordinance, one of the three surviving pieces of Philadelphia gun legislation that Mayor Nutter signed into law in April, but were challenged in court.

Under Philly's ordinance, anyone who loses a gun or has it stolen is expected to call 911. Operators will either send a police officer out to take a report or forward callers to the Differential Responses Unit, officials said.

On Aug. 11, the Baltimore City

Council approved similar legally questionable legislation forcing law-abiding gunowners to report the loss or theft of their firearm to the Baltimore City Police within 48 hours.

In addition to allowing an extra day, Baltimore's ordinance is somewhat less punitive. Violators will be subject to only a \$250 fine.

But the National Rifle Association (NRA) said the Baltimore ordinance still "violates the spirit and letter of the Maryland's preemption law which dictates that the state has sole authority over the regulation of firearms."

In the most recently concluded legislative session, both the Maryland House Judiciary Committee and Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee defeated similar legislation (House Bill 880 and Senate Bill 585) put forward by the Baltimore delegation.

The Baltimore ordinance had not yet been signed by Mayor Sheila Dixon as this issue went to press. However, The Baltimore Sun had reported that Dixon was a supporter of the measure.

Baltimore's law department has questioned whether the city can legislate gun control, typically a state issue. [The New GUN WEEK](#), September 1, 2008

## **PA gunowner cited, fined doing "right thing" in NY**

A 71-year-old man from Pennsylvania thought he was doing the proper thing on July 23 when he stopped at the state police station in Alexandria Bay, NY, to surrender a handgun he had brought into the state.

Erwin Spethmann's proactive approach cost him a \$100 fine, according to The Watertown Daily Times, proving once again how hard it is to do "the right thing" in New York state.

He doesn't know it yet, but Jefferson County District Attorney Cindy F. Intschert said later that she may try to get his money back for him, and clear him of his disorderly conduct conviction.

Spethmann, from New Ringgold, near Pottsville in eastern Pennsylvania, was on his way to Canada when it occurred to him that he might have a problem at US Customs on Wellesley Island, according to a state police investigator. He was carrying a .22-caliber semiautomatic pistol.

Before approaching the Thousand Islands International Bridge, Spethmann got off Interstate 81 and drove to the state police station to turn in his gun.

Even though the pistol may be registered in Pennsylvania, it is not registered in New York State, making it illegal to possess

it there. The New York state trooper who greeted Spethmann telephoned the district attorney's office to seek advice. An assistant district attorney told the trooper to arrest Spethmann on a charge of fourth-degree criminal possession of a weapon, a misdemeanor, the investigator said.

Because the traveler surrendered the gun, and himself, the district attorney's office immediately made a motion to Alexandria Town Justice Sherry L. Pennington to reduce the charge to disorderly conduct. That accomplished, Spethmann pleaded guilty, was fined \$100, and was let go to continue his trip, The Daily Times reported.

Intschert was unaware of the case until informed by the newspaper's reporter. In her initial inquiries, she said, she learned that the motion to reduce the charge recognized the facts that Spethmann apparently had no criminal record, that he had voluntarily handed over the gun to police and that the handgun was apparently legally registered in Pennsylvania.

She said there "possibly" is an exemption in the state penal code that would have spared Spethmann the arrest because he surrendered the gun.

"We are willing to take a look at this," she said.

After she discusses the case with the trooper, Intschert said, she will decide whether there are grounds to file a motion with the court to vacate the conviction and seek a refund of the fine.

As for the gun, that may be a lost cause. State police routinely destroy seized weapons.

Spethmann "is a nice guy, friendly," said one of his neighbors, Timothy M. Houser, who was contacted by The Daily Times. He is a widower and a retired salesman who is an avid deer hunter, according to Houser. [The New GUN WEEK](#), September 1, 2008

## **Gunowners outraged over cops honored for botched MN raid**

by Dave Workman, Senior Editor

Outrage has spread through the gun rights community over awards given to members of a Minneapolis, MN, police SWAT unit that raided the wrong house last year and got involved in a gun battle with the homeowner while his terrified family ducked for cover.

The officers were honored last month by Minneapolis Police Chief Tim Dolan.

The botched raid occurred last Dec. 16 at the home of Yang Khang in North Minneapolis. Aroused by the noise of cops breaking into his house with a no-knock warrant and the noise of a home invasion, Khang armed himself with a shotgun to defend his wife and six children while she called 911 for help.

At least two popular Internet forums, [KeepAndBearArms.com](#) (KABA) and [TheHighRoad.org](#) (THR) had lengthy discussions, with the KABA comments being the more incendiary. Joel Rosenberg, a writer and popular gun rights activist in the Minneapolis area, also weighed in on the issue.

He told Gun Week in a telephone interview that giving awards to the team involved in this raid has infuriated Minnesota gunowners.

"It is utterly disgusting," Rosenberg said. "It was a botch from the beginning, and the repeated lies from MPD over what

happened were distressing...I think there really is a legitimate use for no-knock warrants. But it is limited."

Rosenberg noted that the Khang family is "the stereotypical immigrant family." He said the Khangs "are nice, law-abiding and hard-working, they are not folks going around looking for 'trouble.'"

He suggested that giving awards to the SWAT team involved in this incident could backfire.

"This is incredibly counter-productive," Rosenberg contended. "The police need the community more than the community needs the police. It discourages people from having anything to do with ,the police."

Equally angry about the raid and awards was Radley Balko, a Virginia- based writer and senior editor for Reason magazine.

"This is really beyond outrage," Balko wrote on his Internet blog. "The city of Minneapolis is commending and rewarding its police officers for firing their weapons at innocent people. A family of eight was terrorized, assaulted, and nearly killed, and it's the 'perfect example' of a situation that could have gone wrong?"

Nevada activist Christopher Hoffman told Gun Week, "It is very easy to predict that there will be violence when any unidentified persons knock down the -door of a private residence where people are lawfully armed...Logic only follows that any law-abiding person would be justified in immediately shooting any invaders who don't verifiably identify themselves as a police officer in advance. This fact, I hope, will begin to raise the level of scrutiny with which these types of warrants are issued in the first place, and then change the way police officers are trained to serve the warrants."

One THR member, Bruce Wood, commented to Gun Week via e-mail, "To award medals for this is just plain wrong. Had the SWAT team and Chief Dolan followed a more appropriate procedure, there would never have been a live fire conflict to begin with. It's not like they were after Al Capone or Pretty Boy Floyd."

The Khangs are being represented by Tom Heffelfinger, a former US attorney now in private practice. This was good news to Rosenberg, who noted Heffelfinger's "reputation...for being incredibly tough and remarkably ethical."

Dolan fueled the flames of anger by observing that "The easy decision would have been to retreat under covering fire. The team did not take the easy way out. This is a perfect example of a situation that could have gone horribly wrong, but did not because of the professionalism with which it was handled."

Critics were quick to note that the situation had "gone horribly bad" because it was a raid on the wrong house and shots were exchanged. Fortunately, nobody was seriously injured, but Rosenberg—who visited the scene after the shooting—said the children still have nightmares. Khang's shots struck officers' bullet resistant vests.

After the raid, Dolan ordered an investigation. The raid was launched on a tip from a police informant who allegedly gave police bad information about a cache of gang weapons.

Rosenberg said the department has paid for repairs to the Khangs' home, but he added that a bigger price tag may be over the horizon if the agency does not settle with the family in its legal dispute.

In a statement to reporters, Heffelfinger questioned the awards.

"Why now are we seeing the police department honoring these men," he wondered. "In this context, I'm convinced this is an effort on the part of the police leadership to sanitize the conduct of their officers on December 16."

But perhaps Rosenberg summed it up best.

"The problem with rewarding folks for behavior like this is that it encourages it," he said. "The local reaction has been disgust...and fear. If this can happen to (the Khangs), it can happen to any of us." *The New GUN WEEK, September 1, 2008*

## **Connecticut law lets cops seize guns before crime is committed**

Using a unique state law, police in Connecticut have disarmed dozens of gunowners based on suspicions that they might harm themselves or others, The Waterbury Republican reported on Aug. 3.

The state's gun seizure law is considered the first and only law in the country that allows the confiscation of a gun before the owner commits an act of violence. Police and state prosecutors can obtain seizure warrants based on concerns about someone's intentions.

State police and 53 police departments have seized more than 1,700 guns since the law took effect in October 1999, according to a new report to the legislature.

Opponents of a gun seizure law expressed fears in 1999 that police would abuse the law. Today, the law's backers say the record shows that hasn't been the case.

"It certainly has not been abused. It may be underutilized," said Ron Pinciario, co-executive director of Connecticut Against Gun Violence.

Attorney Ralph D. Sherman has represented several gunowners who had their firearms seized under the law. His latest client was denied a pistol permit because the man was once the subject of a seizure warrant.

"In every case I was involved in I thought it was an abuse," said Sherman, who fought against the law's passage.

The report to the legislature shows that state judges are inclined to issue gun seizure warrants and uphold seizures when challenged in court.

Out of more than 200 requests for warrants, Superior Court judges rejected just two applications—one for lack of probable cause, and another because police had already seized the individual's firearms under a previous warrant. Both rejections occurred in 1999. The legislature's Office of Legislative Research could document only 22 cases of judges ordering seized guns returned to their owners.

Rep. Michael P. Lawlor (D-East Haven) is one of the chief authors of the gun seizure law. In his view, the number of warrant applications and gun seizures show that police haven't abused the law.

"It is pretty consistent," said Lawlor, the House chairman of the Judiciary Committee, according to the newspaper.

Robert T. Crook, the executive director of the Connecticut Coalition of Sportsmen, questioned whether police have seized more guns than the number reported to the legislature. Crook

said the law doesn't require police departments or the courts to compile or report information on gun seizures. The Office of Legislative Research acknowledged that its report may have underreported seizures.

"We don't know how many guns were actually confiscated or returned to their owners," Crook said.

Police seized guns in 95% of the 200- plus cases that the researchers were able to document. In 11 cases, police found no guns, the report said.

Spouses and live-in partners were the most common source of complaints that led to warrant applications. They were also the most frequent targets of threats. In a Southington case, a man threatened to shoot a neighbor's dog.

The gun seizure law arose out of a murderous shooting rampage at the headquarters of the Connecticut Lottery Corp. in 1998. A disgruntled worker shot and killed four top lottery officials and then committed suicide.

Under the law, any two police officers or a state prosecutor may obtain warrants to seize guns from individuals who pose an imminent risk of harming themselves or others. Before applying for warrants, police must first conduct investigations and determine there is no reasonable alternative to seizing someone's guns. Judges must also make certain findings.

The law states that courts shall hold a hearing within 14 days of a seizure to determine whether to return the firearms to their owners or order the guns held for up to one year.

Sherman said his five clients all waited longer than two weeks for their hearings. Courts scheduled hearing dates within the 14-day deadline, but then the proceedings kept getting rescheduled. In one client's case, Sherman said, the wait was three months.

Many gunowners don't get their seized firearms back. Courts ordered guns held in more than one-third of the documented seizures since 1999. Judges directed guns destroyed, turned over to someone else or sold in more than 40 other cases.

A Torrington man was one of the 22 gunowners who are known to have had their seized firearms returned to them.

In October 2006, Torrington police got a seizure warrant after the man made 28 unsubstantiated claims of vandalism to his property in a three-year period. In the application, police described the man's behavior as paranoid and delusional. They said he installed an alarm system, surveillance cameras, noise emitting devices and spotlights for self-protection. They also reported that he had a pistol permit and possessed firearms.

A judge ordered the man's guns returned four months after police seized them. The judge said the police had failed to show the man posed any risk to himself or others. There also was no documented history of mental illness, no criminal record and no history of misusing firearms. "In fact, the firearms were found in a locked safe when the officers executed the warrant," the ruling said.

Lawlor and Sherman weren't aware of any constitutional challenges to the law, or any state or federal court rulings on the question of its constitutionality.

Lawlor said there have been no challenges on constitutional grounds because of the way the law was written. "The whole point was to make sure it was limited and constitutional," he

said. Sherman said it is because the law is used sparingly, and because a test case would be too costly for average gun owners.

Lawlor, Crook, and Sherman don't see the legislature repealing or revising the gun seizure law. Pinciario said Connecticut Against Gun Violence doesn't see any reason why lawmakers should take either action.

"The bottom line from our perspective is, it may very well have saved lives," Pinciario said.

Crook and Sherman said law-abiding gun owners remain at risk while the gun seizure law remains on the statute books.

"The overriding concern is anybody can report anybody with or without substantiation, and I don't think that is the American way," Crook said. *The New GUN WEEK*, September 15, 2008

## **Small TX school district allowing armed teachers**

A small Texas school district about 150 miles northwest from the Dallas-Fort Worth area has taken a proactive step toward school security by adopting a regulation that allows teachers and other staff who are licensed to carry concealed handguns to pack their pistols on the job.

According to The Fort Worth Star-Telegram, the 110-student Harrold School District, in far northwest Wibarger County surprised Texas school officials. The newspaper quoted Barbara Williams, spokeswoman for the Texas Association of School Boards, noting that this was the only school district in the Lone Star State where such a rule had been adopted.

While the move may be disdained by anti-gunners and school security experts, it got the favorable attention of the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms. CCRKBA Chairman Alan Gottlieb quickly issued a statement to the press supporting the school board and Supt. David Thweatt.

"Critics of the plan," Gottlieb predicted, "will argue about liability, or suggest that the school could have hired a security officer or off-duty policeman. But we all know that such officers can't be everywhere, and in an emergency, every second counts."

Under the plan, school district employees wanting to carry on campus must have a valid concealed carry permit, and they also have to get crisis management training. They will also be required to use ammunition designed for low-ricochet potential as it will be used inside a school building if an emergency arises.

Thweatt told The Star-Telegram, "When the federal government started making schools gun-free zones, that's when all of these shootings started."

Gottlieb, co-author of the best-selling *America Fights Back: Armed Self-Defense in a Violent Age*, agreed with that assessment. When he did that book—with Gun Week Senior Editor Dave Workman—Gottlieb said an entire chapter was devoted to the "folly of gun-free zones." He said such places are - - magnets for cowardly mass killers who have nothing to fear because the victims cannot fight back.

"Gun control extremists despise this kind of common-sense approach to the potential of school violence," he said.

Gottlieb believes the "time has come to challenge the head-in-the-sand philosophy" of gun control extremists who championed gun-free zone laws a decade ago.

"How many lives have been lost on public school and college campuses because of these insane victim disarmament measures," he questioned. "How - many students and teachers might be alive today if only lawmakers and school officials had acted as responsibly as the Harrold administration?"

The district's only school facility is located just off US 287, a heavily-used highway that might give a crazed gunman easy access to the campus. The sheriff's department is some distance away.

There are other security measures in place, but Gottlieb considers adding the layer of armed teachers and staff to be "a last line of defense" against an emergency. *The New GUN WEEK*, September 1, 2008

## **Heller case attorneys ask court to award \$3.5 million in fees**

*by Dave Workman, Senior Editor*

The attorneys who represented Dick Anthony Heller in his landmark Second Amendment case against the District of Columbia are asking the federal district court in that city for some \$3.5 million in fees and costs.

Attorneys Alan Gura, Robert Levy and Clark Neily filed a 38-page motion with the US District Court for the District of Columbia detailing the hundreds of hours they spent developing the historic case, decided by the Supreme Court on June 26.

Noting that Levy "personally bore the expenses of this litigation," the trio acknowledges that not all of their expenses are recoverable. However, they contend that under federal statute, those expenses that can be recovered should be paid by the District.

In their motion, the attorneys list more than 3,000 billable hours, along with more than \$13,000 in expenses.

By totaling up their billable hours, the attorneys contend that Gura is owed \$1.8 million, Neily should be paid \$900,000 and Levy should receive more than \$660,000. Other attorneys involved in preparing the case include Thomas Huff, who should get more than \$87,000; Gene Healy, seeking more than \$33,000; Laura Possessky, asking \$20,000 and Christopher M. Day, who should receive \$3,899 for his work.

In their motion, the attorneys note that under the law and court precedent, "a prevailing plaintiff should ordinarily recover any attorney's fees unless special circumstances would render such an award unjust." They contend that the total number of hours claimed to have been spent on this case are "appropriate and quite modest relative to the work product produced in the case."

They support their argument by noting that one of the law firms that represented the District in this case "recently billed a bankrupt client in excess of \$3.1 million for six months' work, exceeding 4,000 hours, for responding to government subpoenas...This is almost as much as Plaintiff's legal team would bill for nearly six years of litigation securing a fundamental constitutional right before the Supreme Court."

The attorneys are asking to be paid at current market rates rather than what may have been the rate in years past, due to the lengthy nature of civil litigation.

"Plaintiff's counsel have not only earned the right to their fees and costs," the motion states, "but it is in the public interest that

they be fairly compensated lest the word go out to the bar that civil rights practice requires independent wealth or vows of poverty in addition to generosity of spirit." *The New GUN WEEK*, September 1, 2008

## **House Democrats seek less-rigid Washington, DC, gun regulation**

Democratic leaders in the US House of Representatives have agreed to allow a vote this month on a bill that would end local handgun control in Washington, DC, making it easier for District residents to acquire pistols, including semi-automatics, while eliminating the strict handgun- storage requirements imposed by the city, according to The Washington Post.

Supporters say the bill has a good chance of passing the House, where pro- gun measures are popular. But it is unclear whether it would succeed in the Senate, where complex rules make it harder to push through legislation.

"This poses a real danger," Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-D.C.) said, criticizing the legislation as "radical" because it would gut the city's gun-control rules.

"If it passes the House," she said, "you have to hope the Senate doesn't take it up."

The measure, filed July 31 by several conservative Democrats, adds more fuel to the debate over gun control in the nation's capital. After a landmark Supreme Court decision June 26 ended the city's 32-year-old handgun ban, the District replaced the ban with strict handgun limits, which critics say violate the high court's ruling. The plaintiff in the original case, Dick Anthony Heller, and at least one other resident, have already filed a new suit challenging the District's revised rules.

The new bill would scrap those limits, allowing residents to own handguns without registering them with the District police department, provided they meet federal requirements for firearms ownership.

Besides abolishing the requirement that owners keep their handguns unloaded in their homes and either disassembled or fitted with trigger locks, the measure would repeal the city's prohibition on most magazine-fed semiautomatic handguns—a ban that is part of the District's so-called machinegun ordinance and was not part of the original Supreme Court case.

The legislation also would allow Washington residents to buy and take delivery of handguns in Virginia and Maryland. There are no active federally licensed retailers in DC to sell handguns or act as transfer agents for out-of-state firearms transfers.

Key negotiators on the bill, including Rep. John D. Dingell (D-MI), said in a statement that they have "an agreement with House leadership" for the measure to come to a vote early in September. The legislation was offered as a compromise after House Republicans had maneuvered to get a vote on another measure that would have gone even further, repealing a District law that allows gunmakers to be sued by victims of firearms violence.

Rep. Jason Altmire (D-PA), one of the bill's sponsors, said supporters of the measure think that the city has "basically thumbed its nose" at the Supreme Court's

If the legislation fails, Altmire said, "at least we, as people who are accountable to our constituents, can go back home and

talk about what we did on the issue." [The New GUN WEEK](#), September 1, 2008

## **Grassroots gun rights group forms in District of Columbia**

by Dave Workman, Senior Editor

Gun owning residents of the District of Columbia, including two of the original six plaintiffs in the federal lawsuit that resulted in the landmark Second Amendment ruling, have founded a group whose aim is to "press Congress and the (District) Council to fully implement the right of District of Columbia residents to keep and bear arms as confirmed by the...recent Heller decision."

Calling themselves the Capital Gun Owner's (CGO), the group includes original plaintiffs George Lyon and Gillian St. Lawrence. Amy McVey, an income tax preparer and housewife who also was the first District resident to register a handgun under the city's revised ordinance in the wake of the Heller ruling, is president of the group. She told Gun Week that the group hopes to "become a force within the city that the District Council recognizes we need to be reckoned with."

There are lots of people in this city who are very decent people who want their gun rights fully restored," McVey said.

"Our purpose is three fold," Lyon added in a press release, "first to convince the city to fix its gun laws to comply with the Constitution, second to serve as a resource for gunowners to exercise their rights responsibly and safely, and third to educate the public concerning firearms issues."

Lyon, an attorney, said he hopes the group can pressure the city into obeying the Supreme Court's ruling in the Heller case. So far, he contended, the city has adopted an ordinance that amounts to "massive resistance" of the high court's ruling that struck down the handgun ban and required the city to start allowing its residents to legally own handguns.

Under current rules, only revolvers will be allowed, and they must be kept locked until such time that a person is in imminent danger. That doesn't wash with Lyon, however, because the District's crime rate essentially leaves citizens at risk around the clock.

"I think a reasonable person could feel in danger any time in the District," he observed. "I'm all in favor of gun safety. I'm a big advocate of gun safety and protecting weapons from theft and accidents. I think citizens have to be in the position to make their own decision when to have a gun ready for self-defense."

They have already started building a website—[capitalgunowners.org](http://capitalgunowners.org)—which they hope will draw attention of other District residents who want to have a gun for personal protection.

Since the Heller ruling, the city has begun registering handguns with an amnesty for people who had guns in their homes in defiance of the ban. However, the city's new gun law has left activists fuming that it is still very restrictive, and that trigger locks are required, in direct conflict with the Heller ruling.

Noted Justice Antonin Scalia in his majority opinion wrote, "We must also address the District's requirement...that firearms in the home be rendered and kept inoperable at all times. This

makes it impossible for citizens to use them for the core lawful purpose of self-defense and is hence unconstitutional."

Critics argue that the District's new gun law plays semantics, allowing the trigger lock to be removed only when a person is in imminent danger. Lyon noted that someone in that situation would never have time to remove the trigger lock before an attack could be carried out.

CGO does not have an office staff or any sort of "bureaucracy," Lyon explained. In its fledgling stages, the group presently hopes to draw gunowners out of the shadows and organize them in an effort to force the District government to pay attention to their concerns.

Meanwhile, the National Shooting Sports Foundation announced it has launched an effort to advise District residents about firearm safety education opportunities. This campaign includes a full-page advertisement that appeared in The Washington Post, Washington Times and The Hill. There will be free shooting seminars in the metro area.

The ads carry the message, "The Supreme Court has upheld your 2nd Amendment rights. Exercise them safely and responsibly." [The New GUN WEEK](#), September 1, 2008

## **Evanston, IL, amends pistol ban ordinance**

Hoping to dodge a court challenge, the Evanston, IL, City Council on Aug. 11 voted 7-1 to amend its ordinance that banned the possession of handguns, while one alderman called the Supreme Court ruling that led to this sea change "repugnant."

Alderman Steve Bernstein was quoted by The Chicago Tribune, noting, "I find the Supreme Court decision repugnant. But because of it, it's the law. In the short term, we'll be better off getting (the ordinance) off the books."

Immediately after the high court struck down a handgun ban in the District of Columbia in June, the Second Amendment Foundation and Illinois State Rifle Association sued Chicago over its very similar handgun ban. The following day, the National Rifle Association (NRA) filed its own lawsuit against Chicago, and surrounding communities of Oak Park, Morton Grove and Evanston.

Morton Grove and Wilmette have also backed off from their gun ban ordinances. Wilmette had already suspended enforcement of its handgun ban and moved to repeal it, so it was not named in the NRA lawsuit.

At press time, only Chicago and Oak Park still were standing by their bans.

Evanston attorney Jack Siegel told WLS News that he gave Mayor Richard Daley "all the credit in the world for hanging tough."

"But the fact of the matter is," he said, "we think they do not have the high probability of succeeding. And we would rather have an ordinance that's enforceable. And we're thinking the ordinance is subject to attack."

Gun rights activists cheered the Evanston vote. It was the subject of discussion on [TheHighRoad.org](http://TheHighRoad.org) forum, one of the busier gun rights websites.

According to The Evanston Review, the ordinance approved on Aug. 11 states that "no person shall possess ... any handgun except when said handgun is kept at the residence ... for self-

protection." The owner must possess a current and valid Illinois Firearm Owner's Identification card.

Persons under 18 are prohibited from possessing a gun small enough to be concealed on one's person. [The New GUN WEEK](#), September 1, 2008

## **Gun converter in Britain gets life sentence**

A man was jailed for life Aug. 28 for running Britain's biggest-ever gun factory which converted dozens of replica submachineguns into working full auto guns used in nine gangland murders, according to Agence France Presse.

Grant Wilkinson, 34, legally bought 90 replica MAC-10s in 2004, saying they were for use on the set of the James Bond film "Casino Royale" and paying £55,000 (about \$100,000 US) in cash.

But instead, he converted them into live firearms in two sheds—one of which was a soundproofed testing facility complete with firing range—behind a house in a village in Berkshire, southern England.

Wilkinson's gun factory was discovered accidentally by a tenant who rented the house.

The guns were used in nine killings. One was fired at the scene of the murder of police officer Sharon Beshenivsky in 2005, although the shot did not kill her.

Police reported a surge in MAC-10 shootings in British cities from 2004, when the factory was set up. Wilkinson's operation has been linked to 52 of the 59 recorded incidents involving MAC-10s since then.

Some 30 to 40 of these weapons are still unaccounted for and "regrettably but doubtlessly, the roll call of death and serious injury will continue to rise."

Wilkinson, who was found guilty the day before sentencing, will serve a minimum of 11 years after being found guilty of seven offences including two counts of possession of firearms with intent to endanger life. [The New GUN WEEK](#), September 1, 2008

## **UK universities prescribe novel bullet 'taggant' cure for crime**

by Bob Lesmeister, *National Correspondent*

"Pollen." To a good proportion of the population it means stuffy noses, lots of sneezing and red, itchy eyes. For gunowners, it may become a pain elsewhere!

Pollen bullet taggants are being proposed as the latest and greatest law enforcement prescription for treatment of the misuse of firearms. Developed in Britain by researchers from Brighton, Brunel, Cranfield, Surrey and York Universities with help from BAE Systems, the bullet "tags" are actually nanotags, 30 microns in size, composed Mostly of pollen. One micron is one millionth of a meter.

Supposedly, the pollen adheres to the fingers of the person who handled the ammo and would tell who actually handled the gun before it was fired. In British parlance, the clever dicks who developed this taggant claim that it will be indispensable for identifying criminals who use firearms.

The nanotags being "nano" are invisible to the naked eye, so theoretically, the person who handles the ammo has no way of knowing what, if any, particles are clinging to his or her hands,

clothes, holster, etc. It is also claimed that some of the nanotags will also remain on the spent cartridge.

Pollen from two types of lily, *Lilium orientale* and *Lilium longiflorum*, were used in this research. Mixed with the pollen are crystal bits such as titanium oxide, silica and zirconia, so that any number of tag combinations can be accomplished to make batches of bullets unique. Pollen itself can be as diverse as any crystal combination because it can be gathered from any number of plant species and most pollen grains are easily recognizable under the glass. The hardest part of incorporating these pollen nanotags on bullets was getting them to release on the user's hands and clothes yet stay on the slug as it was squeezed out the barrel. Taking the process one step further, the developers in the UK are attempting to construct a way for firearm cartridges to retain skin cells so that DNA can be checked. They are also trying to find a way for knives to retain the user's DNA.

. It won't be long before the gun grabbers will be hailing nanotags as the next "smart gun" technological breakthrough, but there are magnum holes in these nanotags. A prosecutor would be hard pressed to make a case based on nanotags.

A person or persons may have handled the ammunition in a case, but who's to say that person or persons were the ones who fired it? A smart criminal, and there are a good number of them out there, need only reload his own ammunition or use disposable gloves that can be purchased in any drug store or home hardware center. Anyone with a little basic chemistry know- how could probably wash the cartridges of their pollen taggants as easy as rinsing out a coffee cup.

It may take a year or so before the nanotag technology can be commercially applied to bullet manufacturing, but between now and then, you can expect gun control proponents to pressure law enforcement and government reps to incorporate this costly but questionably effective system. Part of that pressure may be attempts to eliminate handloading altogether or make it illegal to load anything but pollen infected bullets. This is what ttig,so-called "progressives" refer to as "sensible gun laws."

And speaking of pressure, no one knows what kind of adverse effect the nanotag coating will have on velocity, bullet path, barrel obstruction, pressure, etc. It's amazing, but one of the professors responsible for developing the nanotags thinks that these invisible signs will actually deter criminals!

The UK is one country that fails to learn from its mistakes. Now that it is nearly impossible to own and use a handgun, rifle or even a shotgun, crimes involving firearms consistently rise. The old saying that when guns are outlawed only outlaws will have guns has proven itself in jolly ol' England. Even the official Home Office admits that a total of 21,521 offenses involving firearms were committed in England and Wales between 2005 and 2006. To think pollen taggants will remedy problems caused by a government's refusal to trust its citizens with privately owned arms is in itself suicidal. But the problem may not stay across the Atlantic. If the liberal party in the US wins the White House, Senate and the House of Representatives, you can be assured of "sensible gun laws" such as ineffective nanotaggants, registration, limited ownership, mandatory DNA mapping of gunowners, ammunition allocation, and even confiscation. [The New GUN WEEK](#), September 1, 2008

## **Bear attack in national park rekindles debate over CCW**

A bear mauling in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park in August added fuel to the fiery debate over a proposal to change national park rules, allowing park visitors to legally carry concealed handguns for personal protection.

Initially, the proposal was aimed at providing park visitors with the means to defend themselves against criminal attack, but as the debate raged through the Summer, the prospect of animal attack also became part of the argument. The Aug. 11 attack left 8-year-old Evan Pala of Boca Raton, FL, injured. His father, John, pulled the bear away from his son twice, according to an Associated Press report, and Evan's older brother hit the bear with sticks and rocks before it fled.

The bear was later tracked down by armed park rangers and killed.

John Pala was described as a health insurance salesman with "no backwoods experience," who had taken his sons on a day hike. He was also slightly injured in the attack. Both father and son were treated at a local hospital and later released.

There have been eight black bear attacks in the Great Smokies in the past ten years, according to one report.

Packing concealed handguns legally in national parks has been a bitterly fought issue this year. A push to open parks to concealed carry for personal protection purposes has been underway for a couple of years, with the National Rifle Association and Virginia Citizens Defense League in the forefront, each with their own effort.

If the rule is changed, it will allow citizens who are legally licensed to carry concealed handguns to pack a loaded sidearm inside national park boundaries, same as they are allowed to carry in most national forests.

A public comment period had originally been scheduled to expire at the end of June, but was extended under pressure from a pair of anti-gun members of Congress.

In the past 108 years, 61 people have been killed by black bears in North America, primarily in Canada and Alaska. In Tennessee, where this recent attack occurred, a school teacher was killed by a black bear sow and her cub in 2000, and a 6-year-old girl was killed in 2006 in the Cherokee National Forest. That bear attack also injured the girl's mother and 2-year-old brother, a published report stated. [The New GUN WEEK, September 1, 2008](#)

## **NEWS BRIEFS**

### **No honor in the fast lane**

A Salinas, CA, man who had stolen a Chevy pickup truck earlier on Aug. 2 was later carjacked at gunpoint in the vehicle.

Then the next day, according to The Salinas Californian the carjacking suspect nearly drove the truck into a Salinas Fire Station as he was pursued by police.

"You couldn't make up something stranger than this," said police Cmdr. Kelly McMillin, when explaining the incident.

Edward Bishop, 33, told police he stole a Chevy Silverado in north Salinas at around 1 a.m. While sitting in the truck at a 7-Eleven later that day, Jomo Sexton, 34, entered the truck pointing a gun at Bishop, ordering him to drive around Salinas.

The truck ran out of gas but when Sexton ordered Bishop to push the truck, the truck thief ran away and called police. Bishop was arrested for suspicion of vehicle theft and booked at the Monterey County Jail.

Then, on Aug. 3, officers saw the Chevy driving recklessly in a different section of Salinas. The truck ran a red light and struck another car as Sexton fled, but truck struck a fire hydrant and knocked down a flag pole in front of the fire station.

Sexton was ejected from the vehicle at impact and was taken by helicopter to a Bay Area hospital, then released to Salinas police, who arrested him on suspicion of kidnapping, carjacking, reckless driving, driving under the influence, unlicensed driving, hit and run and violation of parole. [The New GUN WEEK, September 15, 2008](#)

### **Imagine that: an armed sheriff**

You may have to revise your image of a working Southern sheriff after you see this story.

Broward County, FL, sheriff candidate Scott Israel drew some stares and riled opponents at a candidate forum at a Deerfield Beach clubhouse in mid-August when he showed up wearing a gun and police uniform, according to The Miami Herald.

Bernie Parness, president of the Deerfield Beach Democratic Club, said he asked Israel to remove his gun after other candidates complained.

"They were uncomfortable that he was wearing a gun on the stage," Parness said. 'He said, 'I am an officer in uniform.' I reminded him not in Broward County."

Israel, on leave from his job as police chief in North Bay Village, said he didn't remove his gun. "I was a police officer in full uniform," he said.

Most candidates wear suits to forums, but Israel said that wasn't the first time he wore his uniform. "Sometimes I feel like wearing my uniform, sometimes I feel like wearing a suit."

The issue may be more than symbolic. In making a bid for the job, Israel has emphasized his police background, and wearing the uniform drives that point home.

Opponent Bruce Udolf—one of the Democrats without a police background—said he told Israel to "lose the gun." Later, he told a reporter: "It's not conducive to creating an atmosphere for a free and fair debate." [The New GUN WEEK, September 15, 2008](#)

### **FBI tracking cell phone thief**

Stolen cell phones can be like a thief's footprints in the snow.

The FBI is trying to find a New York City thief who stole a loaded gun and cell phone from an agent's car on a Brooklyn street, court papers filed in federal court say, according to The New York Daily News.

Special Agent Robert Julian lost his .40-caliber Glock with 13 rounds and a Verizon cell phone in July in the Bedford-/Stuyvesant section, the papers state.

The gun, which has since been found, and the phone were lifted from Julian's car while it was parked "for only a few minutes prior to the agent's discovery of the theft," the documents, first published on the Web site The Smoking Gun, say.

The U.S. attorney's office filed an application in Brooklyn Federal Court in August seeking the cell phone records in an effort to see who might have stolen the items. [The New GUN WEEK](#), September 15, 2008

### **Barbecue stand drugs sales**

From the "How stupid is that?" file comes the story of an Ohio man who now stands accused of peddling drugs from his (are you ready for this?) barbecue stand he had set up at the Seneca County Fair.

Perhaps the suspect, identified by The Toledo Blade as Donald R. Carter, 44, of Fremont, didn't think anybody would notice that he was allegedly selling crack cocaine along with all those ribs and chicken legs and thighs. That seems to be the situation.

Well, those sharp-eyed cops in the Seneca County Drug Task Force weren't fooled and when they executed a search warrant on D-Ray's Barbecue Chicken & Ribs at the fairgrounds, they found drug paraphernalia, cash and "criminal tools," whatever that is. This happened after undercover agents allegedly purchased crack cocaine from Carter. [The New GUN WEEK](#), September 1, 2008

### **Dial 9-1-1 for murder**

A woman's cell phone call to 911 from Vermont ended up being answered on the New York side of Lake Champlain. By the time authorities in New York's Washington County sorted things out and were able to dispatch Vermont police, the caller was dead.

According to UPI and WPTZ News in Plattsburg, NY, Francine Morgan was heard screaming in the cell phone call, and by the time police arrived at her home, she had been beaten and fatally shot.

The news report said it is "not unheard of for cell phone calls placed in Vermont to be routed to Washington County authorities. [The New GUN WEEK](#), September 1, 2008

### **Preacher needs penance**

From the "God ain't gonna like this" file comes the story of 71-year-old preacher Thomas Howell, convicted recently in an Ohio courtroom of road rage, which included pulling a gun on his victim.

According to United Press International, the founder of First Commandment Church of the Living God didn't get past sharp-witted Municipal Court Judge Brad Greenberg, who noted that the only way April Evans could have known Howell had a gun was if he had pulled it on her.

The First Commandment minister evidently forgot all those other commandments in late June, when Howell and Evans nearly got into a crash. It was afterward that Howell pulled up next to Evans' car and aimed his gun at her "while verbally abusing her," the report stated.

Howell will be sentenced this month and he could be looking at 180 days in jail. [The New GUN WEEK](#), September 1, 2008

### **Rapper sings wrong note**

Described as "an aspiring Savannah rapper," Kareem Omarr Grant struck out when he tried a career shift to robbery.

Grant was shot dead July 19 in a robbery attempt in which one of his intended victims was armed. The 25-year-old rapper took a bullet to the rear of his head, according to the Savannah Morning News. Police said the robbery victim fired in self-defense after Grant and two associates, identified as Eric "Lil E" Johnson, 22, and Jayoun Rasheen Reeder, 26, got out of a car and tried to rob the pair.

After the shooting, Johnson and Reeder told police that the two men had tried to rob them and Grant. That story apparently fell apart quickly and warrants were issued for their arrest on charges of being a party to a crime of aggravated assault with intent to rob, and providing police with false statements and writings.

Grant has fathered five children and is also the father of a sixth child expected to be born in December, the newspaper reported. [The New GUN WEEK](#), September 1, 2008

### **Gunnies' curse visits Detroit**

The "Curse of the Gunnies" has caught up with anti-gun Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick—jailed in August for violating terms of his bond as he faces trial on eight felony counts.

Kilpatrick is a prominent member of New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg's anti-gun Mayors Against Illegal Guns (MAIG) coalition. The irony, according to Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms (CCRKBA) Legislative Affairs Director Joe Waldron, is that because the mayor is under indictment, he cannot possess a firearm.

"Here's a guy who was very quick on the political trigger by joining Bloomberg's coalition of gun-grabbing municipal chief executives," Waldron observed, "but he really misfired when he violated his bond agreement and crossed the border into Canada last month without telling the court in advance. The behavior that got him into this legal quagmire suggests that Kilpatrick considers himself above the law.

Kilpatrick is not the first, and is unlikely to be the last, anti-gun official whose efforts to deny average citizens the right to keep and bear arms for self-defense gets entangled in his own "I'm above the law attitude" brings down the wrath of the Curse of the Gunnies. [The New GUN WEEK](#), September 1, 2008

## **NRA PVF Alert**

# **\$2 for the 2<sup>nd</sup>**

## **Monica Douglas Needs Your Help**

Pro-Second Amendment candidate, **Monica Douglas** won her Primary write-in campaign. She now heads to the General election to face longtime anti-gun incumbent Representative David Levdansky, from the Monongahela Valley. Douglas, in a last minute effort, received nearly 1,000 signatures supporting her candidacy. [However, Monica now needs the financial resources to win in November.](#)

You can help in this effort by being a "**\$2 for the 2<sup>nd</sup>**" donor. Our goal is to reach 50,000 gun owners from across the state to donate two dollars to help preserve the Second Amendment.

Why support Monica? Her opponent, Representative David Levdansky has become the poster child for Cease Fire Pennsylvania, the most outspoken anti-gun group in Pennsylvania---and the spokesman for the anti-gun Philadelphia Legislative Caucus.

Earlier this year when the gun debate raged in Harrisburg, Levdansky stood on the Capitol steps as the keynote speaker at a rally with Philadelphia legislators calling for "gun control measures". In fact, the Philadelphia Daily News recently reported that Levdansky:

*"stood up to withering questioning and attacks from the National Rifle Association and its surrogates in the House to strike a blow for gun-regulation sanity."*

After the latest gun control scheme was defeated this past April in Harrisburg, the Philadelphia Inquirer reported:

**"Levdansky and others suggested that, going forward, gun-control advocates needed to take a page out the NRA's playbook: amass an army of volunteers and supporters across the state."**

Levdansky tells constituents that he "believes our Constitution grants the right to bear arms" and yet his voting record and statements throughout his career show a disdain for individual liberty. As an example, at a Game and Fish Committee hearing in 1986 in Clarion, PA, Levdansky said, "insofar as the constitutional question of the right to keep and bear arms is concerned, I think that that argument is rather hollow and shallow . . . At best, I think that the right to bear arms argument is nothing more than rightwing, ideological rhetoric and ought to be dismissed as such". His statements and voting record reveal his true beliefs and his position on these issues cannot be trusted.

Now it's time to **send a message!!** By joining together we can send a message to Harrisburg that the ongoing attacks against the Second Amendment have gone too far!!! It's time we stood up against the *withering innuendo and attacks on the Second Amendment by Levdansky*. Years ago, a Levdansky mailer to female constituents claimed that 'NRA' stands for 'No Rational Argument' but this election we can show him that it really means 'Not Reelected Again'.

Levdansky 'arrogantly' claims he is untouchable in his district! This is the election that gun owners can and must remove the voice of the anti-gun agenda in Harrisburg. Please be a "\$2 for the 2nd" contributor today. All donations should be sent to:

Citizens for Monica Douglas  
300 Bryce Lane  
Elizabeth, PA 15037  
[www.monicadouglas.com](http://www.monicadouglas.com)

**If you would like to volunteer please contact the campaign at 412-551-4891 or by email at [mdouglas@monicadouglas.com](mailto:mdouglas@monicadouglas.com).**

**Please ask your friends and families to participate as well.**

**Remember, together we can make the difference!**

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## NSSF Bullet Points:

### Bullet Points 09-02-08

- **DNC PARTY PLATFORM ON GUN CONTROL . . .** The Democratic National Committee has released its official party platform including its position on gun control: "We believe that the right to own firearms is subject to reasonable regulation, but we know that what works in Chicago may not work in Cheyenne. We can work together to enact and enforce commonsense laws and improvements -- like closing the gun show loophole, improving our background check system, and reinstating the assault weapons ban ..." [View the official platform](#) (Firearms section is on Page 48).
- **RNC PARTY PLATFORM ON GUN CONTROL . . .** The Republican National Committee has released its official party platform including its position on gun control: "We condemn frivolous lawsuits against firearms manufacturers, which are transparent attempts to deprive citizens of their rights. We oppose federal licensing of law-abiding gun owners and national gun registration as violations of the Second Amendment. We recognize that gun control only affects and penalizes law-abiding citizens, and that such proposals are ineffective at reducing violent crime." [View the official platform](#) (Firearms section is on Page 51).
- **D.C. FFL EXPECTS TO BE LICENSED TODAY . . .** [The New York Times reports](#) that Charles W. Sykes Jr. is expected to receive an annual license from the District Police Department today. That, along with his Federal Firearms License, will allow him to be the first person in the District of Columbia since the Supreme Court overturned Washington's ban on handguns to serve as a transfer agent for the purchase of firearms.
- **LAWYERS IN D.C. GUN-BAN CASE SEEK FEES FROM DISTRICT . . .** The attorneys who successfully sued the District of Columbia over the district's gun ban have asked a federal judge to order D.C. to pay more than [\\$3.5 million in legal fees](#). "It's unfortunate that D.C. taxpayers have to foot the bill for the anti-gun politics of their leadership," said NSSF Senior Vice President and General Counsel Lawrence G. Keane. "Certainly this money would be put to better use if it were allocated to proven crime-reduction measures like adding more police officers and prosecutors." Mr.

Heller, the respondent in the case, has been forced to sue the District of Columbia a second time following the district's refusal to honor the Supreme Court ruling.

- **PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL SEEKS DIALOGUE WITH HUNTERS . . .** The [Governor's Advisory Council for Hunting, Fishing and Conservation](#) wants to hear from Pennsylvania residents, especially sportsmen's clubs and recreation organizations, about how to improve the hunting experience in the Keystone State. Council Member Linda Steiner said the council views this effort as an opportunity for policy makers to look for fresh ideas on how to reverse the steady decline in participation.
- **STATE LOWERS MINIMUM AGE FOR AT-HOME HUNTER ED STUDY . . .** The Pennsylvania Game Commission has lowered the minimum age from 17 to 14 required to take its independent study [Hunter-Trapper Education Class](#). Initiated in 2006 for first-time hunters at least 17 years of age, the program, says Game Commission Executive Director Carl G. Roe, "meets the needs of today's changing world by accommodating busy lifestyles." Though the program helps to remove the impediment of scheduling classroom time, students who complete the at-home portion of the course still must meet with a conservation officer to learn more about the Game and Wildlife Code, hunting ethics and landowner relations and then take the certification test. NSSF has long been a proponent of this independent study concept and has supported the [International Hunter Education Association](#) in developing a prototype program.

#### **Bullet Points 08-25-08**

- **IN DEBATE, BIDEN BOASTS ABOUT GUN-BAN EFFORTS . . .** On Saturday, Sen. Barack Obama selected Sen. Joseph Biden as his Democratic vice-presidential running mate. Sen. Biden needs no introduction when it comes to his stance on restricting the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding citizens. In 1994, he worked to orchestrate the passage of the Assault Weapons Ban. [Watch a video](#) showing Sen. Biden boasting about banning guns. [Read an analysis](#) on the Sen. Biden selection by CQ Politics.

#### **Bullet Points 08-18-08**

- **GUN DEALER FIGHTS FOR LICENSE . . .** A firearms retailer with two stores in North Carolina was in federal court today fighting to keep the

stores' federal firearms licenses, the [Fayetteville Observer reports](#). ATF revoked the licenses of Jim's Gun Jobbery of Fayetteville and Jim's Pawn & Gun of Wilmington in 2005 on charges that the stores kept poor records of hundreds of gun sales.

- **COUNCILMAN TRIES TO BAR PAWN SHOPS FROM SELLING GUNS . . .** Though earlier opinions from the Mississippi attorney general's office refuted a municipality's ability to regulate gun sales, Jackson, Miss., City Councilman Kenneth Stokes wants to repeal an ordinance allowing pawn shops to sell firearms. Stokes' suggestion that the city's pawnshops sell guns to supply the streets with weapons, [reports the Clarion Ledger](#), were addressed by Kevin Macdonald, co-owner of Big Daddy's pawnshop chain, who said, "Not only do we not contribute to the crime problem, but we help solve crimes with the records we keep." Said Jackson Police Department Detective Al LeDoux, "The pawnshops that are selling guns are selling guns within the confines of the federal law. All of the guns sold by pawnshops are to legal adults. I've been a pawnshop detective for 12 years, and I've never seen a pawnshop sell a gun to an underage or nonqualified buyer." An [opinion](#) appearing in the newspaper the next day began, "Jackson Ward 3 Councilman Kenneth I. Stokes' proposal to ban gun sales in pawn shops to help stem gun crimes is like banning car sales at used car lots to prevent traffic violations."
- **TEXAS SCHOOL DISTRICT APPROVES CARRY FOR STAFF, TEACHERS . . .** Accolades are being given to the Harrold, Texas, school district trustees and superintendent for changing policy to allow properly licensed staff and teachers with permission from the school administration to carry concealed handguns to protect against school shootings. "No doubt the school board will suffer some slings and arrows, but if this decision one day saves the life of even one child, it will have been worthwhile," [said Alan Gottlieb](#), chairman of the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms.

#### **[Second Amendment Foundation](#) NEWS RELEASE** **Democrats to gun owners: 'The party is over'**

*By Alan Gottlieb and Dave Workman*

Breaking up is so hard to do. Judging from the Democratic Party platform, remarks from presidential nominee Barack Obama and his selection of anti-gun Sen. Joseph Biden as a running mate, the long, transparent courtship of gun owners by Democrats is over and instead

of a goodbye kiss, there was a slap in the face; the political approximation of a domestic assault.

It was inevitable. After Democrats lost Congress in 1994 because their actions brought legions of angry gun owners to the polls, the party re-packaged its rhetoric and tried to sell itself as a friend of the Second Amendment. American gun owners, who are increasingly becoming gun rights activists, are not the fools Democrats think they are. As we note in our new book *These Dogs Don't Hunt: The Democrats' War On Guns*, Democrats earned their reputation as being the party of gun control. Instead of rhetoric, they need to repudiate their long-standing animosity toward gun owner rights.

The party platform tries to patronize gun owners by claiming to "recognize that the right to bear arms is an important part of the American tradition, and we will preserve Americans' continued Second Amendment right to own and use firearms." But then the document quickly reveals that Democrats have changed their tune but not their agenda: "We can work together to enact and enforce common-sense laws and improvements, like closing the gun show loophole, improving our background check system and reinstating the assault weapons ban..."

Gun owners know that the ten-year "ban" on so-called "assault weapons" – which included more than 200 types of commonly-owned firearms – had no measurable impact on violent crime, and that reinstating it is all about symbolism rather than substance. They know that gun shows are the source of less than one percent of guns used by violent criminals. They know anti-gunners believe "common-sense laws" include licensing, registration and a surrender of the "right to carry" to the discretionary whims of police chiefs and sheriffs.

The party chose Obama as its standard-bearer. He once served on the board of the vehemently anti-firearms civil rights Joyce Foundation. During his first run for public office he supported a ban on the manufacture, sale and possession of handguns and semi-automatic rifles. He supports mandatory waiting periods on all gun purchases. He told the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review in April that "I am not in favor of concealed weapons," insulting millions of armed citizens who care about self-defense in the process.

Gun owners know Biden as an anti-gun extremist. He consistently earns "F" ratings from gun rights organizations. He claimed credit for writing the original legislation to ban semiautomatic sport-utility rifles that are owned by millions of Americans who have harmed nobody.

The proverbial last straw for the firearms community was Obama's remark during his acceptance speech that "The reality of gun ownership may be different for hunters in rural Ohio than for those plagued by gang-violence in Cleveland, but don't tell me we can't uphold the Second

Amendment while keeping AK-47s out of the hands of criminals."

The "reality" is that gun rights are the same for everyone, no matter where they live. And gun owners know from experience that Democrats falsely believe that the only way to keep guns away from criminals is to oppressively regulate gun ownership for everyone.

Mr. Obama told his faithful that Sen. McCain "doesn't get it." Actually, Democrats "don't get it." You do not woo people by treating them like criminals, and you cannot "support" someone's civil right at the same time you regulate it to irrelevancy.

It is now clear to gun owners that Democrats only asked them to the dance just to get through the door. *Alan Gottlieb is founder of the Second Amendment Foundation (saf.org) and Dave Workman is senior editor of Gun Week (gunweek.com). They are co-authors of These Dogs Don't Hunt: The Democrats' War On Guns.*

**[Gun Owners of America NEWS RELEASE:](#)**  
**Imminent Vote In Congress To Repeal DC Gun Ban --**  
DC digs in its heels, even while other communities are repealing their gun control

Gun Owners of America E-Mail Alert  
8001 Forbes Place, Suite 102, Springfield, VA 22151  
Phone: 703-321-8585 / FAX: 703-321-8408  
<http://www.gunowners.org>, Thursday, September 11, 2008

The Heller earthquake continues to send tremors through gun control communities in middle America.

Following the Supreme Court's U.S. v. Heller decision in June, at least one town in West Virginia and two jurisdictions in Illinois have been forced to reconsider their gun control laws. The latter two -- in Wilmette and Morton Grove, Illinois -- repealed their handgun bans in July.

But while some communities have "seen the light," others continue to dig in their heels. Take Washington, DC, where the city council has thumbed its nose at the Court's ruling and has redrafted its registration law to impose a burdensome 12-step process that, as summarized in one legislative report, involves "multiple trips to gun dealers and government offices, fingerprinting, a written exam, and ballistic testing."

At a minimum, some officers believe this process will take 14 days. But a more realistic assessment was offered by DC Police Chief Cathy Lanier who said the process "could take months."

In response, the U.S. House of Representatives is expected to vote soon on legislation to simply repeal the DC gun ban -- a vote that could come as early as today.

HR 6691, introduced by Rep. Travis Childers (D-MS), would repeal much of the gun control in the District -- including the ban on semi-auto pistols and rifles, and the registration requirements which require residents to get permission from the city council before they can own a weapon.

The Childers bill will also strike the "trigger lock" provision which endangers gun owners by forcing the lucky ones who successfully jump through the 12-step process to render their guns unusable for immediate defensive purposes.

Faced with a discharge petition that had gained tremendous momentum -- in large part, thanks to your efforts which was a response to an earlier GOA alert -- the Democratic leadership realized that a bill to repeal the DC gun ban was definitely going to be brought out of committee and passed on the House floor. So the anti-gun leadership decided that the place to kill the bill was in the Senate.

Consider what news reports are saying:

"Although the bill is expected to pass in the House, possibly as soon as this week, its fate is less clear in the Senate," reported The Washington Post this past Tuesday. "It has won the backing of 48 [House] Democrats, **many facing reelection in strongly pro-gun areas**, and is expected to pick up broad support among Republicans."

Remarkably, the Post is right. (A stopped clock is also right twice a day.) The Democrats are trying to "**have their cake and eat it too**" by protecting Democrats from rural districts -- allowing them to vote pro-gun -- but **then letting the bill die in the Senate**.

That's why GOA is encouraging members to contact their two senators at this time.

**ACTION:** Please urge your senators to demand a vote on repealing DC's gun control. While we certainly don't want to discourage you from contacting your Representative, the main battle is going to be in the other chamber, so please make sure you contact both of your senators.

You can use the pre-written message below and send it as an e-mail by visiting the GOA Legislative Action Center at <http://www.gunowners.org/activism.htm> (where phone and fax numbers are also available).

----- Pre-written letter -----

Dear Senator:

I am glad to see that the House is taking up HR 6691, a bill introduced by Mississippi Democrat Travis Childers. His bill would help enforce the recent Supreme Court decision in U.S. v. Heller. It would do so by repealing the gun ban in the District -- including the ban on semi-auto pistols and rifles, and the registration requirements which

require residents to get permission from the city council before they can own a weapon.

The Childers bill will also strike the "trigger lock" provision which endangers gun owners by forcing the lucky ones who successfully jump through the 12-step process to render their guns unusable for immediate defensive purposes.

Regardless of what happens to HR 6691, I would implore you, in the strongest possible terms, to urge Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) to schedule a vote on repealing the DC gun ban. Thank you.

Sincerely,

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GOA Submits Appeal On Behalf Of Olofson-- Olofson's wife thanks GOA members for coming to their aide <http://www.gunowners.org> -- Tuesday, September 9, 2008

Gun owners across the nation are still rejoicing over the Supreme Court decision that struck down portions of the DC gun ban as unconstitutional.

But the Heller decision has also signaled the beginning of a new major assault by the anti-gun left.

Make no mistake, the anti-gun lobby is not going quietly into the night. They are absolutely rabid over this decision -- and their friends in Congress are in a strong position to legislate away those gun freedoms which the Supreme Court has affirmed.

In the meantime, agencies like the federal BATFE (Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives) appear to have no intention, whatsoever, of stopping their attacks on law-abiding gun owners, gun dealers and manufacturers.

In GOA's newsletter which recently landed in mailboxes (The Gun Owners, August 18), we detailed the lengths to which the BATFE is going to trample the rights of gun owners and dealers.

From using paid "informants" to provide false testimony, to physically altering firearms to turn them into "machine guns," to abusing and harassing mom and pop gun shops who cannot afford to legally defend themselves, this agency appears not only to have little or no regards for the rights of citizens, but is clearly willing even to ignore the rulings of the Supreme Court.

As you know, Gun Owners is helping to defend David Olofson, a recent victim of BATFE abuse who has been sentenced to 30 months in the Federal Correctional Institute at Sandstone, Minnesota for the alleged crime of knowingly transferring an unregistered machine gun. GOA submitted an appeal on August 25, 2008, to get him released from prison, and our brief is viewable at

<http://www.gunowners.org/fs0806.pdf> on the GOA website.

We took on the case when we learned that the so-called "machine gun" that Olofson owned was, in reality, one of thousands of ordinary semi-automatic rifles made by Olympic Arms. It happened to misfire a few extra rounds when a friend was using it at a range -- thus drawing the attention of the feds.

However, it only became a machine gun when the BATFE, behind closed doors, mechanically tampered with the rifle.

Getting guns to malfunction is a favorite technique of the BATFE as it gives them a great opportunity to rack up convictions on the possession or selling of "machine guns," which requires a special type of license.

As a result, David Olofson has been robbed of all his freedom, not just his right to keep and bear arms. He has lost his liberty, his family, and his life outside of prison.

It is just a turn of fate that it is David Olofson -- not you or any other semi-auto owner you know -- who is rotting away in prison.

And that's why GOA came to his aide, and we are pleased to report that you guys have been a tremendous blessing to the Olofson family.

David's wife, Candy, told GOA Executive Director Larry Pratt last week that contributions from GOA members have been a tremendous help. So much so, that she does not need to take a second job, thus allowing her to spend time with her children.

All of this has resulted from the many GOA members who are making monthly contributions to help pay the Olofson family's mortgage and car payment. By the way, a lawyer friend who lives near Candy told her that GOA's brief was superb. One could hear the encouragement in her voice that resulted from what the attorney told her.

So, now that we have the Olofson family stabilized, we're asking you to help us get stabilized. This case is very expensive, and we need your help to continue pressing ahead for his release from prison.

The costs in taking on this case are huge, although it's a burden we gladly bear because of the danger that it presents to ALL gun owners -- especially those who own semi-automatic firearms. If this injustice stands, it will give the ATF the green light to put millions of additional gun owners in their cross hairs.

GOA also needs your financial help because we are using this experience to work with a team of experts to develop written testing standards that could be imposed on the BATFE by law. Such a law would protect individual gun owners, manufacturers and dealers alike, and would be the next best thing to getting rid of The Gang (aka, the BATFE).

So please help GOA to accomplish these worthwhile efforts.

You can help GOA continue fighting to defend David Olofson -- and all gun owners like him -- by going to <http://www.gunowners.org/ordergoamem.htm> on the GOA website. Thank you.

## ***News links***

### **08/09/08 Brady Campaign Urges Opposition to Bill That Would Allow Assault Rifles on D.C. Streets**

To: NATIONAL EDITORS

Contact: Peter Hamm of the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence, +1-202-898-0792, phamm@bradymail.org

WASHINGTON, Sept. 8 /PRNewswire-USNewswire/ -- The Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence sent a letter today urging federal security agencies to oppose gun lobby-backed legislation that the House of Representatives will be discussing this week. The bill, H.R. 6691, would extinguish virtually all gun regulations in the nation's Capital, allowing the open carrying of assault rifles and .50 caliber sniper rifles on the streets of Washington, and putting government officials, foreign dignitaries, and tourists at grave risk of harm.

H.R. 6691 would eliminate many of Washington D.C.'s existing gun laws, and would bar the District Government from enacting any new gun laws that might "discourage" gun ownership. It would enable citizens in D.C. to purchase AK-47s and other semiautomatic military-style assault rifles anywhere in the country where they're legal, transport them into the nation's Capital and carry them in public. It would permit individuals to legally own .50 caliber sniper rifles accurate up to more than a mile and effective up to four miles, and it would make it more difficult to break up gun trafficking operations based in the District. The bill would gravely impair law enforcement's ability to protect the nation's Capital, and the people who work and visit there. While the bill is ostensibly a response to the Supreme Court's recent Second Amendment decision in *D.C. v. Heller*, it rejects limitations that the court described as "presumptively lawful."

The Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence today sent a letter to Michael Chertoff, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security; Attorney General Michael Mukasey; FBI Director Robert Mueller and Mark Sullivan, Director of the U.S. Secret Service, urging them to oppose the legislation on national security grounds. "To allow the streets of Washington to be flooded with weapons of war and other firearms is a homeland security nightmare," Brady President Paul Helmke wrote.

"The D.C. government took immediate action after the Supreme Court's ruling to comply with the requirements of that ruling, and D.C. officials are now well into the next phase of response to that ruling," Helmke said today. "Congress should give the D.C. government a fair chance to do its job. This bill is a rejection of the limitations approved in Justice Scalia's majority opinion. It would make our nation's Capital decidedly less safe just as we are preparing to inaugurate a new President."

The House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform is scheduled to hold a hearing on the subject tomorrow, Tuesday, September 9, and then a markup on September 10.

The Brady Campaign letter is available on the Brady website at [www.bradiycampaign.org/xshare/pdf/letters/HR-6691-DC-security.pdf](http://www.bradiycampaign.org/xshare/pdf/letters/HR-6691-DC-security.pdf).

As the nation's largest, non-partisan, grassroots organization leading the fight to prevent gun violence, the Brady Campaign, with its dedicated network of Million Mom March Chapters, works to enact and enforce sensible gun laws, regulations and public policies. The Brady Campaign is devoted to creating an America free from gun violence, where all Americans are safe at home, at school, at work, and in our communities.

Visit the Brady Campaign website at [www.bradiycampaign.org](http://www.bradiycampaign.org). For continuing insight and comment on the gun issue, read Paul Helmke's blog at [www.bradiycampaign.org/blog/](http://www.bradiycampaign.org/blog/).

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SOURCE Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence

[http://news.yahoo.com/s/usnw/20080908/pl\\_usnw/brady\\_campaign\\_urges\\_opposition\\_to\\_bill\\_that\\_would\\_allow\\_assault\\_rifles\\_on\\_dc\\_streets](http://news.yahoo.com/s/usnw/20080908/pl_usnw/brady_campaign_urges_opposition_to_bill_that_would_allow_assault_rifles_on_dc_streets)

#### **08/09/05 Man with explosive device detained near US Capitol**

WASHINGTON - Capitol Police arrested a man Friday after they found a grenade and several weapons in his car several blocks from the Capitol building.

Christopher Shelton Timmons, 27, of Orange, Va., was charged with carrying a deadly weapon and possessing unregistered firearms and ammunition, said Capitol Police spokeswoman Sgt. Kimberly Schneider.

Timmons was detained after he stopped to ask a police officer for directions and the officer saw a rifle case in the car.

A search of the car, a Jeep Cherokee, turned up a rifle, a live grenade, a pistol, ammunition, magazines with ammunition in them and several other "items of concern," Schneider said.

Police closed nearby streets for several hours while conducting the search. The incident occurred near the Library of Congress southeast of the Capitol.

The FBI, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and District of Columbia police assisted in the investigation.

<http://www.philly.com/philly/wires/ap/news/nation/washington/27916119.html>

#### **08/09/05 Stun-gun trio accused of robbing woman**

What do you get when you combine three pals, some lipstick, a wig and a Taser?

Some spine-tingling criminal behavior, evidently.

At least that appeared to be the case yesterday, as police charged three men with jolting and robbing a West Philadelphia woman earlier this week.

Jordan Heath, Eddie Ferguson and Michael Silva told investigators they settled on their 50-year-old victim about midnight Sunday after passing over other possible prey, including a mother-to-be and an elderly man.

Heath, 21, who told police he is a student at Villanova University and Ferguson, 19, zapped the woman in the back of the neck with a Taser at 44th Street and Larchwood Avenue, and made off with her purse when she fell to the ground, said Detective Joe Murray of Southwest Detectives.

Silva, 29, the alleged ringleader, waited nearby in a getaway car.

Murray said investigators caught up with the boltheads - who police are eyeing in two similar stun-and-run robberies - after Ferguson cashed one of the victim's checks at a Commerce Bank, on 11th Street near Chestnut, in Center City.

Surveillance footage showed Ferguson was dressed as a woman when he cashed the stolen check.

Investigators tracked the cross-dressing crook back to a flophouse at 47th and Pine streets Wednesday night, Murray said.

They found hundreds of condoms and several transvestites hiding out inside the property.

Police later found the taser used in the attack, as well as the wig Ferguson wore and an ATM card belonging to the robbery victim, whose name wasn't released.

Heath, Ferguson and Silva were each charged with robbery, possessing an instrument of crime, simple assault and related offenses. \*

[http://www.philly.com/philly/hp/news\\_update/20080905\\_Stun-gun\\_trio\\_accused\\_of\\_robbing\\_woman.html](http://www.philly.com/philly/hp/news_update/20080905_Stun-gun_trio_accused_of_robbing_woman.html)

#### **08/09/04 Addabbo and community call for tougher gun laws**

In light of recent crimes committed throughout the city at gunpoint and the increase in south Queens' homicide rate, lawmakers, community leaders and residents are calling for tougher gun restrictions.

City Councilman Joseph Addabbo Jr. — the democratic contender in the race against state Sen. Serphin Maltese for the 15th Senate District seat — called New York State's gun laws lax and, along with Assemblywoman Audrey Pheffer, accused Senate republicans of stonewalling gun-restricting legislation.

"We can do better in Albany," Addabbo said, referring to the Senate's failure to pass two bills previously proposed in the Assembly. "Enough is enough. ... We want to keep our communities safe and supportive places for people to raise their families, yet recent gun violence is a serious obstacle to that goal."

Joining Addabbo under the A train on Liberty Avenue and 99th Street in Ozone Park on Thursday to condemn the recent gun violence were Bhairavi Desai, executive director of the New York Taxi Workers Alliance, and Elizabeth Goldsmith, founder and president of Mothers Against Guns.

Desai spoke on behalf of the NYTWA, which represents more than 11,000 workers who have been disproportionately targeted by the use of illegal guns. She noted that taxi drivers are 60 times more likely to be killed on the job than any other worker and that "Taxi drivers are on the front lines of violence every day, and this month has been one of the bloodiest."

Three taxi drivers in various parts of the city were attacked at gunpoint last month. During a routine day of work in Manhattan on Aug. 7, 62-year-old Enois Malbranche was shot and blinded by three young women riding in the back of his cab. On Aug. 22,

an Elmhurst livery cab driver was shot in the face by his passenger, and a third driver was shot in the Bronx on Aug. 27.

It has become a working issue for the taxi industry, Desai noted. She joined Addabbo and Pheffer in saying the state Senate was responsible, in part, for its failure to support comprehensive gun legislation to limit gun violence.

It had two opportunities to do so, according to Addabbo. The Senate did not pass two bills proposed in the Assembly that were aimed at increasing gun dealers responsibilities and requirements, and assisting police in identifying crime guns without possessing the actual weapon.

The first bill, the Gun Dealer Responsibility Act, would define responsible business practices for gun dealers and allow the state to identify and prosecute rogue or sloppy gun dealers who supply the streets with illegal guns.

Among the regulations for gun dealers proposed in this bill are the requirements to maintain accurate inventories of weapons, train employees to recognize straw purchasers and follow laws requiring background checks and other safety measures.

The other legislation, which Pheffer sponsored in the Assembly, would allow police to use micro-stamping technology that stamps an identifying number into the cartridge of a weapon, making it easier to link a cartridge left at a crime scene with the gun used in the crime, even if the gun is never found.

"Gun violence is an unnecessary evil that destroys the lives of so many," Goldsmith said. "And unless common sense state and federal legislation is enacted, we will continue to see the flow of blood in the streets of our communities."

Just last week, an 18-year-old woman was accosted in South Ozone Park, and robbed and raped at gunpoint. On Aug. 16 a 22-year-old Richmond Hill man allegedly strangled a man to death over a rent money dispute. Recent NYPD statistics indicate the homicide rate in south Queens has increased from last year by up to 400 percent in some areas.

Gun violence, Desai said, "creates victims on both sides of the barrel."

### **New York State Gun Laws Ranking**

The Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence issues an annual legislative scorecard to every state in the country, rating each on its policies in various categories. Out of a possible 100 points, New York scored 51 in 2007.

#### **Protecting Child Safety**

States can earn up to 20 points in this category by requiring that only childproof handguns be sold within their borders. New York only earned five points.

#### **Curb Firearms Trafficking**

States that do this successfully can earn 35 points. New York scored 15 points.

#### **Brady Background Checks**

A state can score 25 points if it has tough and comprehensive background check requirements. New York earned 13 points in this category.

[http://www.zwire.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=20105970&BRD=2731&PAG=461&dept\\_id=574908&rfti=6](http://www.zwire.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=20105970&BRD=2731&PAG=461&dept_id=574908&rfti=6)

### **08/09/04 Judge sentences Jonesboro shooter to 4 years**

FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. -- A man who as a teen helped shoot and kill five people in a schoolyard ambush was sentenced Thursday to four years in prison on an unrelated federal weapons charge.

U.S. District Judge Jimm Larry Hendren expressed dismay that Mitchell Johnson had not taken advantage of the second chance he received upon his release after years in custody. Now 24, he was 13 at the time of the 1998 shootings at Jonesboro's Westside Middle School.

While his trial contained no reference to the shootings, they were a key element of Johnson's sentencing hearing Thursday. Hendren agreed to go beyond sentencing guidelines after prosecutors argued that the guidelines did not take into account the severity of the shootings, which aside from those killed left 10 people wounded.

"No matter what I do today, you will have a life to live," said the judge. "Those who died in 1998 will not."

Johnson had faced a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine after being convicted in January of possessing a firearm while being a user of or addicted to a controlled substance. Johnson also was sentenced to three years of supervised release.

Johnson already was being held at the Benton County jail on separate state charges, accused of taking a debit card left by a disabled man at a Bentonville gas station where Johnson worked.

Johnson rocked back and forth in his chair, his hand clasped in his lap. When asked if he had a statement, Johnson told the Fayetteville courtroom that "not a day goes by that I don't think about what happened" - nearly the same comments he made to Washington County deputies who arrested him during a traffic stop Jan. 1, 2007.

At the time, Johnson was traveling with Justin Trammell, who had been found delinquent after shooting his father to death with a crossbow in 1999. Johnson and Trammell were roommates.

Deputies had received a tip the duo's van carried 100 pounds of marijuana. Deputies found only 21 grams of the drug but also found a nickel-plated handgun and a 20-gauge shotgun. State prosecutors later turned the case over to federal prosecutors. Hendren said the fact that Johnson was found in possession of firearms, despite the shootings of a decade ago, was "very, very worrisome."

In 1998, Johnson and classmate Andrew Golden stole guns from Golden's grandfather and a white van belonging to Johnson's stepfather. They waited in camouflage atop a wooded hill after Golden triggered a fake fire alarm.

They opened fire as classmates and teachers left the school. Shannon Wright, an English teacher, died while shielding student Emma Pittman from a pair of bullets. Students Natalie Brooks, 11; Paige Herring, 12; Stephanie Johnson, 12; and Britthney Varner, 11, all died of their wounds.

The federal government had held Johnson and Golden until age 21 after the Jonesboro shootings. At the time of the schoolyard massacre, Arkansas had the means to hold Johnson and Golden only until age 18.

After his release, Johnson spent time in several states before returning to Arkansas to work at a Wal-Mart. The night of his traffic-stop arrest, he told deputies he planned on moving to California to start his life over. <http://www.ledger-enquirer.com/news/photos/story/430568.html>

#### **08/09/04 Waynesburg Man Charged With Shooting Alleged Attacker**

WAYNESBURG, Pa. -- An argument over money in Waynesburg led to an alleged attacker being shot. According to the criminal complaint, Sam Boyd, 63, told police that William Durbin came to his house arguing about money. Police said Durbin bullied his way into Boyd's home, threatening to kill him.

At that point, Boyd said he shoved Durbin out of the home. Boyd said that's when Durbin grabbed a large metal lighthouse from the yard and started beating him.

"He picked it up and started beating me," said Boyd.

Police said two neighbors backed up Boyd's account of events, telling troopers they witnessed Durbin beating Boyd and reaching for a rock.

"When he bent over to pick the stone up, I shot for his leg," said Boyd. "I just wanted to stop the guy."

The bullet ended up striking Durbin in the lower back.

Boyd now faces four charges, including two counts of aggravated assault, lesser charges than the attacker.

District Attorney Marjorie Fox said she doesn't comment on pending cases, saying the police affidavit speaks for itself. Boyd's lawyer calls the charges over the top.

"All the man was doing was defending himself," said Boyd's attorney John McIlvaine. "I can only hope and pray that we have a right to defend ourselves against somebody who is threatening to kill you."

Durbin is recovering from the gunshot wound.

Boyd has a preliminary hearing on Sept. 23.

<http://www.wpxi.com/news/17393980/detail.html>

#### **08/09/04 Man shows up in Pa. court with loaded handgun**

STATE COLLEGE, Pa. - A central Pennsylvania man faces additional charges after showing up for a hearing on summary charges of public drunkenness and disorderly conduct with a loaded handgun.

A police officer found the weapon when the 22-year-old man arrived for a hearing Tuesday at District Judge Jonathan Grine's office in State College.

The man was arraigned on new charges including possession of a firearm in a court facility and taken to Centre County jail in lieu of \$10,000 cash bail.

Court documents indicate the man's earlier actions led court staff members to believe he was armed. Police say he called asking if there was a locked box to store his gun, later entered the office and ran out, returned and checked the court calendar, then took pictures of signs saying weapons are prohibited.

<http://www.philly.com/philly/wires/ap/features/27865984.html>

#### **08/09/04 Man gets 81-year term for '03 crime spree**

Whatever remains of 29-year-old Andre Henry's life will likely be spent behind bars.

Henry, described by authorities as a career criminal, was sentenced in federal court yesterday to more than 81 years in prison for his part in a 2003 crime spree that included robbing banks and fast-food restaurants, buying illegal guns, and firing 11 shots at a Philadelphia police officer.

There is no parole in the federal prison system, and Henry would be a centenarian by the time he'd be eligible for release, according to officials.

In February 2007, a federal jury convicted Henry on 27 counts, including armed robbery, carjacking, straw purchases of firearms, and related offenses, according to Acting U.S. Attorney Laurie Magid. "This defendant defines the term 'armed career criminal,'" Magid said in a statement.

The stiff sentence, handed down by U.S. District Judge Jan E. DuBois, comes as Philadelphia continues to try to crack down on the use and purchasing of illegal guns in the city. It's also part of an effort by several federal, state and local law enforcement agencies to prosecute firearms offenders in federal court, where they are likely to receive substantial sentences.

Henry's string of violent crimes, which began in August 2003 and lasted two months, began with robberies of fast-food restaurants. Henry and others then used the proceeds to pay two women to purchase eight firearms, including two semiautomatic handguns, three rifles, two shotguns, and one AK-47 assault rifle. He used the weapons in an attempted carjacking, officials said, and to rob the Pulaski Savings Bank at 2352 Orthodox St. in Philadelphia on Sept. 18 and again on Sept. 29.

After Henry found out about the federal grand jury investigating the case, he attempted to hire someone to murder witnesses who testified against him, officials said. He was later convicted of solicitation to commit murder.

<http://www.philly.com/philly/news/local/27847579.html>

#### **08/09/03 Area man accused of shooting person trying to steal his car**

MONONGAHELA - A city man was charged today after allegedly firing at and wounding one of two suspects trying to steal his car.

Robert Walters, 53, of 216 Frye Ave., was charged with two counts each of aggravated assault and simple assault and recklessly endangering another person.

He is accused of shooting at James Kress, 23, of 62 West Katherine Ave., Washington, Pa., and his 16-year-old female accomplice as they allegedly were attempting to steal Walters' car at 3:50 a.m. Aug. 17.

Walters allegedly fired two shots from a 9mm in the direction of Kress and the Carroll Township teen.

One of the shots struck Kress in the leg.

When officers arrived, both Kress and the juvenile had fled the scene.

Monongahela police, with the assistance of Carroll Township officers, located the juvenile nearby and arrested her. She was placed in a juvenile detention center in Jefferson County, Ohio.

Personnel from Tri-Community Ambulance and Monongahela Fire department, using a thermal imaging camera, located Kress in a wooded area along the edge of Pigeon Creek, near Peno's Plaza.

Kress was flown by emergency helicopter to Allegheny General Hospital, where he was treated for what police described as life-threatening wounds.

Kress was charged with criminal trespass, endangering the welfare of children, corruption of minors, possessing instruments of crime, theft from a motor vehicle, criminal conspiracy and loitering and prowling at night.

Charges against Walters and Kress were filed this morning in the office of Magisterial District Judge Mark Wilson, of Monongahela.

Washington County District Attorney Steve Toprani said authorities took into account "the totality of the situation" in determining the charges that were filed. He spoke with Monongahela police Chief Brian Tempest and recommended charges to be filed.

Toprani said the law permits the use of "deadly force" to defend one's home. But, in this case, the shots were fired from within a home at suspects who were outside the home, Toprani said.

"I am a firm believer in the right to defend your home," Toprani said. "But that wasn't the case in this case. We've taken a reasonable view in this case.

"We must send a message to public that we will enforce the law fairly.

Toprani said his stance on the right to bear arms is confirmed both politically and personally, noting that he received the endorsement of some pro-gun lobbies.

"I keep a gun to defend my home, but you have to use them reasonably," Toprani said. "While I respect an individual's right to defend their home, you have to use it in the way the law prescribes."

[http://pittsburghlive.com/x/valleyindependent/news/s\\_586241.html?source=rss&feed=30](http://pittsburghlive.com/x/valleyindependent/news/s_586241.html?source=rss&feed=30)

### 08/09/03 Aiming high and shooting straight

We cannot say farewell to the 2008 Olympics without offering a 21-gun salute to the fine U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit, based at Fort Benning.

(Not to be confused with the three-volley salute common at funerals, the 21-gun salute is typically reserved for the president as part of the "Hail to the Chief" ceremony, and for other heads of state.)

The unit brought home two gold medals: Spc. Walton Eller III for the double trap competition and Pfc. Vincent Hancock for the skeet. Eller set two Olympic records with a score of 145 in the qualifying rounds and 190 in the finals.

This year's Olympic team included seven from the local unit: six shooters and one coach. But behind the scenes, many other of the unit's members and their families served as competitors, coaches and cheerleaders.

Founded in 1956 by President Dwight D. Eisenhower, the unit produces America's best competitive shooters and the Army's greatest custom gunsmiths. Serving as a walking, talking and shooting public relations committee, the group manages a grueling training schedule while traveling the world representing the Army in national and international competition.

The marksmanship unit has a long history of Olympic excellence. Of the 44 shooting medals won by the United States

since 1956, 23 have been by members of this elite group. It has been an egalitarian cadre, with both male and female members and shooters or coaches ranking all the way from a private to a colonel.

In addition to the two medalists, this year's team included shooters Maj. Michael Anti, Sgt. 1st Class Jason Parker, Sgt. 1st Class Daryl Szarenski, Spc. Jeffrey Holguin and Assistant Coach Staff Sgt. Mark Weeks. Holguin narrowly missed the bronze, coming in fourth in the category of double trap.

As every infantryman knows, learning the basics of small arms fire is part of the job. Once again, Fort Benning's Marksmanship Unit aimed high, shot straight and made us proud. <http://www.ledger-enquirer.com/178/story/427693.html>

### 08/09/02 California Police Find Man with Thousands of Rounds of Ammunition

A man accused of shooting at a traffic light was arrested near the University of California at Los Angeles with five loaded semiautomatic pistols and thousands of rounds of ammunition in his possession, police said.

Gene Bush, 52, was being held Monday at a county jail and was expected to make an initial court appearance Tuesday.

He was arrested late Friday by campus police after he allegedly shot at a traffic light a block away from the university. Police searched him, his van and a storage unit, finding weapons, ammunition and what police called an anti-government manifesto.

"Given the situation, with the amount of guns and ammunition involved, we thought it best that he remain in custody until we know the full story behind him," said UCLA police Sgt. Phil Baguiao. "We would consider him a danger to society given the circumstances."

Police said officers found Bush carrying the pistols - which were equipped with laser sights - and 400 bullets. They also found another 7,800 rounds of ammunition in his van and 3,000 more in his storage locker, police said.

A press release said Bush appeared to have no criminal history and was living out of his van.

After his arrest, Bush made anti-government statements and told police to look in his nearby suitcase for "the secret," the release said. A Los Angeles police bomb squad found timers, paint thinner and other suspicious items inside, as well as his manifesto.

UCLA police spokeswoman Nancy Greenstein said police believe Bush was acting alone and didn't have a specific target. "He had writings and a lot of them seemed to be anti-government, talk about 9/11," she said.

It wasn't immediately clear why police didn't announce Bush's arrest until Monday, more than three days after the incident. It wasn't known if Bush had retained an attorney.

[http://www.officer.com/web/online/Top-News-Stories/California-Police-Find-Man-with-Thousands-of-Rounds-of-Ammunition/1\\$43005](http://www.officer.com/web/online/Top-News-Stories/California-Police-Find-Man-with-Thousands-of-Rounds-of-Ammunition/1$43005)

### 08/09/02 California Officer Kills Man with Loaded AK-47

A 21-year-old man was fatally shot by a Salinas police officer Sunday morning when he attempted to pull a loaded AK-47 rifle from his pants, according to the Police Department.

The officer was called around 11:20 a.m. to a strip mall at East Boronda and Natividad roads on reports of a man hiding in the bushes across from Wells Fargo ATMs, police said.

The responding officer turned his vehicle west onto Arcadia Way from Natividad Road and located the suspect, who was standing on the sidewalk, based on a witness description, police said.

The officer exited his vehicle and told the suspect to sit on the sidewalk, but the suspect instead began to pull a rifle out of his pants, according to police.

The suspect continued to draw the rifle despite orders to drop his weapon, and the officer shot the suspect several times. Police said the suspect's weapon appeared to be a loaded AK-47 rifle.

The officer and another arriving officer began CPR after the suspect was shot, but the man later died at a hospital. He has been identified as Castroville resident Philip Michael Dorado, police said.

[http://www.officer.com/web/online/Top-News-Stories/California-Officer-Kills-Man-with-Loaded-AK-47/1\\$43000](http://www.officer.com/web/online/Top-News-Stories/California-Officer-Kills-Man-with-Loaded-AK-47/1$43000)

#### **08/08/30 Constable admits to carrying gun without permit**

A Norristown constable has admitted to carrying a loaded handgun without the proper permit Vincent I. Angelichio, 41, of the 1000 block of Buttonwood Street, pleaded guilty in Montgomery County Court to a misdemeanor charge of firearms not to be carried without a license in connection with a November 2007 incident in the borough.

The open plea means prosecutors have no deals with Angelichio regarding his potential punishment.

Judge Paul W. Tressler will have sole discretion in fashioning Angelichio's punishment.

Tressler deferred sentencing so that court officials can complete a background investigative report about Angelichio. The judge will use that report to assist him in sentencing Angelichio later this year.

Angelichio, who is represented by defense lawyer Saul J. Solomon, remains free on bail pending sentencing.

Angelichio's guilty plea comes just two months after prosecutors denied his request to be admitted to the county's Accelerated Rehabilitative Disposition program, a special probationary program that allows first-time offenders of non-violent crimes to clear their records after successfully completing probation.

Prosecutors denied the ARD request because a gun was involved in the incident, court documents indicate.

Earlier this year, Tressler temporarily stripped Angelichio of his constable duties, pending the outcome of the criminal case. Angelichio "may not hold himself out under color of authority in any fashion as an agent of the commonwealth," Tressler wrote in the previous court order.

At that time, the judge ordered authorities to seize "any and all items" identifying Angelichio as a constable, including uniforms, weapons, badges and any cars marked as belonging to a

constable.

Prosecutors plan to ask the judge at a future hearing to permanently remove Angelichio from his constable duties.

In court papers, District Attorney Risa Vetri Ferman alleged Angelichio's "willful breach of the law constitutes malfeasance and misfeasance" and makes him unfit to serve as constable.

Angelichio's alleged carrying of a handgun without a proper license violates the Constables' Code of Ethics and the rules governing the conduct of constables, Ferman maintained.

Angelichio was sworn in as the elected constable for Norristown on Jan. 5, 2004, according to court records.

Court documents indicate an investigation of Angelichio began about 12:50 p.m. Nov. 22, 2007, after Norristown police observed a vehicle allegedly operated by Angelichio travel through a stop sign at West Marshall Street and Haws Avenue.

After stopping the vehicle and requesting identification from Angelichio police observed a badge on the outside of Angelichio's wallet, identifying him as a state constable, according to the arrest affidavit.

"Angelichio was asked if he had any weapons in the vehicle, to which he replied that he has a gun next to his seat," Norristown Police Officer Brian Kozera wrote in the arrest affidavit.

Police saw the handle of a revolver sticking out from underneath the right-hand side of the front driver's seat, according to the criminal complaint.

When police questioned Angelichio about whether he had a permit to carry a concealed weapon or if he was certified under state law to carry a weapon as a constable, Angelichio allegedly replied he was not certified to carry a firearm while working.

Angelichio, according to court papers, did tell police he had a permit to carry a firearm but that he had left the card at his home.

However, upon checking with the Pennsylvania State Police gun license and permit system, police determined Angelichio was not permitted to carry a concealed weapon, according to the arrest affidavit.

[http://www.thereporteronline.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=20099123&BRD=2275&PAG=461&dept\\_id=466404&rfti=6](http://www.thereporteronline.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=20099123&BRD=2275&PAG=461&dept_id=466404&rfti=6)

#### **08/08/29 Gun Explodes In Finleyville Woman's Face**

ROSTRAVER (KDKA) — Melissa Malone, 22, of Finleyville, required more than 50 stitches in her upper lip this week, after the gun she was shooting at a private shooting range in Rostraver exploded in her face.

The Washington County woman is now warning people who might have the gun - a Talon T-200 9 MM pistol - to get rid of it, because she says the gun isn't safe.

Malone tells KDKA-TV that she and several friends were at the firing range Wednesday afternoon.

At first, she said the gun worked fine, then the slide on the gun cracked in half, and parts went flying. She thought she lost her whole cheek, before the ambulance came and got her.

Malone says she still has a throbbing, stabbing pain in her mouth, like somebody took a knife, and went through her lip, and just cut it.

Doctors hope to take the stitches out of her lip next week, then, she expects to have to undergo plastic surgery.

We were unsuccessful tonight in trying to reach Talon, Inc., the company that manufactured the weapon.

<http://kdka.com/local/Pistol.exploded.Finleyville.2.806575.html>

### 08/08/29 Man arrested for having gun at rally

BEAVER — An Industry man is facing a disorderly conduct charge for attending the Barack Obama rally in Irvine Park with a loaded gun that was holstered on his hip, according to state police and the Beaver County sheriff's department.

John Noble, 50, was questioned by police for several hours Friday night after the incident, in which witnesses said he also was passing out fliers with writing about gun rights.

John Atkinson of Vanport Township said he saw Noble passing out the fliers and noticed the small-caliber handgun strapped to the man's waist. He said he quickly notified nearby deputy sheriffs, and deputies Joseph O'Sche and Rich Yonlisky approached the man as he walked along Market Street.

Atkinson said that when the deputies asked why he had a gun, Noble replied, "Because I'm an American," and one of the deputies responded, "Well, you're under arrest."

Noble was hustled to a nearby vehicle, and state police took him to the Brighton Township barracks to question him.

Beaver County Sheriff George David said that Noble insisted he had a right to have the gun because he has a permit to carry it. It wasn't clear late Friday whether Noble had a valid permit.

David said Noble "wanted to show his rights." He said Noble never removed the gun from the holster or threatened anyone.

Noble's arrest took place around 7 p.m., nearly 90 minutes before Sen. Obama and the rest of his campaign team arrived in Beaver. <http://timesonline.com/articles/2008...2890214530.txt>

### 08/08/29 Washington crackdown nets guns, illegal drugs

Concerned with an increasing number of incidents involving guns in the Washington area, state police were joined by local police, liquor control enforcement and adult probation agents on special patrols this week.

During the patrols Tuesday and Wednesday, state police seized at least three guns, confiscated crack, heroin and marijuana and arrested several people.

One of those arrested Wednesday night was a reported victim of a shooting earlier this month. Douglas Yondale Cochran, 20, of 22 E. Prospect St., Washington, was arrested behind the wheel of a stolen car on East Wylie Avenue.

Cochran was shot in the back during an exchange of gunfire earlier this month at Terry's Lounge, 108 W. Wylie Ave., Canton Township. The bullet is still lodged in his arm. Two accused in that shooting were arrested about midnight Tuesday as part of the detail checking local bars and taverns in a compliance check.

Andre Walker and Crystal Rae Valperga were charged with drug and weapons violations. Charges are pending in connection with the shooting.

"The common thread here is drug dealing," said state police Cpl. Christopher Neal, who filed the charges against all three. "We're concerned about the guns on the street. Someone innocent or a police officer is going to get hurt."

State police stopped Cochran, who was driving a black Ford Escape reported stolen to South Strabane Township police in June by a rental car agency. Police said he was in possession of five to 10 grams of crack, a quarter-ounce of marijuana and several thousand dollars.

Cochran, also known as Yandell Barfield, was recently released from federal custody after serving time on drug and escape charges. He is on federal parole.

He was arraigned before District Judge Gary Havelka on charges of possession and possession with intent to deliver crack, unauthorized use of a vehicle and receiving stolen property. Cochran was released from Washington County Jail Thursday morning after posting \$10,000 bond.

Also arrested Wednesday night as part of the initiative was Steven Sadler, 19, of 235 W. Chestnut St., Washington.

Troopers working the special patrol received a tip that a black man in black shorts and a gray, hooded sweatshirt was walking on West Chestnut near Brookside Avenue. When troopers approached Sadler, he ran. He was apprehended several blocks later outside an apartment complex by undercover officers. Police said they found him with a .38-caliber handgun and a razor knife. He also had suspected Vicodin pills.

He was arraigned before Havelka on charges of carrying a firearm without a license and possession of a controlled substance. Sadler was jailed on \$2,500 bond.

Washington police Chief James R. Blyth called the initiative fantastic.

"This is part of the Safe Streets Initiative of Washington County Commissioner Larry Maggi, NAACP President Dean Ellis and city Mayor Sonny Spossey," Blyth said. "And this just goes to show you can't predict what day of the week you are going to have problems. It can happen any place, any time."

Blyth said state police have done a great job and credited Capt. Sheldon Epstein and Lt. Rick Sethman for putting the operation together. Police also are working with District Attorney Steve Toprani. <http://www.observer-reporter.com/OR/Story/08-29gun-arrests>

### 08/08/29 Chester man convicted on drug, firearms charges

A Chester man was convicted in federal court yesterday of drug possession with the intent to distribute and firearms charges.

Darren Cephas, 38, will face a mandatory sentence of 15 years to life in prison when sentenced in December. Cephas had previous felony drug convictions and was found to be in possession of firearms, which qualifies him for a life sentence, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office.

In April 2007, the Delaware County District Attorney's Drug Task Force served a search warrant at Cephas' home. They found more than a pound of cocaine, \$22,700 in cash, and two loaded handguns. In addition they confiscated items used in drug trafficking, according to authorities. -

<http://www.philly.com/philly/news/pennsylvania/27649714.html>

### 08/08/28 Alleged teen robber shot by Wal-Mart shopper

EAST STROUDSBURG - It's a night time shopper's nightmare. You buy groceries, go to your car, and someone tries to rob you at gunpoint.

Police say Joshua Eastman, 28, of East Stroudsburg was unloading groceries at his car shortly before 12:45 a.m. today when Reneau Jean Jacques, 17, of 77 Symphony Circle, East Stroudsburg, pointed a handgun at him and demanded that he hand over his money.

Eastman looked around for help or someone to yell to. The alleged robber continued to demand money. Eastman replied that he did not have any money - that he used a debit card to pay for his purchases.

Jacques became more threatening, pointing the gun and using a more menacing tone of voice.

Eastman then took out his wallet and pushed the door of his truck more open to put it between himself and the suspect. Jacques pointed his gun at Eastman's face.

Eastman dropped his wallet and started ducking down. Jacques fired a shot that went through the window of the door almost striking Eastman and causing flying glass from the car window to cut his face.

Eastman pulled out a handgun he was carrying and fell to the ground. He returned fire under the truck's door with his pistol while the teen continued to fire his weapon.

Eastman shot Jacques in the lower leg and foot. Then Eastman ran back toward the store as the teen fled towards Friendly's restaurant.

Jacques fled into a landscaped island of bushes and trees in the parking lot. Stroud Area Regional Police were on the scene almost immediately and found him hiding and trying to bury a handgun in the mulch. He originally claimed to be a victim before police determined he was likely the one who started the trouble.

"It appears to be an armed robbery that went badly for the suspect because he picked an armed customer," said Sgt. James Wielgus.

On Thursday afternoon, Jacques, using crutches and wearing a long hospital gown over hospital pants, sat with a numb look on his face during his preliminary arraignment in East Stroudsburg Magisterial District Judge Michael Muth's courtroom. Jacques, a Shawnee Academy student with a prior juvenile record, spoke in a subdued tone when addressed by the judge.

Jacques is charged as an adult with attempted murder, robbery, aggravated assault, crimes committed with guns and illegal possession of a gun, all felonies, and reckless endangerment, a misdemeanor. He hung his head and sighed after the judge told him he could face up to 30 years in prison if convicted of the most serious charge, attempted murder.

Jacques was taken to Pocono Medical Center for treatment. Police detained two other youths for questioning. They were in a car, trying to flee the scene, according to witnesses and police. <http://www.poconorecord.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080828/NEWS/80828002>

#### **08/08/28 Pa. man charged with weapons offense**

WESTAMPTON NJ— A Pennsylvania man was injured in an accident Tues-day and then charged with unlawful possession of a loaded handgun, police said.

According to investigators, Gary Jones, 30, of Glenside, Pa., was the driver of a vehicle that collided with another car at the intersection of Springside and Valley Farm roads.

Following the 4:21 p.m. accident, officers located a 10mm handgun in the console of Jones' car, police said. The gun was loaded with hollow-point bullets, police said. Jones had a permit to carry the weapon in Pennsylvania, but New Jersey law does not permit him to bring the gun to New Jersey, police said.

Jones, who required medical treatment for head, neck and leg injuries, was charged with unlawful possession of a handgun and possession of penetrating bullets. He was released on undisclosed bail conditions, police said.

Motorists in the second vehicle — driver Dana Brown, 32, and passenger Mila Brown, 7, both of Willingboro — also were injured in the accident. Police did not specify if they were taken to a hospital and their conditions were not available.

<http://www.phillyburbs.com/pb-dyn/news/112-08282008-1582703.html>

#### **08/08/28 Police log: Traffic stop leads to drug bust; more**

QUAKERTOWN -Man arrested after traffic stop

A 32-year-old Lansdale man faces drug charges after being stopped for driving without his headlights on at the end of July.

Eric L. Johnson, of Ferndale Drive, was stopped on Route 313 at Allan Lane at 9:57 p.m. July 29, police said.

He was arrested and incarcerated at the Bucks County Correctional Facility for a prior conviction and his vehicle was seized.

During a search of the vehicle, police allegedly found 411 bags of suspected crack cocaine, 31 bags of suspected heroin and a loaded .40-caliber handgun, police said.

On Aug. 11, Johnson was charged with possession of a controlled substance; possession with intent to deliver a controlled substance; persons not to possess, use, manufacture, control, sell or transfer firearms; firearms not to be carried without a license; periods for required lighted lamps; and obedience to authorized persons directing traffic, police said.

State police were assisted at the scene by Quakertown police, Richland police, Macungie K9 unit, state police K9 unit and Grants Towing.

[http://www.zwire.com/site/index.cfm?newsid=20095269&BRD=2275&PAG=461&dept\\_id=635541&rfti=8](http://www.zwire.com/site/index.cfm?newsid=20095269&BRD=2275&PAG=461&dept_id=635541&rfti=8)

#### **08/08/28 Woman Disarms South Carolina Corrections Officer at Hospital; Shoots Self**

In a two-pronged response to an attempted suicide in a Columbia hospital emergency room, the state prison agency is reviewing its procedures and equipment while the hospital decided to open a separate waiting room for inmates.

On Wednesday, questions were raised about how easily a woman patient was able to pull a gun from a prison officer's holster and shoot herself in the head at Palmetto Health Richland Tuesday night. The woman remained in critical condition Wednesday.

The Corrections Department acknowledged the armed guard was wearing a low-security holster. A holster's "retention rating" determines the ease of drawing the weapon.

Neither the hospital nor Columbia police would identify the woman or the corrections officers or discuss the circumstances of the shooting that put other emergency room patients and hospital staff at risk.

Prison spokesman Josh Gelinas released some details about how the inmate was transported.

He said two officers had accompanied a high-risk female inmate for medical treatment when the patient grabbed the gun.

One officer was not armed, as Corrections policy inside hospitals dictates. Gelinas would not explain the reasoning behind the policy, citing security reasons.

One of the guards had been employed since June, he said, but he would not say whether it was the armed guard.

Gelinas would not disclose whether the officers are being disciplined, but they were not at work Wednesday.

"While no policy can protect against every possibility, we will continue to review our policies and procedures," he said.

Columbia police Capt. Thomas Dodson said he saw the holster from a distance.

"I can only guess it was not a high-level security holster," said Dodson, whose detectives are leading the investigation. But he added: "Even the best-security holster can be defeated."

Holsters generally are rated from zero to three, with three being more secure, Dodson said.

The prison agency said it was a Level 1 holster.

The S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control issues Level 2 holsters to its roughly 35 law enforcement officers.

"One of the things we do -- and I certainly hope the Department of Corrections would, too -- is semiannual reviews on what to do when someone tries to take your gun," DHEC spokesman Thom Berry said.

Tim James, third in command at the State Law Enforcement Division and formerly chief of security at Lexington Medical Center, agreed.

"It boils down to weapon retention ... or good training," James said, declining to discuss the facts of the shooting because SLED is assisting Columbia police.

James and his successor at the West Columbia hospital, Joel Huggins, said law enforcement officers are armed when they are inside hospitals, though there is no written policy.

"It's a good idea to have that quick response," James said. "A hospital is a city within a city. Anything that can happen on Main Street USA can happen in a hospital."

National and S.C. hospital organizations said they are concerned about emergency room safety after Tuesday's shooting.

"This is certainly an incident we would be concerned about," said Elizabeth Zhani of The Joint Commission, previously called the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Health Care Organizations. That group accredits 80 percent of the nation's hospitals, including Palmetto Health Richland.

The commission learned of the shooting from reporters, Zhani said.

Palmetto Health spokeswoman Tammie Epps said it would comply with the timetables for reporting to the commission and state hospital regulators.

The S.C. Hospital Association has no guidelines for situations like this, said spokeswoman Patti Smoake.

"Sometimes you don't really address things until something tragic happens," Smoake said, adding the association board might ask for a review.

"It is very serious," Smoake said. "I'm sure it's being addressed in hospitals all over the state today.

"I've been with the association for 31 years and this is the first time I've heard of this happening."

[http://www.officer.com/web/online/Top-News-Stories/Woman-Disarms-South-Carolina-Corrections-Officer-at-Hospital-Shoots-Self/1\\$42949](http://www.officer.com/web/online/Top-News-Stories/Woman-Disarms-South-Carolina-Corrections-Officer-at-Hospital-Shoots-Self/1$42949)

### **08/08/27 Pittsburgh Robbers Enter Homes While You're Sleeping**

PITTSBURGH -- A pair of suspected serial robbers is slipping into homes and taking credit cards and other property while the people inside are sleeping, Pittsburgh police said.

One case took place on Monitor Street in the Squirrel Hill neighborhood between 1 a.m. and 2:30 a.m. on Aug. 18. Police said the robbers were later seen on surveillance video at a Wal-Mart store in Natrona Heights, where they used stolen credit cards.

Stolen cards were also used at Wal-Mart stores in Tarentum and North Versailles that night, as well as local fast-food restaurants and gas stations, police said.

In another case on Aug. 9, one of the sleeping victims awoke upstairs and realized what was happening on the first floor.

"The homeowner actually yelled down to them when he discovered his house was broken into and said, 'I'm going to call the police,'" Detective Mike Pilyih said.

Most of the four reported incidents happened in the general area of Taylor Allderdice High School in Squirrel Hill, WTAE Channel 4's Janelle Hall reported.

The same suspects are believed to have committed a similar robbery in Harrison City, Westmoreland County, according to Pittsburgh police.

Police released a surveillance image on Wednesday morning, hoping to generate tips about the suspects.

<http://www.thepittsburghchannel.com/news/17311999/detail.html?rss=pit&psp=news>

### **08/08/26 FBI looks into Denver reports of threat on Obama**

DENVER -- Federal authorities are looking into reports that a man arrested with rifles, ammunition and drugs in his truck may have made threats against Barack Obama, officials said Monday.

Two other men were arrested in the case.

"It's premature to say that it was a valid threat or that these folks have the ability to carry it out," said a U.S. government official familiar with the investigation. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because the investigation is ongoing.

Obama will be in Denver later this week to accept the Democratic nomination for president.

FBI spokeswoman Kathy Wright confirmed the FBI was investigating the reports but declined to elaborate. The Joint Information Center -- a command set up by Denver, state and federal authorities to field media inquiries during the Democratic convention -- said it had no immediate comment.

Tharin Gartrell, 28, was arrested during a traffic stop early Sunday by police in the eastern Denver suburb of Aurora. In his truck, officers found two rifles, including one with a scope; a bulletproof vest; boxes of ammunition; walkie-talkies; and suspected narcotics, said Aurora police Detective Marcus Dudley.

Police alerted federal authorities, who soon arrested Nathan Johnson, 32, at a hotel in Denver, Dudley said. A third man,

Shawn Robert Adolf, 33, was arrested at a suburban Glendale hotel, Dudley said.

Adolf allegedly tried to escape officers by jumping from a sixth-floor window. He was hospitalized and was being held on \$1 million bond for several outstanding warrants involving drug charges. Johnson also was being held on drug charges and his bond was unknown, Dudley said.

It wasn't known if the three men had attorneys, Dudley said.

Dudley didn't say what tied the men together but that more arrests were possible. One of the rifles was stolen, and authorities had traced it to Kansas, Dudley said. He declined to say to whom it belonged.

Aurora police alerted federal officials because of heightened security surrounding the Democratic convention, Dudley said.

"Clearly we found there are federal implications -- otherwise we would not have notified them," he said. "The weapons clearly would cause great concern."

U.S. Attorney Troy Eid said the case was under investigation. "We're absolutely confident there is no credible threat to the candidate, the Democratic National Convention, or the people of Colorado," Eid said in a statement.

Officials with the FBI, Secret Service, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, and Aurora police set a news conference for Tuesday afternoon.

Law enforcers in Denver are trying to find out whether the reported threats to Obama were valid. "It could also turn out that these were nothing but a bunch of knuckleheads, meth-heads," the U.S. government official said.

[http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/tribunereview/search/s\\_584893.html](http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/tribunereview/search/s_584893.html)

#### **08/08/26 Texas students pack bookbags; teachers pack heat**

Along with normal first-day jitters and excitement, students in this tiny district started school Monday wondering which teachers might be toting firearms.

"It was kind of awkward knowing that some teachers were carrying guns," said Adam Lira, 17, a senior. "I don't feel like they should be, 'cause we already have locked doors and cameras. But I didn't feel threatened by it."

Several parents said they had no idea that employees of the K-12 school were allowed to carry concealed guns on campus until recent publicity about the school board's policy, approved quietly last fall. They said they were upset that the rural community near the Oklahoma border had not been able to give input.

While some parents said they felt their children were safer, others opposed the plan, which appears to be the first of its kind nationwide.

"As far as I'm concerned, teachers were trained to educate my children — not carry a gun. Even police officers need years of training in hostage situations," said Traci McKay, whose three children are among the 110 students in the red-brick Harrold school. "I don't want my child looking over her shoulder wondering who's carrying a gun."

But Harrold Superintendent David Thweatt said the board approved the policy in an October open meeting that had been publicized. He said the decision was made after nearly two years of researching the best school security options at the school,

which is just off a busy highway and 30 minutes away from the sheriff's office.

"When you outlaw guns in a certain area, the only people who follow that are law-abiding citizens, and everybody else ignores it," Thweatt said.

The superintendent said some of the school's 50 employees are carrying weapons, but he wouldn't say how many. When pressed further, he first said that revealing that number might jeopardize school security. He then added that he considered it to be personnel information and not a matter of public record.

Each employee who wants to carry a weapon first must be approved by the board based on his or her personality and reaction to a crisis, Thweatt said. In addition to training required for a state concealed weapons license, they also must be trained to handle crisis intervention and hostage situations.

State education officials said they did not know of any other Texas schools allowing teachers to carry guns. National security experts and the Brady Center to Prevent Gun Violence said they did not know of other U.S. schools with such a policy.

School districts in some states, including Florida and Arizona, have closed loopholes that allowed guns on K-12 campuses. Utah allows concealed weapons at public universities but not at primary or secondary schools.

Thweatt said the board took extra precautions, such as requiring employees to use bullets that will minimize the risk of ricochet, similar to those used by air marshals on planes.

"I can lead them from a fire, tornado and toxic spill; we have plans in place for that. I cannot lead them from an active shooter," Thweatt said. "There are people who are going to think this is extreme, but it's easy to defend."

Judy Priz, who has a third-grade daughter, said that "everyone I've talked to thinks it's great." She said she trusts the teachers with her child's life.

"Look how long it takes the police or anybody else to get here," she told the Fort Worth Star-Telegram for a story in its Monday online edition. "If someone wants to come here and harm someone, at least we would have sort of defense."

Gov. Rick Perry has said he supports the policy because "there's a lot of incidents where that would have saved a number of lives."

The Brady Center has spoken out against the plan, saying it may not comply with Texas law, which bans firearms at schools unless carriers have given written permission. If the school board authorizes an employee to carry a gun, then that person must be a peace officer, according to the center.

"It's unfair of us to ask teachers to take on the additional job of being police officers," said Paul Helmke, president of the Brady Campaign.

Cheryl Mehl, an attorney for the Harrold school district, said the statute the Brady Center cites applies only to security guards, not teachers and other employees. The district has no security guards.

[http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20080826/ap\\_on\\_re\\_us/gun\\_toting\\_teachers;\\_ylt=AomHZXFIO7BerRLB4GfbSr1H2ocA](http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20080826/ap_on_re_us/gun_toting_teachers;_ylt=AomHZXFIO7BerRLB4GfbSr1H2ocA)

#### **08/08/25 Garfield man gets 46 months for illegal firearms possession**

A Garfield man has been sentenced to almost four years in prison for illegal firearms possession. Derek St. Clair, 40, of Kinkaid Street pleaded guilty in Pittsburgh federal court in May to illegally owning a 12-gauge shotgun and a .22-caliber rifle. Last week, Senior U.S. District Judge Alan Bloch sentenced St. Clair to 46 months in prison, less than the maximum 10-year sentence.

St. Clair had been given three years' probation last year in Allegheny County Court after he pleaded guilty to having an unlicensed gun that police discovered during a traffic stop, court records show. St. Clair also had served probation for drug possession convictions in 2006 and 1995.

U.S. Attorney Mary Beth Buchanan said her office prosecuted the case as part of Project Safe Neighborhoods, which is intended to deter gun crime.

[http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/tribunereview/search/s\\_584741.html](http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/tribunereview/search/s_584741.html)

#### **08/08/25 Cops: Pizza deliveryman fatally shoots armed teen**

A retired Philadelphia cop working as a pizza deliveryman fatally shot a 14-year-old boy who was pointing a gun at him during an attempted robbery yesterday morning in Frankford, police said.

Shortly afterward, in an unrelated shooting, a police officer's bullet fragment hit a 17-year-old robbery suspect in the face in Fairmount, police said.

In the first incident, the 14-year-old and two other suspects were trying to rob the ex-officer at gunpoint while he was delivering a pizza about 1:15 a.m. on Leshler Street near Bridge, police spokesman Lt. Frank Vanore said.

The boy pointed the gun at the former cop while his cohorts - also believed to be teenagers - attempted to go through the victim's pockets, Vanore said.

But the deliveryman - whose name was withheld by police - was able to reach into a pocket and pull out a semiautomatic Glock, which he had a permit to carry, Vanore said.

The deliveryman shot the gun-wielding boy once in the chest, and the boy was pronounced dead at 2:14 a.m. at Temple University Hospital, police said. His identity was not released pending notification of his family and the identification of his alleged accomplices.

The two other teens were still being sought by police, Vanore said.

The deliveryman, who is in his 50s, had been assigned to the Northeast and retired from the Police Department around 2000, Vanore said.

The decision of whether to press charges against the deliveryman rests with the District Attorney's Office, but Vanore said initial information doesn't suggest that the retired cop acted in a negligent manner.

The case is being handled by the homicide unit, police said.

Vanore said it's common for retired police officers to "invoke the privilege" to obtain a permit to carry a concealed weapon long after their careers on the street are over.

"Once you're an officer, you're always kind of there," he said.

In the other shooting yesterday, a 23rd District officer questioning robbery suspects in Fairmount about 3 a.m. discharged his gun into a sidewalk, sending one of the teen

suspects to the hospital with a graze wound from a bullet fragment, Vanore said.

The incident began near Broad and Thompson streets, where three men robbed a 30-year-old woman at gunpoint, Vanore said. The victim provided descriptions of the suspects to police, and responding officers soon found three men fitting the bill at Poplar Street near 23rd.

"As they approached they noticed one of the males, a 17-year-old, had what appeared to be the butt of a gun sticking from his waistband area," Vanore said. "They ordered him not to move, to drop it, but as he reached for the firearm, one officer discharged."

That officer's single bullet hit the sidewalk and broke into fragments, one of which struck the 17-year-old in the face, police said. That teen, who is from College Avenue near 25th Street, was taken to Temple, where he was listed in stable condition.

Also apprehended at the scene was a 14-year-old boy from Dover Street near Oxford.

A third suspect fled on foot, but police have a "good idea" as to the identity of that suspect, believed to be a 17-year-old boy, Vanore said.

A "very real-looking pellet gun" found at the scene is believed to have been the weapon officers spotted in the teen's waistband, according to Vanore.

As is routine procedure, the officer who fired the shot will be placed on desk duty until Internal Affairs and Central Detectives complete an investigation into the case, police said.

[http://www.philly.com/philly/hp/news\\_update/27346749.html](http://www.philly.com/philly/hp/news_update/27346749.html)

#### **08/08/24 Man arrested carrying weapons at Pelosi hotel**

DENVER—House Speaker Nancy Pelosi was briefly evacuated from her downtown Denver hotel on Saturday when a man carrying two hunting rifles and two pistols tried to check in to the hotel.

Secret Service spokesman Malcolm Wiley said 29-year-old Joseph Calanchini of Pinedale, Wyo., faces a charge of unlawful carrying of a weapon after police officers at the Grand Hyatt hotel noticed him carrying a rifle-type case while checking in. Calanchini did not have a concealed weapons permit, said Lance Clem, spokesman for the Colorado Department of Public Safety.

Wiley said authorities were not releasing information about whether the weapons were loaded because the case remained under investigation. Wiley said the charge is the same whether the weapons were loaded or unloaded.

Pelosi and other guests briefly evacuated the hotel but were never in danger, Pelosi spokesman Brendan Daly said.

Calanchini told KUSA-TV it was bad timing.

"I didn't even know the DNC was in town. I don't watch the news," Calanchini told the station from jail before he was released on \$10,000 bond. "If I had known, I would have done things differently. It was a simple mistake."

Calanchini told KUSA he had the weapons because he was getting ready for a hunting trip Aug. 28.

Authorities were investigating a report that Calanchini was in town on business and had had the weapons worked upon, including mounting of site scopes, to prepare for the trip.

"The speaker was never in any danger and she appreciates the quick and professional response of the police," said Daly.

[http://www.denverpost.com/news/ci\\_10292097](http://www.denverpost.com/news/ci_10292097)

#### **08/08/24 Somerset firm touts new rifle's accuracy**

Tucked away in Clearfield County, Grassflat may be a tiny town (pop. 750), but if Xtreme Machining has its way, it will become the center of the universe for precision tactical rifles used by military and law enforcement snipers, civilian target shooters and big-game hunters.

To that end, the company today will roll out its latest product, the .338 Xtreme Tactical rifle. It is touted as being accurate for up to 1.6 miles, with low recoil and light weight. About two dozen representatives of the military, federal agencies, southwestern Pennsylvania police SWAT teams and gun dealers are expected to attend the company's shooting event at a range in Somerset County.

"We want them to get their hands on it, to see the accuracy, to feel the recoil and say, 'Wow!'" said Xtreme marketing director Paul Leonard. "So far, everybody has said, 'Wow.'"

"We can make any gun out there already, but our objective was to make the best. The serious shooter is always looking for something better."

And, he said, the .338 Xtreme tactical rifle is that "something better." Using an automobile analogy, he said the .338 Xtreme is to other weapons what a Mustang GT is to the family sedan.

"It's a custom-built rifle but it's not an assembly-line rifle. Everything is machined and tested. We make one at a time, but quite a few a day."

The company won't list all of its targeted customers, but two likely are the Army and the Marine Corps.

According to an article in May in the Army Times newspaper, both branches of the service are looking for a long-range "anti-personnel" sniper weapon to complement the standard sniper rifle, which is effective out to 800 meters.

The Xtreme could fit the bill. The selling points of the rifle are fourfold, beginning with accuracy at a target 2,500 yards away and beyond, said Mr. Leonard, who acknowledged that company representatives have taken a prototype to the Marine base in Quantico, Va.

"There are two other firearms out there that they say can shoot that far, but they weigh more and are less accurate," Mr. Leonard said, noting the Xtreme rifle weighs 16 pounds as compared to the 30 or so pounds a .50-caliber rifle used by snipers can weigh.

According to the Army Times, both the Army and the Marines use versions of the .50-caliber sniper weapon, which has a range out to 2,000 meters. But it is mainly intended to destroy targets larger than a man, such as light-skinned vehicles, the newspaper said.

The Xtreme is a light-kicking anti-personnel or game-killing weapon.

The recoil is like that of a much less powerful .22-250 rifle.

"It's almost unreal," Mr. Leonard said. "With other [rifles] in this class, after a couple of shots, your shoulder is done, but not with this. You can shoot all day long."

Additionally, the rifle can be fired 10 times consecutively without overheating. All parts are 100 percent machined; there are no forgings or castings.

Mr. Leonard said the rifle's high performance is enhanced by the .338 Xtreme cartridge. The Army and Marines haven't given details on the caliber they would want in a new sniper gun, according to the Army Times.

"This bullet was made for this gun," Mr. Leonard said. "A lot of guns are made for bullets, but we did it the right way."

Depending upon the model, the rifle will retail between \$4,700 and \$6,200. American Tactical Imports in Rochester, N.Y., is the distributor for the rifle, which has been in research and development since Xtreme Machining began business in April 2005.

The company, whose president, Robert A. Zelenky, has been in the machining business for 25 years, employs about a dozen people. But Mr. Leonard said more hiring will be necessary to keep up with expected demand.

While the rifle is initially being shown locally, it will have a wide-ranging impact, he predicted.

"We want to get it started from the grass roots. We'll start in our own area and spread out further and further," he said.

"This firearm not going to stay in Western Pennsylvania. It's going to go everywhere, trust me. This is a major breakthrough, one of best things to happen in the shooting industry in about five years."

<http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/08237/906641-454.stm>

#### **08/08/22 Pa. resident charged over gun in N.Y. is a celebrity at home**

A Pennsylvania man says he has become a celebrity where he lives because of his experience in July at Alexandria Bay.

And now, Erwin Spethmann of New Ringgold in eastern Pennsylvania is glad to hear he likely will get back his gun, the one that he voluntarily surrendered to troopers.

"All I want is to clear my name and get my gun back," the naturalized citizen said in his heavy German accent.

Jefferson County District Attorney Cindy F. Intschert said Thursday that her office on Tuesday sent a letter to Alexandria Town Justice Sherry L. Pennington, making a motion to vacate Mr. Spethmann's disorderly conduct conviction, refund his \$100 fine and make his handgun available for return delivery.

All that remains is for Judge Pennington to grant the motion.

A letter to Mr. Spethmann, which he had not received Thursday, will tell him he must arrange to have an authorized gun dealer ship the weapon to him, Mrs. Intschert said.

"That's no problem," he said.

It was on July 22 that as he drove up Interstate 81 en route to Kingston, Ontario, to meet a friend, he remembered he had a gun in the trunk of his car. It was there, he said, because "I belong to a gun club. I target shoot, and I shoot skeet."

Knowing he could not take it into Canada, he followed signs to the state police station near Alexandria Bay.

"I thought they'd give me a receipt for it and hold it for me to pick up on my way back," he said.

"I did not know it was illegal to have the gun in New York."

The gun didn't have a firing pin, he said. "It was truly inoperable."

Three of the troopers he met that day "were nice officers, genuinely nice people," he said. But another trooper, the one

who sat him in a chair and handcuffed him, Mr. Spethmann could describe only with unquotable comments.

"The other guys, they were very upset they had to do all the paperwork for this. They thought it was foolish. So I decided that this was a good time to shut up and let them do the talking."

A trooper called the district attorney's office for consultation, and was advised to charge the traveler with misdemeanor weapon possession.

But the prosecutor, one of Mrs. Intschert's assistants, also moved to reduce the charge to disorderly conduct.

After being detained for about three hours, Mr. Spethmann resumed his trip to Kingston and spent a week in Canada.

"I'm a fishing guide and I've been going to Canada for 35 years," he said.

A Watertown Daily Times story July 24 about his experience was picked up by his hometown paper, the Pottsville Republican Herald, so when he returned home, "my phone was ringing off the hook," he said. He was unaware of the publicity he had received, he said, until his first caller told him he was a celebrity.

"I got calls from gun clubs, guns rights organizations, sportsmen. And I can get a free beer anywhere I go."

Mr. Spethmann, 71, a widower and retired salesman, said he moved from Germany in 1958, "and I'm proud to be in this country."

But after being handcuffed, fingerprinted and photographed, with his records now gone to the FBI, "I could have packed up and gone back to Germany."

Expressing gratitude for what the Watertown Daily Times has done for him, he said his experience has served a purpose for people in Pennsylvania, where gun registration is not required.

"People here didn't know they can't bring guns into New York," he said.

<http://www.watertowndailytimes.com/article/20080822/NEWS03/30136/Pa.+resident+charged+over+gun+in+N.Y.+is+a+celebrity+at+home>

#### **08/08/21 Police blotter from Allegheny County**

• Calvin Kane, 21, of Webster Avenue in the Hill District was held for trial Aug. 11 on charges of aggravated assault, recklessly endangering another person, carrying a firearm without a license and attempted homicide. Kane was arrested by Allegheny County police on Feb. 2 after the victim of a shooting identified him as the assailant.

[http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/tribunereview/search/s\\_583824.html](http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/tribunereview/search/s_583824.html)

#### **08/08/21 Garfield man admits ownership of gun, pleads not guilty**

A Garfield man questioned about a Westmoreland County bank robbery this month pleaded not guilty Wednesday before a magistrate in federal court to a charge of being a felon in possession of a weapon.

Police said Ricardo Brown, 21, told them at the time of his arrest that a loaded 9 mm handgun hidden inside a limousine in which he was riding was his. The limousine was pulled over Aug. 7 by police investigating a robbery that occurred a day earlier at the First Commonwealth Bank in Ligonier.

No one has been charged with the holdup. Prosecutors said Brown was convicted in Allegheny County Common Pleas Court in 2006 on marijuana-distribution charges. Convicted felons are not permitted to have guns.

[http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/tribunereview/search/s\\_584113.html](http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/tribunereview/search/s_584113.html)

#### **08/08/21 WEAPONS OF CHOICE Police tell owners: 'We're inspecting your guns'**

Investigators searching community for firearm used in murder

Oklahoma police investigating the shooting deaths of two girls have told area residents with guns to bring them in for a test to determine whether they were used in the attack, sparking concern among those who own guns for hunting and self-defense.

According to reports in the Tulsa World the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation sent letters to members of the community who were registered as owning .40-caliber handguns suggesting they voluntarily bring in their gun or guns for a test.

The individuals who were "invited" to bring their guns in but didn't now will be included in the ongoing investigation, as well as people who were identified by former owners as having purchased that type of weapon recently, authorities said.

"We'll be checking on them," Jessica Brown, a spokeswoman for the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation, told the newspaper.

The investigation is into the June 8 shooting deaths of Skyla Jade Whitaker, 11, and Taylor Paschal-Placker, 13, who died when they were shot several times on a road about four miles from Weleetka. Authorities say two guns were used in the killings, but they haven't released much information about the weapons until they now confirmed one was a .40-caliber.

They have not yet identified the second type of weapon used.

Authorities said they sent out about 60 letters, and about 40 gun owners voluntarily brought in their weapons to the Okfuskee County Courthouse at Okemah for testing over the weekend.

Brown said those weapons were taken by investigators and test-fired, and the results of those tests now are being evaluated. She said nearly half a dozen former gun owners contacted authorities to identify new owners, and another 15 gun owners did not show up.

Those who participated in a forum on the newspaper website expressed sympathy for the victims and their families, but worried about the maneuver of inspecting privately owned guns without a search warrant or probable cause.

"This is a really sad story. My heart goes out to the families involved," said one participant. "For some reason, though, it bothers me that 60 gun owners were asked to 'voluntarily' relinquish their legally-owned firearms."

Wrote a second, "Since when does Oklahoma have handgun registration? ... I seriously hope they catch the vermin responsible for this, but I'm disturbed by the implication that Oklahoma, one of the most free states in the USA, has handgun registration."

Another, identified only as ok sooner and who reported spending time in law enforcement, added, "I would never 'voluntarily submit their weapons for testing.' Get a warrant."

"I'm with ok sooner," said a fourth. "I wouldn't voluntarily submit my firearms to law enforcement without a warrant, either."

This is really starting to bother me. Why ask 60 citizens to do this? Or maybe they're waiting for somebody to refuse to submit 'voluntarily' whereupon they do get a warrant."

On the forums page for the Oklahoma Shooters Association, the readers were even more alarmed.

"Why don't they just test fire all the .40 cal handguns in Oklahoma? Yeah, that's the ticket," said one person. "I hate to perhaps sound callous about the tragedy, that's not my intent at all, but this is some of the goofiest stuff I've ever heard of."

"What the OSBI stupidly did was ensure that, if the real murderer still has the murder weapon and got one of these letters, he will now WITHOUT DOUBT destroy it POST HASTE," said another.

"Human beings can only interact with one another through two methods: reason or force. If at any point, either party chooses force, the other must either submit or respond with force," warned another participant. "I prefer reason. But I am ready to respond with force. Submission is not an option."

"The issue of private control of firearms in the United States has been a hot topic this year in light of the Washington, D.C., dispute over a complete ban on private handguns. In that case, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that individuals in the United States do have the right to bear arms, although that right can be regulated.

The District of Columbia city council promptly adopted emergency legislation that would replace its handgun ban with a laundry list of regulations and requirements, including several described by the Gun Owners of America as equally unconstitutional to the ban.

Those include a gun license requirement, a ban on semiautomatics, new ballistics requirements, requirements for trigger locks and requirements to keep guns unloaded.

"It's no wonder that the District is awash with lawlessness. The contempt for the law starts in the city council chambers," said GOA Executive Director Larry Pratt.

The Supreme Court ruling was the first definitive statement on the 2nd Amendment in decades. The court said, in Justice Antonin Scalia's majority opinion, the Constitution does not permit "the absolute prohibition of handguns held and used for self-defense in the home."

Scalia was joined by Chief Justice John Roberts and Justices Samuel Alito, Anthony Kennedy and Clarence Thomas. Joining Justice John Paul Stevens in dissent were Justices Stephen Breyer, Ruth Bader Ginsburg and David Souter.

The amendment, ratified in 1791, says: "A well regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed."  
<http://worldnetdaily.com/index.php?f...w&pageId=72906>

### **08/08/20 Jeannette man sentenced to prison for sports store gun theft**

A federal judge on Tuesday sentenced a Jeannette man to a year and a month in prison for stealing guns in a smash-and-grab burglary at a Delmont sporting goods store.

Justin Carroll, 22, was sentenced by Senior U.S. District Judge Gustave Diamond. He ordered Carroll to pay restitution of \$1,696.22 to Donegal Insurance Group and \$250 to John Anderson, owner of the Delmont Sports Shop.

Police discovered someone had broken into the store on Jan. 7, smashed a glass display case and stole 23 weapons, including gold-plated decorative pistols and other handguns. Within 30 hours, investigators recovered the weapons -- worth \$10,325 -- from Carroll's residence.

"You got me," Carroll told investigators the next day when they arrested him, according to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

Carroll pleaded guilty in May to stealing firearms from a federally licensed dealer. Along with the weapons, police recovered several other items, including stolen jewelry.

Murrysville police connected Carroll to smash-and-grab robberies at two other stores. When interviewing Carroll about those robberies, investigators noticed the tread on his New Balance sneakers were similar to imprints left at the Delmont crime scene, court records state. Forensic investigators determined the shoes and prints matched.

While Carroll was released on bond, Kansas police arrested him Jan. 20 after a high-speed chase in that state. Carroll is charged in Kansas with burglary, aggravated assault on a law enforcement officer, fleeing and eluding, possessing a controlled substance and criminal damage to property, the ATF said.  
[http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/tribunereview/news/westmoreland/s\\_583865.html](http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/tribunereview/news/westmoreland/s_583865.html)

### **08/08/20 'Guns in the hands of good people'**

A testament to Second Amendment rights

June 28, 2008, was a defining moment in my life. It was the day I shot and killed a man in the defense of my life and the lives of others. We all have defining moments. They might not be as tragic as taking another man's life, but they are events that change the way we look at things -- or even, perhaps, how we live our lives.

Before that muggy Saturday evening in June, I would have said my defining moments were many: graduating from high school; enlisting in the Army; getting married; having children; getting run over by a tow truck; and especially, meeting my fiancée, Maria. All of these events, and more, have happened in my life and changed me.

\* \* \*

On June 28, only two days after the Supreme Court announced its 5-4 ruling that Washington, D.C., citizens have the right to bear arms under the Second Amendment to the Constitution, I found myself standing in a pool of blood in York, from a man I had just shot. It was not my intent that evening to test the Second Amendment or kill somebody, but events unfolded to make it necessary for me to draw my weapon to defend myself and others.

My fiancée Maria and I had spent the day showing real estate investors our investment properties in York. We were driving to nearby Hanover to visit my mother when we came across what looked like a rear-end traffic accident.

Instead, a man, Douglas Need, had been driving recklessly when he swerved in front of a car and was hit in the rear. In a fit of road rage, he stormed out of his car, went back to two young women and a baby in the car that hit his, reached through the driver's window and started beating the driver very violently. She

was able to break free and drive her car to the only place she could go -- the parking lot next to the street. Need ran back to his car, squealed his tires into the parking lot and looked as though he was going to broadside the women's car with them still inside.

At the last moment, he swerved his car around and blocked hers from going anywhere. I pulled into the parking lot, got out of the car and yelled at Need to leave the women alone while Need's passenger was in the parking lot. My gun was still holstered by my side. The woman got out of her car and escaped into the store. He followed but only moments later exited the store back into the parking lot. Both Need and the man with him were uncontrollably enraged and seemed deranged past the point of caring who they hurt.

As they continued to threaten that they had guns and were going to kill people, for some unknown reason Need ran to the driver's side door of my car and started pounding on the window, shouting at my fiancée who was inside the car with the engine running. Fearing that Maria's life was in danger because of his previous death threats, that's when I drew my weapon. I ordered Need to step away from my car, which he did. He then returned to the center of the parking lot, according to witnesses, and continued with threats and deranged behavior.

I went to my car and stood at the driver's side door. Need turned back to me and started coming at me with his arms waving and shouting "just shoot me." I ordered him to stay back, but he kept coming. Then, when he was about four or five feet from me, he put his hand into his pants pocket, and that is when I fired my first shot into his left thigh. It didn't stop him from coming at me. He grabbed my shirt, ripped off the top button and grabbed my right arm. That's when I shot him the second time point-blank into his thigh. I was told later that the bullets had severed his femoral artery and he had bled to death at York Hospital. I was truly sorry he died, but knew I had made the right decisions.

\* \* \*

There is an aftermath of emotions and events that follows even the justifiable taking of a life. Being taken in handcuffs to the police station is traumatic. Waiting for three weeks to find out the district attorney's ruling on your case is also something not easily endured. Even knowing the truth was on my side with several witnesses backing my testimony, it is still unnerving.

There's a feeling that everything in your life needs to be put on hold. You feel remorse over what happened and second-guess yourself as the entire scenario is played over and over again in your head. The question of "what would I do if I actually needed to use my gun" is answered. There's anger at the perpetrator for compelling the use of deadly force, and at times yourself for the realization of your capacity to use deadly force. Lastly, there is the fear that your loved ones and friends will not trust your judgment in needing to protect yourself and others from grave harm.

Our brave soldiers in the Middle East seem to be expected to somehow handle the killing of others better than we "regular citizens." We expect that since they kill enemies of the United States it somehow makes the taking of a life more palatable. However, killing another human being is not something to be taken lightly, no matter how corrupt or evil the person might be. What gives us the strength to deal with what we've done, whether soldier or civilian, is the understanding of the greater good we

performed by our actions. We were responsible for the safety and welfare of other innocent lives. This is comforting.

\* \* \*

Criticism has come from both sides of the gun control issue with Second Amendment advocates saying I should have shot to kill him in the first place. People not in favor of the individual right to bear arms have both criticized me for stopping to help the women in distress and in using my weapon to defend myself and others.

Online commentator "Computer Steve" responded to a newspaper article saying, "His concealed weapons permit should be revoked. You cannot just intervene on behalf of someone else." He went on to say, "I witness crimes and call 911 on a weekly basis and there is nothing I can do but watch the crime take place and relay the information to 911. If I had known that I was able to intervene I could have stopped a violent sexual assault in front of the YMCA on Tuesday evening. So what's the law? Are we intervening on our own now or what?"

Another online respondent, "Forgot to Mention," implied that the women deserved what they got by becoming involved in a road rage encounter. This respondent commented, "I would never engage in road rage or pull over to fight with someone who did. Why did that woman (woman) place herself and her passengers in such a dangerous situation?"

Nothing could be more ludicrous, given the facts and the innocence of the women who were victimized.

In the Supreme Court's majority decision, the court said, "It is not the responsibility of the police to protect the individual, but society as a whole." I take this to mean that any American who witnesses the wrongdoing of an innocent has the lawful right to intervene on behalf of that victim. So how can people like "Computer Steve" and "Forgot to Mention" possibly live with themselves knowing they could allow heinous crimes to take place before their very eyes and just sit and watch without intervention?

This does not mean I am advocating vigilantism and want all Americans to rush out and purchase weapons. A great deal of responsibility comes with owning and carrying a gun.

The York Daily Record editorial dated July 24 posted the Pennsylvania Uniform Firearms Act laws regarding the justifiable and non-justifiable use of firearms by civilians. Not only should gun owners know and understand these laws, they should have the motivation and desire to practice with their weapon on a frequent basis to become familiar and proficient in its use. Even then, to go out looking for trouble just because you have a firearm is dangerous and irresponsible.

In my almost 51 years on this earth, never have I come across a situation as violent as the one on June 28 and hopefully, I never will again. When I was assigned to the 709th Military Police Battalion in Frankfurt, Germany, I would occasionally observe the MPs perform their duties on patrol. The most I saw in the form of violence was an occasional bar brawl or domestic violence situation between a husband and wife. But nothing had ever escalated to the point where deadly force was needed. However, the MPs on the military installations had a similar problem to cops in the U.S. Response times were delayed for lack of staffing and the sheer numbers of people they had to police.

Our police officers here at home are taxed to their limit. We complain that there is never a police officer around when we need one and joke how you can always find a cop at the doughnut shop, but fail to realize that many communities are under-staffed with officers. In York alone, there are only about 100 officers to police a city with a 42,000 population. As with other communities in the state, some of its officers are National Guard or Reserve members and have been deployed to the Middle East. This makes it even more difficult because those officers are guaranteed their jobs upon return from military service and cannot be replaced.

However, it will never be possible for a police officer to be immediately available in every instance that someone is in danger or in need of help. I believe that it is our personal responsibility to care for each other as Americans. A person doesn't have to own a gun to help an elderly man hit by a car lying in the middle of the street while cars swerve to miss him and pedestrians stand on the sidewalk and stare at him like he was road kill. That seems heartless to me, and we Americans are not a heartless people.

\* \* \*

I stepped into a dangerous situation to protect the lives of two young women, a baby and my fiancée, and some have said that makes me a hero. I'm not sure what I did was heroic. I did what I did for the same reason other Americans do what they do when any tragedy takes place - it is the right thing to do, we step forward and rise to the occasion and if that's heroic - then OK. Our military men and women, our police officers and firefighters, however, demonstrate this every day and for that we should truly be thankful because they are heroes.

There has been an outpouring of responses that have been overwhelmingly positive and supportive. On the other side are people who seem to have a belief that no private citizen should carry or use a gun. One responder to my story, with the screen name "He is no Saint," claims to know me and has accused me of murdering someone's son. This person says, "If Mr. Fentiman would have never stopped, a bystander or the police would have brought justice to that man."

I was the bystander who stopped to help. If I had not, and everyone had waited for the police, what would have been the cost to Need's victim? I did not intervene with my gun waving in the air. I pulled it only when my fiancée was directly threatened. Furthermore, it was not my intent and not the job of the police to have "brought justice to that man." Punishment for crimes is for the court system and a judge.

"He is no Saint" writes without taking into consideration the exact sequence of events that evening. Apparently, they also mistakenly believe I would not have stopped if I had no gun. Nothing could be further from the truth.

Anti-gun advocates argue that the more guns off the streets, the fewer deaths by gun fire. Somehow they believe that if a legally permitted gun carrier flees from a life-threatening situation with an out-of-control perpetrator this will defuse the danger and stop the criminal from causing harm to others. The problem with this argument is it assumes the criminal element will realize their mistakes, repent and give up their guns during one of the many amnesty gun turn-ins cities have in an effort to reduce gun-related crimes.

In reality, what usually happens is the innocent become victims of gun crimes and the perpetrator isn't caught, or if he is, only goes to jail while the victim lives for the rest of his or her life with the consequences of the crime. This imbalance of justice should not be acceptable to any American.

I believe that those of us who grew up in the '60s and '70s have been lax in protecting each other and have passed this attitude on to our children. Some of us developed this complacent attitude that someone else, especially the government, is responsible for supporting us or solving our problems. But they are not.

The fact is that guns in the hands of good people can help deter the crimes of bad people. Good people with legal gun permits do not suddenly turn into villains and go on killing sprees because the gun feels so good in their hands. They also don't holster their weapons and cruise the streets looking for bad guys. They are hard-working Americans who either carry because of their exposure to the criminal element from their jobs, or they keep a gun in their house to protect their families.

For me, my job exposes me to a criminal element that can be out of control. I carry to protect myself, my fiancée and my customers from the squatters who might be drug addicts or dealers working out of the vacant properties we buy in York, Harrisburg and Reading. To ignore this potential threat would be irresponsible to the people I love, honor and care about.

People might ask why we choose sometimes dangerous inner-city areas to buy distressed properties to renovate. In addition to being a source of investment income, transforming derelict houses into comfortable and safe homes has a tremendously positive impact on the many good people who live in these communities. We love the cities where we work and are proud of what we do to make them better.

I never thought I would be threatened in a situation outside my job or need to come to the aid of someone else being threatened. However, I would have been devastated had I awakened the next morning and read in the newspaper, or watched the television news, to see that one of those young women had been beaten and killed by Mr. Need because I chose to drive by and not intervene.

Bad people make poor choices and do bad things. The guns and other weapons of bad people have typically been obtained illegally and will most likely be used to commit crimes. We know what a weapon in a criminal's hands will do. As long as there are bad people, no gun control law will prevent criminals from obtaining all the guns they desire.

The America we live in today is not the same country my father and mother experienced. Dad was a World War II veteran and recipient of two Bronze Stars and two Purple Hearts, and Mom was a "Rosie the Riveter" who built ships in Long Beach, Calif., during the war. They were a generation that helped each other. They were neighbors who watched out for the interests of their neighbors. A large part of the population was involved in WWII, and they had to depend upon each other for their very survival. Sometimes the only thing these military men and women had in common was the fact that they were Americans. Yet they cared for each other.

We live in a dangerous society where the criminal element seems to have no regard for human life, let alone the ability to leave people alone. We need to take a more courageous attitude toward the safety and welfare of our fellow law-abiding citizens

and teach our children to have the same values. And if it is deemed that carrying a firearm is necessary to protect ourselves and others - then so be it.

America's greatness won't fall because we fight enemies who commit atrocities. Our greatness will end if we tolerate the atrocities of our own against ourselves. Decay starts from within - and so does the cure.

Brian Fentiman lives in Allentown.

#### RECENT NEWS

Fred William Minnich, 38, of the first block of Kings Arms at Waterford in Springettsbury Township, was charged with simple assault, disorderly conduct by engaging in a fight and public drunkenness. He had been a passenger in a car involved in a road rage encounter June 28 in York.

Douglas Allen Need of Hellam Township was shot and killed by Brian Fentiman, 50, of Allentown, during the encounter. The York County District Attorney ruled the shooting justifiable.

Minnich remains free on his own recognizance pending his Sept. 5 arraignment in York County Court.

#### ON THE WEB

Know your rights and responsibilities as a gun owner under state law: Read the Pennsylvania Uniform Firearms Act at

[www.acslpa.org/pa\\_uniform\\_firearms\\_act.htm](http://www.acslpa.org/pa_uniform_firearms_act.htm).

[http://ydr.inyork.com/ci\\_10219218?source=most\\_email](http://ydr.inyork.com/ci_10219218?source=most_email)

#### 08/08/19 Woman, 85, Makes Burglar Call 911 at Gunpoint

A 17-year-old is in police custody after an 85-year-old woman held him at gunpoint and forced him to call 911 after police say he broke into her home.

Leda Smith says she heard the boy break into her home about 3 p.m. Monday. She says she grabbed a .22-caliber revolver she started keeping by her bed when a neighbor's home was burglarized a few weeks ago.

She lives in Springhill Township, about 45 miles south of Pittsburgh.

Smith says she made the boy call the police and then held him at gunpoint until they arrived.

Smith says the incident was "exciting" and she's hoping it ends a string of burglaries in the area.

The boy will be tried in Fayette County Juvenile Court. He's not being identified because of his age.

<http://www.whtm.com/news/stories/0808/545534.html>

#### 08/08/19 Plaintiff's Revolver Registration Approved

A 66-year-old security guard whose lawsuit overturned the District's handgun ban is now officially authorized to keep a revolver in his Capitol Hill home.

Dick A. Heller was given his handgun registration certificate at D.C. police headquarters yesterday.

He applied for it last month, a few weeks after the June 26 landmark U.S. Supreme Court ruling favoring gun-ownership rights, and he had been waiting for police to complete a background check.

Heller recently sued the city again, saying the registration rules adopted by the D.C. government after the ban was overturned are too cumbersome and violate the spirit and letter of the court's decision.

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/08/18/AR2008081802191\\_pf.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/08/18/AR2008081802191_pf.html)

#### 08/08/19 Bid to allow guns in national parks

The Interior Department considers a proposal to lift a 25-year ban on concealed weapons in national parks.

Visitors to America's national parks may soon be able to pack more than a picnic lunch on their next visit to Yellowstone, the Everglades, or the Grand Canyon.

The US Interior Department is considering a proposal to scrap a 25-year ban on carrying concealed weapons in national parks.

If adopted, the measure would mark a significant victory for gun rights advocates and would come at a time when gun control efforts are under increased scrutiny across the country.

In June, the US Supreme Court struck down a handgun ban in Washington, D.C., and declared for the first time that Americans have a constitutional right to keep a firearm at home for self-protection.

The high court did not address whether the Second Amendment guarantees the carrying of loaded, concealed weapons in national parks. But, at the urging of 51 US Senators, Interior Department officials are weighing the option of writing it into federal regulations.

National Rifle Association (NRA) chief lobbyist Chris Cox has called the proposal "an important step in the right direction."

Opponents disagree. "This is part of a broad campaign by the NRA to get guns into all our public places," says Daniel Vice, a senior attorney with the Brady Center to Prevent Gun Violence.

The department received an estimated 100,000 comments during a public comment period that ended Aug. 8. Interior officials are now examining the submissions before announcing a final decision.

Ban would hold in some parks

Under the proposed new rule, the ban would be lifted only in national parks and wildlife refuges located in states that permit concealed weapons in their own state parks.

Although 48 states have enacted concealed gun permit procedures, only 24 of them currently allow concealed guns in state parks.

Those states are: Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Indiana, Kansas, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, Ohio, Oregon, South Carolina, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, and Wyoming.

The new regulations would allow concealed guns in some of the nation's most popular and beloved parks, including: Denali National Park, Grand Canyon National Park, Rocky Mountain National Park, Everglades National Park, Isle Royale National Park, Glacier National Park, Bryce Canyon National Park, Shenandoah National Park, Olympic National Park, Grand Teton National Park, and Yellowstone National Park.

Concealed weapons would continue to be banned in national parks in states with stricter gun laws like California. That means the new regulations would not apply in Yosemite National Park and Sequoia National Park. They would also not apply in most of Death Valley National Park, except potentially for a small triangle of that park that extends into Nevada.

Opponents of the measure say it would lead to confusion among park patrons since the ban would apply in some parks but not others. That problem might become particularly acute for hikers on the Appalachian Trail, which is part of the national park system. In effect, the trail is a long, skinny national park extending for 2,176 miles from Georgia to Maine through 14 states.

"It is hard to view this proposed change as anything more than an election-year gimmick directed at the [NRA] and the sportsmen's community," says David Startzell, executive director of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy. "We've got bigger issues facing our parks than accommodating a relative handful of people who want to carry a concealed firearm."

Erich Pratt of Gun Owners of America (GOA) in Springfield, Va., says it shouldn't be up to the government to tell Americans where and how they can defend themselves.

"We are all about the right to self-defense," he says. "We don't think people should forfeit that right when they go for a hike in the woods."

#### **Divided views on safety**

Opponents of the proposed regulation say national parks are relatively crime-free and that wildlife does not pose a significant threat. Supporters of the proposal say being armed is just a precaution, not a declaration of a free-fire zone.

One submission to the Interior Department questions why rangers carry weapons if the parks are so safe. "Are their lives and safety more important than mine?" asks the writer from Huntley, Mont.

Experienced hikers say guns aren't necessary to be safe in the backcountry. And in a worst case scenario, a concealed weapon may not be enough. "If we are talking handguns, you'd need a pretty-good-sized piece to stop a bear," says Mr. Startzell. "I don't picture a hiker packing a .44 Magnum. These are people who drill holes in their toothbrushes to save weight."

The presence of even concealed guns reduces the aura of being in the wilderness, say opponents. They include seven former directors of the National Park Service, the Coalition of Park Service Retirees, the Association of National Park Rangers, and the National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA).

"Our organization is not opposed to gun ownership and people carrying weapons," says Laura Loomis of the NPCA, "but we just don't feel they are necessary in national parks."

On the other side of the debate are the NRA, the GOA, several other gun rights groups, and a vocal grass-roots community of armed Americans.

"I am a retired police officer, retired Navy Masterchief, and a grandfather," says a man from Plant City, Fla., in an e-mail supporting the proposal. "I am too old to run and too big to hide. I have a concealed carry permit in my state. Therefore I keep a gun nearby to protect myself and family."

In another comment, a writer from Sparks, Md., said lifting the gun ban would make her feel less safe. "As a woman who often hikes alone in the national parks, I have rarely feared for my personal safety," she writes. "However, if this rule change is implemented I will be faced with the possibility that the next person I meet on the trail may carry a loaded gun. ... This does nothing to make me feel safer."

<http://www.csmonitor.com/2008/0819/p03s07-usgn.html>

#### **08/08/18 Police uncover weapons cache**

Police said they found an arsenal of guns, homemade bombs, ammunition and explosive powder inside a Beaver County home occupied by two convicted felons early yesterday.

There was no indication of what the two men intended with the weaponry -- if anything. They had no violent offenses on their records, apparently, but the combustible mix of individuals and devices was enough for Franklin Township police to arrest the pair while continuing to investigate. They were assisted by U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives agents and the Allegheny County bomb squad.

The bomb squad spent much of yesterday removing the cache from the two-story home of Dean Alan Huzinec on Fire Street in a quiet, residential section of the township near Ellwood City.

Franklin police called for expert assistance after stumbling upon the collection of guns, rifles and ammunition, along with surveillance cameras and military and police uniforms, all of which were confiscated. Narcotics and drug paraphernalia were also allegedly found.

Officer Dean Custozzo said the full contents of the home were still being inventoried and nothing from the outside would have caused any suspicion about what Mr. Huzinec, 47, possessed. He was arraigned and sent to the Beaver County Jail along with Dean Timothy Eakin, 43, a visiting friend and transient who had been living with a sister in the Warren, Ohio, area.

"Everyone wants to know why," in terms of reason for the weaponry, Officer Custozzo said. "We're not getting any whys out of them."

Both men have criminal histories, which is part of what prompted the investigation and charges against them.

Franklin Officer Kevin Radford visited Mr. Huzinec's residence Saturday night to follow up on a missing persons report that Mr. Eakin's sister had filed concerning him. The officer said he spotted a 9 mm gun inside the residence, memorized the serial number, and in checking records found that the gun had been stolen and Mr. Huzinec had a criminal past that made it illegal for him to possess it.

Officer Custozzo said Mr. Huzinec had prior convictions in Pennsylvania, Georgia and Texas for driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs and illegal possession of firearms, although nothing of the magnitude of what was inside his Franklin home. He said Mr. Eakin was also a convicted felon, for DUI and narcotics violations.

A police affidavit said Officer Radford obtained a search warrant at 1:15 a.m. yesterday and officers returned to the home to find a .357-caliber Magnum on Mr. Huzinec and two other guns nearby. After a search discovered more firearms, ammunition, black powder, smokeless powder and fireworks, they requested assistance from the bomb squad.

"We backed off and let the experts handle it. They went through everything," Officer Custozzo said.

According to the affidavit, "multiple assault type weapons were found, various handguns, altered firearms and unlawful possession firearms, ammunition for those weapons, homemade incendiary devices and military type incendiary devices."

Also present was video and audio surveillance equipment, which Officer Custozzo said enabled Mr. Huzinec to see people coming and going outside.

District Judge Janet Swihart set a straight cash bond of \$100,000 for Mr. Huzinec on charges of carrying a loaded weapon, owning a firearm as a former convict, criminal conspiracy, receiving stolen property, risking catastrophe, carrying firearms without a license, possession of a prohibited offensive weapon and instruments of crime, and possession of drugs and drug paraphernalia.

Mr. Eakin's cash bond was set at \$40,000 on charges of criminal conspiracy and having a firearm as a convicted felon.

Relatives of the two men who were reached yesterday were unaware of the charges and at a loss to explain the weaponry.

Mr. Eakin, an Army veteran, did not have his own home and apparently had been doing electrical work in Ohio, according to his father. Mr. Huzinec was on disability from a back injury suffered years ago, family members said. He had no military service.

"I knew he had a lot of guns. He's a hunter ... but the explosives, I don't know nothing about that," said his aunt, who did not provide her name.

More arrests are possible relating to former occupants of the home as the investigation continues, Officer Custozzo said.

<http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/08231/905110-57.stm?cmpid=news.xml>

#### **08/08/18 Atlanta's airport not gun-free**

Hundreds of weapons are toted through Hartsfield-jackson

Officials at the world's busiest airport apparently overstated their case last month when they declared Atlanta's Hartsfield-Jackson International a "gun-free" zone.

Truth is, hunters, competitive shooters and other fliers tote hundreds of guns — some of them high-powered weapons — and thousands of rounds of ammunition through nonsecure areas of Hartsfield-Jackson every year.

"The claim it was a gun-free zone was sort of a misnomer," said airport spokesman Herschel Grangent. "There are people who have guns at the airport.

"What we're trying to stop is people carrying loaded guns in a concealed manner in the nonsecure areas."

Federal regulations stipulate that the guns and ammo must be carried in a locked, hard-sided case, and they must be checked as baggage. Each passenger is permitted to carry up to 11 pounds of ammunition. Weapons, which must be unloaded, and ammo must be declared to gate agents.

Neither the Federal Aviation Administration nor the Transportation Security Administration keep statistics on how many guns passengers check at Hartsfield-Jackson, said representatives of both agencies.

However, Atlanta-based Delta Air Lines, the airport's biggest carrier, estimates that about 700 or so guns — rifles, shotguns, pistols — are brought into the airport every year to be checked as luggage by its passengers.

Some gun-rights advocates argue the fact that people now legally carry guns into the airport undermines the city's contention that legally carried, concealed weapons will make Hartsfield-Jackson less safe.

"It defuses their argument that there would be a stampede if someone has a gun at the airport," said John Monroe, an attorney for GeorgiaCarry.org. "People have guns at the airport every day, and there hasn't been a stampede."

GeorgiaCarry.org has filed a federal lawsuit against city and airport officials. It urges an end to the airport gun ban that went into effect July 1, after a change in state law. The lawsuit case is still moving through court, but a federal judge recently refused to lift the ban temporarily.

Airport General Manager Ben DeCosta said his focus is on keeping the airport's 89 million yearly passengers safe. He has threatened to have anyone carrying a gun at Hartsfield-Jackson arrested.

"I'm not going to quibble over words," DeCosta said. "This is a gun-free airport, which means it is illegal to have loaded, concealed weapons at the airport."

The outcome of the high-profile court battle could have consequences for all U.S. airports.

Gun-rights advocates argue the new state law allows gun owners who pass background checks and obtain concealed weapons permits to carry guns in nonsecure areas of the airport — parking lots, MARTA trains, restaurants and terminal areas in front of the security gates.

Both sides agree guns should be banned in the "secure" areas beyond the metal detectors and security gates.

City and airport officials claim the airport falls under the "public gatherings" statute, and they believe guns are still forbidden at the airport, despite the new law.

Longtime hunter Alvin Vaughn, 60, of Conyers said four days after officials declared Hartsfield-Jackson a "gun-free zone," he walked through the terminal with two high-powered rifles he had retrieved from luggage claim as he returned from a hunting trip to Africa.

Vaughn said he has transported dozens of guns and many pounds of ammo through the nonsecure areas of the airport over nearly two decades.

"I think the gun ban's foolish," Vaughn said. "The main part of the airport is just like any other public space in the state. It should not be treated any differently than walking the streets of Atlanta."

Former federal agent James Cool said he sees a contradiction in allowing people to check guns as luggage, but banning concealed weapons carried by licensed carriers in the same airport areas.

"How is that a gun-free zone?" Cool asked. "How long would it take somebody to take a Glock [a pistol] out of its case and load it right at the ticket counter? If you are a terrorist, that's how you would do it anyway.

"We're splitting hairs. The airport is not a gun-free zone."  
[http://www.ajc.com/metro/content/metro/atlanta/stories/2008/08/18/guns\\_in\\_airport.html](http://www.ajc.com/metro/content/metro/atlanta/stories/2008/08/18/guns_in_airport.html)

#### **08/08/15 North Texas school district will let teachers carry guns**

HARROLD, Texas — A tiny Texas school district may be the first in the nation to allow teachers and staff to pack guns for protection when classes begin later this month, a newspaper reported.

Trustees at the Harrold Independent School District approved a district policy change last October so employees can carry concealed firearms to deter and protect against school shootings, provided the gun-toting teachers follow certain requirements.

In order for teachers and staff to carry a pistol, they must have a Texas license to carry a concealed handgun; must be authorized to carry by the district; must receive training in crisis management and hostile situations and have to use ammunition that is designed to minimize the risk of ricochet in school halls.

Superintendent David Thweatt said the small community is a 30-minute drive from the sheriff's office, leaving students and teachers without protection. He said the district's lone campus sits 500 feet from heavily trafficked U.S. 287, which could make it a target.

"When the federal government started making schools gun-free zones, that's when all of these shootings started. Why would you put it out there that a group of people can't defend themselves? That's like saying 'sic 'em' to a dog," Thweatt said in Friday's online edition of the Fort Worth Star-Telegram.

Thweatt said officials researched the policy and considered other options for about a year before approving the policy change. He said the district also has various other security measures in place to prevent a school shooting.

"The naysayers think (a shooting) won't happen here. If something were to happen here, I'd much rather be calling a parent to tell them that their child is OK because we were able to protect them," Thweatt said.

Texas law outlaws firearms on school campuses "unless pursuant to the written regulations or written authorization of the institution."

It was unclear how many of the 50 or so teachers and staff members will be armed this fall because Thweatt did not disclose that information, to keep it from students or potential attackers. Wilbarger County Sheriff Larry Lee was out of the office Thursday and did not immediately return a phone call seeking comment, the newspaper said.

Barbara Williams, a spokeswoman for the Texas Association of School Boards, said her organization did not know of another district with such a policy. Ken Trump, a Cleveland-based school security expert who advises districts nationwide, including in Texas, said Harrold is the first district with such a policy.

The 110-student district is 150 miles northwest of Fort Worth on the eastern end of Wilbarger County, near the Oklahoma border.

Harrold Independent School District, <http://harroldisd.net/>  
<http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/metropolitan/5945430.htm>  
[1](#)

### **08/08/15 Robbery Suspect Shot By Store Owner**

PHILADELPHIA (CBS 3) — A store owner fought back during an apparent attempted robbery in Philadelphia Thursday.

Chopper 3 was over the 1400 block of Federal Street following reports of a shooting just before 11 a.m.

Police said a male suspect apparently attempted to rob Todaro's Locksmith when the owner shot him in the head.

The suspect was rushed to Jefferson University Hospital in unknown condition. His firearm was recovered at the scene.

The incident remains under investigation.

<http://cbs3.com/topstories/robbery.shooting.philadelphia.2.795037.html>

### **08/08/15 Family reports being held at gunpoint while out walking**

A family of three called police Wednesday and reported three males had held them at gunpoint Tuesday night on Rob Roy Drive in Pocono Farms East, Coolbaugh Township, according to information police released today.

The family said they had been walking on Rob Roy Drive, with their vehicle parked on Rob Roy between Leslie Way and Titania Road, at 9 p.m. Tuesday when the males drove past them. They said the males, one of whom had a gun, then approached them from behind, demanded money and cell phones and patted them down.

The family said they told the males they had no money or cell phones. The couple said their daughter began to scream after the males patted them down, at which point the males fled in their vehicle.

Police have not said if the family gave detailed physical descriptions of the males.

<http://www.poconorecord.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080815/NEWS/80815008>

### **08/08/15 Disney narrows employee gun ban to property**

Walt Disney World decided today to narrow its employee gun ban to the actual Disney World property only -- and with that move the theme park giant got the blessing of Florida Attorney General Bill McCollum for the controversial policy.

Disney had riled the National Rifle Association, gun advocates and many Florida lawmakers earlier this summer when it declared that it had a special exemption within a new state law, and could therefore tell employees with concealed weapons permits that they could not bring guns to work locked in their cars. Disney claimed that a loophole in the new law exempts employers with federal fireworks permits -- and Disney holds such a permit.

The matter led to a still-unresolved court challenge after one of Disney's security guards tested the policy. He brought a gun to work and got fired in early July. The dispute also led to complaints filed with McCollum's consumer services division from people who wanted the attorney general to tell Disney it was wrong.

Now Disney announced it is revising its policy, though only slightly. And McCollum indicated he is satisfied with the revision, which lifts the employee gun ban on employee Disney outposts such as the company's branch offices in Celebration but not on the main Walt Disney World property.

"Our office has been in discussions with them about their original policy and the exemption they were claiming. Based on those conversations, Disney has issued a new policy that narrows the focus of the exemption they are claiming, and we believe this new policy complies with the law," said Sandi Copes, spokeswoman for McCollum.

Disney expects to pass the word to affected employees today. Spokeswoman Jacquee Polak said approximately 5,700 work in the off-property offices affected by the policy revision, which

include facilities at Celebration, Little Lake Bryan, Orlando International Airport, the Disney Reservation Centers in Orlando and Tampa, and other facilities located in Orlando and Kissimmee outside of the actual Disney World resort.

The policy revision statement reads: "Until further clarification is received, Cast Members at those facilities will be subject to the same policy in effect at the other locations outside of the Walt Disney World Resort area.

"Specifically, those Cast Members will be allowed to keep a gun locked in their personal vehicle as long as they have a concealed-weapons permit, the gun is not visible, and the gun is not removed from the vehicle or exhibited for any reason other than lawful defensive purposes."

<http://www.orlandosentinel.com/business/orl-disney-gun-ban-081508,0,6358156.story>

#### **08/08/14 Residents exchange gunfire with intruders**

A Fayette County couple were uninjured after a gun fight with four masked men who broke into their home early Tuesday, state police said.

David Ray Hickle, 38, and his wife, Leslie Renee Hickle, 40, of Denney Road in German Township, told police the four intruders kicked in their front door at about 3:30 a.m.

The men wore dark clothing and ski masks.

The suspects entered the couple's bedroom where both sides exchanged gunfire, police said.

The couple were not injured, and police have not determined whether any of the intruders was wounded before all four fled.

Anyone with information about the home invasion is asked to call state police at 724-439-7111.

<http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/08227/904309-100.stm>

#### **08/08/14 Battle over gun rights – Round 2**

Handgun bans under fire after high court's ruling. Oak Park, Ill., fights back.

The US Supreme Court's decision striking down a 32-year ban on handguns in Washington, D.C., has sparked a string of lawsuits across the country challenging the constitutionality of various gun regulations.

Two suits in Chicago seek to have that city's handgun ban declared unconstitutional. A ban on handgun possession by public housing residents in San Francisco is under attack. To avoid legal action, three Chicago suburbs have voted to repeal their gun bans, while a fourth, Oak Park, is fighting to preserve its ban.

In addition, a new lawsuit has been filed by the man who won his case at the Supreme Court. Washington resident Dick Heller has filed a suit challenging the District of Columbia's emergency gun regulations written last month to replace the handgun ban invalidated by the high court. Mr. Heller says the new regulations are too restrictive.

The flurry of lawsuits marks the second phase of what gun-rights advocates hope will become a turning point in the battle for broader protection of Second Amendment rights. On June 26, the Supreme Court declared for the first time that Americans have a Second Amendment right to keep a gun at home for self-protection.

"It is really historic," says Stephen Halbrook, a Fairfax, Va., lawyer who filed several follow-up lawsuits for the National Rifle Association within days of the high court ruling. "The decision is so detailed and tight that it is going to be hard for a future court to backtrack on it."

Gun control supporters also view the Heller decision as a critical moment, but not for the same reason. "It is a different kind of turning point," says Paul Helmke, president of the Brady Center to Prevent Gun Violence. "This really could end up being a positive for gun control."

#### **Change in national debate**

The high court invalidated Washington's handgun ban and rejected the theory favored by the Brady Center that the Second Amendment guaranteed only collective gun rights tied to militia service. But Mr. Helmke says the Supreme Court also embraced a broad range of existing gun control measures.

Rather than sweeping aside gun regulations to establish an inviolate fundamental right to keep and bear arms, the high court announced that the Second Amendment right is not unlimited. While a categorical ban of all handguns violates the Constitution, other gun regulations do not, the court said.

In his majority opinion, Justice Antonin Scalia wrote: "Nothing in our opinion should be taken to cast doubt on longstanding prohibitions on the possession of firearms by felons and the mentally ill, or laws forbidding the carrying of firearms in sensitive places such as schools and government buildings, or laws imposing conditions and qualifications on the commercial sale of arms."

Helmke says the Heller decision is already changing the character of the national debate over guns. Rather than fighting battles over all-out bans or unlimited gun rights, Justice Scalia's approach seems to direct the debate toward compromise at the center.

"To a great degree, what the Heller case did was it took away the extremes of the gun control debate," Helmke says. "Because of that I think we will be seeing more of a consensus develop on what can and cannot be done to deal with gun violence in the country."

But the Heller decision has also set the stage for more litigation, and potentially more landmark opinions.

#### **Federal versus state**

The central issue in the two Chicago cases and the Oak Park case is whether the Heller decision even applies in Illinois. Specifically at issue is whether the Second Amendment can be enforced against state and local governments or is only applicable against the federal government and in federal jurisdictions like the District of Columbia.

When the Bill of Rights was adopted, it was designed as a check on the power of the national government, not the state governments, according to legal scholars. After the Civil War, many of the protections of the Bill of Rights were made enforceable against the states through adoption of the 14th Amendment. The high court has never explicitly ruled that the Second Amendment applies to state and local governments, scholars say.

That question is relevant to Chicago and Oak Park because if the Second Amendment cannot be enforced against states and cities, the lawsuit challenging local handgun bans must be

dismissed. On the other hand, if the Second Amendment applies like many other constitutional amendments, the local gun bans will likely be struck down just as the Washington ban was struck down.

To political leaders in Oak Park the gun ban issue is a matter that should be determined by local elected officials, not judges. "For units of local government there are all sorts of debates over the effectiveness of handgun regulations, but Oak Park feels like it should have authority to make that decision itself," says Lance Malina, a Chicago lawyer defending the village in the suit.

Another key legal question looming after the Heller decision is how restrictive gun regulations in Washington can be without violating the Second Amendment.

Weeks after the Heller decision, Washington's city council replaced its handgun ban with a set of tough regulations and licensing requirements. The rules classify all semiautomatic pistols as machine guns, which are outlawed. In addition, the city requires that firearms in the home be kept unloaded and either disassembled or secured by a trigger guard. The only exception is when a resident at home seeks to use the weapon against a "reasonably perceived threat of immediate harm" to a person within the home. "It is almost like the robber has to make an appointment with you so you can get your gun ready," says Mr. Halbrook, Heller's attorney in the new suit.

Halbrook says the classification of semiautomatic pistols as machine guns amounts to an unconstitutional ban, and the in-home restrictions on possession of a working gun are also unconstitutional.

In addition to suits challenging gun bans, some criminal-defense lawyers are trying to use the high court's Heller decision to undercut charges of unlawful possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. Criminals enjoy a Second Amendment right to the protection of a gun at home, too, these defense lawyers argue.

One analyst says he's found 10 cases so far where judges were urged to follow the Heller decision and dismiss felon gun charges. None have been successful.

Writing in the Heller decision, Justice Scalia specifically mentioned that felon gun possession laws were still in full force. <http://www.csmonitor.com/2008/0814/p01s05-usju.html>

### **08/08/14 Rhode Earns Fourth Career Olympic Medal Taking Home Silver in Beijing**

Kim Rhode (El Monte, Calif.) added to her Olympic medal tally today when she captured the silver medal in the Women's Skeet event at the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing.

Rhode, who won the gold in Women's Double Trap in 1996 and 2004 as well as the bronze in 2000, also shot in the skeet event at the Sydney and Athens Olympic Games, but switched to skeet shooting full-time after the Women's Double Trap event was taken out of Olympic competition in 2004.

"After double trap was eliminated in 2004, it was a bittersweet win for me," said Rhode. "On one hand I won the gold, but on the other hand I knew the challenge I faced in completely switching to skeet. I couldn't be happier with winning a medal today. Gold, silver or bronze, I don't think it matters. I am just so glad to be back at the Olympics and representing my country."

Rhode claimed her silver medal after an exciting shoot-off. She went into the final tied for third place at 70 out of 75 targets

with three other shooters. After hitting 23 out of 25 targets in the final, Rhode came out tied for first place at 93 targets with Italy's Chiara Cainero and Christine Brinker of Germany. In the sudden death shoot-off, Rhode and Brinker each missed a target on their first pair, while Cainero hit both her targets, giving her the gold medal. Battling for the silver in a second shoot-off, Brinker missed one of her targets and Rhode hit both to claim the silver.

Jamie Beyerle (Lebanon, Pa.) barely missed out on earning a spot on the medal podium today in the Women's 3 Position Rifle event. Beyerle entered the final with a score of 586, just three points out of first place, which was held by China's Du Li. Despite shooting an excellent final score of 100.9 and standing in second place overall going into the final shot, Beyerle fired a score of 8.7, which wasn't enough to land her on the podium and she finished in fifth place with an overall score of 686.9.

"It was a great match. I am disappointed, but to finish in fifth place isn't bad and it's really been a great experience overall shooting at the Olympics," Beyerle said.

Sandra Fong (New York, N.Y.), the other U.S. shooter competing in women's 3 position and the youngest member of the 2008 U.S. Olympic Shooting team, finished in 21st place with a score of 577.

Du Li hung on to win the gold medal with 690.3, while Katy Emmons of the Czech Republic, wife of U.S. shooter Matt Emmons, won her second medal of the Games, taking home the silver with a final score of 687.7. Cuba's Yaima Eglis Cruz took the bronze, finishing right behind Emmons in third place with 687.6.

Friday's competition at the Beijing Shooting Range Hall/CTF will feature the Men's 50m Prone Rifle, Men's Skeet and Men's 25m Rapid Fire Pistol events. Both the qualification and final round will be held in prone, while 75 targets will be shot in the skeet competition and stage 1 of the rapid fire event will be contested.

Matt Emmons (Browns Mills, N.J.), the 2004 gold medalist in Men's Prone, will be competing in his first event of the 2008 Olympic Games tomorrow, vying for another spot on the podium in the prone event. Emmons had an extremely successful 2007, winning a total of eight medals on the ISSF World Cup circuit. He captured a gold medal in the Men's 50m 3 Position Rifle event, as well as a silver in the Men's Prone Rifle event at the 2007 World Cup Final. Most recently, Emmons claimed a bronze medal in prone at the 2008 World Cup in Milan. Michael Anti (Winterville, N.C.), a Major in the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit (USAMU) is the 2004 Olympic silver medalist in Men's 3 Position Rifle and will be competing in the prone event this time around in Beijing.

Already at the young age of 19, USAMU member Vincent Hancock (Eatonton, Ga.) is a World Champion, Pan American Games Champion and the 2007 World Cup Italy Champion and world record holder in Men's Skeet. Hancock will be representing the U.S. on his first Olympic team here in Beijing. Joining him will be 22-year-old Sean McLelland (Mission, Texas), who finished in second place behind Hancock at the 2008 U.S. Olympic Team Trials for Shotgun and will be competing in his first ever Olympic Games.

Keith Sanderson (San Antonio, Texas), a Staff Sgt. in the U.S. Army, who won the bronze medal at the 2007 World Cup in

Munich and secured an Olympic participation slot, has been very successful in Men's Rapid Fire since coming on the scene in late 2004 and will be competing on his first U.S. Olympic team.

For Complete results, please visit the following link on the official website of the Beijing 2008 :

[http://results.beijing2008.cn/WRM/ENG/Schedule/SH\\_2008-08-14.shtml](http://results.beijing2008.cn/WRM/ENG/Schedule/SH_2008-08-14.shtml)

<http://www.usashooting.com/viewRelease.php?id=182>

### **08/08/13 FedEx employee charged with stealing 146 guns**

A FedEx cargo handler stole 146 handguns from the Monmouth County facility where he worked and enlisted a friend to help sell the weapons at public housing projects in Jersey City and on the streets of Newark and East Orange, federal investigators said Tuesday.

The scheme began to fall apart when frustrated residents complained to Jersey City police, who then used a sting operation to capture the suspects, authorities said.

Federal agents are now trying to trace dozens of the stolen weapons, many of which they said were sold for between \$300 and \$500 each or traded for drugs.

"This is a huge number of guns. Our primary goal is to find out where the remaining guns are. We want them in our custody. We don't want them in the hands of criminals or gang members," said special agent Joseph Green, a spokesman for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

The two suspects, Patrick Dolan, 28, of Keyport and John Sozomenou, 32, of Aberdeen, surrendered at federal district court in Newark today. U.S. Magistrate Judge Patty Shwartz ordered them both released on \$200,000 bond.

They were charged with conspiracy to possess and sell stolen firearms and face up to five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine, said Assistant U.S. Attorney Joseph Gribko, who is prosecuting the case.

The conspiracy began in October when Dolan stole a single handgun from the Federal Express facility in Eatontown, according to a criminal complaint unsealed today.

In May, he allegedly stole a shipment of 75 guns from a conveyor belt. The weapons were manufactured by Bersa in Argentina and destined for a southern New Jersey importer, authorities said. Days later, the complaint stated, he stole another shipment of 70 guns from Argentina.

But as Dolan grew bolder, authorities said, he and Sozomenou began raising eyebrows on the streets. Jersey City residents complained to police in May that two white males were selling handguns at three different public housing complexes, the complaint stated.

Tipsters said the guns, new and in their original boxes, were being sold out of a white Ford Bronco and a blue BMW, authorities said. One tipster caught the license plate of the BMW, which police traced to Dolan's girlfriend, according to the complaint.

Authorities used a confidential informant to set up a sting. The informant contacted Dolan and Sozomenou, who agreed to sell about a dozen handguns for approximately \$300 apiece.

On May 29, the two suspects showed up at the buy in the Ford Bronco and were arrested. Police found a green army bag in the vehicle with eight Bersa .380-caliber handguns and one

Comanche .22-caliber nine-shot revolver, according to the complaint. Authorities said all of the weapons had been stolen from the FedEx facility.

Police also recovered two loaded weapons hidden inside the steering wheel: a Bersa .380-caliber handgun, and a Bersa .40-caliber handgun, both also stolen from FedEx, authorities said.

Both suspects confessed, according to the complaint. They first were charged at the local level, but federal authorities, who can seek stiffer penalties, took over the case.

Greg Tomczak, who represents Dolan, and Peter Willis, who represents Sozomenou, both declined to comment today. Jim McCluskey, a spokesman for FedEx, said Dolan was fired after his initial arrest in May. He said the company cooperated with investigators.

"It appears to be an isolated issue. We have very tight security procedures in place. We don't tolerate any type of illegal activity in our company," McCluskey said.

He said that in order to ship guns through the U.S. with FedEx, either the shipper or recipient must be a licensed manufacturer, importer, dealer or collector and the shipment must be in compliance with federal, state and local laws.

[http://www.nj.com/newark/index.ssf/2008/08/fedex\\_employee\\_charged\\_with\\_st.html](http://www.nj.com/newark/index.ssf/2008/08/fedex_employee_charged_with_st.html)

### **08/08/12 Seattle's proposed gun-free zone**

Mayor Greg Nickels recently proposed a gun ban on city of Seattle property, which we wrote about here. The decision was especially puzzling because of the monumental ruling from the U.S. Supreme Court in *D.C. v. Heller*, where the Court said the Second Amendment protects an individual's right to bear arms -- it's not an antiquated right preserved only for militia men.

Today I remembered that Seattle weighed in on the *Heller* case, filing a "friend of the court" brief in support of the District of Columbia's ban on handguns, along with ten other cities. So I pulled up the brief to see what Seattle had to say about firearm regulation.

In their brief, Seattle and the other cities argued that large cities are disproportionately affected by gun violence. Between 1976 and 2005, nearly 60% of all gun homicides in the United States took place in large cities. In Seattle in 2005, over 550 violent firearm crimes (assaults, robberies, and homicides) were committed.

Seattle argued that cities need flexibility to regulate guns.

*Firearms regulation is a critical part of cities' efforts to protect the health and safety of their residents. Cities have adopted a wide range of measures—from bans on certain types of weapons and ammunition to eligibility and registration requirements—to reduce the threat of gun violence in their communities. The range of measures cities have adopted reflects the variety of challenges cities face and underscores the need for local flexibility in this area.*

*The Second Amendment does not constrain the ability of local elected officials to respond to the problems that confront their communities, and the Court of Appeals erred in invalidating the District of Columbia's ordinance. As explained in Petitioners' brief, the Second Amendment applies only to the national government and does not limit firearms regulation in the District of Columbia. Because this case involves the District of*

*Columbia, and not a State or one of its political subdivisions, the question of the Second Amendment's application to the States and their local entities through the Fourteenth Amendment's due process clause is not presented and need not be addressed in this case. Nevertheless, this Court's precedents and the federalism-promoting purpose of the Second Amendment firmly establish that the Second Amendment imposes no barrier to state and local regulation of firearms.*

Seattle also made a "limited government" argument: "The threats posed by guns have a profound effect not only on human lives but also on city budgets and policies. It is estimated that half of the medical costs of gunshot injuries are paid by American taxpayers; gun injuries are the leading cause of uninsured hospital stays in this country."

Obviously, arguments made in a federal case aren't universally applicable to a city-wide gun ban, but the justification Seattle offers informs us about the city's motivation. But Seattle may face an uphill battle; state law specifically prohibits cities from adopting regulations that are inconsistent or more restrictive than state law.

<http://www.examiner.com/x-484-Washington-Law-Examiner~y2008m8d12-Seattle-gun-free-zone>

#### **08/08/12 Evanston amends its gun-ban law**

Following on the heels of a Supreme Court decision that held that a blanket ban on handguns violated 2nd Amendment rights, Evanston's City Council voted 7-1 Monday night to amend the North Shore suburb's weapons ordinance to conform to the landmark court ruling.

Council members believe the move will allow the city to avoid a potential court challenge.

"I find the Supreme Court decision repugnant," said Ald. Steve Bernstein (4th). "But because of it, it's the law. In the short term, we'll be better off getting [the ordinance] off the books."

Evanston's handgun law, one of the more progressive in the country, had banned not just handguns but any device that "is designed to expel a projectile," including BB guns and paintball guns with projectiles larger than .18-inches in diameter. Items such as collectors' guns were exempt from the ban.

City Council members said Monday they saw no alternative but to amend Evanston's law to bring it into line with the high-court ruling.

Wilmette and Morton Grove, which passed the nation's first gun-ban laws, have already modified their ordinances in light of the 5-4 Supreme Court ruling on June 26, and other towns are likely to follow suit, legal experts said. Washington, D.C., whose 32-year ban on owning handguns was struck down, has passed a new ordinance that requires gun owners to take tests and keep the weapon unloaded and either disassembled or locked.

Evanston's move to amend the law came after the National Rifle Association filed lawsuits against it, Morton Grove, Oak Park and Chicago immediately after the high court's ruling. Wilmette was not named in the lawsuit, apparently because city officials had already taken steps to suspend enforcement of its ban, city officials said.

In its opinion striking down the gun ban in Washington, the Supreme Court left municipalities some wiggle room, declaring gun-control measures permissible when they include restrictions

that do not unduly infringe on gun ownership.

The opinion's author, Justice Antonin Scalia, also said in the high court's majority opinion that the ruling should not "cast doubt on long-standing prohibitions on the possession of firearms by felons and the mentally ill or laws forbidding the carrying of firearms in sensitive places such as schools and government buildings."

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/chicago/chi-ewanston-gunaug12,0,7386423.story>

#### **08/08/12 Regola quits Senate race, cites 'unfair' coverage**

State Sen. Robert Regola III ended his re-election campaign yesterday, quitting the race one month after a jury acquitted him of perjury and gun charges in the suicide of a teenage neighbor.

Mr. Regola, a Republican from Hempfield, said he thought he could win a second four-year term but was driven from the campaign by the media.

"Despite my acquittal, it is easy to see that voters can have doubts about my character, given what the media unfairly wrote about me," Mr. Regola said in a statement. "Their tabloid-like reporting has tarnished my reputation in this community and made it more difficult to seek re-election."

Mr. Regola, 46, also said he was worried about the tactics Democrats would use this fall.

"I am unwilling to put my family, friends and supporters through the type of negative campaign that my opponent would likely conduct," he said.

Anthony Bompiani, the Democrat seeking the seat held by Mr. Regola, declined to respond to Mr. Regola's charge. Dr. Bompiani, a chiropractor and former Hempfield school board member, said he would publicly discuss the election today.

As many as 260 Republican committee members in the 39th Senatorial District will meet Saturday morning in Greensburg to choose a replacement for Mr. Regola, said George Dunbar, Republican chairman of Westmoreland County.

Mr. Dunbar said he has asked Westmoreland County Commissioner Kim Ward to be the GOP's Senate candidate.

"I urged her to consider it, and she said she would. She just came off an election last year, so she wants to talk to her family," Mr. Dunbar said.

Under state election rules, Westmoreland Republicans must nominate their replacement candidate by Aug. 21.

Mr. Dunbar met yesterday with Mr. Regola before the senator quit the race. Mr. Dunbar said he was aware of various polls that showed Mr. Regola trailing Dr. Bompiani, but he did not consider them especially significant, given that the election is almost three months away.

"The numbers were not insurmountable," Mr. Dunbar said. "But Senator Regola outlined his reasons for withdrawing, and I did not try to dissuade him."

Senate President Pro Tem Joe Scarnati, R-Jefferson, said he also spoke to Mr. Regola before he quit the race.

"He called me for counsel. It was probably the toughest conversation I've had with anyone. I will certainly miss him in the Republican caucus," Mr. Scarnati said.

After his acquittal, Mr. Regola said John Peck, the Democratic district attorney of Westmoreland County, had prosecuted him for political reasons. Mr. Peck replied that he brought charges

against the senator based on evidence state police uncovered in the shooting death of Louis Farrell, a 14-year-old boy who lived next door to the senator.

The coroner ruled that Louis shot himself to death with Mr. Regola's 9 mm pistol in July 2006.

Mr. Peck initially said no crime had occurred but later changed his mind. He prosecuted Mr. Regola for perjury, providing a firearm to a minor, reckless endangerment and three counts of false swearing.

The essence of the prosecution's case was that Mr. Regola gave the pistol to his own teenage son, Bobby, who showed it to friends. Louis then purportedly took the handgun while he was caring for the Regolas' dogs and used it to kill himself.

After a jury found Mr. Regola not guilty of all charges, the Farrell family filed a wrongful death lawsuit against him. The Farrells say they doubt that Louis killed himself.

Mr. Regola said he thought of Louis Farrell as a son. But, he said, he has been unable to reach out to the Farrells because of tactics used by their lawyer, Jon Perry.

"The attorney they hired has attempted to denigrate me in the press by misrepresenting my actions and, most of the time, outright lying about the facts of the case," Mr. Regola said.

Mr. Perry had a tart response: "If there's any distortion of the facts, I would suggest it's by the senator, who has a fanciful or inaccurate recollection of what actually occurred."

Even if Republicans lose Mr. Regola's seat, they probably will maintain control of the Senate. They outnumber Democrats, 29-21. <http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/08225/903590-59.stm>

#### **08/08/12 Eller wins double trap gold**

BEIJING (Reuters) - Walton Eller of the United States was in a class of his own in winning the men's double trap shooting Olympic gold medal on Tuesday.

The deer hunter from Texas dominated the field in the qualification and kept a steady hand in the finals on a hot afternoon in Beijing in front of a fired-up Chinese crowd to clinch the gold with two shots to spare.

Eller, 26, finished on 190 points with Francesco D'Aniello, an Italian police officer, taking second on 187.

"I knew if I tried my best I'd win it," Eller told reporters. He was 17th four years ago at Athens. He had won the 2003 world championship but suffered a pinched neck before the [Olympics](#). "So far this is the highlight. But I hope there's more to come."

China's Hu Binyuan won bronze after a fantastic final round. Cheered on by a large crowd of Chinese supporters, Hu moved up from fourth place after qualification with 46 out of a possible 50 targets in the finals for a score of 184.

"I'm quite satisfied winning the bronze," Hu told reporters. He came from two points behind to pass American Jeffrey Holguin, who ended up with 182.

"Obviously I felt the pressure but I kept my mind free during the competition," Hu said when asked if the great expectations to win a medal at home had weighed on his shoulders.

Ahmed Almaktoom, of United Arab Emirates, who won the Olympic gold medal four years in Athens, just missed qualifying for the six-man final with seventh place. He lost a dramatic shoot-out to Australia's Mark Russell for sixth place in qualifying

Britain's Richard Faulds, who won the double trap gold in Sydney in 2000, made it to the finals but finished sixth.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/GCA-Olympics/idUSPEK3492820080812>

#### **08/08/11 Olympics-Shooting-Moose hunting helps American win bronze**

BEIJING, Aug 11 (Reuters) - Shooting moose is one way to get ready for the Olympics.

That is exactly what American Corey Cogdell did. The Alaskan native bagged the Olympic bronze medal on Monday at age 21, just three years after she said she shot her first moose on a hunting trip with her father, Dick.

"I harvested my first moose when I was 18, a couple of years ago," she told a news conference. "It wasn't a huge 'trophy moose' but it was a trophy to me. I was able to go hunting with my dad and he was there when I shot it."

It was hard to tell which "trophy" gave her more pride -- the moose or the bronze medal -- because she smiled from ear-to-ear when talking about both the moose and the medal.

"I grew up hunting and fishing with my dad and that did involve moose hunting back in Alaska," she said.

"I definitely think my hunting background and my growing up in Alaska helped me progress so quickly and make this team after only shooting international trap for just two years."

Cogdell was in medal contention behind leaders Satu Makela-Nummela and Zuzana Stefecekova after the qualification. But she struggled early on before hitting her last five targets to draw even at 86 and then won a thrilling four-way shoot-out.

"I've been shooting since a very young age -- probably two or three years old -- hunting and shooting with my dad," she said. "I just grew up with it." (Additional reporting by Erik Kirschbaum; Editing by Alison Williams)

<http://www.reuters.com/article/olympicsNews/idUSPEK18671620080811>

#### **08/08/09 Glenwood man arrested in home shooting**

A Glenwood man told police officers he got into a shootout with several other men early yesterday morning when he fired several gunshots into the wall of his duplex, injuring the woman next door, police said.

The woman, however, told officers she heard a banging on the wall about 3 a.m. and hollered for it to stop when someone opened fire. The shots went through the common wall of the duplex on Ellis Way, police said, and debris cut the woman's eyelid, an injury that required stitches.

Randolph Dillinger, 41, faces a string of charges in the shooting, including aggravated assault, reckless endangerment and discharge of a firearm into an occupied structure.

He was also charged with illegal possession of a firearm. Police recovered six firearms and ammunition at his home.

<http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/08222/903027-53.stm>

#### **08/08/08 TSA weighs airport gun ban in unsecured areas**

WASHINGTON — The Transportation Security Administration may allow airports to ban firearms from

terminals, parking lots, roads and other airport areas where many states currently allow passengers to carry lethal weapons.

Airport officials and lawmakers are watching closely as the TSA weighs a request by Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport to modify its security program to impose an airportwide ban on guns. It is the first such request to TSA from an airport.

"Any decisions we make that affect (Atlanta) could affect every other airport in the country," TSA spokesman Christopher White said Thursday.

Federal law bars passengers from bringing weapons to or past airport checkpoints. But in many airports, state law allows passengers to carry guns and knives in unsecured areas such as a main terminal — often to airport officials' dismay.

"I don't really like the idea of people coming here with weapons and carrying them into terminals, but that's their right as citizens of the state of Texas," said Alan Black, public safety chief at Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport.

In Atlanta, the issue arose last month after the state passed a law to allow Georgia residents with gun licenses to carry firearms onto public transportation, including subways, buses and airports. When the city-owned airport vowed to maintain its longstanding firearms ban, GeorgiaCarry.org, a gun rights group, sued.

On July 17, after the lawsuit was filed, the request from Hartsfield officials asked the TSA to amend its airport security program to include a gun ban. Each of the nation's 450 commercial airports has a detailed written security program that can be changed only with TSA approval.

Hartsfield's effort is backed by airport groups and House Homeland Security Committee Chairman Bennie Thompson, D-Miss., who plans hearings next month on airport efforts to ban guns. "If airports think (guns) should not be allowed, they should have the right to modify their security plan to reflect that," he said.

The Airports Council International said in a recent letter to Hartsfield, "There is no justification for permitting firearms at any airport." Policies vary from state to state and from airport to airport. Some bar guns fully, others allow them, sometimes in areas such as a parking lot, said Charles Chambers, the council's security chief.

Hartsfield spokesman Herschel Grangent said that someone firing a gun in the airport would force a massive evacuation that could disrupt flights nationwide. Hartsfield, with 89 million passengers in 2007, is the world's busiest airport.

GeorgiaCarry.org lawyer John Monroe said the airport gun ban jeopardizes personal safety: "You might like to have a gun in your car because you come home on an 11:30 p.m. flight."

The TSA is "trying to work through some complex legal issues," said spokesman White. He gave no timetable for a decision. Courts may ultimately decide whether an airport can override state law and prohibit guns by adding a ban to its security program, Chambers said.

[http://www.usatoday.com/travel/flights/2008-08-07-tsa-gun-ban\\_N.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/travel/flights/2008-08-07-tsa-gun-ban_N.htm)

**08/08/08 Arming retired officers with carry permits a smart idea**

In 2004, the bill that we have come to know simply as HR 218, also known as the "Law Enforcement Safety Act of 2004," was signed into law by President George W. Bush.

Also known as the "National Concealed Carry for Cops" legislation and the "Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act of 2004," this law allows law enforcement officers and qualified retired law enforcement officers to carry their weapons while off duty throughout the U.S. This law was brought to the forefront because of the devastating attack on the World Trade Center on Sept. 11, 2001.

Before you print your editorial opinion condemning the people who are trying to protect the citizens of this country, you should first familiarize yourselves with the actual law.

Retired police officers who reside in Florida number in the thousands, and these officers have been trained for many years in the use of firearms and the use of deadly physical force while they were cops. Not only have they had many years of formal training in the use of firearms, they are also experienced in handling, and in most cases defusing, police incidents. They are also well-versed in street smarts, which is one of the key ingredients in the making of a good cop.

On the other hand, the Florida concealed weapons permit allows almost any Floridian the right to carry a concealed weapon by just taking a firearms safety course, with no qualifying shooting range involved in the process. A Floridian with this permit is authorized to carry a concealed weapon in 33 states. Is it not better to have a trained professional, who must qualify once a year for his HR 218 certification, issued by an FDLE certified range instructor, or in this case the Broward County Sheriff's Office, versus a holder of a Florida concealed weapons permit, who does not have to qualify at any firing range to be allowed to walk around with a loaded gun?

The Florida Department of Agriculture is the agency that issues the concealed weapons permit, and there are few exceptions to which a gun can be carried by the permit holder.

Now look at the HR 218 certification. The weapon that the retired officer uses to become certified is the only weapon that can be carried. In essence, HR 218 is so much more restrictive than the permit Florida issues.

The retired cops who pass the yearly certifications course are not police officers; they are retired cops and are not charged with watching over the public. These retired cops fall under both criminal and civil laws and are going to be held accountable for their actions. But if the writer of the editorial opinion becomes the victim of a vicious crime, wouldn't he/she like it if one of these retired cops, who is certified under HR 218, was there to help him/her out?

The real bottom line is that having retired law enforcement officers qualify to become certified under HR 218 is a well-conceived idea that can help out this nation during dire emergencies. My take is once a cop, always a cop who is there to protect and serve the public at large.

The writer of this response is one of the founders of the most unique Fraternal Order of Police Lodges in the country. This lodge only takes retired law enforcement officers from anywhere in New York State, and from within the entire state of Florida. It has almost 200 members whose average age is 55, not 80, as your editorial opinion states.

Again, I say to the editor and staff of the South Florida Sun-Sentinel, report only factual information, not information that takes in your personal opinion, which was extremely biased in this case.

Stanley Kriegsman is president Florida Fraternal Order of Police, Lodge NY 3100. He lives west of Boynton Beach.

<http://www.sun-sentinel.com/news/opinion/sfl-guns08forumpnaug08.0.1766394.story>

### **08/08/08 Is It Time for Federal Reciprocity of Concealed Carry Permits?**

Like a lot of people down here in Texas, I keep a gun close at hand. This usually means one in my vehicle and one on my person. I've kept one in my vehicle for nearly two decades and one on my person since 1998, when I got my first concealed carry permit. It's hard to beat the protection that my concealed carry permit affords my family and friends, even if they aren't armed. The fact that I am armed means they are safer with me whether they realize it or not; and everything from annual FBI crime numbers to state-by-state statistics prove this to be so.

However, when I drive outside the borders of Texas, I have to be careful. In many other states, I cannot keep a loaded gun in the car, and, in some states, I cannot even have my handgun on my person (although I have a Texas license to do so). As a matter of fact, there is such a lack of uniformity amongst the states with concealed carry permits that I cannot even carry my handgun in every state that offers concealed permits to its citizens. This means that when I drive into certain states that offer concealed carry licenses to their citizens but don't recognize the Texas license as valid within their borders, I actually have to unload my gun and lock it in my trunk to be legal.

Have you ever stopped to ask yourself this hard question -- how many criminals give their victims time to open the trunk, grab and load their guns before continuing to attack them? Don't think too hard on that one. You know the answer is "none."

To remedy this illogical scenario, the NRA pushed a federal concealed carry law which seemed to gather a lot of steam early, only to have support among congressmen and congresswomen wane. I think it's high time we put our voices and our energy behind this effort and let congress know we want to see such a law passed pronto.

There are at least two strong justifications for national reciprocity. The first springs from the Second Amendment itself, where we read that the right to keep and bear arms "shall not be infringed." With these words, our Founders were hedging in a natural right and thus placing it off limits from federal or state government interference. Moreover, as Justice Antonin Scalia rightly concluded in the Heller case, our Founders did not want a city government -- such as San Francisco, Chicago, or D.C. -- to infringe upon it either. No government constructed by man has the right to deny us the rights that are ours by way of birth.

In other words, laws or policies that infringe upon our natural rights are wrong whether those laws or policies emanate from the President, the Congress, the court system, a state government, or the San Francisco City Council. Our Founders gave no government a veto over natural rights. This is why Ted Nugent is quick and accurate in saying he "has a concealed carry permit

called the Second Amendment."

Government-issued laws that limit our right to keep and bear arms are infringements on natural law itself. Like the Supreme Court said in the Heller decision, natural rights are preserved by the Constitution, and the right to self-defense is a natural right. It's our right as humans, not something the government granted us out of its good grace.

And because laws that restrict natural rights are in violation of natural law, they are unethical. What could be more unethical than to ban the possession of a weapon that a woman could use to fend off a would-be rapist when it is a given that the rapist, who possesses a criminal mind, will certainly also be in possession of a criminal weapon?

Now approach the problem from a completely different angle - the fact that some states recognize the concealed carry licenses of certain states but not of others is confounded stupidity. Think about this: Oregon issues concealed carry licenses to citizens in its state and recognizes the concealed carry licenses of states that border Oregon, but if I drive to Oregon, I cannot conceal and carry my handgun because they do not recognize the Texas license. The silly thing about this is that a central part of the Oregon licensing process is an FBI criminal background check and this is also a central part of the Texas licensing process. A federal bureau ultimately decides who does and who doesn't get a concealed carry license in both states, yet the states share no reciprocity regarding the licenses themselves. This is simply too arbitrary to be rational, and it is a perfect example of the illogical, liberal mind.

In an ideal world, if you are old enough to buy a handgun, you should be permitted to carry it; regardless of your city or state residence.

This point is essential: other state-granted licenses -- marriage licenses, drivers' licenses and such -- are recognized by every state regardless of their origin. The Constitution's "full faith and credit" clause mandates that. So why should Massachusetts invite gay couples to go there to marry, confident that other states will have to honor those marriages, when I can't take my handgun into Massachusetts with my Texas license?

Consider the example of the woman fending off rapist once more, but add something else into the mix: she has a concealed carry license from state "A" which is not recognized in state "B," although both states depend upon the FBI for ultimate validation of their licenses. Think of her at a red light, listening to the radio in her car, thinking about how nice it will feel to get to the hotel and relax when suddenly her passenger's door is jerked open, a thug jumps in who says he has a gun, and orders her to pull over and undress. She has no recourse, because her gun is locked in the trunk. In an instant, the unethical laws concerning concealed carry reciprocity contribute to immorality because a given state has mandated that the woman remain defenseless.

The inherent weaknesses of concealed carry laws that aren't uniform are the same weaknesses that are characteristic of every part of the liberal agenda. The promise made to us is "peace and safety," yet liberals lack the power to bring about either while denying us the one thing that could do both: the freedom to exercise our natural rights.

As a conservative, I hold state's rights in the highest regard and believe that federal intrusion on state issues has only diminished

the level of real self-government in this country (we saw this clearly with abortion in *Roe vs. Wade*). In truth, I abhor federal intrusion. But in the case of concealed carry licenses, it is already a federal issue; for it is ultimately the federal government, not the states, that decides who will and who will not receive a permit through the work of the FBI.

Therefore, why not push them to go all the way and mandate uniformity in reciprocity that accords with the tenets of the 2nd Amendment? Were this to happen, the woman at the stoplight would still make it back to the hotel for a relaxing night and a call home to say goodnight to her children, even if she had to kill an attacker to do it.

<http://www.humanevents.com/article.php?id=27906>

### **08/08/08 1st To Register Handgun In D.C. Wants To Protect Self, Family**

WASHINGTON -- Amy McVey, the first person in the District to register a handgun in her home since the Supreme Court overturned the city's handgun ban, told News4 that she only wants to protect herself and her family.

McVey said people should respect guns, be safe around them and know how to use them.

Along the streets of her upper northwest Washington neighborhood, crime reports tend to be about break-ins and burglaries, not city violence.

"Well, I don't know that it's a question of I need a gun," McVey said. "I want a gun."

McVey said she isn't a "gun nut." She likes target shooting. She has a .357 magnum, the first legally licensed handgun permitted in the city since the Supreme Court struck down the strict handgun ban as unconstitutional.

She said when she registered the gun "the police officers were spectacularly nice, accommodating, impressed that it was a woman."

Since July, the city has given out 322 firearms applications, taken in 26 guns for registration, approved 11 applications, and denied three for criminal background or other reasons.

McVey and George Lyon, of Mount Pleasant, have created CapitalGunOwners.org to promote safe handgun use. They want the D.C. Council to make gun registration simpler rather than the complex temporary law Mayor Adrian Fenty and the council passed.

"I think it is purposely meant to cloud the issue, to evade doing what they're supposed to do," McVey said.

McVey said she also would like a permit to carry a handgun outside her home. She may testify about that during Council hearings next month.

"I absolutely feel safer," she said. "I know how to use it. I don't want to use it. I don't ever want to use it. But I will if I have to." <http://www.nbc4.com/news/17137557/detail.html>

### **08/08/07 Gun owners arm themselves with advocacy group**

As the District prepares to fight double-barreled attempts to loosen its gun-control laws, some of the city's gun rights pioneers have done what folks in Washington do best — they have formed a lobbying group.

About a dozen residents have pledged their support to Capital Gun Owners, a new D.C.-based gun advocacy and education group headed by Northwest resident Amy McVey.

"We're at a point where we're feeling our way here," said Mrs. McVey, who was the first D.C. resident to register a handgun after the District's 32-year-old ban on handguns was struck down by the Supreme Court in June. "I'm sure our mission will evolve as needed."

The group includes co-founders George Lyon and Gillian St. Lawrence, who were among the six plaintiffs in the initial challenge to the District's handgun ban in 2003, which led to the *District of Columbia v. Heller* Supreme Court case.

Mrs. McVey said the four-day-old group will lobby for less gun control and provide residents with gun-education resources as more of them seek to own guns.

The formation of the group comes as the District is taking fire from two sides — U.S. District Court and Congress — on its still-rigid gun-control laws.

On July 28, Dick Anthony Heller, who won his case in the Supreme Court, and two others filed a challenge against the city's ban on semiautomatic weapons, which it defines as machine guns.

This week, the House of Representatives agreed to vote next month on a bill that would repeal the ban and eliminate registration requirements for people who pass federal licensing standards.

Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton, D.C. Democrat, opposes the bill. She said it treads on home rule in the District and would be detrimental to the city's crime-fighting efforts.

Mrs. McVey said the group's top priorities are lobbying the District to lift its ban on semiautomatic handguns, allow residents to carry handguns outside of the home, streamline or eliminate firearm registration and lobby Congress to allow D.C. residents to buy handguns in Maryland and Virginia.

Currently, firearms in the District must be registered, kept in the home and locked or disassembled unless they are being used for self-defense.

Most semiautomatic handguns are prohibited because they fall under the city's definition of a machine gun, which is any gun that can hold 12 or more rounds without being reloaded. Federal law requires people to purchase handguns in the state in which they live.

The creation of the group comes amid uncertainty about how many law-abiding people are interested in purchasing firearms in a city suffering from a high rate of gun violence.

Since the city opened handgun registration July 17, 287 persons have picked up handgun applications, 21 have brought in handguns to be registered and 11 have completed the process, according to Metropolitan Police spokeswoman Traci Hughes.

However, Mr. Lyon said he does not think D.C. residents are overwhelmingly against guns and that more supporters will surface as the organization becomes better known.

"I'm not positive that we're in the minority," Mr. Lyon said. "I'd like to think that we'd put a positive face on the concept of gun culture."

D.C. Council member Phil Mendelson, at-large Democrat, said he thinks groups like Capital Gun Owners are essential to

crafting fair and reasonable legislation and looks forward to hearing from members when the Council addresses gun laws.

But Mr. Mendelson, who chairs the Council's committee on public safety, said he thinks some of the criticism that has been made of the existing laws may be premature because they have not been examined since the gun ban was enacted in 1976.

"We have to take the law off the shelf, dust it off and see where the flaws are," he said.

Mr. Mendelson said he still does not know whether he will convene a special committee hearing to examine gun laws while the Council is on summer recess.

The Council last month passed emergency legislation that is in effect for 90 days, outlining gun-registration procedures.

The Council is expected to draft permanent legislation in September after studying the impact and effectiveness of the current measures.

<http://washingtontimes.com/news/2008/aug/07/gun-owners-arm-themselves-with-advocacy-group/>

#### **08/08/06 High court's gun ruling misfires for local felon**

A Washington County man who tried to test the local waters following a Supreme Court decision that struck down a gun ban in the nation's capital quickly changed his mind after learning his challenge had been rejected.

James F. Barton Jr., 48, was charged last year with being a felon in possession of firearms. Agents who searched his Washington, Pa., home in May 2007 found seven pistols, five rifles and three shotguns.

Mr. Barton tried to argue before Senior U.S. District Judge Alan N. Bloch that the Supreme Court's ruling -- and its assertion

that possession of guns in the home is an individual right -- must be applied to all.

He made the argument even though the court's opinion specifically noted: "[Nothing] in our opinion should be taken to cast doubt on long-standing prohibitions on the possession of firearms by felons and the mentally ill."

Judge Bloch held a brief hearing on the matter last week before denying a motion to dismiss.

Mr. Barton decided to plead guilty a day later.

At the plea hearing yesterday, Assistant U.S. Attorney Charles A. Eberle described the weapons found in Mr. Barton's home.

Police were tipped off by a confidential informant who made arrangements to buy a five-shot revolver from Mr. Barton. They met at Mr. Barton's home, and the informant paid \$300 for the gun. Before he left with it, Mr. Barton drilled out the serial number, Mr. Eberle said.

In addition to the firearms, investigators found a blackjack, brass knuckles and a switchblade, the prosecutor said.

Mr. Barton previously had been convicted in Washington County in 1995 of receiving stolen property -- a firearm -- and possession of a controlled substance with intent to deliver.

Judge Bloch set sentencing for Jan. 5. <http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/08219/902120-58.stm>

#### **Founding Fathers Intent:**

"A general dissolution of principles and manners will more surely overthrow the liberties of America than the whole force of the common enemy. While the people are virtuous they cannot be subdued; but when once they lose their virtue then will be ready to surrender their liberties to the first external or internal invader." -- *Samuel Adams (letter to James Warren, 12 February 1779)*