



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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Pittsburgh City Council Passes 'Illegal' Gun Ordinance-Legal Action Unavoidable

Pittsburgh City Council has passed an ordinance – Mandatory Reporting of Lost or Stolen Firearms - that is in direct conflict with PA Crimes Code (statewide preemption law—Title Section 6120).

The City legislators have been trying to help Cease Fire PA and anti-gun state representative Dave Levdansky pass this measure in the state house without success this past spring. Now the council members have acted in flagrant disregard of the law, the home rule charter, prior court orders and even the advice of their own solicitors in enacting 'Mandatory Reporting of Lost or Stolen Firearms' as a city ordinance with only one 'no' vote-Councilman Burgess.

Prior to the enactment of this ordinance the City Council held a 'post-agenda' hearing where the ACSL participated and gave testimony and stood for questioning by council members. During the course of this hearing it became clear that 'NO' amount of logic or reason would dissuade Councilmen Shields or Peduto from prostrating public policy at the feet of Cease Fire PA and their willingness to commit criminal acts in pursuit of this agenda.

It is also a fact that criminals who misuse firearms in this state do not fear being prosecuted for violations of the Pennsylvania Uniform Firearms Act because they know that that is the first thing that will be plea-bargained away.

Of course City Council is, apparently, unconcerned with those problems or in going after career violent criminals and that is exactly what the vote on this ordinance demonstrated—political demagoguery.

As part of my testimony at the post-agenda meeting I mentioned the Boston Gun Project and the success that they had in stopping youth firearms homicides for 29 months. Councilman Burgess stated for the benefit of the media that Council was doing everything in its power and

'turning over every stone' to stop the killings. Yet nothing has been done in the last decade to bring to Pittsburgh, until very recently, this kind of a project. My question to all of council is 'why'?? If Councilman Shields, as well as the rest of council, were truly concerned about gun violence then success stories like Boston should have been fast tracked into action!

In addition the City of Pittsburgh has twice before ignored state law, subsequently successfully sued by the ACSL and then told by Common Pleas Court (Judge James) to 'abide by state law' and ordered to, in effect, cease and desist. These issues involved Council's enactment of an Assault Weapon Ban and, later, their active participation with Janet Reno's U.S. Justice Department to register and track 'every' gun owner in western PA in a sophisticated computer database.

In a rude and disrespectful display of political arrogance, Councilman Burgess sent a letter to Kim Stolfer (Chairman of the ACSL Legislative Committee) explaining that he recognized the 'illegality' of the proposed ordinance and would have voted for it if he could. Instead of stopping there, Councilman Burgess went on to 'challenge' Kim Stolfer to a public debate on handguns and then scoffed at the likelihood of our participating in this debate. The letter from Burgess was distributed to local media on Thursday and Kim Stolfer did NOT receive his copy until Friday morning after the media contacted him numerous times.

Interestingly, the written reply to Burgess to accept his challenge as well as rebut his unfounded and insulting points resulted in the Tribune Review following up with story on the merits of our accusations and positions. You can read more at this link --

http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/pittsburghtrib/news/cityregion/s_602272.html

As of this writing, Councilman Burgess and Kim Stolfer will be squaring off on the Kevin Miller show on KDKA radio (1020-AM) on December 19th at 2p.m. The debate will be a lively one to be sure!

The fact of the matter is that barring a selfless and ethical act on the part of the Allegheny County DA (Zappala) arresting and incarcerating 'all' of the council members who voted for this, the City of Pittsburgh is facing a guaranteed legal action against their actions.

West Mifflin Borough Installing Metal Detectors and They Say NO to CCW

West Mifflin borough council members have publicly stated (Pgh. Post/Gazette) that they intend to install metal detectors to screen people before entering the council chambers. There appears to be a personality conflict on the board that some are concerned about boiling over even though the articles state that this measure is not related to any incident involving council members.

In typical governmental fashion other board members feel (since the vote 'was' unanimous) that it is appropriate to, in effect, through the baby out with the bath water and ignore state law that prohibits them from enacting legislation or taking any action that denies an individual from exercising his right to carry a firearm. The Vice President of Council (Jabbour) publicly stated that they intend to do this because "it's time for us to do something because how the world is now, anything can happen". The borough manager stated the following;

Mr. Bednar said people who have a permit to carry a gun still will be required to leave their weapons outside of council chambers.

"We are not saying you cannot have a gun, but we are saying you can't have it in this assembly here. **I think we do have the right to say this is our meeting** and you cannot bring a gun in here," Mr. Bednar said.

The fact is that this council has 'no right' to do this and we will be communicating these facts to the appropriate borough officials. Read the article at this link -- <http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/08346/934173-55.stm>

Obama's AG pick Holder has long anti-gun history

by Dave Workman, Senior Editor

Eric Holder, the man chosen by president-elect Barack Obama to be the next attorney general of the United States, has an anti-gun track record that has gun rights activists alarmed, not only about the man, but about the signals that Obama is sending about how his administration will actually deal with gun rights.

Within hours after Holder's nomination was announced, activist Internet forums were busily discussing his background, with ample documentation.

Prominent among those was the transcript of Holder's weekly briefing on March 20, 2000, when he was deputy attorney general under Janet Reno during the Clinton Administration. At that time, he went on record urging Congress to pass legislation

requiring handgun licensing and "safety certification" for all handgun buyers, and a federal law mandating trigger locks on all handguns that are sold. He also pushed for adoption of "smart gun" legislation that would explore technology ultimately resulting in the development of firearms that could only be used by a single individual.

Before that, he had lobbied Congress to pass federal legislation requiring background checks on all gun show transactions, even between private parties.

Holder was one of several people who signed an amicus brief in the Heller case that supported the Washington, DC, handgun ban and also argued that the Second Amendment did not affirm an individual civil right.

Alan Gottlieb, founder of the Second Amendment Foundation, said Holder's nomination to become this nation's chief law enforcement officer "tells American gunowners that Obama's campaign claims supporting the Second Amendment were empty rhetoric."

"America's 85 million gun owners have ample reason to be pessimistic about how their civil rights will fare under the Obama administration," Gottlieb said. "Mr. Obama will have a Congress with an anti-gun Democrat majority leadership to push his gun control agenda. Gunowners have not forgotten Mr. Obama's acknowledged opposition to concealed carry rights, nor his support for a ban on handgun ownership when he was running for the Illinois state senate."

Gottlieb told Gun Week that it is no small wonder there was a rush on gun shops all over the country immediately after the election.

With Holder, he indicated, there is a concern that the Justice Department might be lethargic about protecting the rights of gunowners. He also said that Holder's addition to the Obama team is another signal about the direction that the new administration is going to tilt when it comes to gun rights versus gun control.

"Barack Mama vigorously portrayed himself on the campaign trail as a man who supports gun ownership," Gottlieb said, "but now that he has won he is surrounding himself with people who are avowed gun prohibitionists." *The New GUN WEEK, December 15, 2008*

Obama come out of the gate stumbling with gun activists

by Dave Workman, Senior Editor

It's almost as if he were the guy who couldn't do anything right, and he's not even the president yet.

Barack Obama is off to a rocky start with gun rights activists. The Obama "administration" is not yet even in office, but gunowners are already wary because of two major gaffes within days of one another.

First, Obama's staff scrubbed the Obama website, removing a paragraph about his approach to gun rights. While Obama the candidate spoke about his "support" of the Second Amendment in stump speeches across the country, Obama the president-elect had—at least until a stink was raised over it on Tom Gresham's Gun Talk radio program on Nov. 9—other plans, evidently.

"As president," the website had revealed, "Barack Obama would repeal the Tiahrt Amendment, which restricts the ability of

local law enforcement to access important gun trace information, and give police officers across the nation the tools they need to solve gun crimes and fight the illegal arms trade. Obama and (Joe) Biden also favor commonsense measures that respect the Second Amendment rights of gun owners, while keeping guns away from children and from criminals who shouldn't have them. They support closing the gun show loophole and making guns in this country childproof. They also support making the expired federal Assault Weapons Ban permanent, as such weapons belong on foreign battlefields and not on our streets."

This was the same information that had appeared, and is still posted, on his campaign website. But it, along with almost every other campaign position, vanished on the weekend of Gresham's broadcast.

Bloomberg's Lawsuits

The language immediately struck a nerve with gun activists who support the Tiahrt Amendment because it prevents lawsuit-minded mayors from accessing sensitive gun trace data kept by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. Anti-gun-rights mayors like New York's Michael Bloomberg and Seattle's Greg Nickels want that data to fuel lawsuits against the firearms industry.

Likewise, proposing a revival of the ban on so-called assault weapons and making it permanent has millions of gunowners in an uproar. As reported in the last issue, gun sales skyrocketed in the wake of the Obama election, and incredibly, a portion of that business reportedly was among first-time gun buyers who actually voted for the Obama-Biden ticket and are now fearful that the people they elected will ban certain guns and curtail gun ownership overall.

There is growing concern that what the Obama-Biden administration consider "common sense" gun laws will be Chicago-style restrictions for the entire country.

Reinforcing that notion was a questionnaire put together by the Obama transition team that was leaked to the Illinois State Rifle Association (ISRA), Gun Week and other press outlets in which one of the questions had to do with gun ownership.

Question 59 on the document reads, "Do you or any member of your immediate family own a gun? If so, provide complete ownership and registration information. Has the registration ever lapsed? Please also describe how and by whom it is used and whether it has been the cause of any personal injuries or property damage."

'Insight'

ISRA Executive Director Richard Pearson—who was highly critical of Obama prior to the election—said the questionnaire shows "clear insight into how Obama and his people perceive firearm owners."

"The questionnaire poses a number of questions asking the applicant to reveal any unethical activities, or embarrassing Internet chats," Pearson observed, "then wraps up by asking if anyone in the applicant's family owns a firearm. Obviously, Obama feels that owning a firearm is akin to talking dirty in Internet chat rooms. But that should come as no surprise as, while an Illinois state Senator, Obama voted for SB1195—a provision of which called for gunowners to be registered in the same manner as sex offenders.

"Once again," he added, "we have to ask ourselves just what candidate -Obama was talking about when he said he has 'respect' for the Second Amendment. If this latest assault on gunowners is considered a gesture of respect, then either Obama or myself is very confused."

The National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF) was also alarmed at the swiftness with which Obama's gun control agenda disappeared from his transition website. The industry group is equally distressed with the appointment of anti-gun Illinois Rep. Rahm Emanuel as White House chief of staff, arguing that the appointment "sends an unambiguous message to gunowners and members of the firearms industry."

"It's clear from President-elect Obama's voting record, and the promises that he continues to make, that gun control will be coming back to the White House," said NSSF Senior Vice President and General Counsel Lawrence G. Keane. "Eloquent rhetoric notwithstanding, sportsmen, gunowners and prospective gunowners recognize this and are reacting accordingly."

NRA Comments

And the National Rifle Association posted a statement on its website about the Obama questionnaire's gun query.

"Besides being unnecessary, the question misleads applicants about existing firearm laws," the NRA noted. "The question demands that applicants provide 'complete ownership and registration information' about all firearms owned. But only five states have statewide gun registration; of these only Hawaii requires registration of all types of firearms. And federal law specifically forbids creation of a federal registration system (and we intend to keep it that way).

"The question also asks applicants to report any lapse in registration, but this, too, is misleading," NRA adds. "Only New York City and three nearby counties require periodic renewal of a firearm registration, and then only as part of the process for renewing a handgun license.

"Finally, the question asks applicants how the firearm is used," the statement continues. "Once again, if an applicant is not using his gun to commit crimes, how could this possibly be relevant to a person's fitness to serve in the Obama administration?"

"The possibilities are chilling

"Will applicants who own firearms for self-defense in the home be disqualified, given Obama's votes at the state level to disallow self-defense arguments by people who used guns to protect themselves in the home, in spite of a local gun ban?"

"Will applicants be disqualified if they legally carry a firearm for self-protection outside the home, given Obama's ongoing opposition to state Right-to-Carry laws, and his call for an unconstitutional federal law to outlaw Right-to-Carry?"

"Will hunters be disqualified, given the endorsement of Obama's candidacy by the Humane Society of the United States, one of our nation's most radical anti-hunting lobbies?"

One thing is for sure: If the Obama team thinks these are good questions to ask job applicants, it's only a matter of time before they'll want to ask the rest of us, too." [The New GUN WEEK](#), December 15, 2008

Gun-free-zone' signs seen attracting `active shooters'

The following report by Brendan Keefe on wcpo.com, the website of WCPO Channel 9, the Cincinnati, OH, ABC affiliate, appeared on Nov. 14 and adds a new dimension to previous commentaries on the dangers posed by "gun free zone" signs. Here is Keefe's report:

There have been so many school shootings over the last 40 years that researchers have been able to develop a profile of the typical mass murderer.

They're called "active shooters" or "active killers" and their crimes play out in a matter of minutes.

After the Columbine High School massacre in 1999, police changed their tactics.

The two student gunmen killed 15 people and themselves before the SWAT team was in position.

Commanders realized that it simply takes too long to assemble a tactical team in time to stop an active killer.

The new tactics developed in response to Columbine involved creating an ad-hoc tactical team using the first four or five patrol officers on the scene. They would enter the shooting scene in a diamond formation with guns pointing in all directions.

This technique was employed by police departments around the country.

Then 32 people were killed by a lone gunman at Virginia Tech in April 2007.

Seung Hui Cho shot 47 people, 30 fatally, in the university's Norris Hall in just 11 minutes. That means every minute he killed more than three people and shot a total of four.

Once again, the gunman continued shooting until a four-officer team made entry and then he killed himself.

Law enforcement reviewed its tactics. Based on the Virginia Tech data, experts determined the first officer on scene should make entry immediately with an aggressive attack on the shooter. Every minute the officer waits for back-up, another three or more people could die. In other words, while it was once considered suicide for a lone officer to take on an active killer, it is now considered statistical homicide for him not to do so.

Tactical Defense Institute (TDI) in Adams County, OH, developed one of the first "single officer response" programs in the nation. TDI was teaching the tactic even before Virginia Tech. Now the National School Resource Officer

Organization (NSRO) is using TDI instructors to teach school resource officers how to confront a gunman immediately.

Locally, all Blue Ash police officers are trained in these new tactics in large part because their chief, Col. Chris Wallace, is also a TDI instructor.

The other statistic that emerged from a study of active killers is that they almost exclusively seek out "gun free" zones for their attacks. In most states, concealed handguns are prohibited at schools and on college campuses even for those with permits.

Many malls and workplaces also place signs at their entrances prohibiting firearms on the premises.

Now tacticians believe the signs themselves may be an invitation to the active killers.

The psychological profile of a mass murderer indicates he is looking to inflict the most casualties as quickly as possible.

Also, the data show most active killers have no intention of surviving the event.

They may select schools and shopping malls because of the large number of defenseless victims and the virtual guarantee no on the scene one is armed.

As soon as they're confronted by any armed resistance, the shooters typically turn the gun on themselves. *The New GUN WEEK*, December 15, 2008

Pennsylvania woman plans suit stemming from open carry issue

Meleanie Hain's attorney says the Lebanon, PA, woman has endured the ridicule of neighbors and lost baby-sitting jobs since she achieved notoriety for openly, and legally, carrying a gun to her 5-year-old daughter's soccer game, according to The Patriot-News of Harrisburg.

And it's Sheriff Michael DeLeo's fault, according to a malicious-prosecution lawsuit that civil rights attorney Matthew Weisberg said he planned to file on Nov. 24.

"The sheriff should have known Meleanie had the right to openly carry," the Philadelphia-area attorney said.

Since DeLeo tried to take away her permit to carry a concealed weapon, "she has become a pariah in her small community," Weisberg said in the newspaper's report.

Hain achieved national attention after she took a gun, holstered on her hip, to a soccer game Sept. 11 at Optimist Park in Lebanon. After some other parents complained, DeLeo revoked her concealed weapons permit, saying she showed poor judgment.

Lebanon County Judge Robert J. Eby reversed the sheriff's decision on appeal during a court hearing attended by about 60 gun rights activists.

Eby also lectured Hain, telling her that what is legal is not necessarily right. He asked her to conceal her gun if she carried it to soccer games. But Hain said after the hearing that she planned to continue carrying it openly since it is her right under the Second Amendment.

Weisberg said the parents who sent their children to her in-home baby-sitting service knew she openly carried a gun, but didn't care until after the sheriff revoked her license.

"She lost those jobs because of the negativity surrounding her prosecution," he said.

Weisberg said the lawsuit will seek damages for Hain's pain and suffering, as well as money for her attorney fees.

George Christiansen, attorney for the Lebanon County Sheriff's Department, acknowledged he has received a letter from Weisberg about the intention to sue, and he has turned it over to the county's insurance company.

"I don't know the legal basis for the lawsuit," Christiansen said. "Mike DeLeo exercised what the state statute put upon him regarding the issuance of permits. I'm convinced it was a valid judgment call. Everybody can sue anybody for anything."

DeLeo revoked Hain's permit under the Pennsylvania Uniform Firearms Act, which gives sheriffs the right to deny permits to anyone "whose character and reputation is such that the individual would be likely to act in a dangerous manner to public safety."

"I just did my job," DeLeo told the newspaper. "The courts have ruled, and we respect that ruling." [The New GUN WEEK](#), December 15, 2008

Brady Campaign poll shows big support for 'reasonable regs'

by Dave Workman, Senior Editor

A post-election voter survey conducted for the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence reportedly shows that 67% of the respondents want an Obama administration to take action on "common sense gun laws" during the next 12 months.

The survey, conducted by Penn, Schoen & Berland Associates, Ltd. (PSBA) during the, period of Nov. 5-9, reportedly found 76% of the respondents favoring "reasonable gun regulations in general." PSBA contacted 1,083 voters for the survey, according to a Brady Campaign press release.

Matt Bechak with PSBA declined to speak with Gun Week, referring questions to Peter Hamm, communications director with the Brady Campaign.

Hamm did not return Gun Week's calls before deadline.

But John Frazer, director of research and information for the National Rifle Association's Institute for Legislative Action (NRA-ILA), told Gun Week that he suspects "the survey was tailored to get the results they wanted," by how questions were carefully worded. He also said that in the press release, "They don't tell you enough about their overall sample so that you can determine if this is an accurate cross sample of the electorate."

While the survey does not clearly define what "reasonable" gun regulations might be, it does give a good indication by one question that asked how supportive the respondent could be to any of the following:

- Criminal background checks for all gun sales (83%)
- Registration of gun sales and licensing of gun owners (68%)
- Banning military-style assault weapons (65%)
- Waiting period of five days for handgun sales (65%)
- Limiting the number of guns that can be bought at one time (54%)

A handful of respondents told the survey group that they supported "none of the above."

According to a report from PSBA, "Voters in the 'new blue' states (which went to Barack Obama that had gone to George Bush in 2004) favor (78%) reasonable gun laws compared with 76% national support."

The survey also asserted that the NRA "is losing their old power to turn elections."

The survey reported that 79% of voters who responded said that the NRA was not an important factor in deciding the election. It also asserted that 74% of the respondents who identified themselves as gunowners agreed that the NRA was not a factor in their decision about who to vote for.

"Even if the NRA is still making the calls, sending email, and social networking with millions," the report stated, "the message itself is no longer connecting with their target audience; we suspect it is because it's a post-Heller world."

The second question on the survey noted, "Recently, the US Supreme Court ruled that the Second Amendment supports an individual right to own gun, (sic) with reasonable restrictions.

With this in mind, do you support or oppose the passage of laws placing reasonable restrictions on guns?"

Breaking down some of the figures,

the survey says 87% of identified liberals would "support reasonable restrictions on guns" while 63% of identified conservatives and 80% of identified moderates would also support such restrictions., Sixty-six percent of McCain voters who responded said they would support "reasonable restrictions" while 85% of Obama voters said they would.

One set of figures shows that of those who identified themselves as conservatives, 83% would support background checks on all gun sales, 61% said they support registration of gun sales and licensing of gunowners, 58% would support a ban on "assault weapons," 64% support a five-day waiting period on handgun sales, but only 42% would support limiting the number of guns that could be purchased at one time.

Even liberals were cool to a limit on gun purchases, with 63% supporting the idea. Yet, 67% of liberal respondents support handgun waiting periods, 72% back a ban on "assault weapons," 76% support gun sale registration and gunowner licensing and 82% support background checks on all gun sales.

"These findings suggest that sensible gun legislation provides a unique opportunity for the new administration to build a bridge to moderate voters in both parties," PSBA said in its report. "It is no longer plausible for opponents of gun legislation to assert that gun laws will somehow lead to a total gun ban. The right to own a gun is now recognized by the US Supreme Court; but so is the principle that reasonable restrictions are permissible." [The New GUN WEEK](#), December 15, 2008

TX carjacker stopped by armed victim

A would-be carjacker in Edinburg, TX won't be pursuing a criminal career, thanks to a fatal error in the victim- selection process.

According to the McAllen Monitor, the late Hector Severo Ramos pulled a .25- caliber pistol on Alejandro Salinas in the parking lot of a convenience store, and told him to get out of his truck. That apparently wasn't enough for the young thug, though, because Ramos also told Salinas that he was going to kill him.

That was enough to convince Salinas that something had to be done immediately. The newspaper said the motorist told the young gunman to calm down and talk about this. Ramos didn't have time to consider the proposition, though, because Salinas pushed the little gun out of the way, pulled his own pistol and pumped a couple of 9mm slugs into the carjacker's chest.

At the sound of the gunfire, three other guys who were with Ramos beat feet in a brown Chevrolet, leaving their wounded compadre lying in his own blood. He died a short time later at a nearby hospital.

The newspaper reported that Salinas has a Texas concealed carry license and a clean criminal record. On the other hand, Ramos was too young to have a carry permit, but old enough to have a criminal record. He had previously been busted for aggravated robbery, theft and other illegal activity, and for giving a false report to a police officer. [The New GUN WEEK](#), December 15, 2008

'Joe the Plumber' Search

The news media are not the only ones who target political enemies, or maybe they get others to do it for them.

The Toledo, OH, Police Department (TPD) has confirmed that a TPD records clerk is accused of performing an illegal search of information related to 'Joe the Plumber,' according to WNWO NBC 24 in Toledo.

Julie McConnell, has been charged with Gross Misconduct for allegedly making an improper inquiry into a state database in search of information pertaining to Samuel Wurzelbacher, Joe the Plumber's real name, on Oct. 16.

Wurzelbacher came under the spotlight after being spoken about during the final presidential debate between Barack Obama and John McCain.

The inquiry into Wurzelbacher's record is a violation of department and state policy governing the use of the Law Enforcement Automated Data System. The clerk is under fire for making the inquiry for a non-law enforcement purpose.

McConnell was hired by the Toledo Police Department in April 1995 and assigned to the Investigative Services Bureau. A disciplinary hearing was to be scheduled by about Nov. 8, after the election. [The New GUN WEEK](#), December 15, 2008

OR police kill `suicidal' man

From the "Assisted Suicide, Oregon Style" file comes the story of 51-year-old Richard Walter Sykes of Springfield, OR.

In a state where assisted suicide is legal, this is one guy who put something of a new spin on the practice.

According to The Seattle Post-Intelligencer and Associated Press, Sykes got mad at his doctor because the physician would not give him a prescription for some unidentified drug. So, Sykes reportedly threatened to commit suicide.

The story takes a turn due south when it was revealed that Sykes' wife called the cops to advise them that her hubby would open fire if he was confronted by lawmen. Just to make sure this was on the level, the police called Sykes, and sure enough, he threatened them, the reports said.

So, we now arrive at Sykes' front yard, where a police SWAT team has deployed and a negotiator has tried to talk the man into giving up. Not a chance, it appears, because Sykes came to the front door with a semi-automatic rifle in hand and then reportedly dove for the ground as he swung the muzzle toward the police.

And that was the end of that. [The New GUN WEEK](#), December 15, 2008

One less rapist in Missouri

From the "Cleansing the Gene Pool" file comes the story out of Cape Girardeau, MO, regarding the recently-departed Ronnie W. Preyer on Halloween, and this was no Trick-or-Treat excursion.

A registered sex-offender, Preyer decided to break into a home at about 2:15 a.m. on Oct. 31 and sexually assault the woman living there. Unfortunately for Preyer, it was the same home, and the same woman inside, that he had invaded several days earlier, with the same thing in mind.

According to The St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Preyer's first assault on the previous Saturday night was successful. On his return visit, he compounded his error by breaking through the

same window he had on the earlier attack. He made noise, and his intended victim heard it.

The unidentified woman this time properly grabbed a shotgun. She had been watching television, but Preyer managed to turn off the power to her house. The woman then waited and when Preyer kicked in her door, she let him have it.

The woman fled to a neighbor's house and called police. When they arrived, they found Preyer staggering away from the residence, bleeding profusely. He died a few hours later at a local hospital, the newspaper said.

The intended victim identified Preyer as the perpetrator in both crimes. Cape Girardeau County Prosecutor H. Morley Swingle told the newspaper he will not be seeking any charges against the woman. He said she was "clearly justified under the law in shooting this intruder in her home." [The New GUN WEEK](#), December 15, 2008

Germans serving the dogs

A soup kitchen exclusively for dogs has opened its doors in Berlin providing pets of the homeless and unemployed with a free meal, the director of the establishment said on Oct. 31, according to a Reuters News Service report from Germany.

Despite the looming financial crisis, director Claudia Hollm dismissed criticism that it may be more sensible to collect money for humans than for dogs. She told Reuters dogs "are incredibly important for those who lack social contact with other humans." Her company, "Animal Board," gets sponsorship from companies, including animal food manufacturers.

The opening of the soup kitchen follows September's launch of a new bus service in Berlin for dogs, which shuttles their furry friends to a luxury dog day-care center. [The New GUN WEEK](#), December 15, 2008

Illinois voters in 10 counties endorse CCWs

An unusual victory for gunowners, in one of the most anti-gun states in the nation, came with the passage of referendums in 10 counties supporting passage of concealed carry legislation in the Prairie State.

These advisory ballots were among 14 proposed around the state and voted on Nov. 4. According to Richard Pearson, executive director of the Illinois State Rifle Association, the measures passed in every county where ISRA volunteers had a public meeting about the proposal. In four other counties where no meetings could be held in time for the vote, the measures failed, but not by much.

Pearson said the advisory ballots passed in Woodford County (55%), Ogle (53%) Crawford (59%), Jasper (61%), Green (63%), Jefferson (63%), Union (67%), and a whopping 71% approval in both Saline and Franklin counties.

The measure lost in McDonough (55% No), LaSalle (53% No), Kendall (56% No) and Winnebago (51% No).

At press time, the vote in Effingham had the measure passing by 57.5%, Pearson said.

While the votes are not binding on the state legislature, Pearson said the next step will be to push for concealed carry support in the state's other counties. [The New GUN WEEK](#), December 1, 2008

Feds seize MO mayor's guns; he says he has nothing to hide

Seven guns were removed from Iron Mountain Lake, MO, Mayor Jody Niccum's home on Oct. 28 during an investigation that involved the FBI and ATF, according to The Daily Journal in Park Hills.

St. Francois County Sheriff Dail Bullock said it was a three-month-long investigation with which his department's detective unit and the Missouri State Highway Patrol assisted the ATF and FBI.

Bullock said the investigation is ongoing and the federal agencies aren't allowing him to release much information. Bullock said when the officers went to the mayor's home on Oct. 28, officers removed seven guns, a small amount of marijuana and drug paraphernalia. Reports are being turned over to the US Attorney's Office.

Niccum was not arrested and charges have not been filed at the time the newspaper first filed a report.

Niccum talked openly with The Daily Journal the night of the raid, sharing a copy of the search warrant and items that were seized.

He said the agencies asked him questions about making bombs and about the weapons he owned. He said he told them he's not making bombs and told them where all of his guns were located and which ones were loaded. He said there were no automatic weapons.

He said he was told he was a convicted felon and should not possess guns. He said years ago, he pleaded guilty to stealing. He said he received a suspended imposition of sentence and was placed on five years of supervised probation after completing a 120-day program at Farmington. He said it is his understanding that since it was a suspended imposition of sentence, as opposed to a suspended execution of sentence, he did not have a criminal record and the case was closed.

Casenet shows no prior convictions for Niccum in Missouri and police would not confirm if he had convictions in other states. Niccum said he does not have any convictions in other states.

Niccum said as far as he knows, police did not find any drugs in his home. He said they did find drug paraphernalia which he forgot was there. Choking back tears, he admitted he is a recovering alcoholic and recovering drug addict and said he is proud and passionate about his many years of sobriety. He said he is against drugs and has admiration for law enforcement.

He said he has nothing to hide. He said he is a registered voter, and has a hunting and fishing license. He does not have a state conceal and carry permit.

"I'm just a little man in a little town ... who took an oath of office to do the right thing," he said. He said it's an opportunity for him to give something back and he enjoys the volunteer cleanup work he does.

He said a few weeks ago, he attended the gun show at the Civic Center and was not allowed to purchase a gun. He was told to write the FBI for a reason why. He said he wrote a rough draft asking why and what he needed to do but hadn't mailed it. He said that letter was among the items the federal authorities took with them on Oct. 28.

He said he is not a danger to anyone and believes he was following the law.

Niccum and three others were arrested in May during a disturbance where someone else pulled a gun, but no charges are expected to be filed as a result of that. [The New GUN WEEK](#), December 1, 2008

Oklahomans vote 80% for right-to-hunt

Oklahoma voters constitutionally secured their right to hunt and fish and provided a boost to the state's growing wine industry by overwhelmingly approving state questions in the Nov. 4 general election.

Voters easily approved all four state questions by double-digit margins, based on results from nearly half of the state's precincts, reported by Associated Press.

State Question 742, which adds a new section to the Oklahoma Constitution declaring that all Oklahomans have the right to "hunt, trap and fish" subject to reasonable regulation, was approved with 80% of the vote. The measure allows the Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Commission to approve methods and procedures.

Senate co-President Pro Um Glenn Coffee (R-Oklahoma City), who authored the bill to place the question on the ballot, said the measure was a proactive step to prevent outside groups from interfering with Oklahoma's hunting and fishing laws. [The New GUN WEEK](#), December 1, 2008

Winnetka, IL, latest to repeal handgun ban

After an emotional night inside the Winnetka, IL, Village Council chamber in which some residents pleaded with council members to keep their 20-year old handgun ban in place, the council voted 6-0 to scrap the village handgun ban.

Handguns in homes will now be permitted in homes but firing guns and gun sales would stay illegal.

According to WBBM News Radio in Chicago, the issue came to a head because three Winnetka residents sued the village claiming the ban violated their Second Amendment rights.

Council members expressed their frustration over the vote and feared if they didn't repeal the ordinance it would cost the village thousands of dollars to fight the suit with the risk of losing in court.

The lawsuit was filed in response • to the Supreme Court's June 26

Heller ruling that said residents of Washington, D.C., a city under federal jurisdiction, could keep handguns for self defense. In the Chicago area, five suburbs, including Wilmette, Evanston, Morton Grove and Oak Park, had gun bans at the time of the ruling and had to take similar measures to repeal bans.

Evanston revised its ordinance to allow guns in homes, but is eyeing zoning changes that would bar gun stores and public shooting ranges. [The New GUN WEEK](#), December 1, 2008

NJ .50-cal. Ban bill delayed by opposition

In response to vigorous opposition by gunowners, the New Jersey Assembly delayed passage of A2116, legislation banning most firearms over .50 caliber.

The vote for passage had been scheduled for Nov. 17 but anti-gun members of the Assembly amended the legislation in an

attempt to divide gunowners and sportsmen by exempting some firearms while still banning others. As originally written, the measure would have banned any .50 caliber including muzzleloaders and pistols.

The National Rifle Association and Fifty Caliber Shooters Institute say that no amount of tinkering can "fix" a gun ban, and that A2116 remains fundamentally flawed because instead of targeting criminals, it singles out law-abiding gunowners and punishes them by banning their guns.

The amended A2116 could be considered by the full Assembly anytime in December. [The New GUN WEEK](#), December 1, 2008

Toy gun costs kindergartner

From the "Zero tolerance makes zero sense department" comes the story of a kindergartner student with a toy gun in Tennessee who has been lumped together with a high schooler who allegedly assaulted a classmate, a fifth-grader who was accused of writing a "hit list" of potential victims and another high schooler who brought a loaded gun clip to school—and all have been expelled.

According to The Knoxville News-Sentinel quoted by [WorldNetDaily.com](#), the kindergartner was among eight students expelled after he broke school rules with a toy weapon.

"We take all these incidents very seriously," said V.L. Stonecipher, a school official. "Our code of conduct clearly spells out unacceptable behavior and the consequences."

The offending toy weapon violated the school's zero-tolerance rules and resulted in a mandatory year-long suspension, the report said.

"Expelling a kindergartner student for a toy gun is insane," wrote one participant in the newspaper's forum page. "No toy gun of today hardly even resembles a real one." [The New GUN WEEK](#), December 1, 2008

Tony Blair security bloopers

Former British Prime Minister Tony Blair's bodyguard caused a major security scare at an Israeli airport on Nov. 11 when his gun went off by mistake.

The police special protection officer was unloading his gun prior to boarding a plane to London with Blair when he accidentally fired into the ground, according to the Foreign Mail Service.

No one was injured in the incident, but Israeli security guards and police rushed to the scene and detained him.

An initial investigation revealed that the incident was due to an error by the bodyguard.

According to Scotland Yard, the matter has been referred to the Met's Directorate of Public Standards and the officer concerned has been removed from operational firearms duties.

The latest incident is further embarrassment to the former Prime Minister.

In September it was revealed that his female bodyguard left a loaded semi-automatic Glock 17 pistol on the floor of a Starbucks lavatory for nearly 20 minutes before it was discovered.

Last May, Israeli fighter jets scrambled to intercept a private jet carrying Blair amid fears that the unidentified aircraft was

hostile. Blair's plane was flying from an economic summit in Sinai, Egypt, to an investment conference in Bethlehem when his plane entered Israeli airspace and immediately failed to respond to control tower calls demanding it identify itself. [The New GUN WEEK](#), December 1, 2008

NSSF Bullet Points:

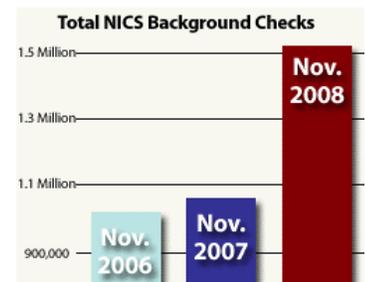
NSSF – 12/8/2008

A Month for the Record Books

BACKGROUND CHECKS ON GUN SALES MOST EVER IN NOVEMBER

Background checks on the sale of firearms reached record levels during the month of November, pointing to a spike in sales for the month. Data from the FBI's National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) show a 42 percent increase in November firearm purchaser background checks. A total of 1,529,635 checks -- the highest monthly total ever -- were reported for the month, up from 1,079,923 in November 2007. Federal law requires FBI background checks on individuals purchasing firearms from federally licensed retailers. The NICS increase coincides with an increase in federal excise taxes reported by firearms and ammunition manufacturers, another key economic indicator for the firearms industry. Trends such as excise taxes and NICS data are strong indicators of sales patterns; however, they are not actual sales. There is no data source that captures firearms sales by month.

[View full chart.](#)



In the News

ANTI-GUN MAYORS GROUP RELEASES 'STUDY'

... [The Washington Post](#) reported on a study by the Mayors Against Illegal Guns coalition claiming that "states with lax gun laws had higher rates of handgun killings, fatal shootings of police officers and sales of weapons that were used in crimes in other states." Though the firearms industry was never called for comment by the reporter and therefore never given an opportunity to correct the many misstatements and fallacies in the report, NSSF did submit a [letter to the editor](#) of the Post.

NSSF – 11/26/2008

Update on Bullet Serialization

During the past week the National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF) -- the trade association for the firearms and ammunition industry -- has received inquiries concerning state legislation that would require the serialization of ammunition on a mass production basis.

Bullet serialization -- the process by which each individual round of ammunition is identified and marked with a laser engraved serial number -- is not feasible from a practical standpoint and any legislation mandating such action could rightfully be considered a de facto ban on ammunition.

While legislation has been introduced in more than 20 states, NSSF has successfully defeated all of these bills. NSSF will continue to closely monitor state or federal legislation to require bullet serialization and will continue

to issue Legislative Alerts to industry members and Second Amendment advocates in those states when bills are introduced or scheduled for a hearing or vote.

Demonstrating the effectiveness of the NSSF Legislative Alert system, several bullet serialization bill sponsors withdrew their bills immediately following public outcry stemming from the NSSF alerts -- in the case of Kentucky, this was within 48 hours of the bill's introduction.

To learn more about bullet serialization, please visit the [NSSF Media Resources page](#).

To track bullet serialization legislation, and other legislation in your state, please visit the [NSSF Legislative Action Center page](#).

CCRKBA --NEWS RELEASE

12/5/2008 -- CCRKBA HAILS INTERIOR DEPT. RULING ON CONCEALED CARRY IN NATIONAL PARKS

BELLEVUE, WA –

Today's announcement that the Interior Department has amended its rules and will henceforth allow licensed concealed carry in national parks was hailed as a victory for the Second Amendment by the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms.

"No longer will American citizens be required to leave their right of self-defense at the gates of a national park," said CCRKBA Chairman Alan Gottlieb. "This common-sense change in regulations reflects not only changes in the laws of 48 states, but more importantly the Supreme Court's ruling in June that upheld the individual right to keep and bear arms that is protected by the Second Amendment."

Under the rule change, individuals may carry concealed handguns in national parks and wildlife refuges only if they are licensed to carry under the laws of the state in which the park or refuge is located. This new rule does not allow the illegal carrying of any firearm, nor will it allow hunting, target practice or poaching.

"We are delighted that the Interior Department has taken this step," Gottlieb stated. "This was never an issue of opening parks to hunting or recreational shooting, and the extremist opponents of this measure know it. This has always been about personal protection in areas where law enforcement may be hours away, or not available at all, in an emergency.

"As with the adoption of concealed carry laws in dozens of states over the past several years," he added, "we are confident that passage of time will prove that all the alarmist rhetoric about poaching and increase danger to families and especially children was deliberately misleading.

"With the nation facing drastic budget cuts," Gottlieb said, "this rule change comes at the right moment. It recognizes the inability of park officials to provide adequate law enforcement services, particularly in the back country. We are confident that passage of time will prove that this rule change, like the adoption of sensible concealed carry laws in dozens of states over the past 20 years, improves public safety and deters criminal behavior."

Gun Owners of America NEWS RELEASE:

GOA Members Win Key Battles in 2008

-- While gun rights advanced this year, the prospects for next year look very tough

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/ordergoamem.htm>

"The best Second Amendment defense organization in the country is Gun Owners of America." -- Joseph Farrah, founder and CEO of WorldNetDaily.com, September 2008

Tuesday, December 9, 2008

Change.

That's what the next four years are going to bring. More government regulations... more government spending... and more battles over gun control.

Once Barack Obama takes his oath of office in January, he will become, without a doubt, the most anti-gun President this nation has ever seen.

How are gun owners responding to the oncoming Obama presidency? By the tens of thousands, they are pouring into gun stores all across the country and stocking up on guns and ammo, fearing the worst.

Many buyers include first-time gun owners.

And while that is not a bad idea, it's a short term solution to a long-term problem that does nothing to defend our Second Amendment rights from being eliminated by a Congress controlled by people like Ted Kennedy, Chuck Schumer, Carolyn McCarthy and other notorious gun grabbers.

That's why we need you to stand with Gun Owners of America next year.

If you have never become a GOA member -- or you've let your membership lapse -- we need you on board so that we have the ammunition necessary to fight every gun control bill that comes our way.

It takes less than five minutes to go to <http://www.gunowners.org/ordergoamem.htm> and sign up. By doing so, you will be joining -- in the words of WorldNetDaily's founder -- the "best Second Amendment defense organization in the country."

We need you now more than ever, as we are surely in for the fight of our lives!

Even so, despite all the hurdles that we see ahead, one should not forget that 2008 was a real improvement for gun rights in many respects. Gun Owners of America

experienced victories in the courts... in the Congress... over federal bureaucracies... and in the states.

The following victories are just a few of the accomplishments that GOA was able to achieve this year with YOUR HELP. So let's take a look at our work together, month by month.

January - February

* As the new year dawns, President Bush signs the Veterans Disarmament Act (a.k.a. the NICS Improvement Amendments Act). This legislation codifies illegitimate procedures that, over the past decade, had already resulted in almost 150,000 veterans being denied the right to buy guns because battle-related stress has supposedly rendered them unable to manage their own financial affairs.

GOA was able to win some significant concession in the bill, even as we were trying to kill it outright. Unfortunately, the bill passed both houses of Congress last year without a vote. Republican Senator Jim DeMint of South Carolina later complained that the Democrat controlled Senate had passed 94 percent of its bills this year without a recorded vote.

* An Associate Director in the U.S. Interior Department defends the National Park Service ban claiming that "parks are safe places" and that right to carry laws "do not reduce crime" or protect people against dangerous wildlife. GOA responds by generating thousands upon thousands of postcards into the Oval Office, asking President Bush to put the squeeze on Interior Secretary Dirk Kempthorne to get the NPS ban reversed -- a reversal that will come about in May.

* The U.S. Solicitor General files a brief with the U.S. Supreme Court in the D.C. v. Heller case arguing that categorical gun bans of virtually all self-defense firearms are constitutional if a court determines they are "reasonable" -- the lowest standard of constitutional review. This view could justify a national ban on all firearms, including a ban on all hunting rifles.

GOA works with Rep. Virgil Goode (R-VA) and helps him to quickly get

57 additional congressmen to oppose the Solicitor General's opinion.

* Because of generous contributions from its members, GOA is able to submit a very unique amicus brief before the U.S. Supreme Court in defense of Dick Anthony Heller, who was denied the right to own a gun in the nation's capital as a result of the draconian gun ban which exists there.

In this hard-hitting brief, GOA takes aim at the weak arguments put forth by both the DC government and the Bush Administration. But more than that, GOA examines the favorable text and context of the Second Amendment in great detail, while also documenting the pro-gun history

that formed the backdrop of its inclusion into the Bill of Rights.

March - May

* After looking at all the briefs which have been submitted in the Heller case, the editors at USA Today decide to use GOA for the opposing voice on March 19. The paper's editors tell our attorneys that GOA had an argument that was clearly distinctive, as we were the only ones to argue that the words "shall not be infringed" invalidated all federal gun control laws.

* In the states, GOA helped Utah, Wisconsin and Wyoming to pass Emergency Protection bills throughout the country. These bills repeal laws that allow police to confiscate firearms during a declared emergency, such as what occurred in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina decimated the city in 2005.

The sponsor of the Utah legislation, Senator Mark Madsen (R), thanked GOA in March for the help we offered in helping pass the legislation in his state.

"GOA supplied me with video that documented the plight of decent gun owners in New Orleans who had their guns stolen by police after Hurricane Katrina," Madsen said. "The DVD was very helpful in educating other members of the Utah legislature, and my bill to protect Utah gun owners from gun confiscation, SB 157, passed by overwhelming margins."

Sen. Madsen's new law is one of the best in the country. If someone were to have his gun illegitimately confiscated, that person could not only sue for damages, but could hold the offending officer and his superior personally liable.

* GOA's attorneys uncover a proposal in April to keep gun owners from shipping replica or inert munitions through the mail. GOA immediately submitted a blistering critique to the U.S. Post Office and contacted thousands of grassroots activists so they could submit their own comments as well. To date, the agency has backed off of its original gun control proposal.

* The Bush administration, after more than seven years, has finally issued regulations permitting the carrying of firearms in national parks! Beginning in 2009, gun owners will be able to carry firearms according to the laws of the state in which the park is located.

* GOA learns about Pastor Phillip Miles of South Carolina, who was sentenced to three years in a Russian prison for carrying a single box of hunting ammo in his luggage, intended as a gift. GOA urges President Bush and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice to intervene on Miles' behalf, as the sentence definitely did not fit the "crime."

Russian authorities succumb to the outcry shortly thereafter... Miles is released in June and returns to the United States.

June - August

* The Supreme Court strikes down the DC gun ban! While not perfect, the Court's decision recognizes that the Second Amendment protects an "individual right" and states that the decades-old ban in the nation's capital is unconstitutional.

GOA's brief had countered both the DC government and the Bush Administration -- as the latter had asked the Court to use the DC case as a justification for all sorts of gun control. GOA is pleased that the Justices heeded our admonition to limit the Court's holding to the case before it, thus shooting down both the DC government and the Bush Administration in their quest to validate other firearms restrictions.

* GOA Executive Director Larry Pratt escorts David Olofson to a federal prison in Minnesota. Olofson was convicted in federal court of transferring a malfunctioning semi-automatic firearm which the ATF claimed was machine gun -- a determination that should concern every gun owner who owns a semi-auto.

Gun Owners of America becomes the lead gun organization fighting against the ATF's persecution of Olofson. In taking on this case, GOA is also defending the rights of gun owners who could be prosecuted for owning a malfunctioning firearm. For the ATF, a gun that misfires is an excellent opportunity to rack up an easy conviction on an illegal machine gun charge.

In Olofson's defense, GOA submits an appeal challenging his conviction at the district court level, and sets up a relief fund to help pay for his family's mortgage and car payments.

September - November

* David Olofson's wife, Candy, thanks GOA and its members for helping their family. Candy tells GOA Executive Director Larry Pratt that because of the financial help that GOA members have given, she has not had to get a second job, so she is able to spend time being a Mom.

* GOA's Larry Pratt travels to the Big Easy to award a brand new handgun to Patricia Konie -- the New Orleans resident who was tackled and disarmed by police in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. Konie was forced to evacuate her home in the wake of Hurricane Katrina in 2005, and until recently, had remained disarmed. To this day, she has never gotten back her stolen gun.

* GOA tells its email activists how the ATF was trying to prevent the distribution of an electronic 4473 Form. This software has been developed by a private firm, Colosseum Software Corporation, and is intended to protect dealers against the "mistakes" that have allowed the ATF to prosecute or harass them into giving up their licenses.

GOA issued a grassroots alert in mid-October explaining how the ATF had been dragging its collective

feet for months -- keeping Colosseum from distributing its software, even while the ATF was developing its own competing software (and possibly, violating the copyright which belonged to Colosseum).

After GOA asked gun owners to contact the Bush Administration, the owner of Colosseum contacted us shortly thereafter to tell us that our alert had been a tremendous success: "After the GOA alert put the spotlight on criminal activity by the BATFE, they quickly provided us [Colosseum Software Corp] with the required documentation for the new Form 4473 which we had been asking for months."

Please go to <http://www.gunowners.org/ordergoamem.htm> and stay with us in 2009!

Hindsight

Gunowners face bumpy ride as Obama picks inside team

by Joseph Tartaro, Executive Editor

In my column in the latest issue of Gun Week, I wrote about union member Mike Day and the pro-Obama union postcards and e-blasts that were sent to potential labor voters who might have gone for McCain because of concerns for their gun rights. The message from Day was simple:

"I want to protect two things, my job and my guns, that's why I'm voting for Barack Obama," was the message from Day.

Well, even before Obama takes office, there are clear signs that Day and thousands, if not millions of others, may lose both.

On the economic front there has been no encouraging news for Day, and so far there is little evidence that an Obama administration, with control of the Senate and House, has any new policies that might help in spite of almost daily new headlines that the Obama team is working feverishly to resolve the nation's, and the world's, economic woes.

Waxman

In fact, the prospects there look gloomier with the announcement that Rep. Henry Waxman of California— another well known anti-gunner—will take over the chairmanship of the critically important House Energy and Commerce Committee previously chaired by Rep. John Dingell of Michigan.

But the real scary news for Day concerns his guns—and ours.

First, Obama picked a veteran Clinton Administration insider, Rep. Rahm Emanuel of Illinois, to be his chief of staff, a job that essentially makes him more powerful than anyone else in the White House except the incoming president himself. Gun Week reported on Emanuel's nomination in the last issue, and we reported about his long-time devotion to the anti-gun cause. But we didn't then have the words of Sarah Brady to put further anti-gun context to Obama's chief of staff.

"I was so excited when I heard that Rahm Emanuel was going to be the Chief of Staff in the Obama White House," Brady, chair of the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence, wrote to her members.

"Jim and I know Rahm from when we worked closely with him to pass the Brady Bill.

"As our 'go to' guy, we saw a man with integrity and dedication, who cared deeply about the cop on the street and those who were victims of gun violence," Brady continued.

Then Brady mentioned Emanuel's support for "strengthening the Brady criminal background checks, banning military-style assault weapons, strengthening law enforcement, and closing the 'Terror Gap.' "

"We look ahead with great optimism," she added, before asking for a donation to the anti-gun cause.

Of course, what Brady was talking about in the anti-gun agenda was restoring the five-day wait for handgun purchases and requiring background checks for private sales at gun shows, reestablishing a broader and permanent federal ban on semi-automatic rifles and shotguns as well as full capacity magazines, abolishing the Tiahrt Amendment so Mayor Bloomberg and his cronies can crank up lawsuits against the firearms industry, and adding more people to the list of prohibited persons who may never legally own a firearm for hunting or any other purpose.

I'm sure that Brady and her pals have a lot more schemes up their sleeves, but these alone should make Mike Day worry about his vote for Obama.

Holder

The second big shoe fell when Obama nominated Eric Holder as the nation's first black attorney general—an historic appointment but one with some potential political problems over a 2001 pardon (see Dave Workman's report on Page 1 of this issue).

Holder, 57, also has some anti-gun credentials that should further delight Sarah Brady and friends. He is reported to have met President-elect Barack Obama only four years ago, but the Bronx-born son of a Barbados immigrant quickly won a seat in the Democrat's inner circle. If he becomes the next chief US law enforcement officer, as seems likely, some observers expect that Holder will try to win back the public's confidence in the Justice Department—an agency whose fiercely independent image has been tarnished during the past two administrations. Others believe he will be a powerful advocate for more gun control initiatives, such as those proposed by Sen. Frank Lautenberg of New Jersey.

Holder was an assistant to Janet Reno during the Waco fiasco and the Elian Gonzales mess. His testimony during the Waco hearings in the Senate seemed to be evasive and exculpatory.

Holder helped lead the team that selected Sen. Joe Biden as Obama's running mate, according to Newsmax.com. Throughout his career as a judge, a prosecutor and a defense attorney for the prestigious law firm Covington & Burling, Holder's independence rarely has been questioned. But one of his final acts as President Bill Clinton's deputy attorney general in 2001 could come back to haunt him as he seeks Senate confirmation for the Justice Department's top job.

On the last day of Clinton's term, Holder told the White House he was "neutral, leaning toward favorable" for a presidential pardon for Marc Rich, a prominent Democratic Party donor and wealthy commodities dealer who had spent years running from tax charges.

It turned out to be a bad call. The pardon provoked howls of protests and a congressional investigation over whether it was politically motivated. Holder later publicly apologized for what

he called a snap decision and said he would have advised against it had he paid more attention to the case.

Sen. Arlen Specter of Pennsylvania, top Republican on the Senate Judiciary Committee, which will vote on Holder's nomination, said the pardon "would be a factor to consider."

With Democrats in control of the Senate, however, Holder's confirmation would be virtually assured.

Since Obama's election, Holder has privately told colleagues he is concerned the Rich pardon would bloody his nomination hearings and further strain the department's credibility. Still, he is widely respected in legal circles and among Justice Department career lawyers.

Holder's nomination in the Democrat-controlled Senate seems assured. In fact, the Senate can be expected to rubber-stamp every nomination the president-elect sends down Pennsylvania Avenue. The Republican majority may speak against confirming some of those cabinet nominations, but no one expects anything but a quick confirmation of people like Holder, or Hillary Clinton, the new Secretary of State in waiting. The reason is simple: the Democrats will have an overwhelming majority in the Senate, if not a filibuster-proof super majority.

Stevens Loses

Sen. Ted Stevens, the longest serving Republican in Senate history and a long-time member of the National Rifle Association's (NRA) board of directors, narrowly lost his re-election bid as the last 24,000 absentee ballots were counted on Nov. 18, marking the downfall of a Washington political power and Alaska icon who couldn't survive a conviction on federal corruption charges.

His defeat by Anchorage Mayor Mark Begich moves Senate Democrats within two seats of a filibuster-proof 60-vote majority and those two seats are still within Democrats' reach. Recounting will decide one of those seats in Minnesota and a runoff election on Dec. 2, after we go to press with this issue, will decide the other in Georgia. Democrats now hold 58 seats, when, two independents that align with Democrats are included. That duo includes Sens. Joe Lieberman of Connecticut and Bernie Sanders of Vermont.

Democrats so far have 'picked up seven Senate seats in the Nov. 4 election and are hoping to make it nine by the middle of December.

As this issue goes to press, the recount is still in progress in Minnesota to decide the close race between comedian and leftist political commentator Al Franken and incumbent Republican-Sen. Norm Coleman. In the Georgia runoff; NRA leaders have been among those stumping for re-election of incumbent Republican Sen. Saxby Chambliss against Democrat Jim Martin.

Stay tuned. It's going to be a bumpy ride. [The New GUN WEEK](http://TheNewGUNWEEK.com),
December 15, 2008

With union help Democrats finesse the gun issue in 2008

by Joseph Tartaro, Executive Editor

When the communists won control of China after World War Two, many Americans, especially conservatives, wondered how people could trade their freedom for bread.

Anyone who was still wondering in 2008 got the answer. The presidential and congressional races this year were all about

bread: the economics of survival. The rice bowls of many Americans had been broken.

Yes, there also was a lot of latent resentment to the prolonged war in Iraq, a war that quickly lost what public support it had in the beginning as the cost to our treasure of youth and financial resources mounted. However, the biggest problem was the economy. People who had been buffeted by the high cost of energy, especially for homes and vehicles, skyrocketing health care costs, the loss of jobs, declining home values, the higher cost of food and losses to their retirement accounts and nest-eggs blamed President Bush and, by association, a lot of Republicans.

That Bush did not necessarily cause all of those problems was ignored. That Democrats played a significant role in the decisions that created the problems was ignored— or at least quickly forgotten. That the Democrats had been in charge of Congress for the last two years was another quickly forgotten memory.

A majority of the voters blamed Bush and took it out on his party's candidate.

That the general media had been pushing a Democrat victory since 2004, if not 2000, didn't help. First they lionized Hillary Clinton, and when she lost the nomination, the media quickly hopped behind the Obama bandwagon and pushed as hard as they could.

The media treated John McCain, the war hero that used to be one of their favorites in the Senate, with some diffidence, but they piled on when it came to his surprise vice presidential choice, Sarah Palin of Alaska. In fact, it appeared that many within the McCain campaign probably assisted by providing the media with tips and guides to what might help batter Palin some more.

When it came to Barack Obama, the media glossed over, downplayed, or simply ignored some of the problems in his background.

The story about the federal lawsuit over Obama's birth certificate filed by a Philadelphia Democrat who was previously a Hillary Clinton supporter was ignored. The suit was designed to test Obama's natural citizenship qualification, but nobody seemed to care. There may have been no merit to the suit, but still it was sloughed off by the Obama campaign, and by many other people. Nobody seemed to care.

And even the gun issue got finessed by the Democrat strategists, their allies in the major labor unions and anti-gun groups masquerading as pro-hunting conservationists. Their strategy was simple: deceit.

Gun Week had informed you during recent months and the past few years that the Democrats had figured out that "gun control" was a big political liability and that it had cost them dearly in many key states, even among union members who would have voted the labor ticket in past elections, if not for their guns and the Second Amendment. The Democrats knew it had cost their party dearly in past elections, especially the 1994 congressional races that lost them control of Congress for the first time in 40 years. They also knew that restricting or abolishing gun ownership was a key tenet of the liberal Democrat core.

While the party had been working with union leadership and some gun control organizations for many months in an effort to

finesse the gun issue, they went even farther in this campaign. The unions allied themselves with the American Hunting and Shooting Association (AHSA), a recently organized group heavily laced with hunter elitists and outright gun banners that was packaged as a "moderate" pro-hunting group that would lobby for the Democratic presidential ticket.

Working with AHSA, the unions stumped for Hillary Clinton in their journals when they thought she might be the candidate. Then they switched to Obama.

Meanwhile, the Obama campaign also remembered the 1994 elections, and they knew they were going to get strong opposition from the National Rifle Association (NRA) and other pro-gun groups. So they had him repackage himself as a "pro-Second Amendment candidate." Details of his allegiance to the right to keep and bear arms were always sketchy at best, and his past anti-gun record— along with that of his Scranton, PA- born running mate, Joe Biden continued to haunt their campaign.

He was even forced to say in some usually pro-gun states that he would not take away people's rifles, shotguns and handguns. Those gunowners and would-be gunowners who didn't believe him went out and started buying a lot of guns as insurance, even before he was elected. When the Obama-Biden ticket did win the election, even more dubious Americans went out and bought more guns. Just as Bill Clinton's anti-gun policies proved to be a boon to the gun industry, Obama is helping sales.

But for all of the "Obama factor" gun sales, he gained victory by deceiving many voters, especially those in the labor unions, who had often in the past subjugated their economic interests to their right to keep and bear arms.

They were deceived by the slick union magazines which promoted Obama as a pro-Second Amendment candidate while focusing on jobs and health care as the key economic journals. The Obama-Biden picture on the cover of the Sheet Metal Workers Journal before the election is very similar to the one on this post-election issue of Gun Week. Not only did they promote his candidacy in The Journal's editorial pages, they also promoted the filibuster-proof Senate majority.

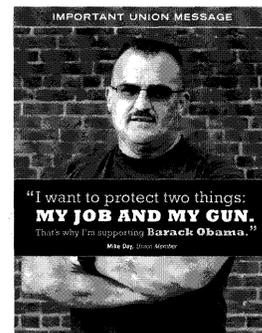
This was not the only big union effort to promote Obama, there was more to come.

The AFL-CIO came up with an email and print campaign featuring their version of McCain's Joe the Plumber. His name is Mike Day and he was featured in the final union Obama advertising campaign designed to complete the deceit.

We have reproduced the cover of that post-card and e-mail message to union workers. You can see how the message is packaged. It promises not only to address the crucial economic crises, but to protect your right to keep and bear arms.

Well, the Obama-Biden ticket won on Nov. 4. In January, they will take office.

It will be interesting, to see if they Speaker Pelosi and Majority Leader Reid remember the 1994 Election as well as their victory in 2008. [The New GUN WEEK](#), December 1, 2008



News links

08/12/04 Mass. gun club, 3 men face manslaughter charges in Uzi death of boy at gun show

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. (AP) — A police chief was among three men indicted on involuntary manslaughter charges in the death of an 8-year-old boy who accidentally shot himself in the head with an Uzi at a gun show.

The Westfield Sportsman's Club also faces the manslaughter charge in the death of Christopher Bizilj (bah-SEAL') of Ashford, Conn., who lost control of the 9mm micro submachine gun as it recoiled while he was firing at a pumpkin.

The boy's father was 10 feet behind him and reaching for his camera when the child fired the weapon.

Pelham Police Chief Edward Fleury owns the COP Firearms & Training, which sponsored the Machine Gun Shoot and Firearms Expo Oct. 26 at the Westfield Sportsman's Club.

Two other men, Carl Guiffre of Hartford, Conn., and Domenico Spano, of New Milford, Conn., also were indicted on involuntary manslaughter charges. They brought the automatic weapon to the show, after assurances from Fleury that it was legal under Massachusetts law, District Attorney William Bennett said.

"A Micro Uzi is made by and for the Israeli Armed Forces and is intended to meet the operational needs of Israeli Special Forces," Bennett said, noting the weapon has a rate of fire of 1,700 round per minute. "It is not a hunting weapon."

Fleury and the club also were indicted on four counts each of furnishing a machine gun to a minor. Bennett said prosecutors know of at least four children, including Christopher, who fired the automatic weapons. The club faces a fine of up to \$10,000 for each violation.

Fleury, Guiffre and Spano did not immediately return calls for comment. A man who answered the phone at the club said he was a member; he refused to identify himself and said no one wanted to talk.

The machine gun shoot drew hundreds of people to the sporting club's 375-acre compound. An advertisement said it would include machine gun demonstrations and rentals and free handgun lessons.

"It's all legal & fun — No permits or licenses required!!!!" reads the ad, posted on the club's Web site.

"You will be accompanied to the firing line with a Certified Instructor to guide you. But You Are In Control — "FULL AUTO ROCK & ROLL," the ad said.

The ad also said children under 16 would be admitted free, and both adults and children were offered free .22-caliber pistol and rifle shooting.

Christopher's father, Charles Bizilj, has said his son had experience firing handguns and rifles but the gun show was his first time with an automatic weapon. A certified instructor was with the boy at the time.

The family did not immediately return a call for comment. <http://www.mcall.com/news/nationworld/sns-ap-boy-shoots-himself.0.7296905.story>

08/12/04 Over 70 Guns, Rifles Stolen From Store

RICHLAND, Pa. -- Thieves stole more than 70 guns from a Lebanon County gun shop at about midnight on Monday, officials said.

ATF agents looked for clues in the Richland gun shop. Their main concern is that the guns will end up in the hands of violent criminals.

The thieves broke in through a back window and took mostly semiautomatic revolvers, a few rifles and boxes of ammunition. Gun shop owner James Bucher discovered the theft Tuesday morning

Bucher said he thinks the thieves knew his store. He said they knew right where to go and did not set off the alarm right away. He said the alarm went off eventually, but it was shut off.

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives is offering a \$5,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible.

Anyone with information about this crime is asked to call ATF at 1-800-ATF-GUNS (1-800-283-4867).

<http://www.wgal.com/news/18195269/detail.html>

08/12/02 20-year-old charged in Miles Mack's murder

A 20-year-old was arrested yesterday in the slaying of Mantua mentor Miles Mack, who was gunned down in September while awarding trophies to children in his basketball league

Kareem Savage, of 29th and Thompson streets, killed Mack, 42, and Darren Hankins, 19, at the McAlpin Playground, 36th and Aspen streets, Homicide Capt. James Clark said.

Savage also was charged with firearms violations and the attempted murder of four others injured in the rampage. He also was charged in the unrelated slaying earlier in the summer of a North Philadelphia man.

About 10:30 p.m. Sept. 11, two hooded gunmen stormed the awards ceremony for X-Tra Miles Developmental Basketball League, an organization Mack founded in 2004 as a safe haven for kids and teens.

With nearly 200 people on hand, the gunmen opened fire indiscriminately, until, police said, they homed in on their intended target, Hankins, who was one of the basketball players.

"It was all over drugs," Clark said.

Mack, who was an innocent bystander, used his body as a shield to protect another player, 22-year-old Levon Torrence, who escaped unharmed.

Fifteen minutes later, Mack, a father of two and a surrogate father to hundreds, was pronounced dead at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania.

For months, the killings went unsolved. But just eight days after the slayings, police released Savage's mug shot and name in connection with the July 12 killing of Cortez Ennis, 46, who was found with gunshot wounds to the head and chest in the entranceway of his home on Hollywood Street near Thompson in Brewerytown.

An alleged accomplice in that case, Dylisha Murphy, 26, was arrested days later and charged with Ennis' slaying - which stemmed from an argument - but Savage remained on the lam until Sunday, Clark said.

That's when he was arrested inside a house on 30th Street near Poplar without incident, according to police.

A tip led authorities to that location, Clark said, but it didn't come from any of the people at the basketball ceremony that fateful day.

"We got some cooperation and some leads from those people but none of them panned out, so we had to go to other avenues to get the information," he said.

The second gunman in the playground shooting remains at large. Police believe they know who the gunman is but did not release his identity, Clark said.

Savage has two prior arrests on gun and drug charges, but online court records indicate that neither of those 2007 cases ever made it to a disposition.

In one case, it appears that Savage's arraignment was canceled and the case is listed as "closed."

In the other, a bench warrant was issued after he failed to appear in court. That case is listed as "inactive." *

http://www.philly.com/philly/hp/news_update/35356644.html

08/12/03 Fayette Co. Man Shot In Back By Masked Home Invaders

SOUTH UNION TOWNSHIP, Pa. -- A man is hospitalized after being shot in the back and hit over the head during a home invasion in Uniontown overnight.

Police said Terry Ray Campbell Jr., 31, of Uniontown, was shot by two black men dressed in black wearing "Scream" Halloween masks.

The men knocked on the door at Campbell's residence on Tuskegee Terrace, and when he answered the door, the masked men forcibly entered his home and demanded money at gunpoint, police said.

When Campbell said he didn't have any money, the assailants shot him in the back and struck him over the head with a handgun, at which point they fled the scene, according to police.

Authorities said Campbell was taken by ambulance to the emergency room at Uniontown Hospital and then flown to UPMC Pittsburgh for further treatment.

Police are continuing to investigate the incident and ask anyone with information to contact Trooper C.M. Morrison at PSP Uniontown at 724-439-7111.

<http://www.wpxi.com/news/18194254/detail.html?rss=burg&psp=news#->

08/12/02 Pittsburgh council OKs controversial lost-or-stolen gun bill

Gun owners in Pittsburgh who don't report their gun has been lost or stolen within 24 hours should face stiff fines and possible jail time, City Council members said today with a 6-1 vote in favor of controversial new legislation.

The bill goes to Mayor Luke Ravenstahl, who refused to say if he will use his 10-day window to veto it, sign it or allow it to pass into law.

"My concern is that this legislation ... will send false hope to people in the communities because the reality is the legislation in and of itself at the local level gives us no further ability to get guns off the street without the help of the state," Ravenstahl said.

But Councilwoman Tonya Payne said the legislation will save lives. She said it will allow police to prosecute "straw purchasers" of handguns who pass them on to criminals. She said

she knows how guns get into the hands of drug dealers who commit violent crimes in Pittsburgh.

"Oftentimes people ask me, 'How do we get these guns on our street?' 'Where do all these guns come from?'" Payne said. "We have a lot of suburbanites who come into this city, carrying their arms, and they trade them off for these stamp bags of heroin. People, let's call a spade a spade. People don't want to hear the truth. Guns and drugs are related."

Council members Doug Shields, Bill Peduto, Darlene Harris, Patrick Dowd, Bruce Kraus and Payne voted in favor of the bill. Councilman Ricky Burgess cast the lone vote against it. Councilman Jim Motznik was absent.

A half-dozen people voiced their support for the legislation in front of City Council. No one spoke against it.

"Gun violence threatens the fabric of our society," said Susan Nitzberg, president of the Squirrel Hill section of the National Council of Jewish Women. "We need commonsense gun safety measures to keep Pittsburgh families safe."

Burgess voted against the legislation because he said it conflicts with state law, which empowers only the state Legislature to regulate the sale and transfer of guns, not municipalities.

Some of the bill's supporters acknowledged it might be illegal.

"I'm not sure if it's 100-percent legal; I'm not sure that anything really is," Peduto said. "But let's give it a shot."

First-time offenders would face a fine of up to \$500.

Subsequent offenses would carry a \$1,000 fine or 90 days in jail.

A similar law passed by Philadelphia City Council drew legal challenges. On Sept. 26, Commonwealth Court ruled that the Legislature has jurisdiction over laws governing the sale or use of guns. Two Philadelphia council members have appealed the ruling to the state Supreme Court.

http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/pittsburghtrib/news/cityregion/s_601116.html

08/12/02 City Council passes law on reporting stolen guns

Pittsburgh City Council gave final approval today to a requirement that gun owners report the loss or theft of a firearm within 24 hours of becoming aware that it is missing.

The vote was 6-1 after a lengthy debate in which Councilman Ricky Burgess, the lone no vote, argued that the measure runs counter to state law that generally bars local firearms laws. "An inconvenient law may be an inconvenient truth, but a law nevertheless," he said.

That logic failed to sway a council clearly grasping solutions to an ongoing rash of shootings.

Gun violence, said Council President Doug Shields, "cuts our neighbors to ribbons. It cuts our children down. It kills grandmothers on porches."

The measure is aimed at deterring so-called straw purchasers from buying guns, selling them to criminals who can't pass the needed background check, and then claiming the weapons were lost or stolen when police capture them and trace them back.

Mayor Luke Ravenstahl said he hasn't decided whether to sign the measure. His other options are to let it become law without his signature, or veto it, though it passed by a veto-proof margin.

Failure to report the loss or theft of a gun, if discovered, could bring a \$500 fine. A second unreported loss could bring a \$1,000 fine and as much as 90 days of imprisonment.

<http://www.postgazette.com/pg/08337/932154-100.stm>

08/12/02 Elmer Smith: Gunplay, athletes & the uneven field of law

YOUR AVERAGE NFL wide receiver stands 6-foot-4, is about 2.5 ax handles across the shoulders, and his biceps and waistline measurements are about equal.

This is why those of us with up to average intelligence would sooner swim with piranha than pick a fight with one of these guys.

Problem is that some of them tend to hang out in places frequented by people with less than average intelligence. Hence, the need to pack a pistol.

Plaxico Burress is a case in point. The Giants receiver was last seen perp-walking out of NYC's 17th Precinct where he had been charged with second- and third-degree criminal possession of a loaded firearm.

A conviction on the second-degree charge carries a mandatory jail term of up to 15 years.

There is little dispute that Burress was carrying a loaded gun, given that it reportedly went off in his pants, slightly injuring his right thigh.

As any guy will tell you, that could have been a much more grievous injury.

If New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg has his way, Burress may yet suffer grievous injury. Bloomberg wants him to go to jail.

This is where the enforced equality of mandatory prison sentences runs headlong into the reality that some of us are more equal than others.

Here in Philadelphia, where we have our own wide-receiver gun case, the law seems to be dealing a lot more delicately with Indianapolis Colts wide receiver Marvin Harrison than with Dwight Dixon.

Dixon, who was shot by Harrison or someone using Harrison's gun, is facing charges of filing a false police report in the April 28 shooting. His trial is set for Jan 28, according to the D.A.'s office.

Dixon reportedly had been in a fistfight with Harrison outside Harrison's auto repair shop at 25th and Thompson streets, police sources told the Daily News.

For some reason, Dixon told detectives he had been shot while driving in West Philadelphia. He later told police that Harrison had shot him. At least one witness has corroborated that version with police.

But Marvin Harrison has not been charged with anything.

"The Marvin Harrison matter," the D.A.'s office told me yesterday, "is under investigation."

This may not be quite as open and shut as the Burress case. But ballistics tests confirm that shell casings found at the shooting scene matched Harrison's gun, which was found in Harrison's repair shop. Between that forensic evidence and eyewitness testimony, sounds like enough to get before a jury.

If Harrison didn't shoot Dwight Dixon, it's hard to believe he doesn't know who did. Withholding that name would be as bad

as Dixon's alleged crime. But Marvin Harrison is a star whose road to fame and fortune started here at Roman Catholic High School. Dwight Dixon is not.

Plaxico Burress is a star in a town still basking in the afterglow of a Super Bowl that he helped the Giants win. He signed a contract extension for \$35 million, passing up bigger money from other NFL teams.

Mayor Bloomberg is not impressed. "I think it would be an outrage if we didn't prosecute to the fullest extent of the law," Bloomberg told reporters yesterday.

If Burress were convicted of the most-serious charge and sentenced to "the fullest extent of the law," he would be in jail until he was too old to play.

Don't count on it. Bloomberg may think it's an outrage. But it's the kind of outrage that happens all the time with mandatory jail sentences.

They aren't for people like Burress or for anyone else who is more respected than feared.

They get diverted from mandatory sentences. Prosecutors and police can charge them with something less than felony charges that carry jail terms.

I don't think Plaxico Burress should go to jail for his stupidity. I'm not so sure I would jail Marvin Harrison even if he did shoot Dwight Dixon.

But there are lots of others who end up in jail on mandatory sentences in similar incidents.

Inequality is injustice. That, to me, is an outrage. *

08/12/01 Another Chicago Suburb Repeals Gun Ban

The Winnetka, IL Village Council has repealed its 20-year handgun ban following this summer's Supreme Court decision and subsequent lawsuit by NRA and three Winnetka residents. The village council voted unanimously to strike portions of its firearm restrictions raised by NRA lawyers in September of this year in U.S. District Court.

Winnetka Village Council voted unanimously to repeal the suburb's 20-year-old ban on possessing handguns but kept intact other portions of its ordinance regulating firearm use, council President Edmund Woodbury said.

"The council voted unanimously to repeal the sections in our ordinance that had been the subject of the lawsuit by the NRA," Woodbury said.

"This decision to repeal the Winnetka Village handgun ban marks another great victory for NRA members and firearm owners in Illinois," said Chris W. Cox, NRA's chief lobbyist.

The Winnetka Village Council's decision to repeal its handgun ban follows similar complete repeals by the councils of two other Chicago suburbs: Wilmette and Morton Grove. Evanston passed a partial repeal by allowing handguns in the home, but NRA's lawsuit against it continues since the remaining ban prohibits possession of a handgun at any other place, including transportation of a handgun to one's home.

http://www.gunreports.com/news/handguns/Firearm-Resctrictions-Chicago-NRA-Handgun-Ban_994-1.html

08/12/01 NFL policy on gun possession

NEW YORK - The NFL policy on gun possession, which applies to all employees of the NFL and its teams, including players and non-players:

Guns and Weapons Policy (This policy applies to all employees of the NFL and its member clubs, including players.)

Prohibitions

Whether possessed legally or illegally, guns and other weapons of any kind are dangerous. You and your family can easily be the losers if you carry or keep these items in your home. You must not possess these weapons while traveling on league-related business or whenever you are on the premises of the following:

• A facility owned, operated or being used by an NFL club (for example, training camp, dormitory, locker room, workout site, parking area, team bus, team plane, team hotel/motel);

• A stadium or any other venue being used for an NFL event (for example, a game, practice or promotion);

• A facility owned or operated by the NFL or any league company. Put simply, the league, the Players Association and law enforcement authorities urge you to recognize that you must not possess a gun or other weapon at any time you are performing any service for your team or the NFL.

Legal Possession

In some circumstances, such as for sport or protection, you may legally possess a firearm or other weapon. However, we strongly recommend that you not do so. Any weapon, particularly a firearm, is dangerous, especially so when it is in a vehicle or within reach of children and others not properly trained in its use.

Understanding the Law

If you legally possess a weapon, you must understand the local, state and federal laws that apply. The NFL Security representative in your area will help you get information about these laws. You should be aware that if you take a weapon from one place to another, for example across state lines, a different set of laws may apply in the new place.

Discipline

If you violate this policy on guns and other weapons, you are subject to discipline, including suspension from playing. And if you violate a public law covering weapons, for example possession of an unlicensed firearm, you are not only subject to discipline, including suspension from playing, but also subject to criminal prosecution.

Remember, be careful and understand the risks.

<http://www.philly.com/philly/wires/ap/sports/35315584.html>

08/12/01 Time for Leagues to Do Something About Players With Guns

The New York Giants won an important football game yesterday, throttling the Washington Redskins 23-7 on the Redskins' home field. The victory raised New York's record to 11-1, all but assured the Giants of a division title and put them in excellent position to wrap up home-field advantage for the NFC playoffs.

Of course, the lead story in all the New York papers today had nothing to do with the Giants' victory. The New York Times, hardly known for sensationalism, led its sports page with the following headline: "Burress to Surrender to Authorities."

That's because Giants wide receiver Plaxico Burress walked into a New York nightclub on Friday night carrying a gun and somehow managed to shoot himself in the leg. News reports indicate he wasn't licensed to carry the firearm.

Burress already had a hamstring injury in the same leg, which was going to keep him out of Sunday's game. But apparently, he felt no need to stay off the leg and rest so that he might be able to play this coming week in another key game against the Philadelphia Eagles.

The easiest thing in the world today would be to focus on what a moron Burress is. He's a moron for allegedly carrying an unlicensed gun into a crowded bar, endangering himself and others. He's a moron because he signed a five-year, \$35 million contract at the start of this season and then was suspended for one game for failing to show up for practice and team meetings -- and not bothering to tell anyone.

But that really isn't the issue. Athletes say stupid things (ever hear of John Rocker?) and do stupid things (this list is endless) all the time. The real issue -- once again -- is athletes and guns. The most interesting and chilling quote of the weekend came from Giants President John Mara, who spoke about the Burress incident before Sunday's game and about players and guns.

"Players, for whatever reason feel the need to carry guns," Mara said. "It's not something we're particularly pleased about, but that is the choice that they make. You'd like to think that most of them are licensed to do that, but I'm not sure that's always the case."

Most likely, it is not the case more often than not. Burress reportedly had an expired license to carry a gun in Florida, but not New York or New Jersey, where he lives. If he felt he was unsafe going to the New York club two questions arise: Why go there? And, if you think you need protection wherever you go, at \$7 million a year, why not hire bodyguards?

This isn't about safety, it is about arrogance. The fact that Burress, according to Giants General Manager Jerry Reese, hadn't returned his phone calls, tells you how arrogant he is. The sad part is, he'll get away with what he did. He's already hired a high-powered lawyer who yesterday asked people to withhold judgment "until the facts come out." What facts? Did he not carry a gun he wasn't licensed to carry into a crowded bar? Please.

Before this is over, Burress will not only get off but he'll have people painting him as some kind of victim. Consider this quote from Giants center Shaun O'Hara: "He's a teammate and there's going to be enough people trying to bring him down. We're here to support him."

Fine, support him. But the only person who brought Burress down was Burress.

At the root of incidents like this is a simple fact: athletes -- and many others -- own guns not because they feel unsafe, but because they like them. They like owning them and talking about them. When the PGA Tour announced that random drug testing in players' homes was possible, Frank Lickliter, a long-time tour player -- and hothead -- responded by saying that drug testers make house calls would be greeted by him -- and one of his guns. Most players thought that was a hoot, old Frank would sure show the Tour, shooing drug testers off his property with a gun.

Two days after Burress's shooting, the Washington Redskins staged yet another maudlin tribute to the late Sean Taylor, who was shot and killed in his own home a year ago by young men carrying guns they apparently had no trouble getting their hands on. The re-writing of Taylor's life story since his death has been remarkable -- Nelson Mandela and Jackie Robinson had nothing on him if you watch, listen to and read media reports in Washington -- but that's a separate issue.

One year ago it was written here that if Dan Snyder and Joe Gibbs really wanted to see some good come from the tragedy, they would use their money and influence to lobby for stricter gun laws. Of course, that never happened. Gibbs went into a series of evangelical rants about how Taylor's death was saving souls on the Redskins and Snyder simply staged one ceremony after another -- all the while inviting the likes of Rush Limbaugh to sit in his box.

So let's forget about anyone connected with the Redskins doing anything about guns. What about the NFL? Mara noted that the league is aware of the issue and has discussed it with the player's union. With the owners re-opening the collective bargaining agreement, maybe now is the time to make guns an issue the same way Major League Baseball owners made drug testing an issue in the wake of the embarrassing Congressional hearings on the subject three years ago.

The owners and players should agree that players can't own handguns. That won't prevent players who like to hunt from hunting. If a player feels unsafe for any reason, he can ask his team to provide security -- all NFL teams have good-sized security forces, most of them retired law enforcement officials -- or they can hire their own security guards.

Now, let's not start screaming about the Second Amendment. To begin with, the amendment should be abolished -- a sensible interpretation of the amendment is that it was written to allow the people to raise a militia for protection and to hunt for food. Clearly no one needs to raise a militia these days, and those who hunt for a living can be licensed to do so.

It would be nice if President-elect Obama had the time to focus his energies on repeal of the Second Amendment, but he first has to deal with a broken economy and the incredibly wrong-headed war started by his predecessor. What's more, the issue of gun rights causes almost as much screaming from the right as abortion rights, the irony being that those yelling the loudest about the right to life are usually those yelling almost as loud about their right to carry weapons that kill.

The Second Amendment isn't going to be abolished any time soon. That should not prevent the NFL -- and all sports leagues -- from taking handguns away from their players. It is no more unconstitutional to say players can't own guns than it is to say they must be subjected to drug testing when there is no evidence they have used drugs, or saying they can be fined for speaking their mind about officiating.

So let's not use the constitution as an excuse. If the NFL owners are concerned about guns -- and they should be -- they need to make the union understand why it is important that it be concerned, too. Baseball, basketball and hockey should do the same thing. The leagues need to do something about their players and their guns.

In all likelihood though, nothing will happen. People will scream about the Second Amendment and safety. Neither of which has anything to do with what happened to Plaxico Burress last Friday night.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/12/01/AR2008120101335.html?hpid=topnews>

08/12/01 Deer gets revenge after hunter shoots him

SEDALIA, Mo. - A hunter bagged a big buck on the second day of firearms season, but the kill caused him a lot of pain. Randy Goodman, 49, said he thought two well-placed shots with his .270-caliber rifle had killed the buck on Nov. 19. Goodman said the deer looked dead to him, but seconds later the nine-point, 240-pound animal came to life.

The buck rose up, knocked Goodman down and attacked him with his antlers in what the veteran hunter called "15 seconds of hell." The deer ran a short distance and went down, and died after Goodman fired two more shots.

Soon Goodman started feeling dizzy and noticed his vest was soaked in blood.

So he reached his truck and drove to a hospital, where he received seven staples in his scalp and was treated for a slight concussion and bruises.

<http://www.philly.com/philly/wires/ap/features/35324199.html>

08/11/30 Police: Houston is gun pipeline to Mexican cartels

HOUSTON - Houston has become a firearms marketplace for Mexican drug cartels, according to federal law enforcement officials.

Gangsters have spent millions in Texas on military-style weapons and ammunition that are being used in the cartels' ongoing clashes with Mexican police, government and citizens. Houston has emerged as a buyers' haven.

"Our investigations show Houston is the top source for firearms going into Mexico, top source in the country," said J. Dewey Webb, special agent in charge of the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives' Houston division, in a story Sunday in the Houston Chronicle.

Mexican gangsters have chosen Houston because of its numerous gun shops, its proximity to the border and its long-established networks for smuggling narcotics into the United States, the ATF says.

Authorities say numerous crimes, including a 2007 Acapulco massacre that left four police officers and three secretaries dead, illustrate the carnage brought on by Houston-bought guns that have gotten into the hands of ruthless killers.

ATF is targeting at least three Houston groups it contends supply weapons to the Gulf Cartel, according to documents filed in U.S. District Court.

Since 2007, when the investigation was launched after an audit of a gun store's sales records, agents working with Mexican counterparts have traced at least 328 Houston-bought firearms to those groups.

Andrew Molchan, director of the Professional Gun Retailers Association, said members are aware fraudulent buyers are out there and are encouraged to ask more questions than the law requires to evaluate customers.

"Regardless of the business, banks, doctors or whatever, if somebody starts to commit fraud it's very difficult for any business or retailer to combat that," he said.

More than 4,000 people have died in Mexico's criminal underworld violence this year.

Mexican officials estimate 90 percent of nearly 27,000 weapons seized from stash houses or recovered from crime scenes in the past two years originated in the United States.

Mexico's weapons laws are stricter than those in the United States, making it difficult for civilians to purchase guns and ammunition.

http://www.philly.com/philly/wires/ap/news/nation_world/35287469.html

08/11/30 Man Defends Neighbor, Shoots Aggressive Dog

PITTSBURGH -- A child was bitten by a dog in the Arlington Heights neighborhood of Pittsburgh Sunday. Shortly afterward, a neighbor shot the dog in public.

The neighbor said the dog has attacked other people in the past and he took action so that he wouldn't be the next victim.

Emergency workers were called to the 2900 block of Devlin Street at about 2:30 p.m.

Witnesses said a young girl was walking down the street with a friend when she was attacked by a pit bull.

While medics were checking out the girl, the dog ran onto the property of neighbor, Ryan Sockwell. That is when he shot the dog dead.

Sockwell, who is licensed to carry a firearm, said that this is the fourth time he has seen the dog get out of its owner's yard and attack an innocent person. "I wasn't going to be the next one. He bit my wife, he bit the mailman, and he bit the little girl today and he's in my yard."

The girl received minor injuries from the attack. Police did not file any charges against Sockwell or the dog owner.

<http://www.wpxi.com/news/18174826/detail.html>

08/11/29 Ohio Police Chief Shoots Himself While Teaching Daughter Gun Safety

MONROE, Ohio — Police in southwestern Ohio say a police chief mistakenly shot himself in the thigh after giving his daughter a gun safety lesson.

A police report says 54-year-old Middletown police Chief Greg Schwarber was preparing to clean his Glock .45-caliber pistol on Friday and didn't realize the gun was still loaded.

The report written by officers from neighboring Monroe says the bullet entered Schwarber's leg just above the knee.

When officers arrived, they found the chief lying on the floor with a towel covering his leg. Schwarber was taken to a hospital for treatment.

The hospital had no record of Schwarber being treated or admitted. A home phone number for him couldn't be found.

<http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,459047,00.html>

08/11/29 Mumbai photographer: I wish I'd had a gun, not a camera. Armed police would not fire back

It is the photograph that has dominated the world's front pages, casting an astonishing light on the fresh-faced killers who brought terror to the heart of India's most vibrant city. Now it can

be revealed how the astonishing picture came to be taken by a newspaper photographer who hid inside a train carriage as gunfire erupted all around him.

Sebastian D'Souza, a picture editor at the Mumbai Mirror, whose offices are just opposite the city's Chhatrapati Shivaji station, heard the gunfire erupt and ran towards the terminus. "I ran into the first carriage of one of the trains on the platform to try and get a shot but couldn't get a good angle, so I moved to the second carriage and waited for the gunmen to walk by," he said. "They were shooting from waist height and fired at anything that moved. I briefly had time to take a couple of frames using a telephoto lens. I think they saw me taking photographs but they didn't seem to care."

The gunmen were terrifyingly professional, making sure at least one of them was able to fire their rifle while the other reloaded. By the time he managed to capture the killer on camera, Mr D'Souza had already seen two gunmen calmly stroll across the station concourse shooting both civilians and policemen, many of whom, he said, were armed but did not fire back. "I first saw the gunmen outside the station," Mr D'Souza said. "With their rucksacks and Western clothes they looked like backpackers, not terrorists, but they were very heavily armed and clearly knew how to use their rifles.

"Towards the station entrance, there are a number of bookshops and one of the bookstore owners was trying to close his shop," he recalled. "The gunmen opened fire and the shopkeeper fell down."

But what angered Mr D'Souza almost as much were the masses of armed police hiding in the area who simply refused to shoot back. "There were armed policemen hiding all around the station but none of them did anything," he said. "At one point, I ran up to them and told them to use their weapons. I said, 'Shoot them, they're sitting ducks!' but they just didn't shoot back."

As the gunmen fired at policemen taking cover across the street, Mr D'Souza realised a train was pulling into the station unaware of the horror within. "I couldn't believe it. We rushed to the platform and told everyone to head towards the back of the station. Those who were older and couldn't run, we told them to stay put."

The militants returned inside the station and headed towards a rear exit towards Chowpatty Beach. Mr D'Souza added: "I told some policemen the gunmen had moved towards the rear of the station but they refused to follow them. What is the point if having policemen with guns if they refuse to use them? I only wish I had a gun rather than a camera."

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/world-news/article14086308.ece>

08/11/28 Gun owners dodge tax on ammunition

HARRISBURG -- Pennsylvania gun owners dodged a bullet when lawmakers failed to enact legislation that would have levied a 5-cent tax on each shell and required encoding ammunition with serial numbers and registering those numbers in a statewide database.

Introduced in February, the bill remains in the state House Judiciary Committee and will die at the end of the session on Sunday. But it could be reintroduced in January, and gun advocates expect to fight it again next year.

It's part of a growing effort nationally to target ammunition as one way to stem gun violence.

Similar legislation has been introduced in 18 other states and the District of Columbia, but none of those bills have become law, said Ted Novin, spokesman for the National Sports Shooting Foundation in Newtown, Conn.

"Gun-control advocates have realized that it would be nearly impossible to achieve an outright ban on firearms, whether at the state or federal level," said Novin. "Understanding this, they have recently turned to backdoor attempts at firearm prohibition -- bullet serialization, which is a de facto ban on ammunition, is a perfect example of this legislative strategy."

The "encoded ammunition" bill in Pennsylvania, according to proponents, would help law enforcement apprehend shooting suspects. The bill's sponsor, Democratic Rep. John Myers of Philadelphia, said encoding serial numbers into bullets and casings would be akin to creating "DNA for bullets." The serial numbers would be logged into a database maintained by the Pennsylvania State Police.

That would allow law enforcement to track bullets used in crimes much the way officers now use license plates to find and apprehend suspects, Myers said when he introduced the bill.

"If we begin coding bullets, we take a big step toward identifying those who misuse firearms and we do it without infringing on responsible gun owners," Myers said in a statement in April. "Ultimately, we make all Pennsylvanians safer."

He could not be reached this week for comment.

But sportsmen see it as punishing law-abiding gun owners by almost certainly driving up the cost of ammunition.

"Preposterous," Kim Stolfer of McDonald said about the legislation's purported benefits.

The production costs would make ammunition unaffordable to most people, Novin contended.

The bill applied largely to handguns but could have included certain sawed-off shotguns, said Stolfer, chairman of Firearms Owners Against Crime.

Nationally, such bills generally cover all ammunition, Novin said. But, he noted: "There are absolutely no studies to suggest it would work."

Myers introduced the bill with the backing of 19 co-sponsors, most of them Philadelphia Democrats. Two Pittsburgh Democrats -- Rep. Dan Frankel of Squirrel Hill and Rep. Jake Wheatley of the Hill District -- signed on.

Under Myers' bill, older ammunition would have to be disposed of by Jan. 1, 2010.

"It (made) the other ammunition you have illegal," said Stolfer.

But Joe Grace, executive director of CeaseFirePA, a group pushing gun control legislation, said any technology that would help lead to arrests of people who use guns while committing crimes should be seriously considered.

"We're going to take a closer look at it" next session, Grace said.

The legislation faced an uphill battle getting enough votes to win approval in the House Judiciary Committee, said Chairman Tom Caltagirone, D-Reading.

Caltagirone noted that a bill many figured would be least offensive to gun owners -- a requirement that they report lost or

stolen handguns to police -- fell short of the needed votes on the House floor. But gun control advocates were buoyed by the fact that that bill was publicly debated and garnered 75 votes http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/pittsburghtrib/news/s_600510.html

08/11/27 Redskins, Jaguars upgrade security after shootings

Washington Redskins tight end Chris Cooley used to go to work with his house unlocked, his garage door open and his mind at ease.

Living in a distant suburb of Washington, D.C., Cooley never worried about break-ins or robberies. He had even less concern about getting beaten, shot, stabbed or killed.

That was before the death of teammate Sean Taylor, who died a year ago Thursday, a day after being shot at his South Florida home during a robbery. Cooley has made substantial changes to his security habits since, and he's hardly alone. Taylor's death and the late-night attack on Jacksonville Jaguars offensive lineman Richard Collier this year have forced the Redskins, Jaguars and many of their colleagues to adjust their lifestyles, minor deviations for some, radical transformations for others.

"Probably both of them could have been prevented by simple security measures," Cooley said. "That's sad to say, but it's the truth."

Guard dogs, alarms, cameras, motion sensors and firearms, some of these guys have it all. They double-check windows and doors daily, keep close tabs on who's coming to their homes and try to avoid dangerous situations, even if it means a boring evening at home instead of a night on the town.

"Those shootings have thrown my antennas way up and shown me that even when you think you're safe you're not safe," said Jaguars safety Pierson Prioleau, a teammate of Taylor's last season.

Although Prioleau upgraded his home security ("If ADT has it to offer, I got it," he says) his most important change has been in awareness.

"I am more cautious, more aware of my surroundings," he said. "I am more careful of the people I invite in my home, the people I surround myself with when I go out. I had a security system before and I had guns before. Now, I'm just more alert."

Prioleau checks around his car before he unlocks the doors, keeps an eye on his rearview mirror to make sure no one is following him and tries to never stop in a poorly lit area.

Teammate Dennis Northcutt takes similar precautions, but he believes that if someone decides to attack him and plans it right, there's nothing he can do to prevent it.

"Some things you just can't prepare for," Northcutt said. "You can get security. You can have the biggest gun, the biggest knife, the best whatever you want, but sometimes that just doesn't even matter. If you get caught in the right moment, the right situation and they plan right for you, then it's your time. It's unfortunate and it's hard, but it's the truth."

Taylor, a Pro Bowl safety, was sleeping at his home in an affluent Miami suburb, along with his longtime girlfriend and the couple's 18-month-old daughter, when they were awakened by loud noises. Taylor grabbed a machete he kept nearby for protection, but it did him no good when the intruder broke down

the bedroom door and fired two shots, one striking Taylor in the leg and ripping through a vital artery. Taylor died a little over 24 hours later. He had failed to turn his security system on even though his home was burglarized a week earlier.

Collier was shot in early September while waiting for two women outside an apartment complex. He sustained 14 gunshot wounds and had to have his left leg amputated because of blood clots. Police said the man charged with shooting Collier wanted revenge after they fought outside a nightclub in April.

There are plenty of other examples of violence against athletes, too:

•Broncos cornerback Darrent Williams was shot and killed outside a Denver nightclub while riding in his limousine in 2007.

•Oakland receiver Javon Walker was robbed and beaten unconscious in Las Vegas in June.

•Houston cornerback Dunta Robinson was tied up in September 2007 while two men broke into his home and stole jewelry.

•NBA players Antoine Walker and Eddy Curry were robbed just weeks apart in their Chicago-area homes in 2007.

While the NFL provides security consultants and teams have their own security chiefs, it's really up to the players to change. And most have.

Jaguars running back Fred Taylor considered getting a guard dog, but since his wife doesn't like dogs, he purchased an AR-15 military rifle instead.

Redskins running back Rock Cartwright and linebacker Khary Campbell also bought guns.

"I keep it in my house at all times," Cartwright said. "I keep it loaded. I keep it in a secret spot, only I know where it is, in case something was to go down. You've got to protect yourself at all costs."

Teammate Chris Samuels took a different route, getting two trained security dogs, lights all around his home and motion sensors for spots near the wooded areas.

"We're targets whether we like it or not," he said. "I am taking extra steps. I've got people watching the house and stuff like that when I'm gone."

There are some who haven't changed a thing since the shootings, calling them isolated incidents and random acts of violence, and pointing to the odds being in their favor that this kind of tragedy won't happen to them.

But many, especially the Redskins and Jaguars, aren't willing to take that chance. That's why Cooley now locks his place down when he leaves for work.

"I was nervous for six months after Sean died, about people being in your house," Cooley said. "Basically, if somebody really wants to be in your house, they probably can. So, we were smart. We took security very seriously. We went and got a couple of cameras and we were serious about an alarm system. We keep our house locked up. People do know your schedule, they know what you're doing, and so you've got to be safe about that."

<http://www.philly.com/philly/wires/ap/sports/35185929.html>

08/11/25 FOP fury over bail for suspect

This is a topic we've visited before -- and will no doubt visit again in the future.

Just a day after Sgt. Timmy Simpson was laid to rest, FOP and police officials found out that a suspect who took aim at another police officer is already back on the streets:

Amado Lopez aimed a .40-caliber gun at Officer Sean McGinnis in West Kensington Saturday night and ended up taking a bullet to the arm for his brazen act, police said.

Today he walked out of jail.

Members of the police community — still reeling from the death of Sgt. Timmy Simpson on Nov. 17 — were outraged when they learned that Lopez, 20, needed to pony up only \$800 to get back on the streets.

Union officials directed their ire at bail commissioner Abraham Polokoff, who set Lopez's bail at \$8,000.

"It's mind-boggling," said FOP vice president John McGrody. "Here's an individual who tried to use a firearm against a Philadelphia police officer, and someone in our judicial system gave him a get-out-of-jail-free card."

Chris Werner, the commander of the 25th District, where McGinnis works, sounded off as well.

"It's disgraceful," Werner said of Lopez's perceived low bail. "Is he [Polokoff] protecting the city of Philadelphia with decisions like this?"

Polokoff could not be reached for comment.

Police spokesman Lt. Frank Vanore said McGinnis responded to a radio call at about 8:40 p.m. Saturday for a man with a gun near 5th and Somerset streets.

When McGinnis arrived at the scene, he chased after Lopez, who fit the description of the man with the gun.

During the chase, Lopez turned and pointed the gun at McGinnis, Vanore said. McGinnis fired once, striking Lopez in the right arm. Lopez was treated at Temple University Hospital and later released into police custody.

Lopez was arrested in June 2007 on charges that included attempted murder and aggravated assault, according to court records. Those charges were withdrawn in February. Records show Lopez, of Lawrence Street near Somerset, has been arrested in the past on drug charges as well.

"He's not someone we want out on the streets," Vanore said. "He poses a harm to police and civilians."

The outcry over the bail Lopez received comes at a particularly difficult time for the Police Department.

Six officers have died in the line of duty since 2006. When Sgt. Patrick McDonald was shot to death in North Philadelphia on Sept. 23 by convicted felon Daniel Giddings, FOP leaders vowed to turn up the heat on members of the judicial system they deemed too lax on violent criminals.

A month ago, Gov. Rendell signed into law a bill that mandates a minimum 20-year sentence for anyone who shoots at a law enforcement officer.

"We do know that four times in the last year, police officers have lost their lives because of people who should not have been out on the street," McGrody said.

"In light of that, on the same week we buried another police officer, we're shocked to see a judicial authority making it so easy for someone like this to get out again."

Lopez will have preliminary hearing Dec. 1 at the 25th District's headquarters on Whitaker Avenue near Erie. He'll face

charges of aggravated assault, carry firearms in public, recklessly endangering another person and related offenses from Saturday's incident.

<http://www.philly.com/philly/blogs/dncrime/35109799.html>

08/11/24 Nickels to introduce gun ban rules

Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels expects to introduce a city rule change in December that would ban all guns from city buildings and parks, despite objections from state officials and gun-rights advocates.

City staff released a draft of the proposed change to reporters Friday, which shows a change in line with statements Nickels made following a nonfatal shooting at the Northwest Folklife Festival in May.

The administrative change, which would not come to a City Council vote, would ban concealed weapons from city-owned property. Roads, sidewalks and most parking areas would not be included.

In October, the state Attorney General's Office issued an opinion asserting the mayor's proposed restrictions would violate state law blocking cities from enacting gun rules. The move also caught the attention of gun-rights advocates, who see it as an attempt by Nickels to pave the way for additional prohibitions.

Regina LaBelle, legal counsel to the mayor, said the city believes it already has the legal authority to enforce the restriction, which could result in criminal trespass citations for those who repeatedly violate the rule. Still, she said, the city will be asking the Legislature to "clarify" state law during the next legislative session.

"There are a lot of other cities around the state that have demonstrated a desire for their safety in parks and buildings," LaBelle said. The rule, added, "is about trying to reduce the number of guns in circulation."

In addition to the restriction, Nickels intends to formalize restrictions already in place on gun possession at large city-permitted events. For several months, city leasing agents have required that event organizers agree to prohibit gun-toting partygoers from entering, even if the event is on a city street.

The mayor's efforts have already drawn complaints from gun-rights groups, including the Bellevue-based Second Amendment Foundation.

Foundation founder Alan Gottlieb said attorneys for the group have filed a letter with the city objecting to the move. A lawsuit would likely have to wait until the city takes action.

Contrary to the mayor's view, Gottlieb said state law clearly prohibits cities from pre-empting state gun law. Allowing cities to do so, he said, would create a morass of confusing regulations.

"The mayor is beating his chest trying to make a statement that he's anti-gun," Gottlieb said. "The mayor and violent criminals in this case have something in common this time -- neither of them have any respect for the law."

Washington Ceasefire President Ralph Fascitelli disagreed, asserting, as the city has, that a 2006 state Supreme Court decision shows that cities can regulate gun carrying when the city is acting as a landlord.

"We think (Nickels) has done the best job possible, and we're excited that he's willing to put his neck on the line for this. This is a common sense law that can really protect people."

Nickels has become something of a rising star in the gun-control movement, having joined in several initiatives through the Mayors Against Illegal Guns Coalition and organized a 2007 statewide summit on gun violence. In May, he was recognized as Washington Ceasefire's civic leader of the year.

http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/local/388968_mayor22.html

08/11/23 'Target Hunger' Hopes Hunters Will Give Back To Hungry

Donated Venison To Be Distributed By Food Pantries

MADISON, Wis. -- Hunters made their way to their tree stands and deer blinds before dawn on Saturday morning for the start of the gun-deer season.

It's a Wisconsin tradition that many this year are sharing with hungry families. The program is called "Target Hunger," an opportunity for hunters to give to those in need by donating deer to area food pantries, WISC-TV reported.

For 12-year-old Randy Ruchty, it didn't take long to bag his first buck of the season and his first buck ever.

"It feels good. I started shaking," said Randy Ruchty.

"He'll find out next year, it's not that easy," said his father Terry Ruchty.

Randy and his father are keeping the antlers as a trophy, but they're donating the meat.

"It does make you feel good because you feel like you're helping other people. And they make it so easy to do, that's another big part of it. It's just so easy to do," said Terry.

Deer can be donated directly at the Barneveld registration station. DNR officials said it's a great way to add to the tradition of hunting in Wisconsin.

"We encourage people to come out, be safe, and have a great time. While they're out, if they can take that extra deer, and harvest the deer, and donate it to the food pantry, it's a great cause," said DNR Secretary Matt Frank.

The Ruchtys weren't the only ones having success Saturday. Marshall Johnson and his nephew Mike took four deer by 7:30 a.m.

"Boy, we heard them crunching around even before we got up in the stands. I can guarantee we left a few hundred out there. There were plenty of deer," said Johnson.

There's still more than a week to go in the hunting season, and these hunters aren't letting the opportunity to help others, while enjoying their sport, pass them by.

"We'll get out there and bag some more and definitely donate. I think that's a great program," said Johnson.

"It's really a great tradition. We're off to a good start, and we're expecting a real good season," said Frank.

Target Hunger is hoping to collect 2,000 deer this hunting season. The venison will be distributed by participating food pantries.

Of course, in order to donate, the deer must be taken legally. <http://www.channel3000.com/news/18044294/detail.html>

08/11/23 Oregon State Court May Force Release of Concealed Carry Licensee Information

Hillsbore, OR - Nov. 21: According to KATU-TV in Portland: Washington County Sheriff Rob Gordon is warning holders of

concealed gun permits that he may be forced to release their personal information to the public based on a recent court order.

The order stems from a case out of Medford where teacher Shirley Katz wanted to bring a gun to school. She argued she needed a gun to protect herself from her ex-husband.

Last year a judge ruled against her - saying the school district has the right to forbid employees from having guns on school property.

In April, the Jackson County sheriff was ordered to release a list of all the concealed handgun license holders to a Medford newspaper. The case is now before the Oregon Court of Appeals.

In the meantime, Gordon plans to send letters to about 10,000 concealed handgun license holders in his county. He wants them to respond whether they want their personal information kept confidential and whether they applied for the license to protect their personal safety.

Here's the sheriff's release:

Notice to All Washington County Concealed Handgun License Holders

On Friday, November 14, 2008, the Sheriff's Office will begin mailing notices to approximately 10,000 Washington County Concealed Handgun License (CHL) holders. The notice is a precautionary measure to protect Concealed Handgun License records from disclosure to the public in light of a recent Oregon court decision in Jackson County. CHL holders who want to request protection of their records must respond by mail or use a short form found on the Sheriff's website.

Content of the Notice

There is currently a statewide issue regarding the disclosure of the names, addresses and other identifying information of people who have concealed handgun licenses that affects you.

Essentially, several groups are asking for lists of information about all the people who hold concealed handgun licenses. This includes the media, and other groups related to sporting and hunting.

As your sheriff, I refused to disclose that information because I believe many people obtain a concealed handgun license for personal security and would not want that information made public. I also resist disclosing personal information because of the continuing identity theft risks.

Despite my belief (shared by sheriffs across Oregon), an Oregon court recently decided that there is no evidence that people obtain concealed handgun licenses for security measures. The court ordered the Jackson County Sheriff to disclose a list of all the concealed handgun license holders in his county to the local newspaper. The case is now before the Oregon Court of Appeals.

While I believe you obtained your concealed handgun license as a security measure and that you do not want that information disclosed with your name, address and other personal information, I need to hear from you on this issue to help me defend your privacy in this matter.

Please answer the two questions at the bottom of this letter and return it to my office by mail, or visit

www.co.washington.or.us/sheriff and complete the short form online as soon as possible. If you want your name and other information to remain confidential, simply answer YES to both questions. Thank you for your cooperation.

Ultimately, we realize the Washington County Sheriff's Office may be required to follow applicable court decisions. However, we hope that by having this additional information from each CHL license holder, we will be able to advocate more fervently for the protection of this sensitive information.

http://www.gunreports.com/news/handguns/Oregon-Concealed-Carry-Licensee-Information_979-1.html?type=pf

08/11/23 Getting on target at indoor shooting ranges

Like most Boy Scouts, the kids in Venture Crew 999 are able to tie knots and to start a campfire with two sticks of wood.

But members of this scouting-related group of 14- to 21-year-olds also can hit a bulls-eye with .22-caliber pistols from 25 feet.

Two Tuesdays a month, you'll find these nine boys and a girl packing heat at Anthony Arms & Accessories shooting range in West Mifflin.

"Venturing crews are the high adventure end of scouting," said their adult leader Jake Lane, an NRA-certified pistol instructor and NRA range-safety officer. "Some crews go white-water rafting. Some go mountain climbing. Our crew shoots."

These young target shooters are part of a growing number of folks who are taking up marksmanship at area shooting ranges.

"Target shooting was the third fastest-growing sport in America last year, after tennis and scooter-riding," said Larry Weindruch of the National Sporting Goods Association, which keeps statistics for the National Shooting Sports Foundation. "Almost 21 million Americans were target-shooting in 2007. That was up almost 10 percent over the previous year."

Some compete in leagues; others prefer a solitary challenge. Shooting as a family sport also has taken off in recent years, according to Todd Edmiston of A & S Indoor Pistol Range in Youngwood.

"We'll get families of 12 renting an entire bay," he said. "We've also seen a lot more husbands and wives in the past year and a half. It's a little about the climate of the country, about people wanting self-protection against home invasions, but they're also looking for something different to do."

Dean Trew of the Pittsburgh-Suburban Rifle League, one of the oldest such groups in the country, said although competitive shooting had been declining for years, it now appears to be rebounding.

"Shooting may have been seen as politically incorrect," he said, "but I think it's turned a corner. It's one sport where women can compete equally."

Bill McCall of Anthony Arms has seen a subtle influx of female customers, especially on Tuesdays -- Ladies Day, when women get lane time, normally \$12.50 an hour, for free.

"Some women come because they want to learn self-defense, and then they find they enjoy it so much they start shooting for sport," he said. "One lady who comes here took up shooting in her 70s. She shoots well, too."

McCall's co-worker A. J. Lescinsky said women are often easier to teach than men.

"We're sensitive to all beginners," he said. "But for the most part, women didn't grow up shooting with Uncle Charlie and watching 'Rambo' movies, so they have no bad habits to get over."

"They listen and pay attention better than guys," said Edmiston. "They often turn out to be better shooters."

Most indoor ranges limit shooting to pistols, or rifles with handgun-caliber ammunition such as .22, .357 and .44 magnum. The Army & Navy Store Indoor Pistol Range in Latrobe allows the use of .500 magnum handguns and AR-15 semi-automatic rifles -- similar to the military's fully automatic M16 -- which fire .223-caliber ammunition.

Customers at most ranges can either use their own guns or rent firearms. They are expected to pay for ammunition and targets, which come in all shapes and sizes from standard bulls-eyes to poker hands to images of Osama Bin Laden. Indoor lanes are typically 50 feet long, but targets can be "sighted-in" closer.

Most shooting centers also offer paid one-on-one instruction, but National Rifle Association-certified classes geared to various skill levels are more popular, especially with beginners.

"Our Scouts have to go through a safety course before they ever pick up a gun to shoot," said Lane. "Once you train a kid in how to handle a gun safely, you don't have an issue."

Courses also help dispel misconceptions about guns, said McCall.

"The attitude of the public and the media is often 'We don't want guns around,' " he said. "But once people become more knowledgeable, they see shooting more favorably."

"Some people fear guns until they learn the fundamentals," said Edmiston. "We've had women afraid to even come into the building, and then they take a course and find shooting can be fun."

Basic courses also help novices choose a gun that "fits" -- a daunting challenge for any beginner.

"You might think a small, lightweight gun is easier to handle, but it's not," said McCall. "A large caliber in a small gun kicks more than a large caliber in a larger gun."

"The biggest mistake a person can make is to start shooting with the wrong gun," said Elizabeth Sanger, of North Huntingdon. She took up shooting four years ago to learn self-protection. Now she shoots targets at A & S and sporting clays at Youngwood Sportsmen's Club.

"I see guys trying to teach their girlfriends with a .45, which is too much for a beginner," she said. "You should start with a .22. And take a course. It helps you relax and gets rid of the intimidation factor."

Whatever the firearm, it takes a keen eye and steady hand to hit a target.

"Shooting takes good hand-eye coordination, controlled breathing and proper muscle control," Lane said. "Most people have to find their dominant eye, although it's better to shoot with both eyes. Like anything else, it takes self-discipline and practice to get good at shooting. What we see in our scouts is greater self-confidence."

Winter is a busy time at indoor ranges, even during hunting seasons.

"People think we get a lot of hunters here," said Edmiston. "But I'd say half our customers don't hunt. Some come here for self-defense training, but also to relax. They put ear muffs on and don't worry about the day's work. They don't think of anything but shooting their target."

Sanger, an administrative secretary, knows the feeling.

"Believe it or not, it's stress relief," she said. "The rest of the world does not exist when you're concentrating on the bulls-eye."

Winter is also when league shoots and other organized activities peak. A & S sponsors bi-weekly "action shoots." These timed events feature an International Practical Shooting Confederation course that challenges shooters to negotiate obstacles and fire at various targets. IPSC is a 50-year-old organization that promotes the recreational use of handguns, shotguns and rifles.

Trew said newcomers are welcome at matches and practices.

"Anyone who wants to show up, we'd love to have them," he said. "I've never been involved in a sport where guys will go out of their way as much to help folks get better. Shooters are an amiable bunch."

<http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/08328/929790-140.stm>

08/11/22 Burglar shot dead by S. Phila. Resident

A South Philadelphia resident shot and killed a house-burglary suspect late Thursday after a scuffle in the renter's rowhouse in the 1900 block of Montrose Street, police said.

Authorities said the invader, in dark hoodie and jeans, was shot once in the chest and was pronounced dead shortly before 11 p.m. at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania.

According to police spokesman Lt. Frank Vanore, the resident, whom police refused to identify but who is about 40 years old, went to his bedroom after returning home for the night and noticed a man attempting to hide behind the bedroom door.

The resident, who was legally licensed to carry the handgun, drew it and ordered the man to leave.

The invader, described by authorities as about six feet tall, weighing nearly 200 pounds and in his late 40s, tried to grab the firearm. He was shot during a tussle, Vanore said.

Last night, the dead man remained unidentified by the Medical Examiner's Office, according to Vanore. He said no charges had been filed against the resident.

Next-door neighbor Doris Gunther, 67, said the occupant of the home had been there only about two months. She said she never got to know him after he moved into the quiet and rapidly gentrifying neighborhood.

Gunther said she was in the living room watching television when she heard a commotion next door.

"On the second floor of the house, there was a rumbling, like fighting," said Gunther. She said she did not hear a gunshot. She thought it was odd to hear such noise coming from such a normally quiet neighbor, she said.

"It was the first noise I ever heard over there," she said. "He's usually quiet as a mouse."

<http://www.philly.com/philly/news/local/34923004.html>

08/11/21 Eric Holder Was a Gun Control Nightmare

Barack Obama's nomination of Eric Holder for attorney general will not sit well with advocates of Second Amendment rights — Holder has consistently championed stronger gun-control measures.

As deputy attorney general in the Bill Clinton administration from 1997 to 2001, Holder "was a strong supporter of restrictive gun control," according to The Volokh Conspiracy, a Web site that focuses on the legal system and the courts.

He advocated federal licensing of handgun owners, a three-day waiting period on handgun sales, rationing handgun sales to

no more than one per month, banning possession of handguns and so-called "assault weapons" by anyone under age 21, a gun show restriction bill that would have given the federal government the power to shut down all gun shows, and national gun registration.

"He also promoted the factoid that 'Every day that goes by, about 12, 13 more children in this country die from gun violence' — a statistic that is true only if one counts 18-year-old gangsters who shoot each other as 'children,'" noted the Web site, founded by law professor Alexander Volokh.

After the 9/11 attacks, Holder wrote an opinion piece for The Washington Post arguing that a new law should give "the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms a record of every firearm sale." He also said prospective gun buyers should be checked against the secret "watch lists" compiled by various government entities.

Earlier this year, Holder — who would become the first African-American attorney general — co-signed an amicus brief in support of the District of Columbia's ban on all handguns and on the use of any firearm for self-defense in the home.

Holder also played a key role in the snatching of 6-year-old Cuban Elian Gonzalez from his Miami relatives' home in April 2000, according to the Web site. Gonzalez was to be sent to Cuba where his father lived.

Although a photo clearly showed a federal agent pointing a gun at the man who was holding the terrified child, Holder claimed that the federal agents sent to capture Gonzalez had acted "very sensitively."

David Kopel, author of the Volokh Conspiracy report, observed: "If Mr. Holder believes that breaking down a door with a battering ram, pointing guns at children (not just Elian), and yelling 'Get down, get down, we'll shoot' is an example of acting 'very sensitively,' his judgment about the responsible use of firearms is not as acute as would be desirable for a cabinet officer who would be in charge of thousands and thousands of armed federal agents, many of them paramilitary agents with machine guns."

Holder has already come under fire due to his involvement in the Mark Rich pardon in the final hours of the Clinton presidency.

Billionaire Rich renounced his U.S. citizenship and moved to Switzerland to avoid prosecution for racketeering, wire fraud, tax fraud, tax evasion, and illegal trades with Iran in violation of the U.S. embargo following the 1979-80 hostage crisis.

Seventeen years later, Rich wanted a pardon, and he retained Jack Quinn, former counsel to the president, to lobby his old boss.

Holder had originally recommended Quinn to one of Rich's advisers, political analyst Dick Morris reported. And he gave substantive advice to Quinn along the way.

Once the pardon was granted, Holder sent his congratulations to Quinn.

http://www.newsmax.com/insidecover/holder_gun_control/2008/11/21/153808.html

08/11/21 Soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan to get life saving anti-sniper device

British and American forces fighting the guerilla insurgency in Iraq and Afghanistan could soon be protected by an anti-sniper device that can pinpoint the position of the shooter within a fraction of a second.

The palm-sized device designed by Qinetiq, the British defence firm that was once the government research laboratories, is pinned to the uniform and uses acoustic technology to calculate the exact position of the rifle fire.

Then an electronic voice passes on the "bearing and range" to the soldier allowing him to jump to safety and return fire.

The machine has already been purchased by the Americans for deployment in the New Year and the British are looking at a vehicle mounted version.

After roadside bombs, snipers have been the biggest cause of the 301 British fatalities in both wars, and army chiefs are convinced the device could save dozens of lives.

"It is all about saving guys' lives," said Don Steinman, one of the leaders of the project at Qinetiq North America who developed the device called EARS for Early Attack Reaction System.

"Knowing immediately where the shots come from means that it eliminates the confusion and allows soldiers to find cover and return fire.

"It helps to make combat scenarios, especially in urban areas, a lot less confusing. Everybody immediately knows what side of the vehicle or building to jump behind when taking fire."

The device, which costs around £2,500, works by isolating the crack of the sniper rifle thanks to four microphones, a GPS system and a powerful microprocessor.

It takes less than a tenth of a second and provides the results in audio and visual formats. It can even send a grid reference via radio to supporting artillery and aircraft.

The system, which weighs less than 6oz, is so sensitive it can tell the difference between outgoing friendly fire and incoming enemy fire and can distinguish a sniper even in a gun battle.

It also works when the soldier is travelling at up to 50 mph on a vehicle.

The device has already been road tested in Iraq and Afghanistan to claims of great success.

"The soldiers gave us feedback and we acted on it," said Mr Steinman. "The result is a powerful, rugged, and lightweight gunshot localization system that helps the individual warfighter rapidly respond to dangerous situations."

Although the range and accuracy of the device is kept secret for operational reasons Mr Steinman said they were well beyond the capabilities of a sniper.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/newsttopics/onthe frontline/3496790/Soldiers-in-Iraq-and-Afghanistan-to-get-life-saving-anti-sniper-device.html>

08/11/20 St. Louis police board nixes gun buyback program with tie vote

St. Louis — The Board of Police Commissioners on Wednesday shot down Chief

Daniel Isom's request to fund a repeat of last year's gun buyback that took

more than 500 firearms off the street.

The board took up the matter after one of its members, Mayor

Francis Slay, left early from its monthly meeting.

Slay had supported the one-day buyback, but was gone before the vote. In an unusual turn, the remaining members then deadlocked 2-2 on whether to set aside \$57,500 in seized drug money to give people an incentive to hand over guns anonymously and with no questions asked.

Without a majority, the measure failed.

Slay would tell Isom later in a letter that he hadn't realized the issue would be controversial.

"I was wrong," he wrote.

Last year's buyback harvested 247 handguns, 161 shotguns, 127 rifles and a machine gun. The department's public relations staff already had planned TV and radio spots to promote the event. The department had been planning to pay \$50 for revolvers and shotguns and \$100 for "assault-style" weapons.

But board President Chris Goodson said he was against the idea because last year's buyback didn't prevent this year's rising murder rate.

"I'm trying to understand what the benefit is," he told Isom. "If it's to reduce crime, it doesn't seem to have an effect."

Board member Vincent J. Bommarito agreed. "I think it's a waste of money," he said.

In comments after the meeting, Goodson told a reporter that his action — which clearly caught Isom and other department officials off-guard — was proof that,

"This board doesn't just rubber-stamp what the department puts before them."

The effectiveness of gun buyback programs is notoriously difficult to assess.

Critics say they are expensive "feel-good" measures that do little to reduce violence.

"Goodson is correct — gun buyback programs are a waste of money," said Alex

Tabarrok, research director for the Independent Institute, a libertarian public policy think tank based in Oakland, Calif.

"Imagine that instead of guns, police, for whatever strange reason, wanted to get shoes off the streets. Would a shoe buyback reduce the number of people with shoes? Of course not, people would sell their old, tired shoes to the police and new shoes would quickly replace sold shoes. Same thing with gun buybacks."

Isom told Goodson it would be difficult to pinpoint how removing several hundred guns — or not doing it — would affect crime. Police

Major Al Adkins

argued it would simply be good for the community to have them gone.

Goodson said the money would be better used for buying police gear. He suggested setting up a location for people to simply give back unwanted guns — for free.

But the department's public information officer, Erica Van Ross, stood during the meeting and said she had covered last year's gun buyback as a reporter for KMOV (Channel 4).

"Everyone in line made it abundantly clear that we would not be getting that gun without the money," she said.

Board members Julius K. Hunter and Todd H. Epsten voted in favor of the program. Hunter **noted that some people trade guns for Christmas money.**

Goodson's retort: That's not the board's function.

Epsten suggested reviving the buyback program, using privately raised funds; Goodson said that was a possibility.

Confusion took over after the meeting, when Goodson said he thought that

Bommarito, even after criticizing the buyback, had voted for it. Bommarito had to be sought out to clarify his vote.

The vote was tied.

Slay's office said the mayor left early to attend meetings regarding the city budget and senior citizen services.

In Slay's letter to Isom, the mayor said the Police Board meeting had run longer than he expected. He told the chief he was in favor of the buyback program.

He added: "I assure you that when it comes up for a second vote, I will vote in the affirmative."

<http://www.stltoday.com/stltoday/news/stories.nsf/stlouiscitycounty/story/4CB8A8E002BAE0D08625750700141D9B?OpenDocument>

08/11/20 Editorial: Sheriff Hutchens' target: gun rights

The public spoke out clearly against restrictive concealed-carry rules. Was the sheriff listening?

It's a sad day when a county sheriff shows as much disdain for individual liberties as Sheriff Sandra Hutchens has shown in her pursuit of ham-fisted policies regarding concealed-carry permits for firearms. On Tuesday, the board of supervisors voted unanimously to call on the sheriff to loosen up her policies and allow wider latitude in granting permits to residents who say they need the permits.

Although Sheriff Hutchens was appointed by the board six months ago, she is under no obligation to follow the new instructions. At least the board spoke out on behalf of the gun-rights-supporting public, as more than 80 activists spoke out

against the sheriff's policies during the board meeting. And at least Sheriff Hutchens sat through the entire meeting and got an appropriate earful from residents and elected officials.

The sheriff claims that her policies aren't all that different from what the board is calling for, but that is an unbelievable evasion. Since taking office, the sheriff has needlessly revoked more than 400 permits from county residents. We understand her desire to get away from policies of the Mike Carona era, but the vast majority of permit holders – many of whom spoke out and noted their lack of any connection to the Carona regime – are regular citizens who want to exercise their right to self-protection.

Furthermore, Sheriff Hutchens has taken the most restrictive reading of state law regarding concealed-carry. The law gives sheriffs enormous latitude in enforcing standards that require "good cause" for carrying a concealed weapon. Mr. Carona, now on trial on federal corruption charges, was a terrible sheriff on most scores, but he did get this one right: He took the most liberal reading of this law. Yes, he gave permits to his friends, but he also granted them to the vast majority of residents who sought them.

Sheriff Hutchens argues that she would give out the permits only when a resident could prove specific threats or work needs, and only after psychological and medical checks. That's an unrealistically harsh standard. Ironically, the Carona regime's downfall was rooted in allegations of cronyism and favoritism. But it is the new sheriff's concealed-carry policy that is ripe for such abuse. When government officials take a subjective view of gun rights, then only retired government agents, their friends and political allies will get permits. The only approach consistent with a free society is to allow permits to all who request them, unless the government can show cause for denying that right (mental instability, criminal convictions, etc.)

The most telling moment in the meeting might have been the audience reaction to this exchange: Supervisor Pat Bates told the sheriff: "You're being extremely restrictive." Said Sheriff Hutchens: "I do not view my policy to be restrictive." That answer triggered an outburst of laughter from the public, which suggests that average county residents are more attuned to basic freedoms than the person charged with upholding the law. It looks like it will be up to the citizenry and the board to make sure that this sheriff ends her assault on Second Amendment rights.

<http://www.ocregister.com/articles/sheriff-permits-hutchens-2233939-board-residents>

08/11/20 Would-be appointees quizzed on guns

President-elect Barack Obama's transition team is asking potential appointees detailed questions about gun ownership, and firearms advocates aren't happy about it.

The National Rifle Association has denounced the move, which has already led one Republican senator to consider legislation aimed at ensuring a president can't use an applicant's gun ownership status to deny employment.

It's just one question on a lengthy personnel form — No. 59 on a 63-question list — but the furor over the query is a vivid reminder of the intensity of support for Second Amendment rights and signals the scrutiny Obama is likely to receive from the ever-vigilant gun lobby.

Obama's transition team declined to go into detail on why they included the question, suggesting only that it was done to ensure potential appointees were in line with gun laws.

"The intent of the gun question is to determine legal permitting," said one transition aide.

But even some Democrats and transition experts are baffled by the inclusion of the question.

Tucked in at the end of the questionnaire and listed under "Miscellaneous," it reads: "Do you or any members of your immediate family own a gun? If so, provide complete ownership and registration information. Has the registration ever lapsed? Please also describe how and by whom it is used and whether it has been the cause of any personal injuries or property damage."

Paul Light, professor of public service at New York University, said there was no such question for potential appointees when President George W. Bush took office in 2000.

"It kind of sticks out there like a sore thumb," Light said.

He expressed uncertainty over why it was included but surmised it was out of an abundance of caution, a desire to avoid the spectacle of a Cabinet-level or other high-ranking appointee who is discovered to have an unregistered handgun at home.

"It's the kind of thing that, if dug out, could be an embarrassment to the president-elect," Light said.

Clay Johnson, deputy director of management at the Office of Management and Budget and the head of Bush's 2000 transition, also didn't quite understand the purpose of the question.

"It could be their way to say to prospects that they will have to answer all these questions sooner or later, so be prepared," Johnson observed.

Matt Bennett, a veteran campaign operative who did a stint at Americans for Gun Safety and who now works for the moderate Democratic think tank Third Way, was equally befuddled.

"It strikes me as overly lawyerly," he said, noting that only a small percentage of guns owned by adults are ever used improperly.

Only half-joking, Rep. Tim Ryan (D-Ohio) alluded to the shooting accident involving Vice President Dick Cheney, suggesting the query could be a better-safe-than-sorry measure.

"Given the behavior of the vice president under the last administration, you may want to know these things," Ryan said.

On a more serious note, Ryan suggested that the new president was being "very, very thorough" in his approach.

An Obama ally and pro-gun Democrat from a blue-collar region of Ohio, Ryan dismissed the notion that the inclusion of such a question would do any political harm to the incoming president.

But other gun rights supporters want Obama to know the question has raised their antennae.

"It's very odd and very concerning to put out a question like that," said Sen. Jim DeMint (R-S.C.), adding that it may also be "unprecedented."

The freshman senator, who is up for reelection in 2010, had his campaign organization send an e-mail to supporters this week, pledging to enact legislation to bar federal hiring discrimination on the basis of gun ownership.

"Barack Obama promised change, and this is proof positive that we are going to see some of the most liberal change in our nation's history," wrote DeMint's campaign in the e-mail.

DeMint conceded it was unrealistic to try to get a bill on the matter through during the lame duck session this week.

Still, it's the sort of symbolic issue that may provide a political opening for Republican members of Congress from conservative-leaning states to contrast themselves with the new Democratic administration.

"I want him to know that we're looking for areas we can work with him but also looking for areas of concern that we want to let him know we're going to fight on," DeMint said.

The NRA, the gun-rights group that spent millions to defeat Obama, only to see him easily carry sportsmen-heavy states such as Michigan and Pennsylvania, is signaling that it intends to keep up the fight.

"Barack Obama and his administration are showing their true colors and true philosophy with regard to the Second Amendment," said Chris Cox, the NRA's top political official. "It shows what we've been saying all along — this guy doesn't view the Second Amendment as a fundamental constitutional right."

Cox said the group had put the word out to their members on the question.

Bennett, though, argued that approach would have little resonance.

"The real question is whether he's doing harm to the broader image of Democrats on guns, and the answer is probably no," he said. "It may gin up 350,000 hard-core NRA types, but it won't really bother 65 million other gun owners."

<http://dyn.politico.com/printstory.cfm?uuid=BC0ABA4B-18FE-70B2-A8266B37B9415C9B>

08/11/19 New guns for Easton police evoke a sentimental journey

If you Google "nuclear weapon straddle carrier" on the Internet, you'll find pictures of odd-looking machines first designed to move stacks of lumber at lumber yards, but later used to transport huge bombs.

In the late 1950s, during the Cold War, America got peeved and started loading B-47 bombers at Barksdale Air Force Base in Louisiana, and elsewhere, with thermonuclear bombs, just in case.

I then worked on nuclear weapons at a super-secret base in a remote part of the Barksdale reservation, and when trouble loomed, we put away our high-tech toys to go to work moving our weapons to Barksdale.

I was in the cab atop a straddle carrier hauling a 10-megaton, 17,700-pound MK 36 bomb. We had orders to shoot anybody who touched our equipment. As I waited to cross a runway, with loaded B-47s taking off, a sergeant tried to help by climbing up the straddle carrier's ladder to tell me when it was clear to cross.

I pulled my .45 and tried to shoot just as he came up into view, but he saw it and jumped off. That is the only time in my whole life I ever tried to shoot somebody.

Not everyone gets sentimental over guns, I suppose, but those fond memories came back when I read this week's story about the Easton Police Department.

Easton, it was reported, is switching from .40-caliber pistols to .45s, "a weapon that's been around...since the U.S. Cavalry battled Moro warriors in the Philippine-American War of 1899-

1902." The story said the police force wanted a gun with "greater stopping power" than the .40.

(If you're anticipating one of my usual diatribes about gun control or the abuse of power by police officers in Easton or anywhere else, that will have to wait for another day.)

Anyway, the famed .45 actually was designed by John Browning after that war, which involved Filipino rebels who got peeved when America broke a promise to allow independence after the Spanish-American War. (Imperialist America, President McKinkley argued, first needed to "Christianize" the Philippines.)

Browning's design prevailed in 1911 and has been called the M1911 ever since. When the Air Force issued me a 1911 pistol to protect our nuclear stockpile, I was flustered. The Model T Ford, after all, originated at the same time, and nobody wants to wage modern wars with Model Ts. Then I tried the M1911. Blam. That .45 could knock over a cow.

I also should point out that the pistols purchased in Easton are different.

Easton's Springfield Armory XD .45 ACP weapons are made in Croatia and have different mechanical systems. "The 1911 is nothing like an XD," said Lexi Strode at the Springfield office in Illinois. "The ejection path is similar," but otherwise it's different.

Monday's story also quoted Sgt. Ribello Bertoni of the Whitehall Township police as saying officers there switched to .45-caliber guns about 15 years ago.

Since that is my favorite police force (I live in Whitehall) and I know Bertoni, I asked him about that.

"We carry the Colt 1911," he said. "I think it's the same basic design" as John Browning's original. "We went to them for their better knockdown power."

I never even knew the cops in my town have been protecting us with 1911 weapons. There's another reason to get sentimental!

So if you are a criminal who is contemplating taking on the police in Whitehall, think about cows and a gun that was designed at the same time as a Model T.

Monday's story also said the state police began carrying .45s a year ago, so I called Sgt. David Palone, a state police research and development supervisor.

He said troopers have Glock Model 37s, which, like the guns in Easton, are different from the M1911s.

"It's a great firearm," he said. "It's very user-friendly," noting the Glock is less complex and thus easier to maintain than a M1911.

Yeah, but where is the sentimental value in that?

"Sentiment is nice," Palone said, "but when we face a life-and-death situation...we want accuracy and consistency."

Either way, it's still a .45, so that should give bad guys -- and any remaining straddle-carrier-climbers -- something to think about.

<http://www.topix.net/forum/source/the-morning-call/TLMSQDNP8CUT9FL7C>

08/11/18 NFL Players Carrying Guns For Protection

MIAMI — Frightened NFL players are carrying guns and hiring bodyguards as they seek to avoid becoming victims of violent crime which has already claimed the lives of two players.

Seven players told the latest edition of ESPN The Magazine, to be published on Friday, that the murders last year of Washington Redskins Sean Taylor safety and Denver Broncos' defensive back Darrent Williams, had raised the alarm among some of the country's toughest sportsmen.

"We are targets, we need to be aware of that everywhere we go," said Tampa Bay Buccaneers corner Ronde Barber.

Taylor was shot during a botched robbery at his home in South Florida while Williams was shot and killed outside a nightclub in Denver on New Years Eve, 2007.

This year, Oakland receiver Jevon Walker was robbed and beaten unconscious in Las Vegas and Jacksonville Jaguars lineman Richard Collier had to have his leg amputated after being shot and left paralyzed below the waist.

The response has been an escalation in security for the players and NFL Players' Association president Kevin Mawae, of the Tennessee Titans, estimates half his team mates carry guns.

"If I had to guess about our locker room, I'd say it's 50-50 when it comes to gun ownership," he told the magazine.

"I don't own a handgun. I have a hunting rifle. My job is to protect my family. If someone comes into my house? Game's on," he said.

Fred Taylor, a Jaguars team mate of Collier, said that not being able to carry guns at the team's facility makes him feel vulnerable.

ARMED ROBBERY

"I have all the security measures at my house -- systems, cameras, I can watch everything from my computer but I still don't think I have enough. Who knows what is enough?"

"League officials tell us we need to take measures to protect ourselves. But the NFL says we can't have guns in the facility even in the parking lot. Crooks know this. They can just sit back and wait for us to drive off, knowing we won't have anything in our vehicle from point A to point B," says

Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger told the magazine that he now has a bodyguard with him at all times.

"The one time I was scared the most, I didn't have anybody with me. I don't want to relive all the details, but this guy brandished a weapon in my face. I kept my cool and talked my way out of it. People showed up and helped get rid of the guy. That's when I decided to have someone with me all the time," he said.

Houston Texans cornerback Dunta Robinson suffered an armed robbery at his home, having a gun pointed in his face and being tied up, and says that was proof that even stay-at-home players, not just those who enjoy nightlife, can be at risk.

"It was the scariest moment of my life. You hear lots of stories of guys getting robbed and you say 'Man, what were they doing, how did they get into that situation? Flashy guys. Rude Guys, Guys who act like they're better than everyone. I don't roll like that and it still happened to me," he said.

Big salaries and high profiles, along with easily available travel schedules, make the players, easy targets but Dave Abrams, appointed as head of Denver's security following the murder of Williams, worries their families may soon be prayed upon.

"What's the next layer? Wives and children: a kid kidnapped for ransom, or some other kind of craziness. I'm scared to death

that's where criminals perceive the next vulnerability is for our players: their families."

<http://www.comcast.net/articles/sports-general/20081118/SPORTS-US-NFL-SECURITY/>

08/11/16 353 firearms taken off Phila. streets in latest exchange

For many Philadelphia residents, yesterday's "Goods for Guns Exchange" offered the opportunity to make their households and community safer as they handed the Police Department unwanted guns in exchange for \$100 ShopRite gift certificates.

The exchange, which netted 353 rifles, shotguns and handguns, was held at St. Barbara's Catholic Church in the 5300 block of Lebanon Avenue in West Philadelphia by State Sen. Vincent J. Hughes (D., Phila.).

On hand were Sandi and Derian Mack, the mother and brother of Miles Mack, 42, who was gunned down Sept. 11 while running the closing ceremony for a basketball league he had helped found to reduce violence among youths.

"I'd like to get the guns off the street," Sandi Mack said.

She said that while she knew cutting back the number of readily available weapons wouldn't entirely prevent violence, it was a step in the right direction.

Many residents were cautious approaching the police van with stocks of rifles and shotguns sticking out of garbage bags, or with shopping bags laden with handguns. Police Capt. Mel Singleton and the other police officers assured them that the exchange was entirely confidential.

"Turn in a gun, no questions asked," Singleton said.

Collected guns are cross-referenced with police databases to see if they were reported stolen or used in a crime. If the guns come back clean, they're melted down.

Frances, a West Philadelphia resident, exchanged her late husband's hunting rifle.

"Why would I keep it?" she asked. "I don't know how to use a gun."

Like many others there, Frances said she saw the exchange as an opportunity to dispose of an unwanted gun safely.

According to Hughes, U.S. Rep. Chaka Fattah started the program two years ago. It has collected more than 2,000 weapons since then.

"And we're not going to stop," Hughes said. "We're going to keep this thing going forward."

Jean, another West Philadelphia resident, said she had found a gun in a drawer in her house 10 years ago. She added that she had been meaning to get rid of it, but was always cautious about disposing of the gun, which could allow it to fall into the wrong hands. Then she heard about the exchange.

"This way I don't have to worry about throwing it away," she said.

<http://www.philly.com/philly/news/local/34535429.html>

08/11/15 Police officers stay in jobs despite serious convictions

Police officers convicted of serious violent offences are continuing to serve, it has emerged.

Dozens of officers at a single force are patrolling the streets despite convictions for gun crimes, actual bodily harm, theft and

other offences.

Many of the crimes took place while the officers were in post, raising concerns about a fall in police standards.

Last night MPs questioned whether courts could trust evidence from officers with serious convictions, and condemned the "deeply unfair" policies that allowed the officers to keep their jobs.

Figures released by Hampshire Police showed that its 4,000 serving officers had accumulated 42 convictions, including affray, benefit fraud, drunk and disorderly conduct and possessing cannabis plants. If the figures are extrapolated, it would suggest that there are 1,580 convictions among the 144,000 police in England and Wales.

Chris Huhne, the Liberal Democrat justice spokesman who uncovered the figures, said: "The public will be rightly concerned that there are serving police officers who have committed crimes as serious as assault and firearms offences.

"Serious questions arise over whether the criminal courts can trust the evidence given by police officers who have committed benefit fraud."

Government rules allow for police officers to keep their jobs – instead receiving lesser punishments such as fines, reprimands or demotions – after being convicted of offences that would cause civilian staff to be sacked. Mr Huhne told the Daily Mail that this created a "two-tier justice" system within forces, with support staff getting a worse deal than officers.

Paul West of the Association of Chief Police Officers defended the police service's procedures. "Where wrongdoing is alleged police officers are investigated and action taken as appropriate to each case," he said.

"It should be remembered that there are just over 140,000 police officers in the country, the overwhelming majority of whom serve the public with dedication."

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/newstoppers/politics/lawandorder/3462142/Police-officers-stay-in-jobs-despite-serious-convictions.html>

08/11/12 Fearing a ban, 'people are panic-buying'

Barack Obama is still two months away from taking over the presidency, but he can already take credit for boosting at least one sector of the troubled economy: the firearms industry.

An election-inspired run on guns doesn't seem to be abating at gun shops in the Lehigh Valley area, with some store owners selling out of such weaponry as assault rifles.

"People are panic-buying," said Russell Jones of Jones Gun Shop in center city Allentown.

"We're non-stop filling out paperwork" for background checks, said Shirley Donley of Donley's Gun Shop in Quakertown.

"I wanted to get it while I still could," said Mark Michalik, who recently purchased an M-14 rifle at Keifer's Gun Shop in Walnutport, which sold about 50 guns in the past week -- about 66 percent more than this time last year.

Michalik is among gun enthusiasts who fear an Obama-led government will resurrect the controversial federal assault weapons ban, which expired four years ago, or pass other restrictions.

The Democrat's campaign tried to tamp down such fears in the run-up to the election.

"Barack Obama's position on guns is clear," a spokesman told The Morning Call last month. "He strongly supports the Second Amendment."

Obama does support a federal ban on assault weapons, though, as well as background checks and improved record-keeping on gun ownership.

"His rhetoric regarding the Second Amendment is deceptive," said Lawrence Keane, senior vice president and general counsel for the National Shooting Sports Foundation. "He cannot say he supports the Second Amendment and then say he wants to ban semiautomatic firearms."

Keane's group estimates gun sales are up about 10 percent so far this year and were up about 15 percent in October. He said the increase is "primarily driven by the election," and he expects sales to jump even further this month.

Joe Keffer, president of the Pennsylvania Association of Firearms Retailers, said the last time he saw sales so high was in the early 1990s, when federal officials were debating the assault weapons ban.

Keffer, who also owns a gun store near Lancaster, said sales of assault rifles and other items remained high for nearly a year before the ban ultimately passed in 1994.

He expects the current zeal to buy guns could be similarly sustained.

"We're what, two months away from him even taking office?" Keffer said. "I think there's a good possibility it could continue."

Right now, many gun retailers say they're frantically trying to restock to keep pace with demand.

"We are back-ordered," Donley, the Quakertown store owner said. "On our Web site, we had to pull everything [assault rifle]-related."

Jones said: "It's not just the dealers that are selling out -- it's the wholesalers, too."

Eric Faryniak, who owns the Keifer's store in Walnutport, said inventory has been "dried up" over the past week as people keep looking for assault rifles and other guns to buy.

The wall behind his counter, where he usually mounts several guns for display, had noticeable gaps Tuesday afternoon -- there have been so many customers he hasn't been able to keep the wall full.

"At this point, people are just buying guns because they can still buy whatever gun they want," he said.

http://www.mcall.com/news/local/all-ag_quote-a.6667003nov12.0.5037096.story

08/11/12 Gene Mueller: 'Lead bullets' warning is just crazy talk

The wealthiest animal rights organization in the country, the Humane Society of the United States, is again asking for a nationwide ban on lead-shot ammunition.

It says the North Dakota Department of Health and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have preliminary

findings that show you will end up with higher levels of lead in your blood if you eat wildlife killed with "lead bullets" than with other types of ammo.

Please, no laughing just yet. Wait until the end because there's good and bad news in all of this.

The statement by the HSUS - which should not be confused with neighborhood humane societies that take in homeless pets - says "lead bullets" are bad and that if you hunt, you should do so with non-lead bullets. The HSUS appears to be endorsing recreational hunting.

I know the group will fire off angry letters to deny this, but it says the North Dakota Department of Health recommends pregnant women and children under 6 avoid eating venison "killed by lead bullets." Is the HSUS endorsing hunting by association? That's a major turnaround for the animal worshippers.

And what's this talk about lead bullets? Do they mean rifle ammo or shotgun slugs that have a lead projectile atop the shell casing?

The bad part here is the venom spewed by Andrew Page, the senior director of the Wildlife Abuse Campaign for HSUS.

"Extremist hunters have long contaminated watersheds and habitat, dooming animals to slow and painful deaths," he said. "Now that hunters know their actions are directly putting themselves and other people at risk, there are no more excuses to use the ammo that just keeps on killing."

A little education is called for Page and his ilk, who say you should avoid eating venison killed by lead bullets. Well, you can't kill venison. You kill deer. Once the deer is down and you field-dress it, skin it, cut, wrap and label the meat, it becomes venison.

As part of its campaign against lead bullets, the HSUS claims one-fifth of the population of condors in Southern California died because the birds ingested lead shot. What a bunch of malarkey. And, of course, its archenemies, including pro-hunting organizations like the National Rifle Association, are "stubborn shooters" that advocate lead shot on the "flimsy grounds that it is 'traditional' and affordable." The HSUS doesn't need to remind hunters that nontoxic shot is available on the market and is used by millions of hunters. We know already.

We also know that if you knock a deer down, clean it properly and remove and discard any flesh parts and bones that were touched by those dreaded "lead bullets," it is not possible to end up with high amounts of lead in your body.

Talk about trying to create mass hysteria.

- The National Shooting Sports Foundation, a nonprofit trade association for the firearm industry, says 40 million Americans are active in shooting sports and hunting. During their lifetimes, the total retail value of their activities will top \$4 trillion, the foundation said.

"Every hunter and sport shooter is a tremendous asset to the firearm industry but also to the travel industry, conservation agencies, rural economies, even the agriculture industry since fee-hunting now provides critical revenue for farmers and ranchers," NSSF president Doug Painter said.

The study looked at spending by hunters and shooters from age 16 to 75. Researchers found the average lifetime outlay for firearms, ammunition and other gear totals \$20,219 a person.

When purchases for licenses and lodging, food and fuel, magazines and meat processing, dues, contributions and other associated items are added, the average total rises to \$109,568.

Look for Gene Mueller's Outdoors column Sunday and Wednesday and his Fishing Report on Thursday, only in The Washington Times. E-mail: gmueller@washingtontimes.com. Also check out Gene Mueller's Inside Outside blog on www.washingtontimes.com/sports.

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2008/nov/12/lead-bullets-warning-is-just-crazy-talk/>

08-11-12 Hunting's not just a guy thing

As a flock of ducks came in, wings cupped for a landing, Holly Heyser stood up and fired, and watched a wigeon fall into the water. She felt the jubilation of actually hitting what she was aiming at - her first duck.

Heyser, 43, a professor of journalism at Sacramento State, wasn't born a duck hunter. But her first experience afield in 2006 with her boyfriend changed all that. As she puts it, "I actually fell in love with the honesty, grace and humility of acquiring food the hard way."

Heyser is well-spoken, thoughtful and persuasive, hoping to attract women into a sport males held dominion over. Less than a year ago she developed a Web site and blog - NorCal Cazadora/Becoming a Huntress - that has generated 23,300 visits.

The site includes tales of the hunt, information about public lands, statistics, connections to other hunters and would-be hunters and reviews about women's clothing.

"There is very little clothing tailored for women," Heyser said. "We're shaped differently, so it's important to know how a garment fits and how it is cut. Even finding waders that fit properly are not easy to find."

Heyser admits it is hard to get women to try hunting and to stick with it.

"The best duck hunting days are those you'd rather be in front of the fireplace," she said. "Guys seem to be more tolerant to discomfort from the cold. There may be a gender difference, I don't know. Women's extremities get cold, especially our hands and feet."

She wants women to know that hunting is something they can do, and that there are people and resources out there to help guide them, if they choose.

One of Heyser's close friends, Dana Gonzales, has been duck hunting for 20 years on public areas from Tule Lake National Wildlife Refuge on the Oregon border to San Luis National Wildlife Refuge near Los Banos. She says that while men will razz each other over a missed shot, women are much more nurturing and cheer each other on.

"Dana cooks breakfast in the blind, provides heaters and all the comforts," Heyser said. "There is nothing stereotypical about any of us."

While Gonzales and Heyser have participated in all-girl hunts - even their two retrievers are female - they hunt with guys just as readily.

"I've met all these women hunting friends, but (her friend, Hank Shaw) isn't in grave danger of always being left behind,"

said Heyser, with a laugh. "I don't want to ditch him all the time."

Last spring, Heyser wrote a commentary piece published in The Sacramento Bee titled, "Why I took up hunting." She received lots of e-mails but only three were negative.

"Being a woman seems to disarm people when I discuss hunting and what it takes to get meat," Heyser said. "They stop and think a minute."

For women considering becoming a hunter she recommends donning camouflage gear and watching a hunt, without a gun.

"I suggest letting them see for themselves and making sure they are OK with the whole thing," Heyser said. She admits to not being a good shot and realizes that hitting a fast-flying duck is harder than one would think. The most she has shot in a day was six (the limit is seven) at Tule Lake in October 2007, taking a bag composed of wigeon, green-winged teal and mallard.

"That was a huge improvement," Heyser said. "During my first whole year I shot only three birds - two ducks and one goose."

A U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service survey shows that one in 10 hunters are women, and there are approximately 1.2 million female hunters nationwide. But the number of girls under 15 years who are taking up the sport is skyrocketing. In 2006, there were 290,000 girls hunting, compared to about 175,000 a decade earlier.

"We owe dads and grandpas who are more open to taking girls on hunts and into the outdoors," Heyser said. "Give them huge credit. Someone is giving them a chance."

For women who want more information about hunting, Heyser recommends searching the Internet for these sites - Jesse's hunting and outdoors, refuge forums, duck hunting chat, California Waterfowl Association and Becoming An Outdoors Woman. Each has a women's connection.

Heyser also has found an interest in hunting at Sac State, where a female student started a campus chapter of California Waterfowl Association.

"I will be the faculty advisor to them," she said. "I believe hunting is good, and I'm on a mission to dispel common misconceptions about hunting."

Contact outdoors columnist Peter Ottesen at (209) 546-8269 or pottesen@recordnet.com.

http://www.recordnet.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20081112/A_SPORTS03/811120312

08/11/12 Woman, youth are killed in accidental shootings

Two young Philadelphia men have learned the hard way the danger of not using a firearm correctly, after guns they were playing with this week accidentally discharged and killed two people in separate incidents, police said.

On Sunday, police were called to the Family Deli Grocery Store, on Cornelius Street near Walnut Lane, West Oak Lane, shortly after 2 p.m. for a report of a person with a gun, according to Homicide Sgt. Frank Hayes.

When they arrived, they found Mariaela Mendoza Duran, 21, of New York, with a single gunshot wound to the head, police said.

She was pronounced dead soon after.

Police arrested Duran's cousin, Carlos Gonzalez, 19, of Sanger Street near Roosevelt Boulevard, Frankford, and charged him with murder and possession of an instrument of crime, said Lt. Frank Vanore, a police spokesman.

"Duran was inside the store visiting her relatives who own it and Gonzalez was playing with a gun; it discharged and fatally wounded her," Vanore said.

It was unclear who owns the gun and why Gonzalez was fiddling with it, according to the investigation.

Police were faced with a similar situation on Monday night, when they were called to the scene of a shooting on 59th Street near Elmwood Avenue, Southwest Philadelphia, shortly after 7 and found a 15-year-old boy with a gunshot wound to the head inside a car.

The boy, identified as Kasey Chambers, of Dickens Avenue near Wanamaker Street, was pronounced dead at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania 10 minutes later, Vanore said.

After police arrived on the scene, a friend of Chambers', identified as Zachary Smith, 18, of Sears Street near 28th, told an officer that he was responsible for the shooting.

"The investigation showed that while they were inside the vehicle, Smith was playing with the firearm and the firearm discharged and struck Chambers in the head," Vanore said.

Smith faces charges of murder, possession of an instrument of crime and weapons offenses, Vanore said.

"This is just another example of too many guns and too many people using them recklessly," Vanore said.

"People need to realize that playing with guns isn't a joke and can have huge consequences." *

http://www.philly.com/philly/hp/news_update/34318004.html

08/11/11 Gun permits spike in Boulder County CO

Sheriff reports record number of concealed carry requests ahead of election

Permits to carry concealed handguns in Boulder County spiked to a five-year high last month, amid a national rush to buy firearms in the days leading up to the presidential election.

So far this year, the Boulder County Sheriff's Office has received 483 applications and issued 428 permits to carry handguns concealed.

The number of county permits already has jumped 16 percent over last year's total, and nearly double the five-year low of 219 permits issued in 2005 -- and there's still about seven weeks left in the year.

Chris Lewis, a gunsmith and clerk at Grandpa's Pawn and Gun in Longmont, said Tuesday that customers are lining up by the dozens to buy weapons. Most, he said, are also interested in carrying handguns concealed and are worried that President-elect Barack Obama could enact tighter gun-control laws.

"They want to do it now before they can't do it later," Lewis said. "... We're seeing about five to 10 people a day asking if we know where they can get concealed carry permits."

The amount of paperwork involved with the permit applications has been overwhelming for the Sheriff's Office half-time employee tasked with overseeing the state-mandated permitting process, said sheriff's Cmdr. Phil West.

"The biggest impact for us is just the clerical impact of tracking it and processing all the permit applications," he said.

Applicants must pay a \$152.50 permit fee, of which \$100 goes to the Sheriff's Office and the rest to the FBI and Colorado Bureau of Investigation for federal and state background checks. In his 2009 budget proposal, Boulder County Sheriff Joe Pelle requested using the extra revenue to staff the program full-time to help meet demand.

West didn't want to speculate about why more people in Boulder County want to carry handguns concealed, but he did say officials aren't worried about the 1,916 residents who currently hold the permits.

"We revoke one or two a year," West said. "When we only have a couple violations a year, we're pretty satisfied the people who are receiving them are behaving themselves."

Nationwide, gun sales boomed as Democratic wins in the White House and U.S. Congress looked more likely.

Fears that a Democratically controlled federal government could lead to tighter gun laws -- including reviving bans on assault rifles and high-capacity magazines -- has sparked a rush on gun shops across the country, the Associated Press has reported.

Last month, there were 62,000 more background checks of gun purchases than in October 2007, according to the FBI.

During the same time, 60 Boulder County residents were issued concealed-carry permits -- about double the number of permits issued in both August and September.

<http://www.dailycamera.com/news/2008/nov/11/gun-permits-spike-in-boulder-county/>

08/11/11 Pot & police paraphernalia: Cops say couple grew marijuana

Upper Darby Police Superintendent Michael Chitwood urges citizens to be proactive in fighting crime, but even he questioned the judgment of a burglary call to police on Friday by a resident whose basement was "landscaped with marijuana."

The resident, Edward Hatton, 43, of Maplewood Avenue near Magnolia Terrace, used a time-honored excuse.

"He said, 'I didn't call the police; my wife did,'" Chitwood said.

The \$10,000 hydroponic growing operation, allegedly run by Hatton, a Havertown public-works truck driver, and his wife, Debra, 52, a professional horticulturist, wasn't even the most shocking thing police found.

There were the Nazi uniforms and medals, which Edward Hatton wore around the house from time to time; the wardrobe of authentic local and federal law-enforcement clothing and badges, for which police are trying to track the sources, and a cache of weapons including a loaded AK-47 that Hatton said he had bought "on the street," cops said.

The investigation started Friday afternoon, when cops were called to the house after the couple returned to find that two juveniles apparently had broken in.

One of those suspects was apprehended by police, said Chitwood, who wouldn't say whether the kids were customers of the Hattons or aware of their operation.

While police were processing the crime scene, they discovered a small amount of marijuana and a pipe, Chitwood said. When investigators asked to search the basement, the couple refused, and police obtained a search warrant, court documents said.

There, police found a "first-class" hydroponic farm, where marijuana was being grown in water instead of soil to produce a higher quality plant, Capt. George Rhoades Jr. said.

Chitwood described as troublesome the discovery of Nazi paraphernalia, weapons and police gear, some of which, he said, Hatton has been known to flash in public. On Nov. 7, 2007, police were called to a West Chester Pike bar, and found Hatton inside wearing a Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives badge, carrying a replica gun and asking questions, Chitwood said.

Police took Hatton in for questioning, but eventually released him without charge.

Many of the badges and jackets in Hatton's possession could not be easily obtained by civilians, police said.

"You'd have to be a police officer, have a connection somewhere or get it illegally," Chitwood said.

He couldn't say why Hatton owned badges and clothing from agencies including the Philadelphia Police Department and the Counter-Terrorism Task Force.

"That's the question. Obviously we're concerned with him impersonating an officer," Chitwood said. "Where it takes us, we don't know yet."

Rhoades said that Hatton has not been linked to any hate crimes, although he undoubtedly had "a fascination" with Nazis.

The couple remained last night in Delaware County Prison on \$100,000 bail each, for a variety of drug charges, including intent to deliver a controlled substance.

http://www.philly.com/philly/hp/news_update/34257494.html

08/11/10 Firearms Industry Addresses Rising Gun Sales; Obama Administration Showing Anti-Gun Cards Early

NEWTOWN, Conn., Nov. 10 /PRNewswire-USNewswire/ -- As firearm sales continue to increase this year, at a rate of 10 percent over the same period last year and 15 percent in October alone, the National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF) -- the trade association for the firearms industry -- is pointing to gun-owner concerns about an Obama Administration as reason for the boom.

Last week President-elect Obama's Web site had posted his administration's agenda for curtailing the Second Amendment rights of law abiding Americans, thereby validating the concerns of gun owners, sportsmen and firearms enthusiasts all across the country. Curiously, the Obama-Biden gun control agenda was taken down from the Web site after just two days.

President-elect Obama's Web site stated he would make permanent the expired "assault weapons" ban of 1994, a ban on firearms that was based on cosmetic appearance, such as the type of stock on the gun, and not functionality. The expired ban did nothing to reduce crime while it was in place. President-elect Obama's Web site intentionally misled the American people by referring to these firearms as "weapons that belong on foreign battlefields." These firearms are not machine guns. In reality, these commonplace firearms that President-elect Obama wants to permanently ban are used in shooting competitions and are found in homes and hunting lodges all across the country. They fire only once with each trigger pull, no spray firing, and they shoot the same ammunition as other firearms of the same caliber.

President-elect Obama has also promised to repeal the Tiahrt Amendment, a law which restricts public access to sensitive, law enforcement -- only firearms tracing data. Public release of gun trace data outside law enforcement has and will continue to jeopardize ongoing criminal investigations, putting the lives of law enforcement, witnesses and others at risk. This is why Congress, ATF, and law enforcement, including the nation's largest police organization, the Fraternal Order of Police, agree on the importance of securing this sensitive data. Access to gun trace data should only be available to law enforcement taking part in a bona-fide investigation, and law enforcement already has the access it needs for this purpose. No law enforcement agency has ever been denied access to trace data as part of a criminal investigation.

The Obama-Biden Web site also called for "childproofing" all firearms, despite firearm-related accidents being at their lowest levels in history, including a 60 percent decrease over the last 20 years, and a federal law that requires firearms dealers to provide a lock with each handgun sold and to have locks available for consumers to purchase. Firearms industry members have a long history of supporting the safe and responsible use and storage of firearms through programs such as Project ChildSafe, a campaign developed by the NSSF that has distributed over 35 million free gun lock safe storage kits throughout the United States. For years, manufacturers have voluntarily provided a free locking device with each new firearm. Thankfully, the National Safety Council reports that childhood firearms accidents now comprise less than 1 percent of all fatal childhood injuries.

Finally, the appointment of Rahm Emanuel, the strident chief architect of the Clinton-Gore gun control agenda, as President-elect Obama's chief of staff sends an unambiguous message to gun-owners and members of the firearms industry.

"The increase in firearms sales was predictable," said NSSF Senior Vice President and General Counsel Lawrence G. Keane. "It's clear from President-elect Obama's voting record, and the promises that he continues to make, that gun control will be coming back to the White House. Eloquent rhetoric notwithstanding, sportsmen, gun owners and prospective gun owners recognize this and are reacting accordingly."

For more information on gun sale statistics, legislative issues and general firearm related questions, please visit the NSSF Web site at www.nssf.org -- the media's resource for all things firearms. -- SOURCE National Shooting Sports Foundation <http://www.ibtimes.com/prnews/20081110/nssf-obama-anti-gun.htm>

08-11-09 With help, disabled hunters can take their best shot

George Wade was motionless as he waited by a dirt road in the wooded South Post of Fort Devens.

Suddenly, a young deer emerged from the forest about 80 yards away and crossed the road. Wade kept still. A coyote emerged 10 minutes later, following the fawn's scent. Wade waited. Then, a doe stepped out.

Wade took aim. Down went the 130-pound doe. He lowered his shotgun and leaned back in his wheelchair. A good shot. "I've got a nice gun, and I know what it will do," he said last Friday,

telling the story of the kill as state wildlife officers inspected the deer.

The 60-year-old Hubbardston resident was among a handful of sportsmen who recently took advantage of a special MassWildlife hunting event offered only to paraplegics and other disabled people in wheelchairs from Oct. 30 to Nov. 1.

The event took place in a few spots around the state, with the easternmost hunt held on 3,500 acres in Fort Devens still owned by the Army. Other hunts were held at the Quabbin Reservoir and in the Berkshires.

With the help of friends and volunteers, the hunters in wheelchairs were set up in blinds near deer runs to enjoy a pastime many had taken up in their youth, before they sustained injuries that left them disabled.

A former pathologist, Wade said he has been hunting since he was 12, growing up in the Catskills in New York. He can remember individual episodes with animals he has encountered in the woods over the years.

"I saw a big ol' pileated woodpecker, about 40 or 50 yards away," he said. "I've seen some beautiful hawks. Last year, I watched a flock of turkeys come by and feed. I just love being outdoors."

In late 2001, after a marathon overnight session working in the VA Boston Healthcare System lab in Jamaica Plain, Wade went bow hunting in upstate New York with his friend Wendell Smith, who joined him in Devens on Friday.

Archers hunt from high up in trees, sitting in special chairs that fasten onto trunks, and waiting for deer to pass. Fatigued, Wade didn't fasten his safety harness. After a few hours, he fell asleep and fell out of the tree.

"I took a tumble," he said. "I knew I broke my back."

"He was in tough shape," said Smith, who ran to a nearby house and called an ambulance.

Wade spent the next few months in the hospital, but his injury left him unable to walk. "I can move, but I really don't have any real sense of touch below my shins," he said.

For the past three years, he has hunted only during the special weekend, even though the regular season began in mid-October and lasts until the end of the year. Volunteers and others got the deer, and carry and weigh it for him. They also leave him and let him hunt alone once he has settled into a spot, though everyone carries one another's mobile phone numbers.

"We're just a cellphone call away," said MassWildlife biologist John Sheedy. "It gives them a peace of mind. No one is going to be left behind."

Hunter Dann Brown, a 46-year-old quadriplegic who uses a homemade hand brace with a hook that allows him to pull the trigger on his shotgun, said he would be unable to hunt without aid. But with help, he said, he feels as if he can reclaim a bit of the normalcy he lost after his neck was broken in a car accident in 1983. He has been hunting since he was 16.

Tom Poole, a civilian who is the Army's natural resource specialist for Fort Devens, said there are plenty of deer on the base, and it was good for hunters to cull the herd.

Fort Devens and surrounding areas have as many as 24 deer per square mile, said Poole. The state's goal is to have no more than 12 deer per square mile in that area.

State officials encourage hunters to lower deer populations, which they said stand at about 95,000 statewide. There are about 70,000 people hunting in the state annually, according to MassWildlife figures; hunters take about 11,000 deer each year. That thinning results in fewer animals carrying ticks that spread Lyme disease; fewer of them crossing Route 2 and other busy highways where they commonly cause accidents; and less disturbance to local residents.

"We don't want deer to be a pest," said Patricia Huckery, director of MassWildlife's northeast district, an area that includes many suburbs northwest of Boston. "The higher numbers there are, the more they are a pest."

Still, under the special hunting license issued for the event, hunters could shoot only one deer for the weekend, though that deer could be antlerless, which is usually prohibited with most hunting permits.

It's no easy task to shoot a deer, experts said. Hunters are successful about 25 percent of the time, said MassWildlife outreach coordinator Marion Larson.

Five paraplegic hunters were at Devens, said Trina Moruzzi, a MassWildlife biologist. She said 23 paraplegic hunters participated around the state.

Not everyone was as successful as Wade.

Worcester native David Sawyer, an arborist who fell from a tree and injured his spine in 2000, caught a glimpse of a buck but never got a clear shot.

"The buck turned and ran down to the woods," he said. "I couldn't get the shot so I didn't take it."

John Dyer can be reached at johnjdverjr@gmail.com. ■

08/11/07 Grandfather arrested after confronting gang with air rifle

A grandfather was arrested after using an unloaded air rifle to confront a gang of youths who had fired rockets at his house.

Alan Parker, 62, said he felt like a prisoner in his own home for two years during which he was plagued by teenagers.

He said gangs repeatedly vandalised his car, causing £5,000 damage, and threw bricks and eggs at his window.

The retired lorry driver, who suffers from a heart condition, finally "snapped" on Halloween when fireworks rained down on his terraced house in a quiet cul-de-sac in Hertford. Several rockets exploded against his front window just inches from his gas meter.

Mr Parker, a keen game shooter who holds a shotgun licence, took out his .177 air rifle, marched across the street and confronted a group of eight to ten teenagers who then fled.

But minutes later armed police arrived at his home, surrounded the house and cordoned off the road.

Four shotguns, for which Mr Parker had a licence, and cartridges from his gun cabinet were seized by police, as well as the air gun.

The grandfather-of-four was arrested and taken to a police station where he was given a caution for possessing a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence.

Mr Parker said: "I just couldn't take it any more. I was terrified and irate. I just snapped. I feel wrong about it now but I was so fed up.

"The youths cause mayhem around here. I'm a prisoner in my own home. They terrorise decent folk who just want to be left to live in peace.

"They set fire to everything, hurl missiles at people and their property, vandalise everything they can get their hands on and shout abuse. They make everyone's lives a misery."

Mr Parker said he gave up reporting vandalism on his property to police after he contacted them three times in 2004 and no arrests were made.

A Hertfordshire Police spokeswoman said: "We are aware of incidents reported in previous years but do not have information about reporting anti-social behaviour recently."

In 2005 special needs teacher Linda Walker, 51, confronted youths who terrorised her family with an air pistol, firing up to six rounds into the ground.

The teacher from Manchester was jailed for six months but released on appeal after 36 days following a public outcry.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/3400120/Grandfather-arrested-after-confronting-gang-with-air-rifle.html>

Founding Fathers Intent:

"No compact among men ... can be pronounced everlasting and inviolable, and if I may so express myself, that no Wall of words, that no mound of parchment can be so formed as to stand against the sweeping torrent of boundless ambition on the one side, aided by the sapping current of corrupted morals on the other." --*George Washington, draft of first Inaugural Address, April 1789*