

The Gottlieb-Tartaro Report

THE INSIDERS GUIDE FOR GUN OWNERS

Issue 230

February, 2014

Dear Subscriber,

The left-wing *Huffington Post* is touting a **meaningless congressional measure** as "A group of Democratic lawmakers is seeking to revive stalled gun control efforts on Capitol Hill."

Huff Post, as it is also known, wrote that Reps. **ALAN LOWENTHAL** (Calif.), **MIKE THOMPSON** (Calif.), and **ELIZABETH ESTY** (Conn.) have introduced House "legislation" calling for **renewed congressional action "to reduce gun violence."**

The resolution has no force of law, but merely expresses "the sense of the House of Representatives that gun violence is a public health issue and Congress should enact by the end of the 113th Congress comprehensive Federal legislation."

**AT THE
FEDERAL
LEVEL**

All three lawmakers sit on the Gun Violence Prevention Task Force, which was **established by the White House**. The *Huff Post* article was just a liberal gesture intended as a backup for President **BARACK OBAMA's State of the Union speech**, with its threat to pursue gun control with executive orders.

OBAMA's exact words were, "I intend to keep trying, with or without Congress, to help stop more tragedies from visiting innocent Americans in our movie theaters, shopping malls, or schools like Sandy Hook."

After the speech, **Republicans took aim**. "He doesn't have the **constitutional authority to act unilaterally and pass legislation on gun control**," Minnesota Rep. **MICHELE BACHMANN** told *The Daily Caller*.

The White House has also floated a proposal released in a Department of Health and Human Service **inotice of proposed rule-making** which would waive portions of the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) **to allow psychiatrists to report their patients to the FBI's gun-ban blacklist (the NICS system) on the basis of confidential communications**.

The proposal would **strengthen federal gun control** by defining **any clinical psychiatrist as a ilawful authority** with the power to place a patient on the FBI's blacklist for gun purchase covered by federal law.

To date, **more than 175,000 non-felonious veterans have been stripped of those gun rights** upon recommendation from psychiatrists at the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The Washington Times reported that **gun rights advocates object to the subjective nature of the reporting process**. The problem is its **low barrier for clinicians** making those reports while **providing the accused with little recourse beyond soliciting a second clinical opinion, and further waiving health privacy rights**.

Sen. **RAND PAUL** has added an amendment to a reform bill currently in Senate committee **to allow guns to be carried inside post offices across the country**. Providing that local laws allow the lawful carry of firearms by a person not prohibited from having it, **this would strike down the long held ban on firearms inside USPS property**.

The Postal Reform Act, or S. 1486, was introduced last fall into the Senate by Sen. **THOMAS CARPER** (D-Del.) and cosponsored by Sen. **TOM COBURN** (R-OK).

It is currently under review by the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs committee.

Also in this issue: ● *Wasington State's dueling initiatives* ● *New York's magazine limit overturned* ● *SAF and Calguns win California carry lawsuit* ● *Beretta abandons anti-gun Maryland for Tennessee* ● *Armed citizens win in our Page 8 Parting Shot*

CALIFORNIA DEMOCRATS PUSH BACKGROUND CHECKS FOR AMMUNITION

State Senate Democrats are pushing to require a comprehensive background check on anyone seeking to purchase ammunition, and to require a one-year permit for ammunition purchases.

No such legislation has yet been introduced, but Democrats made a flashy show about the issue in a press conference in Sacramento.

"Anyone can walk into any gun store, a bait and tackle store, and purchase all the ammunition they want to, no questions asked," said Sen. Kevin de Leon (D), the bill's lead sponsor, in a *Washington Post* interview.

"The ammunition is the fuel that feeds the violence. The gun itself, the handgun or the long gun or the high-powered weapon is the delivery device. The gas, the fuel, is the ammunition, and no one knows who buys it."

COLORADO GUN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS SEEK TO OVERTURN NEW STATE GUN LAWS

Republican House Leader Rep. Brian DelGrosso has announced that Republicans plan to introduce a bill to repeal the 15-round limit on ammunition magazines. He said Republicans will likely also revisit expanded background checks.

The restrictions targeted for repeal took effect July 1 and led to the recall ouster of two Democratic state senators.

Republicans will have a difficult time overturning the laws because Democrats control the House by a wide margin and have a one-vote lead in the Senate.

A proposed ballot measure to overturn the magazine ban is in the works: money is being raised to get the measure on the ballot.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA GUN REGISTRATION LAW TAKES EFFECT

America's worst gun law took effect with the New Year in the nation's capital. It requires every gun owner in Washington, D.C. to re-register their firearm within a 60-day window or face a felony charge punishable by up to a year in jail and a \$1,000 fine.

The registration requires a \$48 fee and the gun owner to be fingerprinted and photographed. The law was passed by the D.C. Council in 2009, after the Supreme Court struck down the District's long-running handgun ban in the landmark *Heller* decision. This unreasonably restrictive law is facing a federal court challenge in a case known as "Heller II."

FLORIDA MOVES AHEAD WITH BILL LEGALIZING WARNING SHOTS

Florida legislators are pushing ahead with a bill designed to make it clear people can show a gun, or even fire a warning shot, without drawing a lengthy prison sentence.

The legislation was partially inspired by the case of Marissa Alexander, a Jacksonville woman who was given a 20-year prison sentence after firing a gun near her estranged husband during an argument. Alexander's conviction was thrown out by an appeals court and she is scheduled to have a new trial this year.

Florida's prosecutors are not opposing the bill, but some Senate Democrats said they still have concerns about the legislation.

KANSAS LAWMAKERS CONSIDER BILL TO EXPAND GUN RIGHTS

The Kansas House Federal and State Affairs Committee held two days of hearings on a bill ensuring that the open carrying of firearms is allowed statewide, prohibiting cities and counties from regulating gun and ammunition sales, and voiding existing local ordinances.

The measure also prohibits cities and counties from using tax dollars to administer gun buyback programs and prevents local governments from regulating the carrying of knives, even in public buildings.

The Republican-dominated Legislature is supportive of gun rights measures.

**IN THE
STATES**

The Gottlieb-Tartaro Report ® (ISSN 1079-6169) is published monthly by the Second Amendment Foundation, Liberty Park, 12500 N.E. 10th Place, Bellevue, WA 98005. Phone (425)454-7012. FAX (425)451-3959. Please call or write if you have a question regarding your subscription.

Publishers: Alan M. Gottlieb and Joseph P. Tartaro

Editor: Ron Arnold

Subscriptions: Jessica Brown

Published by:

Design: Northwoods Studio

Second Amendment Foundation

Subscriptions \$60 per year USA, \$70 elsewhere. Single issues \$5.00. Copyright © 2014 by Alan M. Gottlieb and Joseph P. Tartaro. Photocopying, reproduction or quotation strictly prohibited without written permission of the publishers. Bulk rates on request. Postage paid at Bellevue, WA.

POSTMASTER: send address changes to **The Gottlieb-Tartaro Report**, 12500 N.E. 10th Place, Bellevue, WA 98005.

Printed in the USA.

OKLAHOMA LAWMAKER NAMES PRO-GUN BILL AFTER ANTI-GUN CNN HOST

State Senator Nathan Dahm of Tulsa proposed House Bill 1473, also called the "Piers Morgan Right to Constitutionally Keep and Bear Arms Without Infringement Act". It's so named because Morgan has been an intolerable loudmouth with his anti-gun views.

Dahm's proposed law would allow anyone to carry a firearm without a license; any firearm, whether its a long rifle, shotgun, or handgun. He believes its our right to do so.

"It's that under the second amendment, we have the right to," Dahm said. "That's where a lot of people are confused about the 2nd amendment. We have a right to be able to do that in self defense."

OREGON SENATE EXPECTED TO VOTE ON GUN CONTROL BILL

The Oregon Senate seems set for a vote on expanding background check requirements for gun sales. During the legislative session last year, four bills amending gun laws advanced to the floor but never received a vote.

One of those bills, which would have required background checks on private gun sales except those between family members, is headed for an up-or-down vote on the Senate floor when lawmakers reconvene in February.

"It's my understanding that just the one of them will be up for a vote," said Sen. Ginny Burdick (D-Portland. "I think it's going to the floor."

Under Oregon law, background checks are required when guns are sold by dealers or at gun shows, but private sales don't require background checks.

Burdick said there is a gap between public opinion and the legislature. While polling showed support for expanding background checks, supporters in the Legislature couldn't find enough votes in the Senate to pass any legislation last year.

TENNESSEE GOVERNOR CONCERNED BY GUNS-IN-PARKS BILL

Tennessee Governor Bill Haslam said he has "major concerns" about a measure supported by fellow Republicans in the Legislature seeking to do away with local government's power to decide whether to allow firearms in public parks.

The Legislature in 2009 gave city and county governments the ability to opt out of a new law that allowed people with handgun carry permits to be armed in public parks, playgrounds and sports fields. A bill sponsored by Sen. Stacey Campfield of Knoxville that would do away with local control over guns has drawn the support of fellow Republican Senate Speaker Ron Ramsey of Blountville.

When Haslam was Knoxville mayor, he supported a 2009 city council vote that kept in place a ban on handguns in some of the city's parks.

VIRGINIA GUN-RIGHTS BILLS ADVANCE OVER POLICE OBJECTIONS

The Republican-controlled House Militia, Police and Public Safety Committee has advanced two expansions of gun rights over the objections of state and local law enforcement officials. Two committee votes came after an array of gun control measures were killed by a subcommittee.

One of the measures approved (HB878) would force the chief law enforcement officer of a locality to certify the transfer of a firearm within 30 days when such a certification is required under federal law for the transaction to occur.

Such certifications are required for the transfer of machine guns, certain shotguns and rifles, bombs, grenades and silencers.

WASHINGTON STATE HAS DUELING INITIATIVES ON GUN RIGHTS AND GUN CONTROL

Washingtonians have not just one initiative on guns, but two. Initiative 594 would require background checks for all sales. Initiative 591 would limit mandatory checks to sales by licensed dealers and prohibit government officials from removing guns from citizens without due process.

The state Senate held hearings on the initiatives, where Alan Gottlieb, chairman of the Bellevue-based Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms, and Brian Judy, state liaison for the National Rifle Association, elaborated on the problems with I-594. Gottlieb also provided background on I-591, sponsored by Protect Our Gun Rights.

IN THE STATES

FEDERAL JUDGE UPHOLDS CONNECTICUT GUN CONTROL LAW

U.S. District Judge Alfred Covello has upheld Connecticut's gun control law, saying the sweeping measure is constitutional even as he acknowledged the Second Amendment rights of gun owners who sued to block it.

The law, which Gov. Dannel P. Malloy signed last April after months of negotiations in the legislature, was not entirely written "with the utmost clarity," the judge wrote in his 47-page decision. Still, several provisions are "not impermissibly vague in all of their applications and, therefore, the challenged portions of the legislation are not unconstitutionally vague."

SUPREME COURT WEIGHS GUN RIGHTS CHALLENGE

The Supreme Court has taken up a new gun rights case, weighing whether it should be a crime for someone to buy a gun for somebody else if both are legally allowed to own one. Justices heard from Bruce James Abramski, Jr., former police officer who bought a Glock 19 handgun in Virginia - and transferred it to his uncle in Pennsylvania.

Abramski was later indicted for making a false statement material to the lawfulness of a firearm sale. Abramski's lawyers told the high court that since both he and his uncle were legally allowed to own guns, the law shouldn't have applied to him.

**IN THE
COURTS**

SUPREME COURT ASKED TO CONSIDER RIGHT TO CARRY CASE

The Second Amendment Foundation and Association of New Jersey Rifle & Pistol Clubs have asked the U.S. Supreme Court to hear the appeal in the challenge to New Jersey's unconstitutional carry laws. The case is Drake v. Jerejian, prepared by attorneys Alan Gura (who won the Heller and McDonald victories) and David Jensen.

"The right to self-defense is sacrosanct," said SAF founder and Executive Vice President Alan Gottlieb, "yet has been disparaged and denied to all but an elite few in states like New Jersey. Individuals and families should not be deprived of the right to defend themselves and we intend to change that."

GUN GROUPS AND NEW YORK STATE TO APPEAL SAFE ACT DECISION

Gun-rights groups and the state have vowed to continue their battle in federal court to strike down New York's gun-control law. A federal judge's ruling tossed the New York law's provision that limits a magazine to seven bullets as part of the so-called SAFE Act.

The state's Attorney General's Office said it would appeal a portion of a federal judge's ruling that tossed New York's provision that limits a magazine to seven bullets as part of the so-called SAFE Act.

Gun-rights groups won a partial victory, getting the seven-bullet limit tossed.

GROUP FILES LAWSUIT OVER GUNS ON METRO TRANSIT BUSES

A Milwaukee, Wisconsin gun rights organization has filed a lawsuit against the city of Madison alleging that Metro Transit's policy banning guns on buses violates state law.

Wisconsin Carry Inc. claims in its lawsuit that Metro's policy, which bans firearms from buses and from bus shelters, violates a provision in a 2011 Wisconsin law that allows people to obtain licenses to carry concealed weapons.

The lawsuit seeks a declaration that Metro is pre-empted by state law from banning the carrying of guns on buses and at bus shelters. Another plaintiff, Thomas Waltz, a Madison resident who contacted Metro in 2012 to point out what he said was a discrepancy between state law and Metro's policy.

NRA FILES SUIT AGAINST SUNNYVALE, CALIFORNIA, OVER MAGAZINE BAN

Sunnyvale's new gun-control ordinance stops at the city line, but the National Rifle Association hopes a federal lawsuit it filed challenging the law will ripple all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court.

The gun rights group's highly anticipated suit comes six weeks after 67 percent of Sunnyvale voters approved the ordinance as Measure C. The NRA took aim at part of the ordinance that requires owners of magazines that hold more than 10 rounds of ammunition to remove them from the city, sell them outside California or to a licensed gun dealer, or give them up to police for destruction within 90 days.

SAF THANKS GUN COMPANIES FOR SUPPORT IN MICROSTAMPING CASE

The Second Amendment Foundation has expressed heartfelt gratitude to three major firearms companies - Ruger, Smith & Wesson and Glock - for their supporting documents in the on-going case of Pena v. Lindley, a lawsuit challenging the California handgun roster requirements that include microstamping and magazine disconnects.

Ruger CEO Michael O. Fifer and Smith & Wesson President and CEO James Debney submitted declarations to the court. Glock, Inc. filed an amicus curiae brief supporting the SAF case. In his statement, Fifer bluntly observed, "There is no workable microstamping technology today, and Ruger believes that California's microstamping regulations make compliance impossible."

LOUISIANA SUPREME COURT UPHOLDS TWO STATUTES IN GUN LAW CHALLENGE

The Louisiana Supreme Court has rejected a challenge to two state gun rights statutes, deciding voters expected "sensible" gun regulations when they approved a constitutional amendment in 2012 that made the right to bear arms fundamental.

The high court reversed the findings of an East Baton Rouge Parish Juvenile Court judge in an opinion experts said would send a clear signal to lower courts weighing similar challenges to the state's gun laws.

"The voters of Louisiana did not ratify this constitutional amendment in a vacuum," the justices said in an 18-page ruling.

JUDGE OVERTURNS CHICAGO'S BAN ON GUN SALES

A federal judge has overturned Chicago's ban on the sale and transfer of firearms, ruling that the city's ordinances are unconstitutional.

U.S. District Judge Edmond Chang said that while the government has a duty to protect its citizens, it's also obligated to protect constitutional rights, including the right to keep and bear arms for self-defense.

The ruling cited three significant Second Amendment Foundation court victories, and SAF founder Alan M. Gottlieb is delighted that his organization's legal work "paved the way."

"While this was not our case," Gottlieb said, "the ruling would not have been possible had not SAF legal actions broken important new ground. We are very pleased at the outcome, and that Judge Chang cited McDonald, and also our Ezell v. City of Chicago and Moore v. Madigan victories in reaching his decision."

LOCAL GUN-RIGHTS GROUP SUES UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA OVER GUN BAN

The increasingly active local gun-rights group Florida Carry is suing the University of Florida over its comprehensive ban on guns in campus housing.

The lawsuit follows Florida Carry's recent challenge of the University of North Florida's ban on guns in cars - which won a court decision in December that changed gun rules at UF and other universities across Florida.

Founder Sean Caranna of Port Orange said Florida Carry is not challenging classroom bans on guns, but only in student housing.

MIAMI APPEALS COURT THROWS OUT MURDER CHARGES FOR MAN CLAIMING SELF-DEFENSE

Gabriel Mobley had long claimed self-defense in fatally shooting two unarmed men during a 2008 scuffle outside a North Miami-Dade restaurant. A Miami-Dade appeals court agreed in a decision under Florida's controversial Stand Your Ground self-defense law.

The court ordered the dismissal of Mobley's murder charges, saying he acted reasonably because the slain men, though apparently unarmed, were the aggressors.

JUDICIAL WATCH GETS BLOOMBERG RECORDS SAF WAS SEEKING

Judicial Watch has obtained via a lawsuit what the Second Amendment Foundation hasn't gotten by request - records and e-mails showing the very tight relationship between the office of former New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg and Mayors Against Illegal Guns (MAIG).

The documents include a memo from David Cohen, of the Council for a Livable World with advice on "ways to sustain a campaign to gain comprehensive gun control as a national policy and deal with related ways to combat the culture of violence."

**IN THE
COURTS**

FIGHT OVER WEST VIRGINIA GUN RANGE HEADED TO COURT

The Sundowner Gun Range and owner Kendall Richards have filed a civil action in U.S. District Court alleging the range and its owner have been damaged by complaints from neighbors and suffered economic loss after a cease-and-desist order issued by the Wood County Commission shut down the range.

The civil action also claims the owner's Second Amendment rights to bear arms and First Amendment rights of free speech were also violated by the commissioners.

According to the complaint, Richards operates the private gun range for members' use and the range is in compliance with all West Virginia regulations including the state Department of Natural Resources for shooting ranges and has been inspected by a National Rifle Association-certified instructor.

NAPPEN LAW FIRM FILES SECOND AMENDMENT BRIEF WITH NEW JERSEY SUPREME COURT

The New Jersey Supreme Court, for the first time in 45 years, will be considering Second Amendment rights. The Nappen Law Firm has filed its brief with the Supreme Court. Nappen argues that currently, in New Jersey, individuals who possess a handgun, even in their home, do so under a "presumption of illegality."

IN THE COURTS

To be granted a New Jersey permit to possess a handgun, one must demonstrate "justifiable need," which is virtually impossible.

No "need," justifiable or otherwise, should ever be required for an individual to exercise the rights guaranteed by the Constitution's Bill of Rights.

Current New Jersey law is a *de facto* ban and must be struck down.

SECOND AMENDMENT FOUNDATION AND CALGUNS FOUNDATION WIN HANDGUN CARRY LAWSUIT

In a decision that forces the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department to begin accepting and processing handgun carry license applications, Judge Deirdre Hill said that LASD must "consider the applications of all persons seeking a CCW permit in the first instance without requiring any applicant to first seek a CCW permit with his/her local police chief or city."

The case, titled *Lu v. Baca*, was filed in 2012 by two gun rights organizations, the Second Amendment Foundation and Calguns Foundation, with individual plaintiffs seeking to overturn an unlawful LASD policy that functioned as a *de facto* ban on handgun carry licenses for Los Angeles County residents.

PENNSYLVANIA COURT RULES THAT CITIES CANNOT BAN FIREARMS FROM MUNICIPAL PARKS

The Pennsylvania Commonwealth Court sided with a gun rights activist in his case against the City of Erie, ruling a lower court was wrong to deny the man's request for an injunction barring the city from enforcing a gun ban ordinance covering its park system.

The seven-member Commonwealth Court panel overturned a ruling by an Erie County Common Pleas Court judge that determined Justin Dillon had not met the grounds for a preliminary injunction seeking to nullify a city ordinance that banned legal gun owners from carrying their weapons in municipal parks.

The trial court ruled that Dillon had not established the likelihood of his prevailing on the merits, and that he likely wouldn't suffer an irreparable injury if the ordinance were allowed to stand.

The appeals judges determined the lower court was wrong on both fronts, since state law preempts municipalities from enacting their own gun ordinances.

APPEALS COURT RULES FLORIDA UNIVERSITIES CAN'T REGULATE GUNS

State universities would be blocked from regulating guns on campus under a potentially far-reaching ruling handed by a Florida appeals court. The 1st District Court of Appeal – in a rare opinion decided by the entire appeals court – sided with a University of North Florida student and a gun rights group that challenged a university rule banning students on campus from storing guns in their cars. In a lengthy decision that prompted a strong dissent as well as multiple concurring opinions, the appeals court ruled that the Florida Legislature has pre-empted the regulation of guns by local governments and state agencies.

Eric Friday, who represented UNF student Alexandria Lainez and guns rights group Florida Carry Inc., said they were happy with the decision. A UNF spokeswoman said the school had not yet decided whether to appeal the ruling.

GUN NEWS TICKER - QUICK TAKES ON THE NEWS

● **Albany, New York:** New York's Democratic Gov. Andrew Cuomo said on the radio that "extreme conservatives, who are right-to-life, pro-assault weapon, anti-gay... have no place in the state of New York." Radio host and Fox Newser Sean Hannity, told his radio audience that he plans to flee for Florida or Texas. Others told the Guv to come kick them out with his own hands, if he was man enough.

● **Wichita, Kansas:** Kansas republicans who attended the state's GOP convention at the Hyatt Regency Hotel were allowed to bring their guns inside the hotel if they want to. To accommodate the party's staunch platform on gun rights, the hotel lifted their no gun rule and allowed people to carry concealed weapons. There were no incidents at the gun-toting convention. Considering how easy it was to convince Hyatt management to lift their gun ban, one may conclude that money trumps political correctness when there's enough of it.

● **Stanford, California:** John J. Donohue, a member of the Stanford Law School faculty, said "I support the right to self-defense, but that doesn't mean that you have a right to high-capacity magazines," during a debate with attorney Donald Kilmer, an adjunct professor at Lincoln Law School of San Jose. Since real decisions about such things are well above Donohue's pay grade, Kilmer's rebuttal was calm and to the point, essentially, "Yes, it does."

● **McLean, Virginia:** USA TODAY ran a story saying both sides of the gun law debate have geared up to wage war across the country in 2014 using millions of dollars. Alan Gottlieb, founder of the Second Amendment Foundation, was quoted as saying he expects billions will be poured into dueling initiatives in Washington State, which has become a national hotspot with hearings in the state Senate attracting celebrity anti-gunners including former congresswoman Gabby Giffords, who survived a shooting and became a gun control icon.

● **Nashville, Tennessee:** Beretta USA officials along with Tennessee Gov. Bill Haslam and Economic and Community Development Commissioner Bill Hagerty have announced the company will relocate its U.S. operations from anti-gun Maryland by building a new \$45 million firearms manufacturing plant in the Gallatin Industrial Park. Maryland's Gov. Martin O'Malley, is looking for a way to explain that his state's anti-gun position has cost state residents jobs with one of the world's most stable companies.

● **Columbus, Ohio:** Licensed firearms dealers in Ohio ran a total of 680,930 names through the National Instant Criminal Background Check System in 2013, according to the data. That's an increase over the previous record - set in 2012 - of 8.2 percent. The NICS was queried nearly 21 million times across the nation in 2013, or 7.7 percent more than the previous year. That's also a record-high for the U.S. since background checks became mandatory at federally licensed gun shops in November 1998.

● **Chicago, Illinois:** Last year saw the City of Chicago reportedly post the fewest homicides since 1965, and the Second Amendment Foundation says one plausible explanation for at least part of the decline is because criminals can no longer be certain that their intended victim is not legally armed. Since SAF's landmark Supreme Court victory in the 2010 McDonald v. City of Chicago case that nullified the 30-year-old handgun ban in the city, increasing numbers of law-abiding citizens have obtained firearms for personal protection, noted SAF Executive Vice President Alan Gottlieb.

● **Washington, D.C.:** Mark Witaschek, a successful financial adviser with no criminal record, is facing two years in prison for possession of unregistered ammunition after D.C. police raided his house looking for guns. Mr. Witaschek has never had a firearm in the city, but he is being prosecuted to the full extent of the law. Mr. Witaschek's 14-year-old daughter let inside some 30 armed officers in full tactical gear. His teen-age son was in the shower, so police thugs battered the door down and hauled him naked out of the bathroom. Kids must be really scary to warrant such storm trooper tactics.

Parting Shot

ARMED CITIZENS MAKE GOOD CRIME CONTROL

A Reading, Pennsylvania man is being hailed a hero after police say he shot and killed two armed suspects after a robbery at a Berks County convenience store.

The two armed robbers, identified as Robert DeCarr and William Medina, entered the Krick's Korner store on Kutztown Road and Moss Street around 2 p.m. They stole cash, cigarettes and lottery tickets.

As they left the store, a friend of the owner confronted the two men. He told them to stop and that he was calling the police. The robbers then pointed their guns towards the man, leading to a brief scuffle.

Unbeknownst to the robbers, the man was also armed with a gun. The man pulled out his handgun and shot both suspects in the chest. The wounded robbers then stumbled out of the store, one collapsed just outside the front door while the other collapsed down the sidewalk.

They were both pronounced dead at the scene.

An Allentown, Pennsylvania man in his 50s was getting out of his car at his home when three robbers ran up from the darkness and jumped him. They pistol-whipped the man, who pulled a gun in self-defense and a gunfight ensued with about half a dozen shots fired.

Neighbor Thomas Hoffman heard the pop, pop, pop, pop, pop, and went outside, where he didn't see anyone but his neighbor.

Hoffman said his neighbor's left eye was all puffed up and told him, "Call the cops. I just shot somebody." In the driveway Hoffman then saw a man's body laying in a pool of blood. The dead man was identified as Carlos N. Lugo Jr., 35, of Allentown. Lugo had a long record of serious crimes, according to court records.

Elzie Pipkins, a 63-year-old grandmother, defended her Shreveport, Louisiana home against a shotgun-wielding robber, and is garnering nationwide attention on social media, pulling in nearly 175,000 views in just a few days.

Pipkins was forced at gunpoint into the back of her house in by Devon Antonio Young, a teen who demanded that she open her safe. Pipkins kept a small amount of change and a firearm in the safe and used the weapon. She shot the 16-year-old dead.

The story resonated with readers because it was a classic story of a young would-be criminal preying on a seemingly helpless elderly victim.

Alan M. Gottlieb

Joseph D. Tartaro

Yes, I want to stay informed! Send me the next twelve issues of The Gottlieb-Tartaro Report at half price!

Renewal New Subscription (Make out checks to: Second Amendment Foundation.)

Here's my \$30 (half price) for twelve information-packed issues of The Gottlieb-Tartaro Report!

VISA MasterCard Check Money Order

Card Number _____ Expires _____

Send my Gottlieb-Tartaro Report to:

Name _____

Street _____

City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone _____



You can telephone or FAX your order for the Gottlieb-Tartaro Report.
Telephone orders: 425-454-7012
FAX 425-451-3959