

# The Gottlieb-Tartaro Report

THE INSIDERS GUIDE FOR GUN OWNERS

Issue 250

October, 2015

Dear Subscriber,

New York Governor **ANDREW CUOMO** (D) has demanded that Democrats in Congress shut down the government and refuse to restart it until Republicans agree to pass **ireal gun control**. **CUOMO's** lunatic idea came after his first deputy counsel **CAREY GABAY** was caught in street gang crossfire just before the J'Ouvert, a Caribbean celebration marking the official start of carnival. **GABAY**, the governor's highest ranking black lawyer, was waiting with hundreds of others for the traditional parade when gang members fired into the crowd, hitting **GABAY** in the head. He later died in a hospital. It was from the hospital where **CUOMO** gave his knee-jerk reaction by calling for more gun control. "We passed the toughest gun control law in the nation, called the SAFE Act, and I am proud of it," **CUOMO** said. **Anyone who doesn't believe we need to do something about gun control is delusional.**

**AT THE  
FEDERAL  
LEVEL**

**It is Cuomo who is delusional, because his law doesn't work.** Firearm-related homicides are surging in NYC despite his draconian **SAFE** law. But **CUOMO** and his minions are in denial.

**NEW YORK CITY POLICE COMMISSIONER BILL BRATTON** blamed gun laws in the South, which actually respect the Second Amendment, for NYC's crime problems.

But if you take drug and gang violence out of national murder statistics, the numbers drop nearly as low as those in European nations where guns are almost non-existent. Clearly, it's not a gun problem, but a criminal problem. In Europe, where no one has a semiautomatic rifle to kill three or five people, killers build a pipe bomb to kill 50.

If the U.S. government takes away all guns, we have plenty of gangs with other means of committing mass murder. Gangs thrive in New York in part because it declared itself a sanctuary city for poor, uneducated and jobless illegal immigrants, just what gangs need to find ready recruits to help keep the killing rate growing.

The Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms praises Congressman **SAM JOHNSON** (TX-3) for introducing the Social Security Beneficiary Second Amendment Rights Protection Act (H.R.3516) to stop Obama's Social Security Administration from treating Social Security and disability beneficiaries who have a **irepresentative payee** to be a determination that the individual has been adjudicated as a mental defective, which deprives them of their Second Amendment rights without due process.

In response to a 2013 Obama administration memorandum, the Social Security Administration is considering a policy to provide the names of Social Security and disability beneficiaries who have a **irepresentative payee** to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS), which would prohibit them from possessing or owning a firearm. It's a federal horror, sending a fake adjudication to NICS.

If implemented, this would instantly deny more than four million Americans their Second Amendment rights based on their willingness or ability to manage their finances, when such a failure could be the result of simple inexperience with bookkeeping or physical disability unrelated to judgment or mental sharpness. Minors who lose a parent would be permanently classified as prohibited persons simply because they are legally unable to manage their finances.

A government-approved **representative payee** has the duty to help beneficiaries who need assistance in managing their benefits by using benefits to pay for the current and foreseeable needs of the beneficiaries, saving any remaining benefits, and keeping good records of how the benefits are spent.

...Continued on Page 2

**Also in this issue:** ● Houston zoo allows guns ● Parts of District of Columbia gun law struck down ● Anti-gunners try defunding ChildSafe program ● A nationwide sweep of self defense in our Page 8 Parting Shot.

Continued from Page 1

The Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms has blasted a new gun control measure sponsored by Sen. TIM KAINÉ (D-VA) as **ibeyond unreasonablei** because it would hold commercial and private gun sellers **liable for crimes they didn't commit.**

Sen. KAINÉ's **iResponsible Transfer of Firearms Acti** creates **ian affirmative responsibilityi** for gun sellers to take **ireasonable stepsi** to assure that a buyer can **legally own a firearm.** But it doesn't define those steps, and doesn't explain what other 'reasonable steps' must be taken if a person passes a background check.

"The language in Sen. KAINÉ's bill seems intentionally vague and designed to create a chilling effect, **especially on legal private firearms transactions,i** said CCRKBA Chairman ALAN GOTTLIEB. "It appears Sen. KAINÉ also expects gun dealers and private sellers to be **clairvoyant.** What else could a retailer do beyond a background check? Sen. KAINÉ seems to suggest **background checks on all transactions may not be good enough.** The bill just talks about 'reasonable steps,' but what does that mean, especially to a private seller?

**iYou could still be held liable especially if you were put before an Obama-appointed, anti-gun judge,i** he asserted. "Even if private sellers had access to the National Instant Check System, which they don't, how could they possibly know what someone might do with a firearm in the future? **How could anyone know that?"**

MEXICAN DIPLOMAT ALEJANDRO ESTIVILL sent a letter to Representative ELIJAH CUMMINGS (D-MD) with the Government of Mexico's **appreciation of recent gun control efforts by the Democrat Party.** He also urged a **stronger gun control push.** The letter came three weeks after White House officials attended a conference on international gun control via the UN's **Arm Trade Treaty (ATT),** which focuses on guns crossing borders, **but its actual results will be an international gun registry and subjugation of the Second Amendment to an international body.**

ESTIVILL expressed the Mexican Government's "commitment to [the] shared border region" between the US and Mexico and says **the Mexican government ihas been working and collaborating with US agencies** in this and many other issues of mutual interest."

The day after receiving the letter, **Democrats put forward the Gun Trafficking Prevention Act of 2015.** The bill addresses straw purchases, gun trafficking, border violence, and the number of guns that made it into Mexico from the US between 2009 and 2014. **The bill does not mention the ATF/DOJ-sponsored operation Fast and Furious, which employed straw purchasers to buy firearms and smuggle them across the border.** The Gun Trafficking Prevention Act pledges safety through more government control.

During a Senate Finance Committee hearing on Sept. 30, 1993, HILLARY CLINTON was asked by Sen. BILL BRADLEY (D-N.J.) if she supported the imposition of a new, **25 percent national sales tax on guns.** CLINTON emphatically endorsed the tax, stating: **"I am all for that."** But she stressed she was just speaking for herself. Now that she's running for President of the United States, **she's speaking for her own administration - if she gets one.** **AMERICANS FOR TAX REFORM** is now highlighting the gun tax endorsement as CLINTON's tax positions, available at [HighTaxHillary.com](http://HighTaxHillary.com).

"HILLARY's 25 percent gun tax would discourage gun ownership and be a backdoor route to gun registration," said GROVER NORQUIST, president of Americans for Tax Reform. **"HILLARY has a long history of attacking gun owners."** CLINTON's positions are consistent with **progressive goals on gun taxation and other forms of gun control.**

CLINTON said she would push to "balance the legitimate Second Amendment rights with preventive measures and control measures." **The Washington Post declared her ithe new standard-bearer for gun control.i**

NORQUIST said, **"HILLARY makes it perfectly clear: she doesn't like gun owners, she doesn't trust us and she wants us to go away."**

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### DC POLICE: 44 CONCEALED CARRY PERMITS APPROVED FROM 206 APPLICANTS

Washington D.C.'s Metropolitan Police Department spokeswoman Gwendolyn Crump said that of the 206 concealed carry applications sent for review to MPD, 44 were approved so far. According to the MPD website, the department began accepting applications for concealed carry permits on October 23, 2014. Mayor Muriel Bowser said at a press conference that the cost and bureaucracy of applying for a gun permit in the district probably did not hinder DC's poorest from owning a legal firearm for self-defense.

### IDAHO: BOISE CITY COUNCIL CONSIDERS CHANGE TO GUN CODE LANGUAGE

The Boise City Council is considering changes to the law that deals with guns and parks. Council members had their first look at the new ordinance. Councilman T.J. Thomson is asking for the change. Current code says, "No person in any park shall use firearms of any description." Thomson says the code conflicts with state laws about when someone can legally carry a gun. A city can regulate when a gun can be fired in city limits. "It's just clarifying the code to remove any regulation of possession through city code."

**IN THE STATES**

### FLORIDA STATE ALTERS GUN BAN

Florida State football fans who go to the Seminoles' game can take their guns – if they have a concealed-weapons permit and they keep the weapons locked in their cars. One day after being sued over a policy banning guns on campus, the university said that permitted gun owners could keep guns locked in parked cars. But that did not satisfy Florida Carry Inc., which filed suit against F.S.U. seeking to allow all legal gun owners to keep guns locked in their cars, with permits or not.

### NEW JERSEY: CHRISTIE'S VETO OF GUN CONTROL FOR MENTALLY ILL STANDS

For the 49th consecutive time, New Jersey Democrats failed to get enough Republican votes to override a veto by Gov. Chris Christie. Led by State Sen. President Steve Sweeney, Senate Democrats tried to override the governor's veto of a bill that would make it tougher for a mentally ill person to legally buy a gun. Christie has vetoed over 400 bills and democrats have been rejected every time they have tried to overturn the governor, but this fight is not over. A procedural technicality allows legislators to try overriding the veto again.

### OREGON: ATTEMPT TO RECALL FLOYD PROZANSKI FAILS TO MAKE BALLOT

Critics of state Sen. Floyd Prozanski, D-Eugene, who supported controversial legislation requiring background checks for private gun transactions, failed to gather enough valid signatures to trigger a recall election, state Elections Director Jim Williams announced. Williams said in a letter to recall sponsor Patricia Duffy that her petition contained 8,209 valid signatures, which was short of the 8,415 required. Duffy's campaign turned in 10,027 signatures, but it's common for many to be rejected because they are duplicates or are not from a registered voter in the district.

### TEXAS: GUNS ARE NOW ALLOWED AT THE HOUSTON ZOO

The zoo lifted its gun ban after receiving a demand letter from an independent attorney with Texas Law Shield, a Houston-based legal services company focusing on gun rights issues. Backed by a recently-passed Texas bill authorizing the Attorney General to investigate and possibly fine "political subdivisions" that post signs prohibiting weapons where concealed handgun license holders are allowed to carry. This isn't the first time a gun rights group has attempted to get guns in zoos – however, it does appear to be the first attempt that actually ended with a gun ban being removed.

### LIBERAL VIRGINIA GOVERNOR BRINGS ARMED SECURITY GUARD TO DC FOR ANTI-GUN RALLY

Michael Bloomberg's anti-gun advocacy group Everytown for America held a small rally in Washington D.C. in front of the Capitol Building in an effort to shame Congress into passing gun control legislation. Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe spoke at the event and brought his armed body guard with him. McAuliffe claimed that people "can be armed" while standing on the Capitol grounds in Washington D.C., which is false. Shannon Watts, founder of Bloomberg's Moms Demand Action, showed up at the NRA annual meeting in 2014 with armed security (they also pushed conservative Dana Loesch out of the way when she dared to ask a question). She regularly brings armed security to her anti-gun events.

**COLORADO'S STRICT 2013 GUN LAWS BACK IN FEDERAL COURT**

A three-judge panel of the Tenth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals heard oral arguments in Colorado Outfitters v. Hickenlooper, challenging the state's laws limiting magazine size to 15 rounds and expanding background checks to include almost all firearm sales. Last June, U.S. District Judge Marcia Krieger ruled the laws were constitutional saying, "No evidence presented here suggests that the general ability of a person to defend him or herself is seriously diminished if magazines are limited." The appeal reviews a case launched by 54 sheriffs who joined gun rights activists to challenge adoption of HB 1224 limiting magazines and HB 1229 requiring background checks for all firearm transfers.

**COURT RULING MAKES MINNESOTA LATEST STATE TO CALL BB GUN 'FIREARM'**

The Minnesota Court of Appeals ruled to uphold the conviction of David Lee Haywood for possession of a "firearm" - in this case a Walther CP99 Compact .177-caliber BB gun. Haywood wasn't allowed to own a handgun after a 2005 felony drug conviction, so he was sent back to prison after cops found the BB gun in his glove compartment during a 2013 traffic stop. Haywood argued that a BB gun wasn't a firearm. Haywood said the accepted definition of "firearm" should apply: a weapon that features a projectile fired by gunpowder. The appellate court instead used language of the state Supreme Court defining a BB gun as a firearm using state game and fish laws.

**IN THE COURTS**

**GUN RIGHTS ADVOCACY GROUP PLANS TO SUE KNOXVILLE OVER CHILHOWEE PARK GUN BAN**

The Tennessee Firearms Association plans to sue the city of Knoxville over its ban on guns at Chilhowee Park during the Tennessee Valley Fair. "It's our belief that the city of Knoxville erred in banning lawfully carried handguns from Chilhowee Park," Liston Matthews with TFA said in a statement. This debate stems from the law allowing permit holders to carry guns in parks. The city says the law doesn't apply, calling Chilhowee a public entertainment venue, not a park. While the city is taking one stance, the district attorney's office takes another. For purposes of drug crimes, it feels Chilhowee Park is a park. Gov. Bill Haslam is for the ban and says this is a good reason for the legislature to clarify the law.

**APPEALS COURT STRIKES DOWN PARTS OF DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA'S GUN LAW**

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District ruled 2-1 in the case, upholding six challenged gun registration provisions but striking four others - including forcing gun owners to reregister firearms every three years and a prohibition on registering more than one pistol per month, a requirement for registrants to bring their firearms with them to police department headquarters for inspection and registration by police, a requirement that gun owners pass a knowledge test of D.C. gun laws. It left intact a requirement that owners pass a safety training class. One of the judges in the majority, Patricia Millett, is an Obama appointee.

**SEATTLE'S GUN VIOLENCE TAX: A 2ND AMENDMENT POTSHOT**

Seattle is attempting a gun violence tax, prompting lawsuits from three gun rights groups, but the city's case may be quashed before it starts. The tax is "legally unenforceable," the plaintiffs say, because the state of Washington prohibits local governments from adopting firearms laws unless the ordinances are "specifically authorized by the state." City Attorney Pete Holmes counters that the tax falls under the city's taxing authority. Besides, this is just a "simple and commonsense measure to support gun safety research and prevention," says City Council President Tim Burgess. No, it presupposes that every gun sold in Seattle is used for mayhem. How many Seattle guns have been used to prevent crime or even to save lives?

**SUPREME COURT URGED TO REVIEW ASSAULT RIFLE BAN**

Twenty-four attorneys general urged the Supreme Court to grant certiorari to a lawsuit challenging an Illinois city's assault rifle ban as unconstitutional. In June 2013, the city of Highland Park, Ill., passed an ordinance prohibiting certain types of weapons and large capacity magazines. The Seventh Circuit upheld the ordinance in April, and plaintiff Illinois State Rifle Association appealed the case to the U.S. Supreme Court. Now twenty-four attorneys general filed an amicus brief with the high court, urging the justices to re-affirm their decision in District of Columbia v. Heller, which struck down a gun ban in D.C.

**JACKLEY JOINS OTHER ATTORNEYS GENERAL IN OPPOSING WEAPONS BAN IN ILLINOIS**

A press release from Sioux Falls, South Dakota announced Attorney General Marty Jackley has joined 23 other attorneys general in petitioning the U.S. Supreme Court to rule against a weapons ban in Illinois. The South Dakota attorney general joined the amicus brief filed in the case brought by the Illinois State Rifle Association and others against the city of Highland Park, Illinois. A federal appeals court in April upheld the assault weapons ban in the northern Chicago suburb. The amicus brief argues that the second amendment protects an individual right to possess and carry weapons in case of confrontation. Jackley says he has a strong interest in protecting citizen's rights to keep and bear arms.

**FLORIDA CARRY SUES FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT AND POLICE CHIEF**

In 2014 then-Senator Thrasher admonished Florida Carry during a legislative hearing for supporting a pro-Second Amendment bill correcting an unconstitutional infringement rather than going to the courts and bringing a lawsuit. Florida Carry is taking his advice, joining FSU Graduate Student Bekah Hargrove of Florida Students for Concealed Carry in filing Florida Carry v. Thrasher seeking an emergency injunction against John Thrasher, now President of FSU, the university, and FSU Police Chief David Perry. The Florida First District Court of Appeals clearly held in 2013 that universities have no authority to regulate the lawful possession of firearms.

**IN THE COURTS**

**JUDGE RULES ANN ARBOR SCHOOL DISTRICT CAN BAN GUNS**

Ann Arbor Public Schools can continue to ban guns in schools, a judge ruled, dismissing a lawsuit that challenged newly adopted policies in the district. The decision conflicts with one last month in Genesee County, where a judge ruled that Kenneth Herman, a parent in the Clio School District, has a right to openly carry his gun at his daughter's school. The Clio district is appealing. The group that filed the suit against the Ann Arbor district says it also will appeal today's ruling – likely setting up a battle at the appellate level given the contrary decisions. It may also put pressure on the Legislature to address the issue. Gun rights advocates say state law is on their side.

**NEW JERSEY SUPREME COURT JUSTICES HAVE GUN CONTROL ON DOCKET**

New Jersey's tough gun-control laws, however, are a rare sight at the Supreme Court. Now, prosecutors are trying to disarm a former Roseland police officer since 2010 because his domestic violence allegedly poses a risk to public safety. Robert F. Williams, a law professor at Rutgers University in Camden, said the case could take on national prominence. The U.S. Supreme Court in a pair of rulings in 2008 and 2010 recognized a right to keep firearms in the home, he said, and states are now wrestling with the ramifications. "We're embarking on what may be a generation of litigation on the details of gun control," Williams said.

**UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI PROFESSOR SUES OVER CAMPUS GUN BAN**

Royce de R. Barondes, a University of Missouri associate law professor has filed a lawsuit contending that the school's ban on concealed weapons on campus violates his constitutional rights. The lawsuit was filed against the Board of Curators and President Tim Wolfe. Barondes also argues the ban conflicts with a state law that allows guns to be stored in the passenger compartment of a vehicle by an adult with a permit. His attorney, Jennifer Bukowsky, also argues the ban violate Barondes' right to keep and carry weapons on campus for self-defense. Barondes is licensed to carry a concealed firearm. The university spokesman declined to comment because the lawsuit is pending.

**JUDGE SIDES WITH HARRISBURG IN GUN LAWSUIT FIGHT OVER DONOR NAMES**

After a seven-month battle, a Dauphin County, Pennsylvania judge has ruled that the city of Harrisburg doesn't have to hand over the names and addresses of donors who contributed to its gun lawsuit legal defense fund. Judge Andrew K. Dowling ruled that the donor information falls under an exception to the state's open records law for individuals who make donations to an agency. Attorney Joshua Prince, who is suing Harrisburg over its gun ordinances, filed the request for the list of names shortly after the city established the legal defense fund. Prince said that the names should be public because city officials personally benefitted.

GUN NEWS TICKER - QUICK TAKES ON THE NEWS

● **Jackson, Tennessee:** The sign in front of RMA Express Mart in north Jackson says, show your carry permit and get a free soda or coffee. General manager of RMA Express Mart Stephanie Kearse said, "The owner went to another establishment and they didn't allow legal gun carriers to come into their store with their gun showing" So for the second year in a row, clerks are handing out free soda or coffee at what store managers call a minimal cost to doing business. "It just supports the legal right to carry," clerk Rickey Kennemore told WBBJ. "It doesn't support the guns, it supports people who are legally getting permits."

● **Nassau County, New York:** Acting District Attorney, Madeline Singas, has changed a restrictive policy banning prosecutors from owning handguns. The ban wasn't limited to forbidding Assistant D.A. prosecutors from carrying handguns on the job, or carrying them in public. Rather, it applied to all ownership and possession, including at home, at private shooting ranges, and so on. The ban was imposed because untrained prosecutors frequently became involved in active crime scenes and injured or killed policemen with friendly fire. The change does not allow possessing a firearm in any public place, but does allow possession at home and firing ranges, along with requirements to provide the D.A.'s office with all necessary permits, and to pass a firearms training program.

● **Scottsdale, Arizona:** Writer AWR Hawkins notes that from 1981 to 2013 the U.S. added 195 million privately owned firearms and the firearm-related suicide rate fell by five percent. Center for Disease Prevention and Control numbers '[covering] years 1981 through 2013? show the firearm suicide rate (the number of suicides per 100,000 population) decreased five percent' at the very time that the U.S. added nearly 200 million privately owned guns. Hawkins wrote, "It is interesting to note that while 'the firearm suicide rate' fell 5 percent, 'the non-firearm suicide rate increased 27 percent.'"

● **Raleigh-Durham, North Carolina:** Bearing Arms Editor Bob Owens writes of the Washington, D.C.-based Coalition to Stop Gun Violence, "CSGV has a long history of being an advocate for violence against gun owners. They've advocated the SWATting of gun owners, in hopes of causing a violent confrontation between gun owners and police. Showing that they have no depths to their depravity, they are now attempting to block the National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF) from receiving a \$2.4 million grant from the Department of Justice for the Project ChildSafe. What is Project Childsafe? Project ChildSafe is about keeping children safe around guns. The Coalition to Stop Gun Violence is attempting to defund this vital gun safety project. They will not attempt to provide an alternative."

● **Panama City, Panama:** Pro-Second Amendment arguments are familiar to us here in the United States, but the "more guns, less crime" experience of the U.S. is being trumpeted in a somewhat unlikely place: Panama. The Central American nation has been struggling with rising crime, gang activity and forged gun permits. In order to address these problems, and promote personal safety, the government is preparing to lift its ban on firearms imports, in place since 2012, so that citizens may better defend themselves. Public Safety Minister Rodolfo Aguilera said the country will follow in the footsteps of the United States and Switzerland, where the right to bear arms is believed to lead to fewer homicides.

● **Branson, Missouri:** Country music legends and Grand Ole Opry members Larry Gatlin & The Gatlin Brothers have released "An American with a Remington," a song that reminds listeners what it means to be an American at a time when extremists threaten our culture. The song was originally released in raw form via a YouTube video filmed in a dressing room in Branson, MO. That video quickly received over 5 million views. Larry was soon on his way to "Fox & Friends" for a national performance, which led to the song being taken to the studio for professional production. Combining their soaring three-part harmonies with historical references and patriotic symbolism, Larry Gatlin & The Gatlin Brothers continue a tradition of excellence.

**GUN NEWS TICKER - QUICK TAKES ON THE NEWS**

● **New York City:** Fashion designer Kenneth Cole's highly visible stand on the gun control debate is rankling a psychiatric group in the process. A billboard from Cole above the busy West Side Highway in New York City reads: "Over 40M Americans suffer from mental illness. Some can access care... All can access guns." But the American Psychiatric Association disapproves of the billboard's suggested correlation between mental illness and gun violence, and wants the message taken down. The APA wants the billboard's message cast in a more favorable light. With only 38 percent of adults in the U.S. diagnosed with a mental illness receiving the necessary treatment, a positive message could reduce the negative stigmas attached to the issue, which often keeps people needing services from seeking assistance.

● **Atlanta, Georgia:** Candidates for the Democratic presidential nomination - Hillary Clinton and Martin O'Malley - have spent significant effort in recent months trying to outdo one another on gun control by boasting about just how much they intend to trample upon our Second Amendment rights once in office. However, a new poll released this week from CNN and ORC International should give their campaign staffers pause, as it makes clear a majority of Americans staunchly support their Right to Keep and Bear Arms. Respondents were asked "In your view, do existing laws make it too easy for people to buy guns, too difficult, or are they about right?" Half of respondents (49%) thought laws were "about right." A strong majority (59%) of Americans are opposed to further restrictions on the Second Amendment.

● **Clark County, Nevada:** Apparently the functionaries at the Clark County Department of Family Services place anti-gun orthodoxy over the welfare of children. Authorities stripped Kristi and Rod Beber of custody of three children under their care and their foster license after it became known to the government that Rod Beber is a gun owner. On June 10, Gov. Brian Sandoval signed Assembly Bill 167, which became effective immediately and makes clear that a foster parent may possess a loaded firearm on the premises of a foster home "[w]hen used for a lawful purpose, which may include, without limitation, for an educational or recreational purpose, for hunting, for the defense of a person or property, or to clean or service the firearm." Unfortunately for the Bebers, Rod's precautionary use of a firearm occurred before the law, but they're fighting to get their foster parenting license back.

● **Chicago, Illinois:** Chicago criminals are finicky about how they get their guns, according to a new study by the University of Chicago Crime Lab. In a survey of almost 100 detainees in the Cook County Jail, few said they get firearms at gun shows or through the Internet, said Harold Pollack, co-director of the crime lab. They also said they don't normally steal guns or buy them at a licensed store. Gun-related homicides have dropped 39 percent between 1993-2011; Pew Research's figures have gun violence dropping 49 percent in roughly the same time frame; and criminals still don't use legal methods to buy guns.

● **Sydney, Australia:** Former prime minister John Howard has criticised the creeping erosion of the gun control laws his government implemented after the Port Arthur massacre in 1996. Mr Howard said he was "disturbed" by attempts to dilute the laws, including the move by four states to wind back the mandatory 28 days "cooling off" period between applying for and buying a gun. "I don't think it benefits anybody," he said. "I'm critical of any winding back of the laws." Mr Howard made the comments at an event hosted by lobby group Gun Control Australia, where he was interviewed by journalist Andrew Denton. The former Liberal leader played down concerns about the rise of pro-gun forces within politics, including the Shooters and Fishers party, pointing to the widespread bipartisan support for ongoing gun control.

● **Washington, D.C.:** Gun sellers licensed by the federal government called in more than 1.7 million background checks in August, shattering records for the third month in a row amid renewed calls for gun control. FBI statistics show interest among prospective gun buyers that hasn't been seen since NICS was established in 1998.

# Parting Shot

## A NATIONWIDE SWEEP OF SELF-DEFENSE

From Oregon to Ohio, it was a busy month for gun owners who are alive because they had the means to protect themselves from criminals.

Gresham, Oregon police responded to the Rolling Hills Mobile Terrace and RV Park after neighbors reported hearing gunshots. Investigators said four Hispanic male gang members entered a mobile home and stabbed a 34-year-old man inside. Police said the man fought back, grabbed a pistol and shot two of the suspects, killing a 24-year-old man and seriously injuring a 16-year-old assailant. The two uninjured suspects, were criminally charged. The victim was taken to the hospital with non-life threatening stab wounds and was released.

An 11-year-old boy was home alone in the family's North St. Louis County house with his 4-year-old sister when two suspects, both 16, allegedly attempted to enter the house twice before pushing through the front door on the third attempt. When they pushed through the door, the boy picked up his mother's gun and shot one of the teens. The 16-year-old died of a lone gunshot wound to the head. The second teen ran from the scene but was later arrested by the police.

In New Orleans, Louisiana, a man with dreadlocks and a large build walked into a Shell gas station on Elysian Fields Avenue around 5:20 p.m. and demanded cash from the register. The store clerk pulled a gun on the suspect, and he ran without taking anything. The suspect fled and has not been apprehended.

A 43-year-old man walked into a Citizens Bank near 9 Mile and Van Dyke roads in Warren, Michigan and announced a hold-up. He received money from a teller and then pointed the gun at a bank customer, who shot the robber three times, in both arms and a leg. The customer has a concealed pistol license. The robber initially fled the bank on foot but was found lying on the ground bleeding. He was taken to the hospital with three gunshot wounds, none life threatening.

A Dayton, Ohio woman whose home had been targeted for crime multiple times called 911 to report an invader try to break into her home. An hour later the officer had not arrived, but the suspect had made it inside through a window and was coming toward the woman, who shot him. The suspect then turned and fled out the same window and ran about a block before collapsing. He was taken to Miami Valley Hospital "with at least one gunshot wound" to the chest, and he succumbed to that injury later in the day. Captain Matt Haines with the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office had no excuse for the police delay.

*Alan M. Gottlieb*

*Joseph D. Tartaro*

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