

The Gottlieb-Tartaro Report

THE INSIDERS GUIDE FOR GUN OWNERS

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Dear Subscriber,

Senator RAND PAUL (R-Kentucky) has introduced legislation aimed at stopping the federal government from unilaterally stripping gun rights from thousands of seniors and veterans by declaring them "mentally defective" without proper medical review.

The Department of Veterans Affairs currently reports some 260,381 veterans who have a fiduciary trustee – someone who handles financial issues on their behalf – to the FBI's National Instant Criminal Background Check System as "mentally defective," making them ineligible for gun ownership.

PAUL says his Protecting Gun Rights and Due Process Act will stop the OBAMA administration's quiet gun grab in its tracks by requiring the Social Security Administration and Veterans Affairs to get a doctor's opinion before reporting anyone to the FBI as unfit for gun ownership.

**AT THE
FEDERAL
LEVEL**

Senators TED CRUZ (R-Texas) and MIKE LEE (R-Utah) joined forces to introduce legislation to end the Obama administration's Operation Choke Point (OCP) that deprives firearm businesses access to banking services. OCP lumped legal and illegal businesses into a "high risk" category and threatened banks that served such businesses, driving targeted industries out of business.

The Financial Institution Customer Protection Act, the Senate legislation, would require regulators that order a bank to terminate a customer's account explain any regulations the enforcement agency believed were being violated. Moreover, "reputational risk," is not an allowable reason, the basis for including firearm businesses in OCP's "high risk" list.

After years of bipartisan calls to reform the nation's mental health system, the Democrats oppose a Republican bill because it puts safeguards in place for gun rights. The bill by Senator Sen. JOHN CORNYN (R-TX) guarantees that Second Amendment rights are protected.

Democrats, like Senator CHRIS MURPHY (D-CT), are opposed to language in Cornyn's bill that requires a hearing in order to ban someone from buying guns due to mental illness. He is also opposed to language that guarantees that a person barred from gun possession due to a temporary mental treatment order regains their Second Amendment rights once the order expires.

The U.S. Department of Justice released thousands of subpoenaed documents about the controversial "Operation Fast and Furious" gun trafficking investigation to a congressional committee. The operation was a failed effort to stop gun smuggling across the United States' southwestern border by the department's Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. As part of the operation, the department knowingly allowed people to illegally buy guns in the United States and take them into Mexico, court documents showed. The U.S. House Oversight and Government Reform Committee is demanding more documents in a court appeal.

More than 100 medical groups asked Congress to fund research on gun violence at the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and end a decades-long stop to federal public health research on the subject. The groups sent a letter asking an end of the dramatic chilling effect of the current rider language and to fund this critical work. It has had no effect. Also in this issue: ● Judge allows Sandy Hook liability case to proceed ● Several states advancing pro-gun rights laws ● Marianas puts \$1,000 excise tax on pistol ● Five armed citizen heroes in our Page 8 Parting Shot.

JUDGE IGNORES FEDERAL LAW, ALLOWS SANDY HOOK CASE TO PROCEED

The decision by Connecticut Superior Court Judge Barbara N. Bellis refusing to dismiss the lawsuit filed against gun manufacturers by the parents of murdered children at Sandy Hook Elementary School is plainly wrong as a matter of law. Adam Lanza, a mentally disturbed youth, killed the victims with a semi-automatic AR-15 that had been legally bought. The parents filed a wrongful death lawsuit in state court against Remington Arms and others. The defendants filed a motion to have the case dismissed, relying on federal law that prohibits such lawsuits. Yet Judge Bellis used a false argument in order to get out of doing what the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act compels her to do - dismiss this lawsuit. Her ruling may be appealed where Bellis' ruling is expected to be revoked.

JUSTICE MAY BE PRESSURED TO RECUSE HIMSELF IN MAINE GUN RIGHTS CASE

A Maine judge hearing a controversial gun rights case disclosed that he had once been a member of former New York Michael Bloomberg's Mayors Against Illegal Guns. Justice William Stokes, a former prosecutor and Mayor of Augusta, requested the lawyers to file motions whether or not they wanted him to recuse himself. The case of 68-year-old Harvey Lembo made headlines after he shot an intruder. Disabled Lembo bought the gun to protect himself because of previous break-ins. He wounded Christopher Wildhaber, who was charged with burglary. Lembo was threatened with eviction by his apartment complex manager unless he gave up his gun. The federally subsidized complex is forbidden by state law to prohibit tenants from owning firearms.

**IN THE
COURTS**

STAY DENIED IN DISPUTE OVER D.C. GUN LAW

In a setback for gun rights advocates, a federal judge rejected an appeal by gun owners who had sued to overturn D.C.'s strict handgun regulation. The District of Columbia District Court ruled that the Second Amendment Foundation and three gun owners who sued D.C. over the handgun law failed to justify why their lawsuit should be stayed. U.S. District Judge Colleen Kollar-Kotelly ruled against the gun owners, finding that they failed to show a likelihood of success in their case or that the injunction would be in the public interest. She wrote in her ruling that the public had a "strong interest" in handgun regulations because of public safety, which likely overrode alleged constitutional violations.

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI FILES COUNTERSUIT AGAINST PROFESSOR IN GUN LAWSUIT

The University of Missouri is countersuing a law-school professor who has asked a court to invalidate the university's ban on firearms. Royce de R. Barondes' case has the potential to redefine the limits of acceptable gun regulations under Missouri's Constitution, which voters amended in 2014 to make the right to bear arms "unalienable." Barondes filed his lawsuit in Cole County, so the university's team of lawyers moved the case to federal court to harass Barondes with more costs and sought a court order forbidding Barondes from bringing a gun onto campus.

SAF SUES MONTANA OVER LAW BARRING CCW PERMITS FOR LEGAL RESIDENT ALIENS

The Second Amendment Foundation filed a lawsuit in federal district court in Montana, challenging the state law that does not allow concealed carry licenses to be issued to legal resident aliens, because only citizens are issued such permits in the Big Sky Country. "This is not our first rodeo on this subject," said SAF founder and Executive Vice President Alan M. Gottlieb. "We've successfully fought similar laws in New Mexico, North Carolina and Omaha, Nebraska. In other states, such as Washington, just the threat of legal action has resulted in a change of the law." The case is brought on behalf of Lenka Knutson, a 34-year-old mother of two who resides in Whitefish with her husband and children. She received a permanent resident visa in 2005, and has worked as a bank teller supervisor since 2007.

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CIVIL RIGHTS SUIT ALLEGES CALIFORNIA GAVE *EXEMPTIONS* TO SECURE GUN BAN

The Firearms Policy Foundation filed a suit against the state of California and Attorney General Kamala Harris, alleging the state made special "exemptions" for former police officers in order to secure passage of Senate Bill 707, which barred concealed carry permit holders from carrying concealed handguns on campus but allowed former police officers to carry when they wish. The suit alleges that the state violated the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment by creating a group who can carry concealed: former police officers; and a group who cannot: concealed carry permit holders.

Thus, say the plaintiffs, when SB 707 took effect on January 1, it established preferential treatment for retired "peace officers" over and above the rights of law-abiding private citizens approved to carry a handgun, despite the fact that retired "peace officers" are not authorized to engage in law enforcement activities any more than their fellow private citizens. SB 707's favorable treatment applies to a wide list of retired government employees whose jobs involved "enforcing" the law, including retired IRS agents, retired employees of the California Fish and Game Department, and retirees from the Department of Parks and Recreation.

IN THE COURTS

GUN OWNERS FIGHT CALIFORNIA OVER SCHOOL CONCEALED CARRY RIGHTS

People with concealed carry permits also sued California, claiming exempting retired peace officers from a law banning guns in schools discriminates against people who are not retired peace officers. Eleven people sued Attorney General Kamala Harris in Federal Court. Lead plaintiff in *Garcia, et al. v. Attorney General Kamala Harris* is Ulises Garcia, a doctor who has a concealed weapon permit to protect against "multiple threats of violence from a former patient." He and the 10 other individuals say "The Ninth Circuit has already held that there is no rational basis for the State to treat retired "peace officers" more favorably than law-abiding members of the general public when it comes to limiting access to firearms, yet that's exactly what Senate Bill 707 did."

FLORIDA JUSTICES WILL NOT HEAR CHALLENGE TO UNIVERSITY GUN POLICY

In a victory for the University of Florida, the state Supreme Court declined to take up a dispute about whether guns should be allowed in university housing. The high court issued a brief order saying it would not hear an appeal by the gun rights group Florida Carry, Inc. The decision let stand a 1st District Court of Appeal ruling that upheld a ban on firearms in residence halls and other school housing. As is customary, the Supreme Court did not explain its reasons for declining to take up the case.

MISSOURI SUPREME COURT SAYS DEALERS CAN BE SUED FOR CUSTOMERS' GUN USE

In 2012, Janet Delana called a pawn shop in Odessa, Missouri, and begged an employee not to sell a gun to her suicidal, schizophrenic daughter. Missouri law allows gun sellers to refuse a sale, for any reason. But the employee told Delana that he couldn't make any promises. Two days later, the pawn shop sold Weathers a Hi-Point .45-caliber pistol, which she then used to shoot and kill her father. Delana sued the pawn shop, which was rejected in court, but the Missouri Supreme Court determined that the case could proceed to jury trial. The court ruled that the lawsuit could proceed with a "negligent entrustment" claim because of foreknowledge of the danger. The seven-judge panel was unanimous in its decision.

COURT ORDERS NEW JERSEY TO PAY GUN GROUP'S LEGAL COSTS TO GET STATE DOCUMENTS

The state Attorney General's Office has paid a New Jersey gun rights group \$101,626 in legal costs and released documents describing the state's firearms background check process after fighting their disclosure in court for years. The payment was ordered by a judge after a lengthy legal battle between the state and the New Jersey Second Amendment Society, which was seeking the State Police's guide for local departments performing checks on those applying for gun permits. It comes after a commission formed by Gov. Chris Christie issued a December report finding New Jersey's permitting process was opaque and inefficient. Society President Alexander Roubian called the decision "a partial victory." He said the group had filed an appeal because the document they received was heavily redacted.

GUNS-IN-CARS BILL PASSES ALABAMA SENATE

The Alabama Senate passed a bill that would allow people to carry loaded handguns in their vehicles without a concealed carry permit. The bill, by Sen. Gerald Allen, R-Tuscaloosa, moves to the House. Allen said people should be able to have a gun in their car for protection, just as they do in their homes. "Your vehicle is an extension of your home," Allen said. Current law requires handguns in vehicles to be unloaded and locked away out of reach unless the owner has a concealed carry permit. The bill passed by a vote of 27-7. The legislation has drawn opposition from some in law enforcement who have said it could make traffic stops for police more dangerous. Many county sheriffs also rely on money raised from issuing concealed carry permits.

ALASKA SENATE PASSES CAMPUS CARRY FOR FIREARMS, KNIVES

The Alaska Senate passed campus carry legislation that also allows persons with concealed carry licenses to carry their firearms in dormitories. The legislation-Senate Bill 174-passed by a vote of 13 to 5. According to KTVA, SB 174 takes aim at the University of Alaska's anti-gun policies. Bill sponsor senator Pete Kelly (R-Dist. A), said, "The policy of the University of Alaska is to say, OK, concealed carry is available to the rest of the state, but not on our campus. And for them to do that, they do it in a manner to achieve, they have said, the safety, it's a safety issue with them. But of course we have seen that declaring an area a gun free zone and achieving safety are not connected in any way."

IN THE STATES

ARIZONA HOUSE BACKS BILL ALLOWING GUNS IN PUBLIC BUILDINGS

The Arizona House has voted for a proposal allowing concealed-carry permits holders to carry guns into some public buildings. The proposal by Republican Sen. John Kavanaugh passed on a mainly party-line 35-23 vote with all but one Republican voting yes and all Democrats opposed. It must return to the Senate because of a House amendment. Courtrooms, federal buildings, high schools and universities are exempt, and the House amendment added Maricopa Medical Center. Senate Bill 1257 would require operators of public establishments to allow permit-holders to carry their firearms unless they employ security guards and metal detectors at entrances. The costs to the state for needed security are estimated at up to \$6 million a year and up to \$13 million a year at Maricopa County facilities alone.

CALIFORNIA GUN CONTROL ADVOCATES SCORE KEY LEGISLATIVE VICTORIES

There is growing concern by gun owners in California about new legislation. The package of 10 gun control bills has firearms owners fearful of losing their Second Amendment right to bear arms. "Gun-Megeddon is definitely coming to pass," said Craig DeLuz of the Firearms Policy Coalition. One measure, SB 1446, would prohibit high-capacity magazines, capable of shooting more than 10 rounds at a time. "Not one of the laws that are being pushed today makes Californians safer," Deluz said. "All they do is put restrictions on law-abiding citizens."

COLORADO BILL TO REPEAL MAGAZINE BAN PASSES SENATE

The Colorado Senate Bill 113 was put to a vote and passed 20-13, which is a victory for Colorado residents by repealing the 15-Round magazine capacity limit, a poorly-crafted law from 2013. It is the exact reason why Magpul took its company's headquarters to Texas, and Texas was happy to accept them. They didn't exit their home state without a fight though. In a phenomenal act of defiance they sold limited edition magazine packs to stop the bill. Magpul has since gone on to grow their company and product offerings significantly while Colorado lost a lot of tax money from a firearms industry icon. The bill must now pass the House.

DEFIANT MARIANAS IMPOSE \$1,000 EXCISE TAX ON PISTOLS

Governor Ralph Torres of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands signed into law a gun-control measure that imposes a \$1,000 excise tax on handguns – a provision that could be challenged in court. In his remarks, Torres said: "This is something that none of us wanted to have," referring to Senate Bill 19-94 which made the U.S. territory obey Second Amendment gun rights. "I don't think anyone here in this office wants to see handguns on the street. Unfortunately however, the only option we have is to make regulations as strict as possible."

MISSISSIPPI GOVERNOR SIGNS PERMITLESS CARRY BILL

Gov. Phil Bryant signed House Bill 786 into law, which legalizes permitless carry in Mississippi, despite months of misleading attacks by out-of-state gun control groups funded by the former mayor of New York City, Michael Bloomberg. The law goes into effect immediately. "Gov. Bryant stood strong for the Second Amendment by signing this significant bill, in spite of billionaire Michael Bloomberg's attempts to spread lies about it," said Chris W. Cox of the NRA. "It's a great day for law-abiding gun owners in Mississippi. This will allow them to carry firearms for personal protection in the manner that best suits their needs."

NEW HAMPSHIRE SENATE APPROVES CONSTITUTIONAL CARRY

For the second time in two years, lawmakers in New Hampshire have sent a bill to make the Second Amendment your concealed carry permit to the governor. Last fall, staunch anti-gun Democrat Gov. Maggie Hassan vetoed a measure placed on her desk to codify the right to carry without first being issued a permit. A new proposal this session passed the House with a 206-146 vote earlier this year and the Senate 14-10 this week. "This is our opportunity to ensure the Second Amendment rights of our constituents are upheld," said supporter Sen. Gary Daniels, R-Milford, on the Senate floor. A veto could set the stage for a potential override such as the one seen already this year in West Virginia where state legislators overturned Democrat Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin's attempt to stop similar legislation.

IN THE STATES

NEW JERSEY DEMOCRATS BLOCK IMPROVED GUN RULES

Democrats say they'll seek to block Gov. Chris Christie's administration from making it easier for people to get permits to carry guns. Christie announced that the state would change the state's famously stringent gun rules to allow serious but generalized threats to be sufficient reason for a person to be eligible to carry a gun. "The change in regulation as promoted by the governor doesn't just strip away the intent of the Legislature to limit who can carry outside the home, it is worded so vaguely that virtually anyone will be able to come up with a reason to carry a gun in public," said Assembly Majority Leader Louis Greenwald, D-Camden. Christie in making the proposal referenced the case of Carol Bowne of Berlin, who was stabbed to death last June, allegedly by an ex-boyfriend against whom she had a restraining order, while she awaited an overdue response for her gun-permit application.

TENNESSEE GUN RIGHTS LAW SHIELDS FIREARMS FROM INTERNATIONAL TREATIES

A new gun-rights law enacted in Tennessee prohibits the state from enforcing any limits on firearms imposed by international law and treaties. The text of the bill states: "[N]o personnel or property of this state...shall be allocated to the implementation, regulation, or enforcement of any international law or treaty regulating the ownership, use, or possession of firearms, ammunition, or firearm accessories, if the use of personnel or property" would violate gun-rights protections in state law or in the state Constitution. Republican Gov. Bill Haslam signed the legislation after it easily passed both houses with only two lawmakers voting against it. It takes effect in July, but whether will have any impact on guns in Tennessee is an open question.

WASHINGTON GOVERNOR SIGNS PRO-GUN BILL INTO LAW AND MAKE ANTI-GUN RULE

Washington Governor Jay Inslee signed Senate Bill 6165 into law. Companion bill to House Bill 2481, SB 6165 clarifies the current, inadequately-written exemption in Washington law that is intended to allow individuals who are licensed under federal law to manufacture, own, buy, sell, furnish or be in possession of short-barreled rifles (SBR). Federal Form 1 processing will now be more easily accessible by Washingtonians seeking to build, buy or own an SBR. Inslee also signed an executive order aimed at curbing gun violence by requiring data-sharing among government agencies and starting a new "public health" campaign on suicide prevention. "We are not afraid to take action here in Washington state," Inslee said after criticizing inaction by Congress on gun violence. Washington state already has expanded background checks to include online sales and purchases at gun shows, so Inslee's action was seen as mere political posing.

GUN NEWS TICKER - QUICK TAKES ON THE NEWS

● **Harrisburg, Pennsylvania:** A new survey conducted by Harper Polling indicates that Hillary Clinton isn't just in the minority on this issue ... it's not even close. Some 72 percent of those surveyed agree that the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act "should be kept and we should punish the criminals who commit these acts not the law-abiding manufacturers and retailers of lawful products which get misused" instead of "this law should be repealed because the current protection enables manufacturers and retailers to sell guns to people who shouldn't have them, because they know they cannot be sued and don't face any consequences" (26 percent). Only 4 percent were not sure.

● **Hollywood, California:** Actor Brad Pitt (World War Z, Fight Club, Mr. and Mrs. Smith) co-chaired the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence gun control awards gala. The gala was held at the Four Seasons Hotel at Beverly Hills. The Brady Campaign advertised the gun control gala as the "Bear Awards," and listed Pitt and Adam McKay as co-chairs. The cheapest tickets were \$500, although non-attendees are free to make donations for gun control in any amount. The "Bear Awards" are named after Jim "Bear" Brady, former press secretary for Ronald Reagan. The awards are dedicated to honoring those who fight for more gun control restrictions for law-abiding citizens throughout America. Vietnam war protester Jane Fonda served on the Honorary Host Committee for the gun control gala. *Los Angeles Eventful* listed other Honorary Host Committee members as Aziz Ansari, Bryan Cranston, Robin Dearden, Jenna Fischer, Tom Hansen, Judy Hofflund, Dustin Hoffman, Lee Kirk, Julia Louis-Dreyfus, and Jason Segel.

● **Charleston, South Carolina:** The Citadel has bowed to cadet pressure – and influence from Gov. Nikki Haley – and will allow cadets with concealed weapons permits to keep their personal guns in their cars. The school's Board of Visitors last weekend voted to suspend its code of regulations and instead will recognize state law that allows all state permit carriers to keep their weapons locked in their vehicles. The move came after cadets used a speaking visit by the governor to get her to use her influence with school president Lt. Gen. John Rosa to make the regulation change. Cadet Austin Lee, who originally confronted the governor during a speech at McAlister Field House, praised the decision in a group statement he issued with three other cadets. "We would like to thank all of the cadets and gun-rights supporters who made this change possible," said Lee, a soon-to-be graduating senior. "It has been a long hard road, but we are ecstatic about our victory."

● **Baltimore, Maryland:** At a campaign event, daughter of presidential front-runner Hillary Clinton, Chelsea Clinton said the death of Justice Antonin Scalia last February is an opportunity for more pro-gun control Supreme Court justices to be nominated by her mom once in office. Clinton said, "It matters to me that my mom also recognizes the role the Supreme Court has when it comes to gun control. With Justice Scalia on the bench, one of the few areas where the Court actually had an inconsistent record relates to gun control. So it matters to me that my mom is the only person running for president who not only constantly makes that connection but also has a strong record on gun control and standing up to the NRA."

● **Bellevue, Washington:** Responding to Democrat Hillary Clinton's assertion during a "gun violence forum" in Philadelphia that there are "too many guns" in America, the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms is telling the former Secretary of State that "Our guns are none of your business. Who put Hillary Clinton in charge of deciding how many firearms are too many," CCRKBA Chairman Alan Gottlieb questioned. "But, like the man she wants to succeed in the White House, it doesn't appear that the Constitution or the Second Amendment rights of American citizens mean much to her."

● **Atlanta, Georgia:** Piers Morgan, the TV personality who hosted the eponymous CNN night talk show between 2011 and 2014 admits his insistence on continuously covering gun control issues "wasn't good for ratings." Despite leaving the show earlier than many people than expected, Morgan said he didn't get fired. "I rubbed many Americans up the wrong way, it was time to go back to the U.K.," he said.

GUN NEWS TICKER - QUICK TAKES ON THE NEWS

● **New York City:** An ABC News/Refinery 29 poll shows that millennial women rank the issue of "protecting gun rights" on par with "equal pay for women" and "preserving access to abortion." Twenty-one percent of millennial women cited "student loan debt" and "economic inequality" as their two biggest issues in the upcoming presidential election. Those issues were followed by "protecting gun rights," "equal pay for women," and "preserving access to abortion," all three of which received 11 percent support regarding their importance in the upcoming election. It is interesting to note that a majority of the millennial women also said they do not consider themselves "feminist," and they chose Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-VT) 16% over Hillary Clinton for president. Moreover, they said Sanders was more "inspirational" than Clinton.

● **Bellevue, Washington:** Democratic front-runner Hillary Rodham Clinton has been caught in a cleverly crafted fib about Vermont being a major source of illegal guns in New York, the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms said. "The Washington Post Fact Checker just handed Hillary a 'Three Pinocchios' for what it says is 'a significantly misleading impression' Clinton created," said CCRKBA Chairman Alan Gottlieb. Clinton said that Vermont is the source of the "highest per capita number of" crime guns in New York. But the Fact Checker noted, "The number of crime guns in New York from Vermont is so small that it could even be attributed to one or two bad actors. Using the per capita measure of trafficked guns originating from Vermont is as pointless as counting guns trafficked per 100,000 head of cattle."

● **Dallas, Texas:** Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton has found the "no guns" signage at the Dallas County government center in northwest Dallas to be in violation of state law, putting the county at risk of legal action and thousands of dollars in fines. The county has long had a gun ban at the government center, since it houses justice of the peace and truancy courts. County officials have defended their interpretation of state law that they can ban guns in the entirety of a building that contains a government court. But a Dallas resident argued that a building-wide ban was illegal, since the center also features non-court offices. Paxton's office told the county to remove the signs, saying a "reviewing court would likely conclude the county abused its discretion" with a gun ban that extends beyond the courtrooms and offices.

● **New York City:** During an airing of The Howard Stern Show on Sirius XM, Howard Stern told a caller that the handgun is "the great equalizer." Stern defended the Second Amendment, saying, "I believe every citizen needs the right to be armed." Stern used an example involving co-host Robin Quivers to make a point: Think about it. If Robin was walking alone in a parking lot and two men were going to approach her with the idea of robbing and raping her, what is her only option? In other words, let's say we took away all the guns on the planet. How else would you defend yourself against a thug with a baseball bat with a chain around it? How the hell could you protect your family, your wife, your children, or how would a woman protect her property or prevent being raped without a handgun? It's the only thing that equalizes."

● **Macomb County, Michigan:** After several brutal attacks and a driveby shooting near their home, Scott and Cherie McCullough, both 53, arrived together to submit their concealed pistol license applications at the Macomb County Clerk's Office - which is on pace to double the number of CPL applications it has received this year compared with prior years and has hired additional staff to help process the influx. Other counties are also seeing more applications to carry concealed weapons.

● **Madison, Wisconsin:** Wisconsin's Department of Justice has issued 300,000 concealed carry permits since the law went into effect in 2011. The department says concealed carry applications have been at record high levels in recent months and the high interest shows no sign of subsiding. According to a news release, the department's Crime Information Bureau has processed more than 19,500 concealed carry applications since the start of this year alone, putting it on track to far outpace last year's 45,500 applications. Attorney General Brad Schimel said in a statement that Wisconsin has always had a rich tradition of firearms ownership and he's proud to help citizens exercise their Second Amendment rights.

Parting Shot

FIVE ARMED CITIZEN HEROES FROM ALASKA TO FLORIDA

Alaska State Troopers attempted to pull over a man in Wasilla, Alaska, but were led on a high-speed chase. The fleeing driver abandoned his car and ran away. A homeowner who saw that the police were chasing ordered him to stop. The fleeing driver started a fistfight and the homeowner drew a firearm and shot the man in the leg. The man was captured and jailed by state troopers. Alaska State Troopers spokeswoman Megan Peters said, "No charges are filed against the homeowner."

Around 10:30 p.m. one night three masked teenage thugs entered a home in Rochester, New York, and began to assault the homeowner's 16-year-old daughter. The unarmed 51-year old dad interrupted the three thugs, who chased him outdoors where they shot him in the foot. The infuriated dad grappled with the shooter, grabbed the gun away and smashed him in the face with it, blinding him with blood. Two suspects fled, but police took the thug and the dad to the hospital. The dad had non-life threatening injuries and the teen had serious facial injuries.

Bobby Hoblit, owner of Dayton, Ohio's Sundeck Tanning Salon, and his girlfriend Megan were working the counter when a man walked in and demanded money. When Megan opened the drawer he said, "I don't want any trouble, just give me all the cash." At that point Megan's instincts kicked in and the salon had a hidden pistol. She grabbed it, pointed it right at his face and said, 'I don't think you're going to get that money today.'" The would-be robber fled and police said he was a suspect in 5 robberies in the vicinity within less than an hour.

The 54-year-old owner of a deli in Cleveland, Ohio was manning the store about 9:45 p.m. and talking to a friend who was helping run the shop when two masked men burst in pointing guns and demanded money. A man walking by the store saw the problem and flagged down a passing police car. The owner held out his cash to the robbers, they grabbed it and ran but saw the cop waiting at the door and ran back. The owner's friend pulled out his gun and chased the thugs into the back room and forced them to surrender. A SWAT team responded and jailed the pair.

In Jacksonville, Florida, Thomas Joyner, 26, entered a Metro PCS cellphone store about 8 p.m. on a Saturday night and pulled a gun on the clerk, demanding all the money. The clerk opened the cash drawer and pulled out his own gun, using it to slap the suspect's gun to the side and fired at Joyner, hitting him in the shoulder. Joyner fell, but got up and staggered away. He showed up later Saturday night at an emergency room, where he was taken to Orange Park Medical Center and placed under guard.

Alan M. Gottlieb

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