

**12/9/24** A 35-year old Chicago man with a CCW is charged with murder for fatally shooting an erratically-behaving transient. When a black-clad homeless man approached and did an “air kick,” John Conway pulled a handgun and shot him dead. Officers searching Conway’s residence found a sniper-type rifle and other guns, a city map festooned with X’s, a State map with colleges circled, and an elaborate written plan for harming a third party that included escape routes. Conway was ordered detained.

**11/29/24** A “sting” operation by Lake County, Indiana sheriff’s detectives led to the arrest of an Indiana couple for straw-buying a half-dozen handguns at a gun show. Julian Sgiers, 29, admitted that he had his girlfriend Tristyn Sampson, 30, use her drivers license to acquire the weapons, which he intended to resell to two other persons, including a teen. Sgiers, who has felony convictions in Indiana and Illinois, told Lake County, Indiana sheriff’s detectives that he had “fallen on hard times” and was simply “trying to make some money.” He and Sampson were booked on multiple felonies.

**9/2/24** Dallas man Corey Cobb-Bey walked up to a patrol car that was parked by a community center. He drew a pistol and fired, killing the sole occupant, officer Darron Burks. Cobb-Bey shot and wounded two other officers who came on scene and fled. He was soon confronted by more officers, at whom he fired a shotgun. Their return fire killed him. Cobb-Bey’s guns were reportedly legally bought. His [Texas criminal history](#) shows one arrest and conviction, in 2017, for misdemeanor giving false/fictitious I.D.

**7/19/24** Firearms were prohibited in the buildings where the Republican National Convention was held, and in the immediate “hard perimeters” where only credentialed persons could pass. [Wisconsin state law](#), though, permits unlicensed open carry of handguns and long guns. It also allows unrestricted [concealed carry by permittees](#). What’s more, state law [prohibits cities from imposing tighter restrictions](#). So Milwaukee citizens who legally carry guns were likely nearby. Ditto, those who flout such laws. Such as the ski-mask wearing soul who was carrying a concealed pistol in a bag about “a three-minute walk” away. He lacked the required permit and [was arrested for a misdemeanor](#). [Perimeter security maps](#)

**7/16/24** Thomas Matthew Crooks, the 20-year old who tried to assassinate former President Trump, was a member of the “[Clairton Sportsmen’s Club](#).” Its vast, Pittsburgh-area facility offers marksmanship classes and hosts youth shooting events. One of its ranges [is designed for high-powered rifles](#), with targets “up to 187 yards away.” According to the FBI, Crooks used an AR-style 5.56mm rifle that had been legally purchased by his father. How the son came to possess it has not been revealed.

7/15/24 Thomas Matthew Crooks, the 20-year old who opened fire at the Trump rally in Butler, Pennsylvania, was a high-school grad who worked at a nursing home in nearby Bethel Park, where he lived with his parents. Crooks used an “AR-15 style” rifle that his father purchased months earlier. [Pennsylvania law allows persons 18 or older to buy and possess handguns and long guns. It does not restrict assault weapons.](#) Crooks supposedly wore a gun-themed T-shirt during the assault. A past fellow student described him as a loner who wore “hunting outfits” to school and was chronically bullied. Crooks had no adult criminal record. Authorities found “bomb-making materials” in his vehicle and residence.

4/29/24 Tennessee Governor Bill Lee signed a bill, drafted in response to the 2023 Covenant school massacre, that allows teachers whose schools have entered into special agreements with local police to carry concealed handguns. Teachers who want to be armed must pass a background check and psychological evaluation and undergo 40 hours of special training. But it’s really up to the schools. Nashville’s system, which has school resource officers on each campus, declined to participate. (See 4/3/25 update)

2/22/24 Called by concerned persons who were unable to contact the family, San Mateo, Calif. police found the bodies of a man, woman and their two children inside their home. Anand Henry, 37, apparently shot his wife dead, then killed himself. Their twin sons were also deceased, but not from gunfire. Their cause of death is as yet unknown. Henry’s registered handgun was found nearby. He was a software engineer; his wife was a data scientist. According to police, neither had a violent history.

1/26/24 A 26-year old man was found guilty of murder in the May, 2021 shooting death of a six-year old on a Southern California freeway. Marcus Eriz, 26, was riding in a car that cut off the vehicle which the child occupied. Eriz flashed a peace sign at its driver, the child’s mother; she responded with a hostile gesture and sped away. He in turn drew his licensed pistol and fired once. His bullet pierced the other car and fatally wounded the child. Eriz testified that he had been angered but meant no harm.

1/24/24 According to families of his victims, Louisville bank employee Connor Sturgeon acted oddly and seem to know little about guns when he bought the AR-15 rifle he used to murder five co-workers. A lawsuit just filed by the families against the store claims that Sturgeon’s behavior should have prevented the April 2023 sale, which took place only six days before the massacre. Sturgeon’s family, on the other hand, was well aware of his mental health struggles. But [Kentucky lacks a “Red Flag” law.](#)

12/8/23 The 67-year old ex-professor who opened fire in a UNLV building, killing three and wounding one, was being evicted from his apartment. Anthony Polito carried

a “list of targets” that included faculty at UNLV (at least two of his victims were UNLV professors) and a North Carolina university where he had taught. Polito had sent letters to more than twenty faculty members, and one contained “white powder.” His gun, a 9mm. pistol, was legally purchased, and he carried a large quantity of ammunition.

**11/28/23** Jason J. Eaton, a 48-year old man who recently relocated from Syracuse, was arrested for the November 26 shooting of three Palestinian-American college students in Burlington. Eaton, who legally purchased the gun he reportedly used in the attack, pled not guilty and is being held without bail. He does not have a criminal record and was never suspected of committing a crime. But he is named in 37 Syracuse police reports dating back to 2007, including 21 as a victim or complainant.

**10/6/23** A shirtless, middle-aged man with a holstered handgun entered the Wisconsin capitol and asked to see the Governor. Instead, he was arrested for carrying the handgun in a restricted area. Joshua Pleasnick posted \$800 bail and was released that evening. He returned to the building’s exterior an hour later with an assault rifle. While carrying a rifle outside is legal, Pleasnick had a collapsible police baton (considered a weapon) in his backpack. He was arrested for CCW and placed on a mental hold.

**8/30/23** Jacksonville shooter Ryan Palmeto, who murdered three persons at a Dollar Store, was a former Dollar employee. He was shooed away by a guard from another Dollar location before embarking on his massacre. A college drop-out, Palmeto had a deeply troubled mental history. Years earlier he had run away from home, leaving a suicide note. This time he left behind “the diary of a madman.”

**8/28/23** Wielding an AR-15 rifle and a Glock pistol, a racially-driven 21-year old White man shot and killed a Black woman outside a Dollar General store in Jacksonville, Florida. Ryan Palmeto then burst inside, murdered a Black shopper and a Black employee, and committed suicide. Years ago Palmeto was taken in by his parents for a mental exam, but the circumstances of his release did not prohibit him from legally buying his weapons at a local gun store earlier this year.

**8/24/23** A retired Ventura, Calif. police sergeant opened fire on his estranged wife and other patrons at Cook’s Corner, a well-known Los Angeles-area biker bar. Three were killed and six, including his ex-wife, were wounded. Orange County deputies promptly responded and fired at the gunman, who was outside the bar. John Snowling became the fourth fatality of America’s most recent mass-shooting event.

**8/12/23** “I just lost it. I just shot my wife. I won’t be in tomorrow. I will be in custody. I’m so sorry.” Sent moments after he pulled a pistol from an ankle holster and shot his

wife, Sheryl Ferguson, dead, Orange County (Calif.) Superior Court Judge Jeffrey Ferguson's text message shocked the Southland criminal justice community. Police later seized the pistol and 46 other legally acquired weapons from the unhappy couple's home. Ferguson, 72, has been released on \$1 million bond.

**7/27/23** Police searching the home of Long Island, NY architect Rex A. Heuermann, who has been charged with murdering three women, found 279 firearms in his residence. Among them were 92 handguns for which he had permits. Heuermann's victims are among the eleven sex workers whose bodies were recovered from area beach-side communities more than a decade ago.

**6/26/23** [Stimulated in part by the pandemic](#), fears of personal safety led to a surge of gun purchase by persons who had not owned a firearm. Meanwhile, gun buying by previous owners "didn't stop." Researchers warn that having a gun raises the risk of both homicide and suicide. And of lethal mistakes. Armed persons - including cops - are more likely to perceive (and misperceive) that others are armed: "holding that gun is distorting how you're seeing the world." [And instead of old-fashioned](#) "duking it out," access to guns has led to a soaring rate of homicide among teens, who express anger by pulling a trigger.

**6/22/23** Majorjon Kaylor, 31 and his wife shared a Kellogg, Washington duplex with a 65-year old man, his adult daughter and her two teen sons. One of the boys, who "struggled socially," had exposed himself to the Kaylor's daughters. That enraged Majorjon. But his complaints weren't apparently taken seriously enough. So Majorjon got his .45 caliber pistol and executed the family, shooting all four in the head. Majorjon has a minor criminal record, mostly traffic but with one misdemeanor drug conviction.

**6/20/23** Hunter Biden, the President's troubled son, has long admitted having a drug problem, supposedly brought on by the death of his brother. He's now agreed to plead guilty to misdemeanor tax violations. He is also being charged with being an illegal drug user in possession of a handgun ([18 USC 922\[g\]\[3\]](#)) stemming from his purchase of a Colt Cobra .38 caliber revolver in 2018. But that charge will be held in abeyance and dismissed if he successfully completes a two-year diversion program.

**6/19/23** In rural Ohio, a "quiet, calm" neighborhood is in shock after one of its residents lined up his three young sons, ages 3, 4 and 7, and shot them dead with a rifle. Chad Doerman, 32, also shot his wife in the hand as she tried to shield the boys from his inexplicable act. Doerman, who admits he planned the killings, surrendered peacefully. According to [a Sheriff's press release](#) a 9-1-1 caller reported that "a female juvenile was seen running down the road stating that her father was killing everyone."

**6/13/23** [Susan Lorincz, the White Florida woman](#) who shot and killed a Black neighbor who angrily pounded on her door, admitted calling the victim's children the "N word" because of repeated prior instances of "disrespect". One child said that on the evening of the shooting Lorincz "gave the children the middle finger" and said "get away from my house, you Black slave." That night Lorincz was reportedly angered because neighbors were "screaming and yelling" and kids "were running around."

[Twenty-one months in Federal prison.](#) That's the sentence handed down to Virginia mom Deja Taylor, 26, whose six-year old took her gun to his Newport News school this January and gravely wounded his teacher. Taylor, a chronic marijuana user whose home and vehicle were found replete with weed, pled guilty to falsely denying that she used drugs on the Federal gun-purchase form. A lawsuit filed by the teacher alleging that school authorities ignored warnings the boy was armed is pending. NOTE: On 12/15/23 Taylor [drew a 2-year prison term](#) for felony child neglect, to run consecutively to her Federal sentence.

**5/22/23** Two weeks after the March 27th. Nashville massacre, Tennessee's governor signed a law that further limits lawsuits against the firearms industry. [According to the bill's sponsor](#), its purpose "is just to try to help businesses in this state." Still, some "high profile" shootings have led to settlements. For example, the \$73 million paid by Remington to the families of the Sandy Hook victims. Meanwhile in Texas, families of the Uvalde victims are pressing on with their lawsuit against gun manufacturer Daniel Defense over its allegedly risky marketing practices.

**5/22/23** [Maryland doesn't have a "stand your ground" law.](#) However, [it lets persons openly carry long guns](#) in public. And that's what MAGA-hat clad J'Den McAdory, 20, [has been doing since February](#) as he walks around suburban neighborhoods with an AR-type rifle fitted with an extended magazine slung around his shoulders. McAdory concedes that seeing him near schools and school bus stops might put people off. But his purpose is benign: to do away with "the stigma of people carrying guns in public."

**5/18/23** Beau Wilson, the 18-year old Farmington, New Mexico youth who killed three and wounded six, fired most of his volleys, including 176 rounds from his assault rifle, from the home where he lived with his father. He left behind a note that begins "If your reading this Im the end of the chapter."

**5/17/23** Beau Wilson, the youth who went on an armed rampage in his Farmington, New Mexico neighborhood on May 15, killing three and wounding six, had three weapons, including an assault rifle that he legally purchased when he turned eighteen

last October. His other guns came from his family. According to the police chief, Wilson had a record of “minor infractions” and was reportedly mentally ill.

**5/16/23** An 18-year old man armed with an AR-15 style rifle and two other guns roamed through a working-class neighborhood of Farmington, New Mexico just before the noon hour on Monday, randomly firing at homes and cars. Nine persons were struck by bullets; three died. A local police officer and a State trooper were among the injured; neither was seriously wounded. Police shot the gunman dead. His name and possible motivation have not yet been released.