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Exercising the Right

Domestic Disturbance Turns Deadly

A CBS affiliate in Minnesota reported on April 4 about a shooting that occurred after a man broke in to his ex-girlfriend's St. Paul home. Police investigators say 33-year-old Kaleef L. Barnes allegedly kicked in the front door of the house and was threatening his ex-girlfriend, who was inside. The woman's 56-year-old father, who is the owner of the house, was armed and shot Barnes multiple times after Barnes entered the house through the broken-down door.

The father dialed 911 and reported both the break-in and the shooting, and waited outside for police to arrive. Paramedics soon arrived on the scene and declared the suspect dead. The father was taken into custody for questioning and later released.

The investigation is still ongoing, but due to it appearing that Barnes broke in to the house and was a trespassing intruder threatening violence against one of the occupants, it is likely the father's shooting will be deemed justified under a state law that permits the "justifiable taking of life ... when ... preventing the commission of a felony in the actor's place of abode."

Repeat Offender Meets His End

The *Citrus County Chronicle* in Florida reported on April 5 about an intruder who was shot after forcing his way into a woman's house and getting into a physical altercation with another one of the home's occupants.

The suspect, 36-year-old Kyle Davis, was shot to death. Police investigators say that Davis physically assaulted a woman, who retreated to her home. Once inside the house, the beaten woman told the other resident about what happened. Davis then broke in to the home and started physically fighting with the woman's roommate, who then armed himself and shot Davis.

The Citrus County Sheriff's Office arrived on the scene and discovered Davis' lifeless body in the house. The investigation is ongoing, but the sheriff's department said it is likely to be ruled a justifiable homicide.

Another wild twist to this story is that the deceased suspect was imprisoned more than a decade ago for soliciting another criminal to commit first-degree murder against his then-estranged wife. Davis was in a county jail in North Carolina after being arrested for breaking in to his wife's house and attacking her multiple times. According to court records, Davis asked another inmate in the county jail to kill his wife and the four-year-old boy who lived with her at the time. Police did confirm that the woman Davis assaulted on April 2 was not the same woman from the earlier crimes, and that she received medical treatment for the injuries that Davis inflicted.

Shoot Burglars to "Save Taxpayers' Money"

A county sheriff in Santa Rosa County in northwest Florida made some remarks to the press that quickly went viral due to their brutal honesty. <u>WKRG.com</u> reported on April 21 about the wild story involving 32-year-old Brandon Harris, who fled from police by breaking in to and trespassing through multiple homes.

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Santa Rosa County Sheriff Bob Johnson said that Harris had warrants out for his arrest, and to avoid arrest he was "jumping fences and breaking into houses as he goes." As deputies broke in to the bedroom where Harris was barricaded, Harris jumped out of a window and continued to flee, but was eventually caught and arrested by police.

Harris was wanted for parole violations and aggravated assault, among other charges, but after this incident he is facing seven new charges related to burglary and attempted larceny. During the investigation, Sheriff Johnson said, police determined that one of the homeowners actually shot at Harris but missed him. Sheriff Johnson asked the homeowner who fired the shot to come forward, saying that the person won't face any charges. "We don't know what homeowner — which homeowner — shot at him. I guess they think they did something wrong, which they did not.... If somebody's breaking into your house, you're more than welcome to shoot them in Santa Rosa County, and we prefer that you do actually. Whoever that was, you're not in trouble. Come see us. We have a gun safety class we put on every other Saturday. If you take that, you'll shoot a lot better, and hopefully, you'll save taxpayers' money," Sheriff Johnson said.

Harris is being held in the Santa Rosa County jail without bond for his past crimes, and bond for his new crimes was set at more than \$150,000.

Democrat Sues Biden Administration Over Gun Policy

In a unique story out of Florida, NBC News reported on April 20 that state Agriculture Commissioner Nikki Fried filed a lawsuit against a federal requirement that bans medical marijuana users from buying guns or maintaining concealed-carry permits. Fried — who is running in the Democratic primary to challenge Ron DeSantis for Florida governor — is the only Democratic statewide politician, and her lawsuit appears to be straddling the fence between the political Right and Left to gain favor with the voters on populist issues.

The lawsuit is directed at a federal form that asks whether the gun buyer is a user of drugs and explicitly states that marijuana is illegal under federal law. Florida permits marijuana use for medicinal purposes, but the way the federal form is written, it forces a user to answer "yes," which will deny the gun purchase, or state "no," which could lead to imprisonment for making a false statement on a federal form.

If the suit is successful, it might have an impact in other states that have legalized medical marijuana or recreational marijuana use. Fried said in a statement to NBC News that "medical marijuana is legal. Guns are legal. This is all about people's rights.... And I don't care who I have to sue to fight for their freedom."



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