



Exercising the Right

Irate Customer Shoots Oil-change Employee

One of the biggest selling points about Valvoline Instant Oil Change is the speed with which its technicians can service your vehicle, but the service apparently wasn't fast enough for one customer in Memphis, Tennessee, who was so dissatisfied with his wait that things turned deadly.

The *Tennessean* reported on August 31 that when one customer took his car to a Valvoline Instant Oil Change to get air in his tires, a conflict ensued. The customer became irritated when he was told that he had to wait for his tires to be inflated, so he grabbed the air compressor hose and tried putting air in his tire on his own. An oil-change technician told the customer that he wasn't allowed to operate the air compressor, and took the air hose back from him, at which point the two men began arguing loudly.

The manager of the store intervened and told the disorderly customer that he had to leave the store, and that's when things became violent. The police investigation revealed that the customer punched the technician in the face and the two men began shoving each other. The manager, fearing the worst, ran to his own car in the parking lot and retrieved a pistol, while the technician shoved the customer back into his car and yelled for him to leave. The manager returned to the store and saw his fears realized when the customer emerged from his car brandishing a handgun and repeatedly shot the technician. The manager immediately opened fire, shooting the customer in the head and fatally wounding him. Police were called, and the customer was pronounced dead at the scene.

In a bizarre twist, an apparently homeless man entered the store moments after the shooting and stole the customer's handgun. Police located the suspect who stole the gun at a homeless shelter a few days later, but the gun was never found. The investigation is ongoing, but police do not believe the man who stole the gun had anything to do with the customer who was killed.

The technician was taken for medical treatment for gunshot wounds in the arm and the hip. The Metro Nashville Police Department interviewed the manager at police headquarters. It appears that his actions were justified under applicable law, but the investigation is not yet closed.

"It's Kind of Eating at Me."

WPXI.com reported on August 31 that a man who was wanted by the local police broke in to a house in Butler, Pennsylvania, and then was shot by the homeowner.

The investigation is ongoing, but according to Butler City Police, the suspect broke in to the house through a locked basement door and was confronted by an armed homeowner, who tried detaining the man at gunpoint.

Channel 11 interviewed the homeowner, Jeremy Cox, who told the news station that at the exact moment he was pointing his firearm at the suspect, "nothing was really going through my head except for the fact that I didn't want to kill him, but if I had to kill him, I would."

The intruder told Cox that "he was hiding from the cops, and they were outside." Cox said the suspect was obviously intoxicated and was holding an empty vodka bottle. He told the suspect to keep his hands where Cox could see them so he could be sure that the suspect wasn't armed or going to try anything dangerous.



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Unfortunately, the intruder did not comply with the homeowner's lawful demands, and kept advancing. "I took a step back again, he took a step forward. He kept telling me, 'no, no, no' then I fired a shot to the side of him to hopefully scare him.... He said 'no' and he came forward again. I shot him in his side," Cox told Channel 11.

Fortunately for the suspect, the bullet only grazed him, and he was not seriously injured. Police soon arrived and the suspect was taken for treatment to a nearby medical facility.

Even though the crime ended without loss of life, Cox says that the encounter has taken a heavy emotional toll on him. "It's weighing on me a lot because a lot of people are telling me I should've taken his life. Other people are saying 'you did good' by not taking his life. It's kind of eating at me," Cox told Channel 11. Cox also told Pittsburgh's Action News 4 that he pities the burglary suspect, explaining that he's "another guy who's probably having a hard time in his life.... He could have people that love him and want to help him."

The police investigation revealed that the suspect was currently wanted by the Butler County Sheriff's Office. After being released from the hospital, he will be charged with felony burglary. The sheriff's office issued a press release stating that the homeowner is not expected to be charged.

Taxi Driver Shoots Robber

NOLA.com reported on August 24 about a taxi driver who was targeted for robbery by a thief in New Orleans. The Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office conducted an investigation, and Captain Jason Rivarde stated that the thief ran up to the driver, pointed a gun at him, and ordered him to give him all his money. The fast-acting taxi driver pulled out his own gun and shot the suspect multiple times. The wounded suspect collapsed and was pronounced dead at the scene by arriving medical technicians.

Rivarde told NOLA.com that the death has been classified as a justifiable homicide and the taxi driver will not face any charges. Rivarde explained that the "driver was presented with a threat to his life" that justified the use of lethal force.

Investigators believe the deceased suspect is linked to other robberies of the same cab company, and that this crime may have been just the latest in his spree of taxicab robberies.



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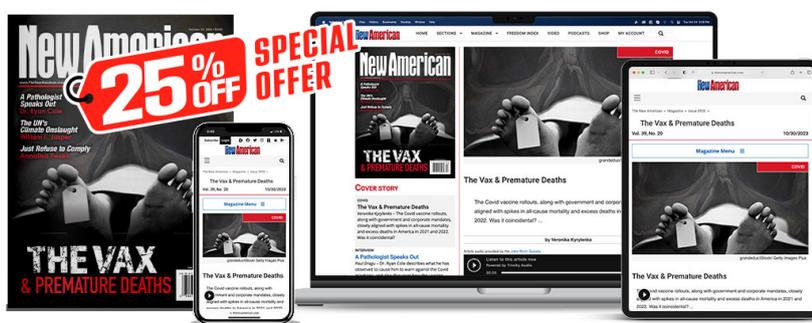
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