



Exercising the Right

Woman Shoots Intruder in Her Kid's Room

WPXI.com reported on June 26 out of Portland, Oregon, that a woman shot an intruder whom she discovered in her child's room. The woman was out of the house with her kids at the time the intruder initially broke in to the residence. She returned home with her kids and recognized the signs of forced entry. After observing a broken rear window, the woman quickly retrieved a handgun and began investigating. She encountered a 59-year-old suspect in one of the bedrooms and fired at the man, fatally injuring him.

KOIN 6 News interviewed neighbor Amber Murray, who said that the house was vacant for a while before the woman and her children moved in: "I know when the previous renters were there, there was a lot of mischief.... After they moved out I think there were a few squatters in and out of there."

NBC affiliate KGW.com reported that most neighbors supported the mother's actions. Neighbor Linda Ternes-Kent told KGW.com, "I would be scared. I would be scared.... But she had to do what she had to do. I would have done the same thing."

Local defense attorney Edward Kroll told KGW.com that he did not expect there to be any charges against the mother because, under state law, if the homeowner reasonably believes an intruder is in his house to commit a crime, a homeowner can use deadly force to protect himself.

Pink Pistols

They say politics makes strange bedfellows, and the mass shooting at a homosexual nightclub in Orlando, Florida, could prove that to be true. The Associated Press reported on July 4 about a group marketing gun ownership to the homosexual community. The group experienced a surge in membership after the Orlando shooting. The group is named the "Pink Pistols" and describes itself as being "dedicated to the legal, safe and responsible use of firearms for self-defense of the sexual-minority community. We no longer believe it is the right of those who hate and fear gay, lesbian, bi, trans or polyamorous persons to use us as targets for their rage. Self-defense is our RIGHT."

Pink Pistols Utah chapter President Matt Schlentz told the Associated Press, "As a gay man, I have to have some liberal views socially. But on this one point, I have very conservative views. The reality is what it is — the world is a violent, terrible, scary place, and people do wish me harm based on who I love."

While polling shows that the majority of people who identify as homosexual favor stricter gun-control measures, the Pink Pistols stands out with its pro-gun advocacy. The organization has more than 45 chapters nationwide, but still represents a minority view among the homosexual community when it comes to the Second Amendment. The much larger and prominent group "Gays Against Guns" appears to be a more accurate indicator for the views held on the subject matter in the homosexual community.

Pros and Cons of Shotguns for Self-defense

Outdoor Hub ran an informative article on the benefits, and drawbacks, of using a shotgun for self-defense. The article, which was written by Jim Grant and published on June 29, reviewed seven things that are mandatory to know about using shotguns for self-defense. Grant argued that "the shotgun is a



Written by [Staff](#) on August 8, 2016

Published in the August 8, 2016 issue of [the New American](#) magazine. Vol. 32, No. 15

remarkably effective tool for taking game and defending one's home" but that it's a requirement that the "shooter understands the intricacies behind doing so."

Grant dismissed the notion that you don't need to aim a shotgun very well in close quarters because it launches multiple projectiles at a time. Grant explained that the "diameter of the shot's pattern is actually relatively small, especially at the ranges encountered in home defense scenarios. Even when fired from relatively short barrels, most pellets will land inside of a 5-inch circle at indoor ranges." Grant stressed that, even with shotguns, shooters "need to carefully aim their firearm to ensure the maximum amount of rounds on target."

Grant advised that shooters regularly "practice before loading it up and setting [a shotgun] beside their bed at night." Grant further explained that reloading can be difficult, so shooters should practice "vigorously reloading their shotgun" regularly as well.

He advised using a shotgun loaded with double-ought buckshot, not birdshot, because birdshot will most likely not incapacitate an intruder. Grant also recommended that the recoil on shotguns be adjusted so that the gun can be used effectively by the shooter and, even "if after the shotgun is modified to suit a shooter, its kick still proves too much, there are other options to further reduce felt recoil. Products like limb saver pads, porting and even compensators or sound suppressors diminish the knock-back to more comfortable levels."

Grant spent much of the article dismantling the conventional wisdom about how shotguns operate that people might have learned from watching action movies, but one of his more important points was not to just rely on the sound of racking the shotgun to scare off intruders. "So our armed home owner hears a terrifying crash of glass in the night, followed by hushed speaking and footsteps. The home owner steps out into the inky black hallways of his home and confidently racks the shotgun menacingly, confident that his would-be assailants will flee in terror. What happens when the home invaders don't leave? Many people make the decision to buy a gun for defense, with zero intent of using it. This is a natural impulse; most people have no desire to kill anyone. The problem with this mentality is that you've just added a very dangerous element to the situation without the will to utilize it, against a foe who likely is. Am I advising every gun owner to blitz any threat, guns blazing? No. Shooters looking to use any firearm for home defense must understand that using their firearm in defense of themselves and loved ones will very likely result in the death of the intruder. It won't be glorious, fast or cool. It will likely be brutal, violent and horrifying — but not as bad as watching your wife and children suffer a worse fate."

— Patrick Krey



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