



## **Exercising the Right**

### **One Time Too Many**

ABC affiliate Local 10 News in Miami reported December 13 on a self-defense shooting in a neighborhood that had recently been plagued with a spike in burglaries. Police reported that the homeowner involved in the incident was alerted to someone breaking in to his house by the sound of his burglar alarm.

The homeowner grabbed a firearm and went to investigate, and discovered a man holding bolt cutters outside his house. The would-be burglar advanced toward the homeowner, who shot him in the stomach. The homeowner called 911, and authorities rushed to the scene to discover the injured suspect. The burglar was taken to a nearby hospital for surgery and is expected to recover. Neighbors told Local 10 News that their neighborhood had seen a recent uptick in burglaries and that some residents even began moving out after being repeatedly burglarized.

Neighbor Rachel Straub told Local 10 News, "I'm glad.... I think the people should be stopped."

Another female neighbor told Local 10 News that her home had been broken in to four times and that the man involved in the shooting incident had had his house burglarized just a few weeks earlier.

Neighbor Jeff Jernigan said he thought the homeowner's actions were justified: "I can't blame the guy."

### **Morning Surprise**

GreenvilleOnline reported on December 16 about a burglar who was shot by a gun he was trying to steal.

The shooting occurred in Pickens County, South Carolina, when a man returned to his home around 8 a.m. and encountered a man walking through his house carrying his guns. The homeowner confronted the intruder and was able to wrest away a rifle, which he fired at the intruder, hitting the suspect multiple times.

Police were called to the scene, and the injured suspect was taken for treatment, but ultimately succumbed to his injuries. Pickens County Chief Deputy Creed Hashe told reporters that "crime scene technicians later found and recovered evidence indicating that the back door to the home had been kicked in and numerous areas within the residence had been searched and rummaged through prior to the shooting... Additionally, during the course of the investigation, the Sheriff's Office recovered unrelated stolen property linking the deceased to a residential break-in that had been previously reported to the Easley Police Department."

### **Deer Hunting at Home**

The *Frederick News-Post* out of Frederick County, Maryland, reported on December 15 about a bizarre story involving a deer crashing through a front door and a teenager killing his first buck in his own living room!

Seventeen-year-old Ryan Manchester of Walkersville was home alone when an eight-point buck smashed through his front door and began tearing the boy's house apart. The family had recently gotten a freshly cut Christmas tree, which Manchester surmised had the scent of doe urine on it. By dragging



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the tree through the woods into the house, they unwittingly created a trail for the buck to follow. The young man believed the deer was trying to mate when he burst the front door down.

Manchester described the hectic scene when the deer first tried getting into the house: “It sounded like someone was trying to break the door down with a sledgehammer.”

Manchester thought it was a human intruder and was even more startled to see a deer tearing through his living room. He filmed the deer with his phone as it knocked over the Christmas tree, shattering numerous ornaments and destroying the tree-top angel. Manchester called 911 to report the incident, but found the operator not to be very helpful. “I told them what was happening and they didn’t really seem to have any urgency.... I don’t think they knew how much damage it was doing. So I asked them if I should shoot it. They didn’t tell me to shoot it. But they didn’t tell me not to shoot it. So I was like, ‘I’m probably gonna shoot it,’” he told the *Frederick News-Post*.

Manchester got the key to his father’s gun safe and grabbed his father’s Smith and Wesson 9 mm handgun. Returning back to the room where the animal was making a terrible mess, he saw that the creature had somehow cut itself and was getting blood everywhere as it ran through the house. The deer was in the kitchen, but it was too far for him to get a good shot so he waited until it came closer. “He saw me and stopped ... like a deer in the headlights. So I shot him right between the eyes,” Manchester told the *Frederick News-Post*. When the beast didn’t immediately collapse, he fired a second shot into its shoulder, sending it crashing to the floor.

He called 911 back to report what had happened. Police soon arrived with animal control and checked whether the gun Manchester used was lawfully registered, which it was. Authorities said that Manchester’s actions were reasonable, and the Department of Natural Resources issued him a tag for the kill.

The story quickly spread due to the unusual nature of what occurred, and Manchester’s friends all had a good laugh about it. “We drove straight over, laughing the entire way. We could barely keep the car in the lane, we were laughing so hard.... I thought it was amazing,” Manchester’s close friend Dylan Mudd told the *Frederick News-Post*.

Manchester dragged the animal outside, where he gutted it in his backyard. He reflected on what happened, and told the newspaper that he wouldn’t do it differently if it happened all over again.

“I’m glad I shot it.... It caused a lot of damage. I know people will judge me for it, but I don’t care. If it happens to them, they don’t have to shoot it. But after it did all that, it wasn’t leaving alive.” Manchester told the *Frederick News-Post*.

The young man posted the video of the deer’s rampage on his Twitter account, and it quickly went viral. Manchester also posted pictures of himself with the deer’s body both after initially shooting the creature and another photo after he had gutted it. The deer netted the family 40 pounds of venison, and they dined on their first helping the Friday after the incident.

— Patrick Krey



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