



Exercising the Right

Buyer and Seller Beware

An increasingly common crime involves criminals posting fake items for sale online to lure unwitting victims to come to a specified location with cash. In this particular story, the intended victim had a permit to carry a firearm, which completely changed the outcome for the would-be criminal.

TwinCities.com reported on March 23 about how 18-year-old Kendrick Johntavious Maddox of Minneapolis arranged a meeting in a parking lot in St. Paul, Minnesota, allegedly to sell an iPhone for \$500. The sale was apparently arranged on Facebook, where Maddox went by the screen name “Elo DaGreat” and posted photos of himself holding an iPhone. The 39-year-old “buyer” soon learned that there wasn’t a phone for sale and that Maddox had tricked him. After the victim pulled into the parking lot and met Maddox, Maddox pulled out a gun and demanded the \$500 cash. The man complied and handed the money over, but then pulled out his firearm and shot Maddox in the ankle. The injured Maddox ran from the scene, while the victim quickly dialed 911. Maddox was arrested at a nearby medical facility where he went for treatment for the gunshot wound, and was soon charged with first-degree aggravated robbery. St. Paul police spokesman Sergeant Mike Ernster told TwinCities.com that investigators are looking into whether Maddox was involved in other similar crimes. Ernster also said that they’ve seen an increase in this type of robbery.

In an unrelated incident a few days later, a robber shot a man after the two of them met for a planned sale of a cellphone in St. Paul’s Macalester-Groveland area. This “sale” was arranged on Craigslist, but it too was a ruse to rob someone. Unfortunately, the victim was not armed in this case, and the suspect was successful in carrying out the robbery.

Sergeant Ernster said, “Nowadays, it’s buyer and seller beware.... As people arrange to buy or sell things online, they should watch for red flags — items that are significantly below market value, out-of-the-way meeting locations, or sellers/buyers that change the meeting location frequently.” Regarding online sales, Ernster recommended that potential buyers arrange to meet the sellers in the parking lot of the nearest police station.

“I Got a Big Gun Now”

Fox30 reported out of Jacksonville, Florida, on March 13 about a burglary victim who fought back. The incident unfolded when two armed men forced their way into a man’s house at gunpoint. Fortunately, the homeowner had a small .380 handgun in his pocket, which he pulled out and fired at the suspects, hitting one of the men. The homeowner told Fox30 that he then ran and retrieved a larger handgun. “I shot him once, then I got my other gun and said I got a big gun now,” he said. The suspects fled the scene, but the injured man collapsed nearby. The police soon arrived, and the injured suspect was transported to a nearby medical facility. Authorities are still searching for the second suspect.

Targeting a Navy Veteran

Fox13 reported on February 22 about a veteran who was attacked by a deranged criminal on the front steps of his house. Seventy-one-year-old Carmelo Marchese, who served in the Navy in Vietnam, was home alone in Lecanto, Florida, when he heard a loud knocking on his door late at night. Marchese’s



Written by [Patrick Krey](#) on April 23, 2018

Published in the April 23, 2018 issue of [the New American](#) magazine. Vol. 34, No. 08

dog began barking loudly at the sound of the knocking. Marchese went to the door to see who it could be, and when he opened the door, a stranger attacked him.

The home-invasion suspect, later identified by police as 36-year-old Joshua Bernard, shoved Marchese and tried grabbing him by his neck. Marchese grabbed a nearby firearm and shot Bernard in the chest. Marchese later told Fox13 that he “was honestly and truly in fear for [his] life” and that the encounter was a “life-and-death situation.” Marchese said he warned Bernard what would happen if he didn’t stop, but Bernard ignored him. “I had warned him prior. I did everything I was supposed to do,” Marchese told Fox13, adding that “this is my house, not his.” Marchese said it was unfortunate that he was forced to shoot Bernard, but that he didn’t feel any remorse: “I don’t feel bad about it. I don’t feel bad. This guy was a bad guy. How many other people has he hurt? I don’t know but he’s off the street, that’s all that counts.”

The Citrus County Sheriff’s Office said Bernard has a long criminal record, including a prior history of burglary, and that he was recently released from jail. Bernard received medical treatment for his gunshot wound and has been charged with burglary and with battery on a person older than 65.

Convicted Felon Killed

A violent crime ended in death when an armed homeowner fatally shot one of two men who burglarized his house. Fox News reported on March 29 about a home invasion in Nashville in which criminals attempted to burglarize a house that they had burglarized two months earlier.

The Metro Nashville Police Department said that two men entered a house through a back door and hit a woman who lived there. The woman’s husband came running to her rescue, and was hit on the head from behind. The blow was so serious that it fractured the man’s skull. The two burglars demanded firearms that the husband kept in a safe. The injured husband complied with their requests and gave the guns to the men, who then left the house.

Looking for his wife, who had run to a neighbor’s house, the husband retrieved another loaded pistol and exited the house, only to run into the two burglars again. The husband was prepared this time, and fired at the two men, hitting one of them. The other suspect ran from the scene and is still being sought by authorities. The wounded suspect died from his injuries and was later identified as a convicted felon who had recently been arrested for felony meth possession for resale and unlawful gun possession, and who had earlier convictions for auto burglary, attempted burglary, felony theft, and aggravated assault. The deceased suspect was also identified as a suspect in an earlier robbery at the same house, in which a TV was stolen.

— Patrick Krey



Written by [Patrick Krey](#) on April 23, 2018

Published in the April 23, 2018 issue of [the New American](#) magazine. Vol. 34, No. 08

Subscribe to the New American

Get exclusive digital access to the most informative, non-partisan truthful news source for patriotic Americans!

Discover a refreshing blend of time-honored values, principles and insightful perspectives within the pages of "The New American" magazine. Delve into a world where tradition is the foundation, and exploration knows no bounds.

From politics and finance to foreign affairs, environment, culture, and technology, we bring you an unparalleled array of topics that matter most.



[Subscribe](#)

What's Included?

- 24 Issues Per Year
- Optional Print Edition
- Digital Edition Access
- Exclusive Subscriber Content
- Audio provided for all articles
- Unlimited access to past issues
- Coming Soon! Ad FREE
- 60-Day money back guarantee!
- Cancel anytime.