

**Special Series** from 1A

All firearms had to be registered, and gun owners had to prove a "genuine reason" for owning a firearm, including occupational uses or memberships in target shooting clubs.

Since then, it has been claimed that there have been no mass shootings in Australia, though that depends on one's definition of a mass shooting. There have been shootings, including a school shooting in 2002 and an ISIS-inspired hostage attack in 2014. But under many statistical models, these incidences would not be considered mass shootings — the majority were either family/friend disputes, or terrorism, which often gets left off of mass shooting lists. And they also did not have the general baseline of four or more people dead. If that metric is included, there were zero mass shootings after the ban.

But even if the loosest definition of mass shooting was used,

the numbers are still lower than they were before the ban was put in place.

In the 14 years before it, there were approximately 13 gun massacres. Fourteen years later, there were six.

Was the gun ban the cause of the reduction? Possibly, though it's hard to prove definitively.

In March 2018, the non-partisan publication Science Daily looked at a new report published in the Annals of Internal Medicine on the issue.

"Most people hear these starkly contrasting numbers and conclude that Australia's gun law reforms effectively stopped firearm massacres here," Science Daily reported. "However, some scholars and members of the gun lobby have argued that since mass shootings are relatively rare events, the concentration of incidents in one decade and their absence in another decade is merely a sta-

tistical anomaly. The long gap between incidents post-1996 may simply reflect a return to a

strongly oppose. For example, to purchase most guns, the government fully vets a potential

other acts of public violence goes back nearly a century. So too does the tug of war between gun rights and gun control. One of the first modern debates happened during the era of prohibition.

In 1929, the Saint Valentine's Day Massacre in Chicago left seven dead as mobster Capone sought to consolidate control by elim-

inating his rivals in the trades of bootlegging, gambling and prostitution. While the massacre was never linked to Capone, the victims were associates of the Irish gangster George "Bugs" Moran, a fierce competitor.

That massacre wasn't an anomaly during the time. There was a constant barrage of gangland warfare reports spread across the nation, horrifically displayed in newspapers and idolized on screen with stars like James Cagney.

America was just as scared of gun violence then as it is today.

In 1934, the National Firearms Act (NFA) was passed to restrict access to certain firearms, including submachine guns, like the popular "Chicago Typewriter" Tommy gun, shotguns and rifles having barrels less than 18 inches, and firearm mufflers and silencers.

The NFA didn't ban these firearms and accessories outright, but put a \$200 tax on the them, which is equivalent to \$3,500 in today's currency. In addition, the firearms had to be registered with the Secretary of the Treasury.

While the act was used as a deterrent to purchase these firearms, it was used even more to prosecute those who were found with them; if a gangster was found with an unlicensed weapon, then more fines and jail time could be lobbied against them.

But that practice brought up some very difficult constitutional issues that have little or nothing to do with the Second Amendment.

In the 1960s, Miles Edward Haynes was charged with failing to register a firearm under the NFA. Haynes argued that, because he was a convicted felon, requiring him to register the weapon and making an open admission to the government that he was violating the law, he was being forced to violate his Fifth Amendment right to not incriminate himself.

In 1968, the Supreme Court agreed with Haynes, and

mandatory gun registration on a federal level was stricken.

The year of the Haynes case was yet another period where gun violence was sweeping the nation. Robert F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King, Jr. had been shot. John F. Kennedy was shot in 1963. Urban riots began flooding the streets in 1964.

A whole host of crime legislation was passed in response, including the controversial Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act, which clarified rules for wiretap orders, and the Gun Control Act (GCA).

While the GCA couldn't create a blanket registration requirement because of the Hayes decision, it could prohibit certain classes of people from owning a firearm, including felons and those who were involuntarily committed to a mental institution.

This was constitutionally legal because it was a punitive extension of a crime already committed.

More controversial portions of the Safe Streets Act put restrictions on gun sellers and interstate sales, and led to accusations that the government used those rules to drive sellers out of business. To counteract that, in 1986, the Firearm Owners Protection Act was passed, rescinding many of the gun sellers' restrictions from 1968. That bill also marked the first times that gun legislation officially banned a weapon that was widely distributed: machine guns.

(That law was covered more extensively in Part I of this series.)

In 1993, America was under yet another sustained barrage of crime reports. The crack-cocaine epidemic had been rising and racial tensions in cities like Los Angeles were turning into mass riots.

In response, the Brady Handgun Violence Act was passed, creating the National Instant Criminal Background Check System that would help gun sellers find those who are already deemed unable to buy firearms. It should be noted that the Background system does not act as a national registry; once the checks are completed, any information regarding individual gun ownership is to be deleted.

In fact, the 1986 act prohibited any governmental agency from creating a registry that ties firearms directly to their owners.

See **SPECIAL SERIES 8A**

**"You're never going to get rid of all guns. That's never going to happen. Even if they did a ban right now, there are millions of guns out there. I don't know anybody who's going to go to someone's house and start taking their guns away."**

**— Commander John Pitcher, Florence Police Department**

more 'normal' state of affairs."

The article also pointed out that some argue it is a big leap to believe a 22-year decline of mass shootings is simply an anomaly. In fact, the odds against that hypothesis are 200,000 to one.

In 2017, the nonpartisan website FactCheck.org stated that there was no hard evidence for the argument either way. The site did admit that there was a drastic decrease in homicides after the gun ban, dropping 23 percent from 1996 to 2013. However, that decline began before 1996.

There was a study done in 2011 that showed the average firearm homicide rate per 100,000 before the ban was .43, but dropped to .25 seven years after the ban.

"No study has explained why gun deaths were falling, or why they might be expected to continue to fall," the website reported. "That poses difficulty in trying to definitively determine the impact of the law."

While Australia is often pointed to as a bellwether for less guns, gun-rights advocates point to Switzerland as a reason to actually have more guns.

According to the research group Small Arms Survey in 2007, Switzerland ranks third in gun ownership per capita throughout the world, and has a lower rate of violent crime.

The country ranks 147th in the world for violent crime, per the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in 2010.

But Switzerland also has stringent gun ownership rules, many of which some American gun rights advocates would

buyer, including consulting a psychiatrist.

People with alcohol addiction issues are prohibited from owning a gun, and purchasers must pass a handling and shooting test if they are going to buy a gun for defensive purposes. Many owners have also had training from mandatory military service.

But as people point to different countries to uphold their arguments on gun control, there are a multitude of factors that get lost in the argument, from social support systems and universal access to mental health care, to systemic problems like drug trades and sectarian violence.

Ultimately, there are many elements that can influence a country's crime rate when it comes to firearms. This is not to say that researching other countries' attitudes and laws surrounding guns can't be helpful when crafting U.S. policies.

There are multiple tactics used around the world that could potentially help the U.S. determine a path to reducing mass shootings — but no one country can act as a solution, because no one country mirrors the laws of the United States.

In fact, many of the laws that Australia passed have already been put in place in America. Some still exist, while others were found unconstitutional. To understand why, we have to go back to Al Capone.

**Unwanted guns**

While it may seem that the recent rash of public gun violence in America is a new phenomenon, mass shootings and

**EARTHLINK INTERNET**  
HIGH SPEED INTERNET

Enjoy big-time internet speeds without spending big bucks!

Get Connected for as low as **\$14.95/mo.**

HyperLink™ High-Speed Internet  
Connections speeds up to 75 Mbps\*

CONTACT YOUR LOCAL AUTHORIZED RETAILER

Satellite Internet  
What you get with HyperLink Satellite Internet  
\*Not available in all areas. \*\*Not available in all areas. \*\*\*Not available in all areas.

**855-977-9436**

Authorized Dealer

Your Family Deserves The **Best** Technology... Value... TV!...

Upgrade to the Hopper™ 3 Smart HD DVR

- Watch and record 16 shows at once
- Get built-in Netflix and YouTube
- Watch TV on your mobile devices

Hopper upgrade fee \$5/mo.

Add High Speed Internet **\$14.95** /month for 24 months

Subject to availability. Restrictions apply. Internet not provided by DISH and will be billed separately.

190 Channels

CALL TODAY Save 20%! **1-866-373-9175**

See Jim for your auto sales needs!

**JOHNSTON MOTOR COMPANY**

2150 Hwy. 101 • Florence  
(541) 997-3475 • 1-800-348-3475

Ford Mercury

"It could have been ME in the White House instead of Jackie Kennedy!" — Edith Bouvier Beale

**AUDITIONS**

**GREY GARDENS**  
The Musical

Nov 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11 at FEC

Book by **Doug Wright**  
Music by **Scott Frankel**  
Lyrics by **Michael Korie**

Based on the documentary and HBO film: **GREY GARDENS**

Directed by **Leah Goodwin**, with Music Director, **Laura Merz**

Auditions are Sat. April 21, 11 am and Sun. April 22, 2 pm, at Class Act Theater, 509 Kingwood. For audition information, go to [lastresortplayers.com](http://lastresortplayers.com) or call 541-999-4353.

presented by **LAST RESORT PLAYERS**

Let me Showcase your property.

**Jan Jagoe**  
Broker  
541 999-0879

**TR HUNTER REAL ESTATE**  
541-997-1200

87817 Terrace View Dr. – Enjoy living on the coast and walking to the beach from this beautiful 2,562 sqft 2015 Golden West Home. 3 Master bedrooms with 3.5 baths and an oversized garage with 2 rooms for a shop and storage. **\$345,900. #2791-17621653**

**1749 Highway 101 • 541-997-1200**

**SIUSLAW PIONEER MUSEUM**  
PRESENTS

**A Collection of Fabric Woven by Alice Peckham of Swisshome**  
and a demonstration of the antique 4-harness floor loom used in the Peckham family for 3 generations.

A 4-harness direct tie-up counterbalance 1951 Allen Loom, built-in Milwaukie, Oregon, and woven on by three generations of the Peckham family of Mapleton, was donated to the Pioneer Museum by Peckham with the hope that it might inspire someone to weave.

The warping process will continue every Saturday at the museum (noon to four) until the job is done and weaving commences. All weavers are welcome to come and help or share ideas, including (1) what we could do next and (2) what commitment we can collectively make to assure that the loom remains an active, interactive, part of our community. That four-hour window offers a good opportunity for Florence area weavers to get to know each other.

Spinners, there is room on the same floor of the Pioneer Museum to bring your spinning wheels to share your craft and maybe inspire some new spinners too. The museum has a few spinning wheels, none near operational.

278 Maple St, Florence, OR 97439  
(541) 997-7884

**Jim Hoberg, ABR, CRS, GRI**  
BROKER / OWNER

PHONE 541-997-SOLD (7653)  
FAX 541-997-7654  
TOLL FREE 1-866-967-7653  
[jim@jimhoberg.com](mailto:jim@jimhoberg.com)

**Readers Choice Voted #1 Realtor**

**WEST-COAST REAL ESTATE SERVICES, INC.**

**Yard Debris Disposal**  
Next Date is April 21  
9am to 2pm  
at the Kingwood entrance to the airport, located at Kingwood & 27th St.

COST	2018 Collection Dates:	Bring:
Pickup load \$10	<b>APRIL 21</b>	• Tree Clippings • Leaves • Grass Clippings • Weeds • Prunings • Brush
Small Utility Trailer (Single Axle) \$10	<b>MAY 12</b>	<b>DO NOT Bring your:</b>
Medium Utility Trailer (10-12 ft) \$15	<b>JUNE 16</b>	• Food & Household waste • Animal Waste • Plastics • Construction Debris • Hazardous Waste
Large Utility Trailer (12-18ft) \$21	<b>JULY 21</b>	
Greater than 20 cubic yards \$21 +\$5/yard over	<b>AUGUST 18</b>	
	<b>SEPTEMBER 15</b>	
	<b>OCTOBER 20</b>	

For questions, please contact the City of Florence Public Works Department at 541-997-4106