

Nightmare Attack on Elderly Couple

A horrific incident unfolded in Adams County, Pennsylvania, in which a man terrorized an elderly couple in the middle of the day. The *York Daily Record* reported on December 23 that a man, later identified by authorities as 54-year-old Steven David Shaffer, was reported by witnesses in the rural area as acting erratically. Witnesses say Shaffer was trying to enter houses and was banging on cars, forcing traffic to stop. He had also removed his clothing, including his underwear, and was only wearing a t-shirt as he aggressively tried entering homes.

He was able to break in through the front door of the house of an elderly couple, after which the husband tried stopping him. Shaffer violently beat the husband, who yelled for his wife to get a gun from the bedroom. Shaffer then chased after the wife, and attacked her in the bedroom. The husband was badly beaten, but was able to make it to the bedroom and retrieve his firearm, which he used to shoot Shaffer multiple times. Shaffer was fatally wounded from the shots and died at the scene.

Police were already on the way due to calls about Shaffer's earlier wild behavior, and they soon arrived at the elderly couple's house. The wife suffered critical injuries and was taken by helicopter to the nearest medical facility, while the husband was transported by ambulance to the same hospital. Police expect both victims to survive, although the extent of their injuries is still not clear.

Neighbors in the area were shaken up over what transpired, and told the *York Daily Record* that this type of violent crime never happens in their quiet rural community. Roy Reed, who has lived in the community for 35 years, said, “I never did think anything like this would happen.” Reed said Shaffer lived on the same block as the elderly couple, but thought the attack was totally random since he didn't believe they knew each other.

Resident Terry Bankert told the paper that it's a quiet neighborhood where many of the residents keep to themselves, and

she never thought something like this would happen. Bankert supported the husband's actions and expressed gratitude that he was armed. “I'm glad he had a gun.... He did the right thing,” she said.

Chinese Restaurant Closes After Shooting

York City, Pennsylvania, recorded its first homicide of 2022 after a man tried robbing a Chinese restaurant. Fox53 reported on January 5 that the suspect entered the Asian Best Chinese and Thai Cuisine Restaurant armed with a handgun and demanded money from the occupants. The owner of the restaurant was in the back making food when he heard the commotion. He retrieved a firearm and fatally shot the suspect, who was standing near the counter. The suspect died at the scene, and was identified by authorities as 33-year-old Rickey Cox, Jr., who had a lengthy criminal record.

The owner of the restaurant was so shocked and upset over the incident that he decided to close his restaurant permanently. In a Facebook post, the owner thanked his supporters but explained that, “due to the recent traumatic event on 4 JAN 2022, we have decided not to reopen Asian Best for business. This decision was made with a heavy heart and many tears but it is the right decision for our family.” The restaurant owner was cleared of any wrongdoing in the shooting when the local district attorney declared that it was a justifiable homicide.

Robbery in Park Ends Badly

Patch.com reported on December 28 about a shooting at Takomah Trail Park in Tampa, where would-be burglars had the tables turned on them by their intended victim, who was lawfully carrying a concealed firearm.

Police investigators say that a group of young robbers went to the park with a gun and tried robbing a man they encountered there. One member of the

group, later identified as 16-year-old Ian D. Thomas, actually shot the victim in cold blood, but the victim was able to pull out his own gun and return fire, fatally wounding Thomas. The crowd of teenage thugs scattered as soon as the victim returned fire, leaving their accomplice's lifeless body lying on the ground. The injured victim also fled, as he was in fear of being attacked a second time.

Responding officers did not find any of the other suspects or the victim at the scene of the shooting, only Thomas' body. Police later located the wounded victim and made sure he received medical treatment.

It is tragic to hear about a 16-year-old dying in this manner, but this is the inevitable result of committing a violent felony. All the details uncovered by law enforcement so far show that the victim was well within his rights to use deadly force to defend himself.

Kyle's Law

Kyle Rittenhouse garnered the support of Second Amendment proponents everywhere when he lawfully defended himself from dangerous rioters who were violently assaulting him. WSMV.com reported on January 19 that a state representative in Tennessee was so inspired by Kyle that he proposed new legislation named after him. Tennessee House Representative Bruce Griffey (R-Paris) introduced a law named “Kyle's Law” that strengthens “protection of self-defense and second amendment rights in Tennessee.”

WSMV explained that the legislation requires that “anyone accused of murder who was found not guilty, but determined to have acted in lawful self-defense, would be reimbursed by the state for certain costs, such as lost wages and legal fees.” It is not clear what the bill's chances are of being signed into law, but it's certainly an interesting idea that gun-rights enthusiasts hopefully will champion in the future in some form. As for Kyle Rittenhouse, Representative Griffey already plans to recognize him with a state proclamation that honors him as a hero. ■

— PATRICK KREY