

Towing: The Line-State adopts licensing laws to fight "cowboy tow drivers"



A disorganised shambles, a wild west full of cowboys, hordes of vultures flocking to the festering carcasses of vehicles to pick clean; these are just some of the ways in which the tow industry has been referred to in the past couple of months.

On Wednesday 10th July, Gisele Thorn, Acting Governor, signed the Tow Act into law "following weeks of intense debate," according to a press release from Director Gill of the Department of Justice "this has been a priority for many members of the public... [who] will welcome the greater clarity."

The new legislation aims to tackle problem drivers; introducing routes to revoking their licenses and removing their ability to legally tow should they not follow the new regulations.

"It's helped a lot to make sure people are doing the right thing" Erik Rowley, Vice President of San Andreas Tow Alliance stated in a recent interview "It's just going to come down to if the P.D.

can actually get to these people."

There has historically been a lot of negative sentiment towards tow truck drivers; In our first issue, we published a story highlighting some of the troubles with and facing those tow drivers. But with these reports continuing, I wanted to see it for myself.

I've spent the past week learning the ropes of one of San Andreas' necessary services, helping clear the streets, and experiencing the trials and tribulations along the way.

Jobs seemed to come in giant waves with massive lulls between, resulting in a boom or bust lottery. Some days I barely made enough to cover food, fuel and rental, others I was depositing thousands into my account; and one shift, finishing in the negatives paying for repairs after a catastrophic fault with the truck's release mechanism.

In some ways, it really was the wild west we described; a free-for-all horse race, with P.D. firing the starting pistol. Some choosing to play by the rules, others employ any

tactic at their disposal, in one case even resorting to shooting at and slashing the tires of their 'rivals', all in an attempt to secure that \$250 paycheck for the winner.

Erik is one of many drivers I met in my time, who aims to disprove that the towing industry is doomed to be disorganised, with dispatch and calls for assistance happening via radio.

But, the problem few who don't communicate, co-operate and don't follow the laws of the road; make it difficult for drivers like him. "I've been called a vulture. I've had an officer curse

at me because I tried to protect her." Erik went on to elaborate "[PD] depend upon us for things, but they seem to forget... that we are equals and should treat each other fairly."

"We still share the road with them" Erik added, referring to those who don't play by the rules, "It's just a simple question of when will they be caught"

But concerns have been raised that this new legislation only adds further pressure to a Police Department and a District Attorney's Office already stretched beyond its funding and means, and that 'when' could be very far into the future.



THIS WEEK



EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW
The Gazette talks with Cayo Perico's longest surviving resident
► More on [Page 2](#) >>



Killer (of) Whales
Dozens of whales wash up on beaches across the State, culprit still unknown



Rat Otto Luck
Rat infestation forces move to temporary shack for local repair shop.



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Red Sky in the Morning...

By Jeremy Warren

For most Americans, this past fourth of July was spent as they always are. BBQs, drinks by the pool, and time spent with family before the main event of the night. Fireworks! But as national alert systems began ringing out across San Andreas, our citizens met a far different Independence day.

While some looked to the sky for vibrant flashes of reds, whites, and blues, people in downtown Los Santos on the afternoon of the 4th looked up to see parachutes. Armed paratroopers from the People's Liberation Army descended upon our state with one objective, to invade.

For the focus of this week's article, the Gazette wants to look at the horrors of that fateful day through a different lens. If you go to almost anyone in the state, they can recall some section of the day's events and paint a picture of the things that occurred. Let's face it, everyone



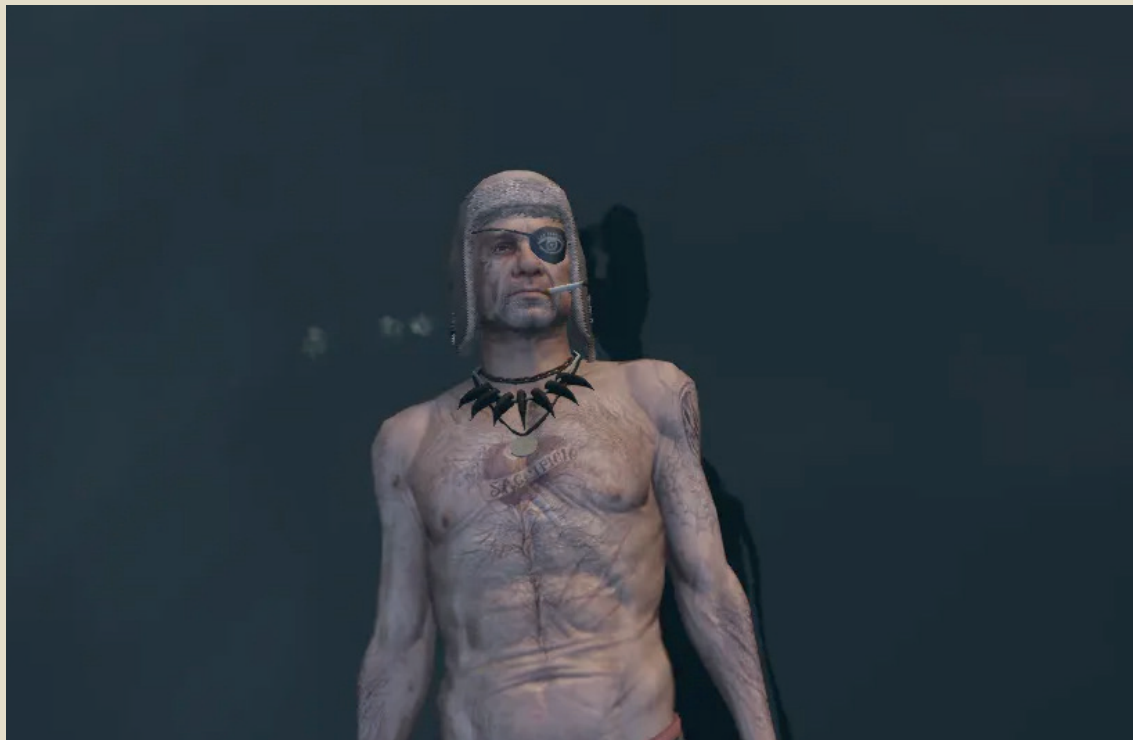
knows what happened. We will focus, not on the events of the invasion itself, but the lasting effects it may or may not have on our citizens and the future of our state.

Our reporters took to the streets to speak with people about their thoughts and opinions on the matter, and their responses were saddening. "Oh yeah, most of the people I know who were involved have some semblance of PTSD because of it." Said a Los Santos resident. "This city is known for stray shootings and explosions, but now whenever one happens, we all start thinking, Oh man is this round two?" While some shudder at the thought of the invasion, some San Andreas citizens enjoyed and even missed the day's events. "I wish they would come back. I got to use some bitchin' equipment... I'm ready for another go."

While we were unable to get an official statement from SAMS, we are aware that the mass amount of casualties caused immense strain on medical staff in the short few hours that the invasion took place. Patients spilled out of the Emergency room and into the hallway as beds became a revolving door of injured citizens. It can be presumed that the hospital and its staff have discussed and planned for any future large mass casualty incident.

Unfortunately the Gazette did not receive any comment from the State Police or the Rangers in time for this issue, but we can be almost positive that the events of July 4th 2024 will have a rippling effect for years to come.

Island Sage Samples San Andreas



A guide to some, 'Jerry' to others, Cayo Perico's sage is a man who has seen many things in his time. Following his recent visit to the mainland, we took the opportunity to get an exclusive interview with the island's longest surviving resident.

"I was a very young man, I was called there as guide of a certain sort, and now I am a guide of another."

"As we know, America likes to put its hands in many pies," referring to the sudden influx of people seeking to plunder the island for the cartel's bountiful stockpiles and luxuries.

To those making the journey he gave the advice to "come and see me, and I will grant a boon of protection and

opportunity for trade." He went on to recount tales of those whom he had seen injured, warning that "you must prepare for how deep you want to go into [the island.]"

"The cartel have always had somewhat of a purchase here, but lately, [have] never been more aggressive.", when asked what their relationship was like, he stated "We used to have an understanding... they knew my purpose... but no, not anymore... now they show disrespect for me and the old ways."

He went on to talk about how he felt about the visitors, "Never before, even in the times of this being a party island, have I seen this many adventurers. And that's what

they are, adveturers, seeking. There is a certain beauty and power to that, which I wish to uphold. Very rarely in this day and age do people get to adventure... A vital part of the human experience being fulfilled, and I wish for it to grow."

"It was this strange dichotomy of generosity and violence. It was most unsettling."

'Jerry', the Cayo Perico Sage

"It's been hellish!" he exclaimed when asked about the mainland "Within seconds of arriving, the man who had one minute ago saved me... ripped a man out of his vehicle and beat him to death." That wasn't the only thing that unsettled him as "violence was everywhere... from the courthouse to this mall. A wonderful place this mall, but a temple of madness and greed."

"I rather like the furniture store, I like being able to build my home. The Uwu Cafe was rather nice, I love cats." The Sage then returned to the sea, unsure if or when he will ever want to return.

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