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Cold Weather Fails to Chill Hot Firearms Sales in Pennsylvania

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Firearms Sales in Pennsylvania.. Cover

Facebook, Islamic Terrorists & Firearms Ads pages 2 & 3

National Reciprocity Bill Moves Ahead ...page 3

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A combination of cold weather and hot air from liberals did nothing to dampen Pennsylvania patriots' appetite for firearms, according to a recent report on *timesonline.com*.

Pennsylvania reported record-setting gun purchases during the Thanksgiving shopping weekend, Cpl. Adam Reed, director of communications for the Pennsylvania State Police noted, according to *The Times*. The Pennsylvania Instant Check System, a system that runs background checks to determine if a person is eligible to buy a firearm or obtain a license to carry – processed 9,187 transactions, Reed says.



“This is a new Black Friday record for us,” he adds. “It eclipsed last year by over 500.”

According to the article, Pennsylvania mirrors a trend nationwide. On Black Friday, the FBI processed 203,086 background checks for gun purchases, a 9.4 percent increase over the previous single-day high of 185,713 in 2016. Background checks are often linked to the volume of actual sales. Federal laws prohibit anyone convicted of a domestic violence offence, anyone subject to a domestic violence restraining order, or convicted of a felony of owning a gun. Those who have been committed to a mental institution are also barred from gun ownership.



Historically, Black Friday is the busiest day for the National Instant Criminal Background Check System. According to the FBI, the four busiest days for the system, dating back to Nov. 30, 1998, were Black Fridays past – 2017, 2016, 2015 and 2012, respectively.

Through the end of October, nearly 20.27 million background checks were completed through the FBI's system, a bit lower than last year's record-setting 27.5 million checks. But Black Friday is still one of the busiest days of the year, local gun shops say. In general, this time of year is busy, says Bob Bernhardt, owner of Shooters Place in Fallston, according to the *timesonline.com* report.

“Black Friday is always busy – it's like magic, every year,” Bernhardt told the paper. The opening of deer season can spike gun sales most years, Bernhardt notes, but not this year.

“I think this year, it's just people buying guns,” he says.

<http://www.timesonline.com/news/20171128/pennsylvania-reports-record-gun-sales-thanksgiving-weekend>

File photo of a Christmas tree sitting on the counter at the Pony Express Firearms shop REUTERS/Rick Wilking and patrons in shop IMAGE: JOE RAEDLE/ GETTY IMAGES

Facebook Lets Islamic Terrorists Spread Hate, But Bounces Firearms Ads

The wealthy social media giant Facebook has faced criticism for allowing Islamic terrorists to freely post recruiting and other-hate filled videos on its site. Some European countries have become so disgusted at the far-left company that they are considering slapping it with fines of around \$50 million, if the company doesn't clean up its act.

But even as Facebook actively promotes Islamic terrorists who want to destroy the West and other civilized regions, the elitist company is trying to shut down small businesses— like a family-owned sporting goods store in central Pennsylvania—that support America's Second Amendment.

Facebook blocked firearm advertisements that had been placed by Sportsman's Shop in East Earl, according to the shop's marketing manager Jessica Keffer, notes a bulletin on guns.com.



The social media site applies its policy of prohibiting ads promoting weapons sales inconsistently, at the expense of small businesses, says Keffer.

“There seems to be a very strong political and cultural bias on the part of Facebook toward our industry,” she said during a recent interview with Fox and Friends, according to the guns.com report. “We are not treated the same as your box stores. Dick’s Sporting Goods, Cabela’s, Bass Pro Shops — they all can advertise. We asked about that and their answer was ‘well they sell other things.’ We do too.”

The Sportsman’s Shop — the oldest gun store in Lancaster County — carries more than 2,000

firearms, suppressors and accessories, along with outdoor gear and equipment for fishing, archery and hunting. A new location in East Earl also features an indoor gun range.

Keffer says she used Facebook’s marketing features without issue until one day when she noticed an ad for the store’s “Honor the Flag” sale had disappeared. When she questioned Facebook over the matter, staff referred her to the website’s policy against promotions for weapons sales.

Although the flagged advertisement didn’t promote gun sales itself, the Sportsman’s Shop, in general, does. Therefore, Keffer explained, Facebook felt justified in revoking its advertising privileges.

“Social media has a marketplace that you really can’t touch any other way and for us to reach that marketplace, we need to be able to advertise,” she says. “Not being able to really just does our business and our industry a huge disservice.”

Sportsman’s Shop isn’t the only dealer and range frustrated with Facebook’s policies.

Shoot Smart — a Texas-based gun range that bypassed local cable networks’ firearm bans by using images of puppies in their television ads — also found itself in hot water with terrorist-promoting social media giants.

“In the past, we have spent thousands on Facebook and Google AdWords, but then out of nowhere, our ads started getting denied,” says Jared Sloane, the range’s operation director, in an email to Guns.com. “When we ask Facebook or Google why we no longer can advertise, it’s always the same response.”



Facebook *Continued from page 2*

The message, Sloane says, cites a “zero tolerance policy” toward ads explicitly promoting weapons sales, “which includes, but isn’t limited to promotion through gun ranges.”

“So, in turn, we deleted the link on our page that went to the store (a small part of our business),” he says. “We then created new ads and started fresh, but we were still declined.”



Keffer says “it’s time the industry spoke up” about the issue, adding “I think we deserve the same right and the same treatment as any other small business.”

<http://www.guns.com/2017/11/28/sporting-goods-shop-in-pennsylvania-says-facebook-pulled-its-ads-over-guns/>

National Reciprocity Bill Moves Ahead

H.R. 38, the Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act, gained support when 24 attorneys general from across the country—but not from Pennsylvania—signed a letter spearheaded by Missouri Attorney General Josh Hawley supporting this common-sense legislation, according to a recent report from the NRA Institute for Legislative Action.

The additional support for Concealed Carry Reciprocity follows House Judiciary Committee approval of H.R. 38. A full House vote is expected soon.

“America’s highest-ranking law enforcement officers understand that law-abiding citizens should be able to exercise their fundamental right to self-defense while traveling across state lines without fear of unknowingly breaking the law. The NRA applauds these attorneys general for supporting this important legislation,” says Chris W. Cox, executive director, National Rifle Association Institute for Legislative Action.

The letter states that H.R. 38 is a much-needed solution to a problem facing gun owners and poses no threat to public safety. “The exercise of Congress’s power is particularly warranted in this

case because too many states refuse to allow law-abiding visitors to carry concealed firearms. These states leave people without any real option for self-defense. Allowing concealed carry across state lines will not result in an increased risk of crime, as those states that have reciprocal concealed-carry agreements have not encountered any significant safety issues.”

H.R. 38 would eliminate the confusing patchwork of state laws that make it difficult for law-abiding gun owners to travel across the country with their firearms for personal protection, notes the NTA-ILA. The Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act affirms that law-abiding citizens who are qualified to carry concealed firearms in one state can carry in other states that allow residents to do so.

A copy of the letter was signed by attorneys general from Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana, Michigan, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, West Virginia, Wisconsin and Wyoming.

<https://www.nraila.org/articles/20171201/state-attorneys-general-back-national-reciprocity>

