

DEAR ABBY

Write to Dear Abby online at dearabby.com or by mail at P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069



Dear Abby: When my husband and I got married a year ago, he had seven rescue dogs, which was a lot for me, but I accepted it. Two of the small dogs slept in our bed, and I was OK with that, too. My husband promised he would never put the dogs before me, and when those dogs died, he would not replace the big ones. (At that time, he had only two small ones.) Well, he has lost a big one and a small one, which left us with five dogs.

Not only did my husband go to the shelter and adopt two, he is going to buy another one! Everything he promised was a lie. The two from the shelter are allowed to sleep with us, although I've explained to him I can't sleep with all these dogs in our bed. Rather than have them sleep somewhere else in the house, he has pretty much told me to pack my things. When he told his dog-loving mother about our problem, she advised him that it's OK for me to sleep in another room so he can sleep with his dogs.

I feel like he knew all along what his intentions were. I almost left and I am still thinking about it. I've talked to him, but he won't change his mind. I'm not sure why he even married me. Help me, please.

— *Sleeping Poorly in Tennessee*

Dear Sleeping Poorly: Unfortunately, I can't help you. You are going to have to help yourself. Your husband has made clear to you that his animals come first. Now that you know what his priorities are — and you appear to be at least sixth on the list — pack your bags and get out of there. He isn't going to

change, and you will both be happier.

Dear Abby: I have three children, ages 10, 8 and 5. I live about 45 minutes from my sisters and my parents, so we spend holidays and more together. My younger sister is pregnant and wants to name the baby "Bradley" because she and her husband can't agree on any other name. When she asked my opinion, I was taken aback because my 5-year-old's name is "Bradford." At first I said it would be OK. But after a few days of thought, I asked her to please not use Bradley as a first name because my son (and hers) may want to use "Brad" in school or sports at some point, and it would be confusing. This has caused a family rift, as everyone thinks I'm being unfair.

At this point, it's not about the name. It's more about her deciding to ignore my wishes. Are there baby-naming rules of etiquette to follow? I will, of course, love the child regardless, and I love my sister. We are close. However, I'm surprised they can't come up with any other name, knowing that it bothers me. Help!

— *Name Game in Illinois*

Dear Name Game: For whatever reason, your sister and her husband seem unable to find another name. Accept it and move on. Because of the five-plus year age difference between the boys, there shouldn't be a problem with "confusion" because by the time her son is ready for kindergarten, your son will be so much further along in grammar school. He will also be out of high school by the time his cousin enters. Rather than fume over something you can't control, let it go.

Background checks blocked record high 300,000 gun sales

BY LINDSAY WHITEHURST
Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY — The number of people stopped from buying guns through the U.S. background check system hit an all-time high of more than 300,000 last year amid a surge of firearm sales, according to new records obtained by the group Everytown for Gun Safety.

The FBI numbers provided to The Associated Press show the background checks blocked nearly twice as many gun sales in 2020 as in the year before. About 42% of those denials were because the would-be buyers had felony convictions on their records.

The increase in blocked gun sales largely tracks with the record-setting surge in sales that took hold along with the coronavirus pandemic and has continued into this year, through historic demonstrations against police brutality, deep political divisions and an insurrection at the U.S. Capitol.

It comes as Congress has failed to pass major legislation on guns despite the Democratic majority and President Joe Biden's push. A bill that would strengthen background checks is stalled in the Senate. The House in March passed the legislation requiring the checks on all sales and trans-

fers, as well as an expanded 10-day review for gun purchases. Most states require background checks only for sales at federally licensed dealers. But the legislation faces an uphill battle getting any Republican support in the Senate.

According to the data, the rate of barred would-be gun buyers also increased somewhat over the previous two years, from about 0.6% to 0.8%. That could be in part because many of the people who tried to get guns in 2020 were buying them for the first time and may not have been aware that they were legally barred from owning them, said Adam Winkler, a UCLA Law professor specializing in gun policy.

"Some may have a felony conviction on their record and not think about it," he said.

Making a false statement in connection with a background check is a felony punishable by up to 10 years in prison and a hefty fine, but few people are prosecuted for what would amount to lying on the form filled out before a gun purchase, he said.

In 2017, just 12 of the 112,000 people denied a gun purchase, about 0.01%, were federally prosecuted, largely due to limited resources for

the time-intensive investigations, according to a U.S. Government Accountability Office report.

Everytown's research found that 16% of would-be gun buyers in 2020 were prohibited by state law, like the extreme-risk protection orders or red-flag laws passed in several states. Another 12% were related to domestic violence, either people subject to a protective order or convicted of a misdemeanor domestic violence crime.

The data shows how necessary the legislation is, said Sarah Burd-Sharps, Everytown's director of research.

"There's no question that background checks work, but the system is working overtime to prevent a record number of people with dangerous prohibitors from being able to buy firearms," she said in a statement. "The loopholes in the law allow people to avoid the system, even if they just meet online or at a gun show for the first time."

Gun rights groups have pushed back against the proposal, and Alan Gottlieb, founder of the group the Second Amendment Foundation, said the increase in denials might be partly because more states have been updating their records of restricted people.

ANNIVERSARY



Submitted

Robert and Christine Lovlien.

Robert and Christine Lovlien

Robert and Christine Lovlien (Robberson), of Bend, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary recently.

The couple were married June 19, 1971, in Bend. They have two children, Lindsay, of Seattle, and Mark (and Maya) of Ketchum, Idaho; and three grandchildren.

Mr. Lovlien was an attorney with Bryant, Lovlien & Jarvis until he retired June 15, 2015. He enjoys golf and is a proud father, grandfather and Washington Husky (he was a four-year letterman with the football team).

Mrs. Lovlien owned the Book Barn in Bend before retiring June 15, 2015. She is also a proud mother, grandmother and Washington Husky and enjoys books, art and cooking.

The couple have lived in Central Oregon for 48 years.

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YOUR HOROSCOPE By Georgia Nicols

Stars show the kind of day you'll have

★★★★★ DYNAMIC | ★★★ POSITIVE | ★★ AVERAGE | ★ SO-SO | ★ DIFFICULT

MOON ALERT: Avoid shopping or making important decisions after 3 p.m. EDT today (noon PDT) for the rest of the day. The Moon is in Aquarius.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR SUNDAY, JUNE 27, 2021: You have an easygoing, gentle charm. You are creative, playful and like to converse with others. You appear quiet and unassuming, but you are intuitive and observant. Justice and fairness matter to you. This year your focus is on teamwork and cooperation with others because that is your easiest path to happiness. Explore whatever is mutually beneficial between you and others.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★ Very likely a friend or a member of a group will say or do something that surprises you or catches you off guard. In the meantime, enjoy schmoozing but commit to nothing during the Moon Alert (see above). Tonight: Discuss future goals.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★ This is a tricky day. Do be aware of the limitations of the Moon Alert (see above). Meanwhile, discussions about money or property, perhaps with a parent, boss or someone in the police, could interrupt your day. Things are unpredictable. Tonight: Respect bosses and parents.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★ Travel plans might be interrupted today. You might suddenly have to travel when you did not expect to do so. You have an urge to negotiate finances or spend money today. If so, be aware of the limitations of the Moon Alert. Tonight: Seek variety.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★ Today you might discuss shared property, debt, insurance issues or inheritances. Avoid important decisions during the Moon Alert. Meanwhile, stay on top of things, because something unexpected could occur. Tonight: Protect what you own.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★ A partner, spouse or close friend will likely surprise you today. Or, perhaps, you will meet someone new who is unusual and very different. Make no promises and don't volunteer for anything during the Moon Alert. Tonight: Cooperate with others.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★ If you own a pet, keep your eyes open today, because something unexpected might happen. Work will likely be interrupted. However, a boss, parent or someone in authority might help you today. Tonight: Organize things.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★ Social plans might change today. Something might be canceled or you might receive an unexpected invitation. Meanwhile, parents should be alert, because this is an accident-prone day for their kids. Romance might be rocky. Tonight: Socialize!

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★ A family discussion might be surprising today. It could be supportive in terms of help from someone else or financial assistance. Nevertheless, there will be disagreements. Small appliances might break down. Tonight: Cocoon at home.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ Be careful, because this is an accident-prone day. Nevertheless, you will enjoy chatting with neighbors, friends and relatives. You're full of clever, bright ideas. Keep your eyes open to avoid verbal or physical missteps. Tonight: You need to talk.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★ Stay on top of your possessions and your money today, because something unexpected might impact them. Be smart and protect what you own against loss, theft or damage. Tonight: Check your assets.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★ Today the Moon is in your sign at odds with your ruler Uranus. This can make you inclined to jump to conclusions. It also will make you rebellious, which is why you might do the exact opposite of what someone suggests. Tonight: Stay realistic.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★ Because you might feel uneasy about something, you will welcome a discussion with someone in the family. Meanwhile, the rhythm of your day will be interrupted by something — almost certainly. Tonight: Enjoy quiet times.