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At least one new violation at Red's Trading Post ATF enters Day 2 of new audit

By Cassidy Friedman

Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS - The tension at Red's Trading Post on Monday was palpable.

Ryan Horsley, the shop's manager, sat behind the counter rubbing his swollen eyes. Horsley's mother smoked in an alley behind the gun shop, one eye peeled for the federal investigators who at 1:40 p.m. were due back from lunch. Close to 2 p.m., two investigators and their supervisor returned. An unsmiling Horsley videotaped and audio recorded their every move.

"They can only go back to our last audit," Horsley said about the parameters of this week's investigation.

Monday, the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives conducted its third audit of Red's this year, its ninth since 1980. Since March, when a federal judge stayed the ATF's revocation

of Red's gun-sales license, the auditshave come more frequently and are increasingly scrutinizing. The last audit, on May 23, found three new types of violations that had been overlooked in past audits.

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Monday afternoon, Horsley said the investigators were specifically looking for guns the shop had obtained through consignment, pawns and transfer. U.S. District Judge Edward J. Lodge ruled that Red's may continue to buy guns and conduct online trades. But effective June 6, Lodge ordered Red's to stop pawns, transfers and consignments, Horsley said.

"We ceased that practice as of that date," Horsley said.

At close to 6 p.m., when the investigators retired for the day, they had found one violation, Horsley said. "A customer forgot to sign the transfer date," he said.

The investigators - who declined to comment to the Times-News - told Horsley they would return by 9 a.m. today.

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ASHLEY SMITH/Times-News

Ryan Horsley, manager of Red's Trading Post, stands in his shop Monday as investigators from the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives conduct the agency's third audit of the business this year.

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