

# GMA News April 2021

## Upcoming events:

April 1-2	Kristian Woodmansee returns (BBC and BJJ switch Tues/Thurs nights)
April 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Kristian Woodmansee seminar in Fishers 1:00-3:00
April 10 <sup>th</sup>	Lil dragon testing (beg 9:00-10:30; int/adv 10:30-12:00)
April 10 <sup>th</sup>	Movie camp movie premier 2:30
April 17 <sup>th</sup>	FAST EXTRAV—Multiples and Mobs (10:00-4:00 ish)
April 24 <sup>th</sup>	Demo team 9:00-10:30
April 24 <sup>th</sup>	World Tai Chi Day celebration 10:00
April 24 <sup>th</sup>	TKD Black belt testing 12:30
May 7 <sup>th</sup>	TKD testing
May 8 <sup>th</sup>	Planned break a thon and school picnic.

## Summer day camp dates are set.

Some people have been asking about this year's dates of our popular day-camps. More details will follow, but we wanted to announce the dates so people can start planning for our intensive training camps. Pre-registration discounts apply. Here is what we have:

**Specialty camp—German Longsword June 8-9**

**Lil dragon camp June 29-July 1.**

**TKD day-camp(s): June 14-18; July 12-16.**

**HKD camp July 6-7**

**BJJ camp July 22-23**

## *Break-a-thon and annual school picnic May 8th*

There is still a lot of uncertainty about our breakathon and picnic, but our annual event is planned for May 8<sup>th</sup>. We are not sure if we will be able to get boards for the fundraisers, and park opening/restrictions raises questions about having the picnic. Fingers crossed we will have some clarity in a few more weeks.

**Congrats to Brandon Cox** for going double gold and **Launa Perryman** taking silver at BJJ tournament

## GMA Wishes a Happy Birthday to:

Mr. Noah Wilson	4/1	Cullen Harrold	4-13	Victoria Moore	4-16
Eli Thompson	4/20	Clark Adams	4-22	Patrick Hersman	4/24
Manuel Murcia	4/25	Cathy Petraits	4/27	Jack Higgins	4/30

## Training Anniversaries

Cathy Petraits (TKD 9 yrs.)

Evelyn Kaufman (TKD 5 yrs.)

Wesley Yoshida (TKD 9 yrs.)

Jenna Berry (TKD 4 yrs.)

Charlie Darling (TKD 2 yrs.)

Kevin Goins (BJJ 2yrs.)

**This Month in Martial Arts History** (selected from "Dates with Destiny" in *Martial Arts Success* by John Corcoran.

April 7, 1954. Jackie Chan's Birthday

April 15, 1922 (-Oct 20, 1982). Donn F Draeger (martial arts historian) birthday

April 26, 1963 Jet Li Birthday

April 1922 Gichin Funakoshi demonstrates karate in Japan—setting the course for Karate and TKD worldwide

April 11, 1955 the name Tae Kwon Do is approved by President Syngman Rhee to describe Korean martial arts.

April 21, 1993 Walker Texas Ranger starring Chuck Norris debuts

## That Isn't a Choke; This Here is a Choke. (or a chop, kick, etc.)

I realize I am dating myself with the Crocodile Dundee Reference. And if you just read the following title with an Australian accent, then you just dated yourself too! If you have no idea what I am talking about, you can follow the link at the end.

Recently during March madness an image went viral of a security guard restraining a photographer over access to the court (confusion over his status/access). The headline was sensational--- how the photographer was put in a chokehold. As you would expect in today's world, there was an outcry over such unnecessary force. But here is the thing...it wasn't a choke, as evidenced clearly in the image (see link below). Yes, the guard has his arm over the photographer's shoulders

around the vicinity of his neck, but he isn't choking him (yes, he has the potential). The photographer's hands were outstretched as if to gesture either surprise or an explanation; if he was really getting choked, they would be defending his neck. To the laymen, the image was disturbing; for someone who gets choked all types of ways on a regular basis, this was nothing.

I have written recently about problems when the former, misinformed ilk, is in a position to make decisions that impact those of the latter group, who actually know what's up. But this time I want to look at it from a different perspective---accepting this reality (even if it is messed up) from the practitioner's view.

Though a rare occurrence, by chance we have also recently had two different incidents of alleged inappropriate use of a student's martial arts training. Upon further investigation, both were not nearly as egregious as initially thought, but do illustrate a larger point.

The first occurrence involved a young man who happened to "karate chop" the power button of a computer at school. Apparently, this is a "thing" that he and other kids do. The only problem is since everyone knew he actually did martial arts, when he did it, it was violent and supposedly broke the device. Turns out, it wasn't damaged after all. I am not surprised...I would think the one who actually knows how to do it, would have better control than the ones who don't. To the laymen, the other kids were just playing...but when our student did it, here was a deadly trained middle schooler who assassinated a poor, unsuspecting laptop.

The second incident is remarkably similar to the security guard/photographer interaction. A young lady was with two other girls. Long story short, banter became roughhousing in which our student put one of the other girls in a headlock type grip to give her a noogie. The girl freaked out about having arms around her neck and ran out claiming our student "choked her out." If she had really been choked out, she wouldn't have been running anywhere. Our student is insistent she didn't choke her at all. But because the other girls knew our student did BJJ, they assumed she choked the girl, and the girl who knows nothing about chokes gets to define what happened.

As unfair as that seems, an even scarier scenario is when it comes to the legal issues of an actual self-defense claim. Again, assumptions are going to be made about what you did—it looked dangerous to the uninitiated in the jury, even though it really wasn't. On top of that, your competence in martial arts could be held against you to establish a ridiculous standard of care. If I am ever in a self-defense situation, once they find out what I do for a living, there is a good chance I am going to be held to an impossible standard. Why didn't you jedi mind trick him so he didn't attack you? You could have taken your jacket off and tied him up like Jackie Chan does in the movies. What you did was mean...you left bruises. I was waiting for a victim to try my training out on, just like our student did with that innocent Chromebook.

Think I am exaggerating? Maybe, but I once served as an expert witness on a case regarding negligence during a self-defense seminar. The injury happened on a throw involving the person being tripped backwards. Your feet barely have to leave the floor and you can basically sit down into the fall. Many of the witnesses described the plaintiff being "flipped" or "flipped over." One prong of my argument (that led to a favorable outcome) was that the description of being flipped suggests going upside down, also implying a greater height, and was not an accurate description of the actual motion. On a more speculative note, I found it interesting that the verbiage "flip" kept appearing. My guess is it is an example of the power of group think when it comes to the layperson. One person mentioned after the fact that the plaintiff got "flipped" and everyone adopted the description. Luckily, I was able to explain THAT wasn't a flip, THIS is a flip, and what was said happened was a lot worse than what really happened. Perhaps this is the exception rather than the rule.

The moral to the story for my readers is the same counsel I gave our students in those conferences. We must realize those who do martial arts are going to be held to a higher standard and assumptions such as those are going to be made. We are not going to change the ignorant—often willingly so—of their opinions and perceptions. Rather, we must be even more vigilant to not put ourselves in positions where our actions can be misconstrued, and those assumptions can be applied. At the end of every TKD intro we discuss and warn our new student that even if they are just excited to show off their new moves on the playground, if they get too close to someone, it looks like they are fighting, and they are going to get into trouble for it. With great power comes great responsibility. It is a lesson to avoid the cautionary tales I just described above. Otherwise, we are left trying to explain, in our best Aussie accent, that wasn't a choke, THIS is a choke.

Link to the "choke hold" in question:

<https://au.sports.yahoo.com/college-basketball-atlantic-10-st-bonaventure-vcu-security-guard-chokehold-cameraman-043636594.html>

Crocodile Dundee Knife Scene

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dSnosk4tWrg>