



# DECEMBER 21 GMA NEWSLETTER

***Congrats to our newest black belt promotions: Mr. Nassim Florestant, Miss Maya Mras, Mr. Jack Higgins (2<sup>nd</sup> degree), Mr. Kaiden Cedeno (2<sup>nd</sup>), and our newest junior master (4<sup>th</sup> dan), Mr. Ryan Spires***

***THANK YOU AND WELCOME:*** Miss Perryman, Mr. Noah Wilson, and Mr. Nate Wilson are in transition periods in their schools/careers and will be stepping down as instructors to focus on the next chapters of their professional life. We wish them all the best and thank them for being key role models and examples of servant leaders that we strive for here at GMA. Mr. Cedeno and Mr. Vandewalle have been working hard to be ready to fill in their roles. They have big shoes to fill, and it may take a bit of a transition, but one we have undergone many times. I am sure you will embrace them as part of our GMA team.

## **Upcoming events:**

Dec 4 <sup>th</sup>	Bloomington Open BJJ tournament
Dec 4 <sup>th</sup>	Leadership team Xmas shopping outing 2:30 (meet at school)
Dec 11 <sup>th</sup>	FAST stress shooting 9:00-12:30
Dec 11 <sup>th</sup>	FAST Adults Basics 1:00-4:30
Dec 14 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Party and Awards Banquet at Fairgrounds 6:00 pm
Dec 17 <sup>th</sup>	TKD testing
Dec 18 <sup>th</sup>	Leadership Team 9:00-10:30
Dec 18 <sup>th</sup>	Demo Team 10:30-12:00
Dec 18 <sup>th</sup>	Black belt prep 12:30-2:00
Dec 18 <sup>th</sup>	Black belt ceremony 2:00-2:30
Dec 18 <sup>th</sup>	TKD black belt stripe retesting 2:30-4:00
Dec 24-26 <sup>th</sup>	No class, Merry Christmas. Classes resume Dec 27 <sup>th</sup>
Dec 28 <sup>th</sup>	Weapons camp w Dr. Winkle 9:00-3:00
Dec 29 <sup>th</sup>	Tai chi curriculum camp 9:00-3:00
Dec 29 <sup>th</sup>	World champion and ATOS BB Nikki Sullivan BJJ seminar 1:00-3:00
Dec 30 <sup>th</sup>	Friday <b>evening</b> schedule on Thurs! combined TKD 5:30, LD 6:30, etc.
Dec 31 <sup>st</sup> -Jan 1 <sup>st</sup>	NO class. Happy New Year. Classes resume Jan 3 <sup>rd</sup>
Dec 31 <sup>st</sup>	Leadership Team/Jr. Leadership team Cobra kai binge (tba)
Jan 8 <sup>th</sup>	Catch up camp 9:00-11:30
Jan 8 <sup>th</sup>	Spar Wars Kendo/Saber night 5:00-9:00 pm
Jan 15 <sup>th</sup>	Demo Team performance—Indian Creek High school halftime
Jan 20-21	Kristian Woodmansee returns for BJJ
Jan 29 <sup>th</sup>	Demo Team performance—Martinsville HS halftime

## **Xmas Party, Dance and Awards Banquet**

This years Christmas party/awards banquet and dance has been scheduled for Dec 14<sup>th</sup> at the Morgan County Fairgrounds. Arrival and set up will be from 6:00-6:30. The dinner and awards banquet will begin at 6:00. Following the awards, there will be some games and a dance that will continue until 8:30 or 9:00 pm. This is a chance to join in some fellowship, recognize some key students and parents. This year will be desert only, and signups will be posted soon. We also need a very close idea of people attending for seating arrangements. No classes will meet that Tuesday. We hope everyone will be able to share in our annual event. We also need signs up for set up at the fairgrounds that morning.



## Winter Camps Coming Up Fast

Rather than having the kids sitting around stuffing themselves with candy, we take the vacation time to offer something special. Don't forget you can also make it a X-mas present. Camp price includes lunch and some of the weapons or gear needed for the seminar, and you can put the gear under the tree!

**Nikki Sullivan BJJ No-gi seminar.** World class competitor, instructor, and ATOS HQ Black belt with Indiana roots will return to our mats for a No-gi seminar. **Dec 29<sup>th</sup> 7:00-9:00**

**Winter Weapons camp: Dr. Winkle will be returning.** This year we have a special treat for weapons camp, as one of Mr. Sieg's primary instructors in the Filipino arts, Dr. Jason Winkle will be returning to teach the weapons camp. He will be focusing on **Stick and Dagger and Dos Manos (two handed stick system)**—one of Mr. Sieg favorite approaches. Weapons camp will be **Dec 28th from 9:00-3:00**

**Tai chi curriculum camp.** We will cover as much of the tai chi material as we can in one day **on Dec 29<sup>th</sup> from 9:00-3:00**

**Catch up camp Jan 8th.** Fallen behind or gotten a little rusty on account of the holidays? Or maybe you just want some extra practice? It is a busy time and people get out of the routine. Here is your chance to get the new year started right with extra help focused on testing requirements. We keep it cheap to give everyone a chance to get extra work in.

**Spar Wars NIGHT! Jan 8th** We will also be having a SPAR WARS/ parents night out on Sat, Jan 18th from 5:00-9:00. Jedi and light sabers were largely based on Eastern martial arts themes and the art of Kendo. The night will include pizza, basic kendo instruction, sparring and games, and we plan to teach a choreographed light saber duel which you can film. The event will include an action flex light saber that is safe and durable for actual sparring (but unfortunately not cheap—this is an actual training weapon with a Star Wars theme). Participants are encouraged to dress up in a Star Wars theme as much as they want. There will need to be a minimum number of sign ups, which must be done in advance to get the light sabers. Previous Spars Wars night or Weapons camp with the light saber will obviously get a huge discount.

## And the NOMINEES are:

This year we are announcing those students who are nominated for our yearly awards:

**Student of the year:** *Maya Mras, Rebecca Watkins, Jocce Grounds*

**Black Belt of the year:** *Nathin Plummer, Jenna Berry, Preston Santiago, Wesley Yoshida*

**Most Improved Student:** *Theo Higgins, Mikayla Prater, Cayleigh Allender, Austin Brummett, Levi Elmore, Liam Canada*

**Competitor of the year (TKD):** *Jenna Berry, Ryan Spires, Briana Crowe, Hope Bennett, Kylie Yoshida.*

*Honorable mention: Kaiden Cedeno and Kai Crowe*

**Competitor of the year (BJJ):** *TBD after the Bloomington Open*

## Please Plan ahead for Xmas Items

If you have any last-minute Christmas shopping to do (don't we all) or need that stocking stuffer or whatever, just a reminder to please plan in advance. Many of our suppliers go out of stock of seasonal items and we want to make sure we minimize the delays in getting any special orders to you! *The last day to order Xmas items to ensure shipping (assuming availability) is Dec. 13<sup>th</sup>. Keep in mind, some things are already back ordered past the holidays.*

## Give another person the chance to “be more” this Christmas

Don't forget that you can get a gift certificate for a uniform and month of classes –100.00 value, for only a 30.00 cost to you (BJJ uniforms more). If you know anyone who has ever “thought about” doing martial arts, or if there is someone you know who “this would be good for,” this is your chance to get them off the fence and really reaping the benefits of training.

**Quotes of the Week:** This month, with goal setting around the corner in Jan, we will be talking about the differences between the habits and behaviors of successful people and unsuccessful people.



## Training Anniversaries

Kylie Yoshida (TKD 13 yrs.)

## GMA Wishes a Happy Birthday to:

Rebecca Watkins	12/02	Austin Brummett	12/03	Maura Watkins	12/05
Richie Long	12/07	Bixley Davis	12/08	Kyler Chylaszek	12/12
Samantha Rike	12/12	Lydia McCarthy	12/13	Annika Gray	12/17
Jocce Grounds	12/18	Noel Voorhees	12/19	Mikayla Prater	12/21
Levi Elmore	12/21	Samson Kirk	12/21	Kevin Goins	12/23
Eli Voorhees	12/25	Mrs. Yoshida	12/26	Jude Haywood	12/28
Chaz Smith	12/28	Roger Martin	12/28	Korbyn Sorrells	12/28
Zachary Metzger	12/28	Mason Chirpas	12/30	Ava Prince	12/31

## Class Cancellations for Holidays, class adjustments, and general policies

- No class on Tuesday, Dec 14<sup>th</sup> on account of the Christmas party...see you there.
- Holiday class cancellations: No class on Dec 24<sup>th</sup>, Dec 25<sup>th</sup> on account of Christmas. Classes will resume Dec 27<sup>th</sup>. On Dec 30<sup>th</sup>, we will run the Friday EVENING class schedule to accommodate those who are missing out with holiday cancellations. No class on Dec 31<sup>st</sup>, Jan 1<sup>st</sup> on account of New Years. Classes resume on Jan 3<sup>rd</sup>. Also, a reminder of our general policy regarding severe weather. We *try* to follow the lead of local schools—if they cancel school that day, cancel evening events or let out early, so do we. If on morning delay, we will meet as normal. This applies to universal problems such as snow and ice, not things like flooding or other issues that may be more regionalized. The only exception to this may occur when the school cancels in advance of a huge storm and the forecast is *clearly* incorrect, or when crews have all day to work on the roads. When in doubt, simply call, check the website and Facebook, check your email for announcements.

## Tournament results

We had eleven students take home a total of 15 medals at the Crays Covid Cup tournament in Noblesville. The highlight was probably in forms competition, where nearly half (5/11) of our competitors took 1<sup>st</sup> place. Congrats to the following:

Jack Higgins	1 <sup>st</sup> forms	2 <sup>nd</sup> weapons	Holly Brown	1 <sup>st</sup> forms
Jenna Berry	3 <sup>rd</sup> sparring		Finn Vandewalle	3 <sup>rd</sup> forms
Wesley Yoshida	3 <sup>rd</sup> sparring		Kylie Yoshida	1 <sup>st</sup> forms
Hope Bennett	2 <sup>nd</sup> forms	1 <sup>st</sup> sparring	Nassim Florestant	1 <sup>st</sup> forms
Kayla Bush	1 <sup>st</sup> forms	1 <sup>st</sup> sparring	Caleigh Allender	2 <sup>nd</sup> sparring
Annika Gray	3 <sup>rd</sup> forms	2 <sup>nd</sup> breaking		

## The Rittenhouse Case Musings and Lessons

(NOTE and Shameless Plug—For a deeper explanation of some of these concepts, they are covered in our upcoming Stress Shooting Fast Courses)

If you are remotely interested in your rights to self-defense, then you should be noting the Kyle Rittenhouse trial, because this case could impact them. Hopefully, it doesn't, but at the very least it is a case study on several concepts both in terms of self-defense and aftermath. To be sure, the circumstances surrounding the acts in question are emotionally charged, and I hope everyone can separate those issues from the facts of the case.



*Understanding gun laws can vary.* Contrary to what is still being parroted after the case, it turns out Rittenhouse did not cross state lines with a firearm. That really doesn't mean anything by itself, depending on which states and their specific laws and reciprocity agreements. I have crossed state lines with a firearm many times, but how or even if depends on where I am going. In this case, it seemed at one point, Rittenhouse knew Wisconsin firearm law better than the prosecutor. The DA asked why he was carrying a rifle instead of a less conspicuous handgun, and Rittenhouse replied because it was illegal for him to possess a handgun, as opposed to the rifle! But the moral to the story for the rest of us is to make sure you are aware of such laws when you travel to another state. You don't want to find out you used an illegal weapon (mag capacity for example) while defending yourself because a law varies from state to state.

*Duty to retreat.* This of course varies from state to state (do you know yours, or the states' you travel to?) Before deadly force is used, you must exhaust other options. It seems as though this is satisfied as Rittenhouse is being chased through the lot and only fired when being cornered or closed upon. Further, this seems to be satisfied as he is running down the street towards police. He either fell or was knocked down but got back up and continued to run. It appears that he only shot those that were an immediate threat and didn't shoot others. Note that a duty to retreat doesn't mean run at all costs. If running is not an option, you don't have to. BUT you have to be able to articulate WHY it wouldn't have worked, such as, "I would have been chased down from behind." (Why would you be chased? because I had tried to remove myself and they continued to follow me...and so it goes). My opinion is that trying to outrun a mob would be difficult, and they had already caught him and kicked him, hit him with a skateboard, etc., so he met the criteria of attempting to escape.

*The use of a skateboard as a weapon.* I find the prosecution's insistence that a skateboard can't be considered a deadly weapon to be completely disingenuous. Admittedly, any implement or tool must be taken in context of how it is being used—someone carrying a baseball bat to a game is not a lethal threat, while someone coming towards you with it cocked back might be a different story. But I think gripping the skateboard in such a way to generate full power against a downed person's head certainly qualifies. But note, the manner in which it was used was certainly debated.

*Distance of Rosenbaum and shooting to stop the threat.* The prosecutor maintained that drone footage showed Rosenbaum was 3-5 feet away from Rittenhouse when shots were fired and therefore wasn't an immediate threat. He failed to mention that Rosenbaum was charging fast and reaching for the weapon, meaning it was only a fraction of a second to deploy the weapon before it could possibly become too late. This is a point that we specifically address in our shooting class--that video evidence may not show the threat to be as imminent as it really was, especially in the eyes of an uninformed jury who isn't aware of things like the Tueller rule. Additionally, the prosecutor maintained that Rosenbaum was shot in the back...suggesting there was no threat. Here is another time I felt the DA crossed the line from seeking justice to simply doing everything he could do to win, because that was really taken out of context. As it turns out, the shot in the back was the final shot in the group, taken as Rosenbaum is falling to the ground having been shot while lunging. Here again, in our classes we discuss the myth of the one shot one kill concept, and if you get the point you need to use potentially lethal threat, then you shoot to eliminate the threat. Sometimes there is a reactionary gap between processing what is happening to the threat and how many times you pull the trigger. Now, there is certainly the matter that you are responsible for each and every discharge of your firearm, which should be a different discussion, but these two issues can blur. I was glad to see that the jury took the time constraints under consideration, because holding him responsible for the shot in the back in that situation would be a precedent that would be disastrous for tactics.

*Active shooter assumption of risk.* Initially, I thought part of the tragedy of the entire incident was that Rittenhouse's other attackers who approached him as he left the scene may have been actually trying to do good by stopping an active shooter. The trial threw a lot of cold water on that theory, and it is harder to make the active shooter argument when Rittenhouse wasn't all that active, but was rather very selective, only targeting people who, for example, were pointing a gun at him (and only when he pulled a gun). But the broader lesson is one that every good active



shooter course should mention...you need to recognize that by responding to an active shooter, you have a good chance of getting shot yourself, not just from the shooter, but from other people trying to intervene who mistake your identity (See the tragic case of Johnny Hurley). Our next stress shooting extrav will focus on strategies to minimize this, but realize it is something you must accept.

*Should he have been there? Provocation versus rights.* This is probably the most controversial aspect of the case. The DA argued that the Rittenhouse was provoking violence simply by being present at a volatile scene with an AR. (This argument doesn't seem to be equally applied to other people with firearms, including one of Rittenhouse's accusers who was illegally carrying). Overall, this is a very slippery slope. It was certainly not the best judgement. But bad judgement doesn't make you responsible when crimes are committed against you...the bad guy is responsible for that. The other is victim blaming. Indeed, the prosecutor's argument was compared to saying a girl deserved being raped for going into certain establishments in a miniskirt. It is a logically sound comparison. However, it must be weighed against whether he had culpability in the conflict. If I go into a biker bar wearing an ascot and righteously insist I have right to be there and be served, I have probably eroded much of my claim to self-defense; I should have left when I had the chance. Or if I actively sought out the conflict, "in pursuit of a quarrel" as one court put it, and then changed my mind, neither the bad guys nor the courts look kindly on that.

An interesting point that I didn't hear discussed (though I might have missed it) was just how welcome was Rittenhouse where he was located. But unless you call putting out a fire in pursuit of a quarrel, it seems like he was not being an antagonist other than being there. Mere presence being equated to provocation is an extremely dangerous precedent that would undermine self-defense law. If that precedent was equally applied (a big if) then any protest/counterprotest that becomes violent would then be default the fault of the counter-protesters, regardless of who actually started the violence. Again, this is not much different than another victim blaming, amounting to you shouldn't have been/gone there.

The Rittenhouse case had volatile circumstances and reporting. Regardless of your opinion, it provides the opportunity to discuss some particularly important self-defense concepts and principals. Principals and rights that could have been jeopardized or eroded in this case...a fact I am grateful was not.

This is my disclaimer is that I am not a lawyer, although I often try to sound like one, and this is not an overly technical conversation on the law...but one that still goes beyond most people's knowledge, so I hope it can be helpful. I must also admit that I have better things to do than watch the entire trial. I tried to keep up, but I may have missed an important fact as it pertains to the case, but the principals discussed are sound.