

## Greenwood Schools respond to student loss

By Ashton Jones-Shell  
reporter

Students are mourning middle school student and friend James Davis, who died from a gunshot wound a few weeks ago.

The GMS staff rallied to come up with a plan to make sure students felt their needs were addressed. Some of the students felt confused and surprised that something like this could happen to someone they knew.

Bryson Bell said, "Our school had a two-hour delay in case we needed extra time to sit and think about what happened. They also gave us the option to skip school if we didn't feel ready to come back to school after such a big event."

The staff handled the situation with lots of care and comfort for kids who needed someone to talk to and someone to be there for them during this time.

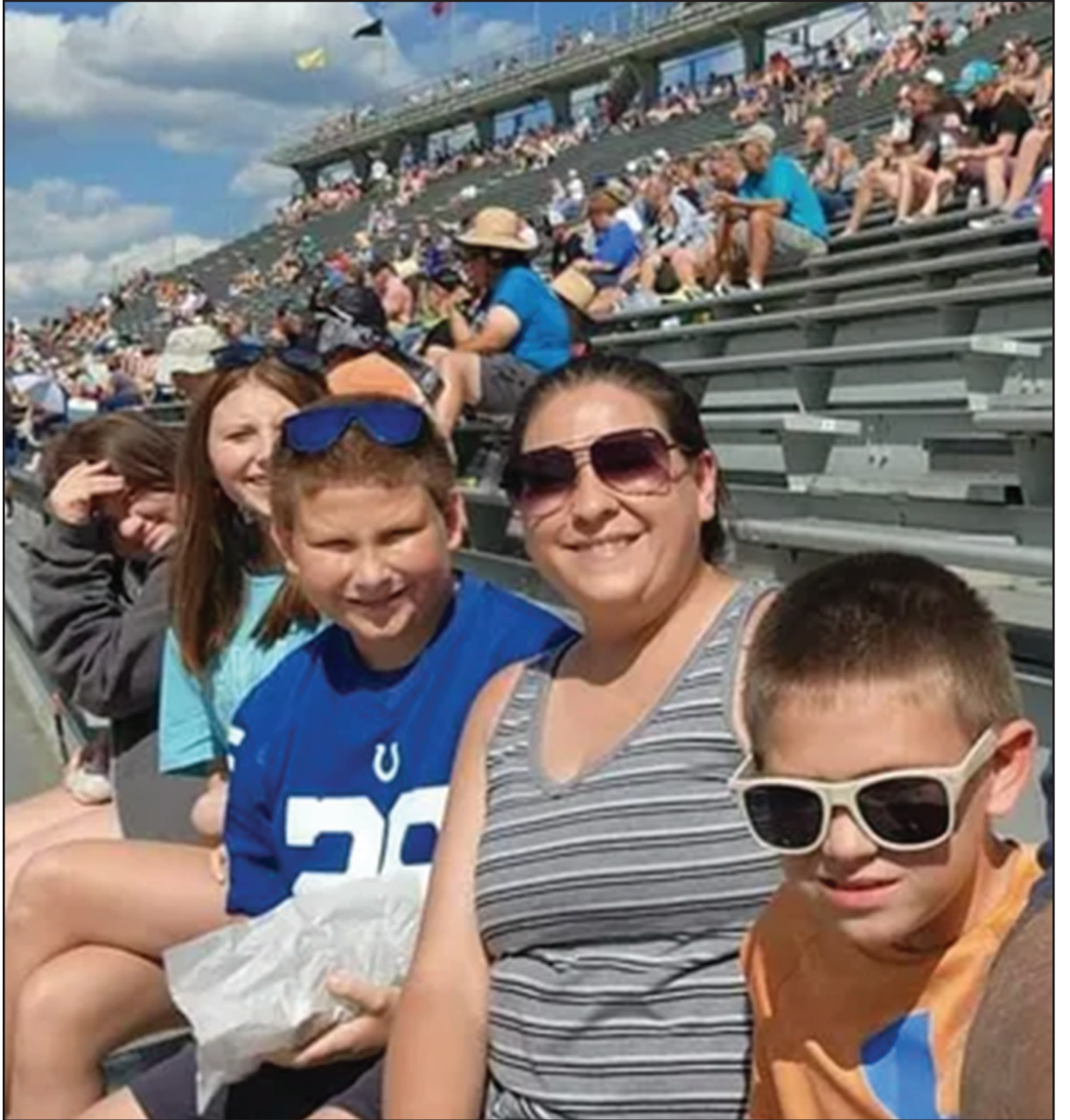
"The first day back to school we had no work and only asked questions and had talks with teachers and counselors. This helped me and a lot of kids that go to Greenwood deal with it a lot easier and made us feel safe and cared for when we had many options to grieve," Addie Roll said.

A candle lighting was held at Freedom Park and lasted approximately an hour with roughly 50 students attending.

"During the candle lighting, nobody was able to actually light the candles due to the wind, so we all decided to improvise by shining our phone flashlights instead. Everyone was still able to share stories and memories that they had with James. There were a huge number of people, including one of the boys that was involved in an incident," Amirah Daughtery said.

Sophomore Lizzy Metzger, who is a member of the GHS Fellowship of Christian Athletes, decided to get the members of FCA to join her in writing notecards to each teacher who had James as a student. FCA also designed posters to hang up around the school to spread awareness.

"FCA decided to come together and send some encouragement and made a bunch of posters and cards. We wanted to do as much as we could to support as many teachers and students as possible during this difficult time," Mrs. Stephanie Senac, FCA sponsor, said.



James Davis and his family enjoy the Indy 500. A GoFundMe page has been set up for James' family, which has already raised more than \$12,000. This photo was used to create the GoFundMe page.



"I think that guns are good to protect yourself. However, I don't think that they should be used inappropriately," senior Avery Guilfoyle said.



"I think that they can be dangerous, but with the right precautions, they can be good. I do think they should be controlled, though," junior Sean Newitt said.



"I believe that people should have access to guns to protect themselves. They should be restricted in public as well," sophomore Zak Ahmed said.

## There should be less control on guns



By Alex Kramer  
news editor

The first step in solving a problem is admitting there is a problem, and America has a gun problem. However, simply banning guns is not the answer.

With America's growing epidemic of gun-related crime, gun ownership has never been more necessary. When a person breaks into a home threatening a family, it is up to the police to protect them, but in that crucial few minutes before the police arrive, that family is on their own without any great means of protection.

With the absence of a gun in the home, many are left hopeless in the case of an attack. People owning and carrying guns deter crime due to criminals either knowing they have guns on them or understanding a home is protected by a trained shooter.

Gun ownership also deters crime in the case of store robberies and mass shootings. Greenwood is sadly all too familiar with this in the case of the mall shooting a few years ago. A man with the intent to kill men, women, and children in the Greenwood Park Mall came in with an assault rifle. That man mur-

dered three and injured two more, and after a minute, he was fatally shot by a mall patron who carried a sidearm with him. Without that mall patron, many more would likely have lost their lives that day, and due to him technically breaking the mall's no-firearm policy, he saved lives.

One of the leading reasons for more gun control is that it will decrease the number of gun-related crimes committed by criminals and other offenders. In reality, most of the time these guns either do not belong to the one committing the act, were obtained illegally, or were augmented illegally. Simply adding a law that states people can no longer own guns would effectively lead to more deaths via guns, people losing the ability to protect themselves, and criminals still being able to obtain the weapons.

Gun laws in America do need to be changed but outright banning guns might lead to a higher crime rate and more violent acts being done to those unable to protect themselves. America's fundamental right to own guns has been beneficial for the American people and taking that away now could result in problems for both victims of future violent crimes and gun owners.

## There should be more restrictions on guns



By Kolton Pauley  
reporter

The number of shooting deaths there are in the U.S. is getting out of hand, and it is both sad and scary.

People get their hands on guns way too easily in today's world. The safety of communities and neighborhoods is in serious trouble. Anything could happen at any moment if a gun gets into the wrong hands. Even kids are getting access to guns now and that is not okay at all. When buying a gun there needs to be a background search on the buyer. There needs to be more laws and safety protocols for guns.

People can not even feel safe anymore when out and about or when sleeping. With more gun laws, people would feel safer when walking with their families or going out on the town by themselves. Too many innocent people are killed each year by gun violence.

Kids have too much access to guns. Every gun inside of

a home needs to be locked up and out of reach of children. A recent incident involved kids who attend Greenwood Middle School. It is disappointing knowing that kids can have that much power in their hands and not even know it. Kids do not understand the dangers of guns at such a young age. There are not any requirements to take a gun safety course even though there should be. With this, everyone would know how to be careful and safe with a gun.

When buying a gun, the buyer needs to get a background check every time. If any person buying a gun has ever been charged with anything gun-related, they should not be able to buy a gun. If they implemented this law, communities and neighborhoods would be much safer. Some current gun laws are the permit to carry which means anyone has the right to carry a firearm on them. This is not safe when the law allows anyone to just carry one when they want.

These would just be the first step to stop the gun violence issues in America.