



Jessie Lewis

June 30, 2006 - December 14, 2012

When Barbara McSperrin, of Beacon Falls, Conn., heard news of the shooting on Friday, she sent a text to her friend Scarlett Lewis, whose 6-year-old son, Jesse, attended Sandy Hook Elementary School.

The response came later in the day. The text message from Ms. Lewis said only: "Jesse's gone."

Boisterous and imaginative, Jesse was raised in the village of Sandy Hook. The boy was also a regular, with his parents, at Newtown's Misty Vale Deli, according to a manager there, Angel Salazar.

On Friday morning, Jesse had ordered his favorite breakfast sandwich—sausage, egg, and cheese—and a hot chocolate, Mr. Salazar said.

He expected to see Jesse again on Saturday morning, when he usually comes in with his mother and a friend. This Saturday, only the friend came, and she delivered the news.

"He was always friendly, he always liked to talk," Mr. Salazar said.

In Sandy Hook, family friends said he played with the family's collection of animals: five horses; a mini-horse; a mini-donkey; three dogs; and chickens.

Recently, he was learning to ride horseback, the friends said.

"He was a typical, 6-year-old little boy, full of life," Ms. McSperrin said.

Another family friend, showing a photo of Jesse grinning on a jungle gym and wearing a Sandy Hook Elementary T-shirt, described him as a "rowdy, lovable little boy. He had a big personality."

Jesse liked to think up far-fetched scenarios, asking "What if..." before spinning a hypothetical tale, the friend said.

A woman who helps look after the family's horses said Jesse and her 8-year-old son used to play in the hayloft and dream up pranks. The last time the boys were together, they had the idea of barricading the door to the barn with bricks.

The caretaker, who asked not to be named, said her own son "didn't understand" when she told him about the shootings. "It's tough on all the kids," she said.

Ms. Lewis has said little since the shootings and has been with family, said her friend, Ms. McSperrin.