

# The Phoenix



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## News

### 135,000 Tax Dollars Lost

■ by: Anton Snow

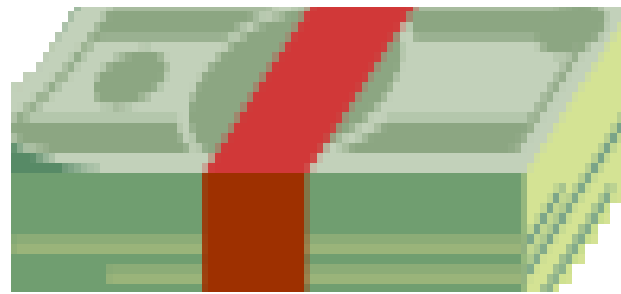
In Seattle, a woman by the name of Lyudmila Shimonova has been living in a \$1.2 million home with \$135,000 of federal tax money. The money was supposed to go to low-income families.

The government has been trying to retrieve the money. They believe that her husband, David Silvers, a Seattle chiropractor, is using the

money as well.

When the couple filled out their application for welfare, they didn't say they were married. However, federal agents believe that they are married.

Michael Rotchadl, a local painter, was living off food stamps. He has finally been hired. According to him, finding out that someone is living



so well off money that some people depend on for all their general needs is, "Just gut wrenching."

Neither of the suspects has been charged, yet the government has filed lawsuits in order to regain the lost money.

### Attacker Shot in the Face with BB-Gun

■ by: Colin Parke

A brave boy fended off his mother's attacker using only a BB-Gun.

Tuesday, November 22, in Bellingham Washington, the roommate of a woman and her son came home drunk. The man kicked in the door, approached the mother, and tried to strangle her. The boy heard the commotion and went to see what was wrong.

When he entered the room, he saw the roommate trying to harm his mother. He tried yelling and screaming which was unsuccessful. He then hit the man with a board, which got his attention, and then shot him in the face about four times with a BB-gun.

### Wrong-Way Driver

■ by: Colin Parke

A man from Blackfoot received eight years jail time because of felony drunken driving and misdemeanor injury to his three-year-old child.

This man was arrested June 27 after being found driving the wrong way down I-15. When he was arrested, his blood alcohol level was .266. His blood alcohol level was over three times the legal limit which is .08. His child was also not in a car seat or booster seat.

### Cracklin' Gourmet Popcorn

■ by: Canon Hix

Do you love popcorn? If so, then you will love the flavored popcorn made by popcornologist, Gena Rupp.

On December 14, 2011, Gena Rupp, owner of Cracklin' Gourmet Popcorn, was asked a few questions about her career. She wanted to open a popcorn shop because she had visited many other gourmet popcorn places and thought that the popcorn didn't have the "fun" included. So she opened her own shop three years ago. The only problem was that it took her a while to find a good location, and to get customers since she had just opened the shop.

Every day, Gena sells about 65 to 75 bags of popcorn, depending on the day, and she usually gets about 18 customers a day. During the holidays, she gets about 35 customers each day.

There are 52 different flavors of popcorn with the most popular flavor being the 'night and day' caramel. Gena's personal favorite is the cinnamon, and her husband's is the chocolate coconut.

So, popcorn lovers, try Cracklin' Gourmet Popcorn.

## RANDOM FACTS!

Facts By: Makena

Kenerly

- **Caffeine boosts memory.**
- **The majority of suicides occur on Mondays.**
- **Like fingerprints, everyone's tongue print is different.**
- **You can start a fire with ice.**
- **The best recorded distance for projectile vomiting is 27 feet.**
- **If you were to stretch out a standard Slinky, it would measure 87 feet.**
- **Babies are born without knee caps.**
- **A sneeze travels out your mouth at over 100 miles per hour.**
- **Fine-grained volcanic ash can be found as an ingredient in some toothpaste.**
- **Over 1,000 birds a year die from smashing into windows.**
- **Right-handed people live, on average, nine years longer than left-handed people.**
- **Baskin Robbins once made ketchup ice cream.**
- **Your fingernails grow faster in winter.**
- **Donkeys kill more people annually than plane crashes.**
- **Pollen never deteriorates. It is one of the few natural substances that lasts indefinitely.**

## Unemployment Insurance

■ by: Anton Snow

The Idaho Department of Labor has an Unemployment Program used to help those who have been laid off from their jobs to help them find new ones. To find out more, employee Mr. Kevin Snow was interviewed.

The program requires employers and companies to pay an unemployment tax of one to four percent. When someone is laid off or fired, they are given 26 weeks of unemployment benefits. Those benefits include about \$340 per week, and with the federal government,

99 weeks of benefits. The person must send a resume at least twice a week to keep these benefits.

Unfortunately, there are problems with the system. Identity theft and fraud give the department a lot of trouble. Some people fake unemployment by using a different name and collect the benefits while they are actually working. To reduce fraud, the department cross-checks people's information with Social Security companies.

The Unemployment plan was introduced

by the Federal Government shortly after the Great Depression. Franklin Delano Roosevelt was one of the more influential people in creating this program.

During 2008-09, about \$600 million went to unemployed people in Idaho. The money, used wisely, will help. If used poorly, all that money goes to waste. "Sometimes people are sent to learn a new trade for their work," says Mr. Snow. "Others are financially stable in their new jobs."

Positively, businesses are more careful when they lay off employees. The money that is given to the unemployed can help people keep their homes, cars and possessions. The program is changing people's lives in a good way.

Unfortunately, the program replaces responsibility for saving, encourages cheating, and is a burden on businesses. Alternatives to this plan include retraining, private business, and re-education.

## MAN FOUND DEAD

■ by: Anton Snow

During Thanksgiving weekend in Washington, two men answered an advertisement for a rental space. When they got there, they found a dead body. The death appeared to be of natural causes.

When the men knocked on the door, it was answered by a four-year old boy who said, while crying, "My dad won't wake up." After sending the boy to a neighbor's house, the men found the father's dead body and called 911. The man was in his thirties and because of the circumstances, there is an investigation into the cause of death.

The mother was out of town that Saturday, so the young boy was sent to his grandparents by the Bellevue police.

## Ipod Extortionist Arrested

■ by: Anton Snow

A twenty-year-old Boise woman attempted to extort \$100 for the return of a lost iPhone.

The iPhone owner lost the device while shopping at Big Lots on December 1, 2011. His wife began to get texts on her phone stating that they needed to pay \$100 for the return of the phone. If they didn't pay, the phone would be sold for \$300. The wife called the police, who helped them track down the texts.

The owner and extortionist agreed on \$86 and set up a meeting in Settlers Park. At one a.m., the extortionist, Indira Rahimic, was arrested in the park. The iPhone was returned to its owner.

Police say this type of crime has not happened in ten years. Rahimic faces a felony charge which could lead to prison time, or just a fine based on the severity of the offense.

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## USC Is Under Suspension

■ by: Will Black

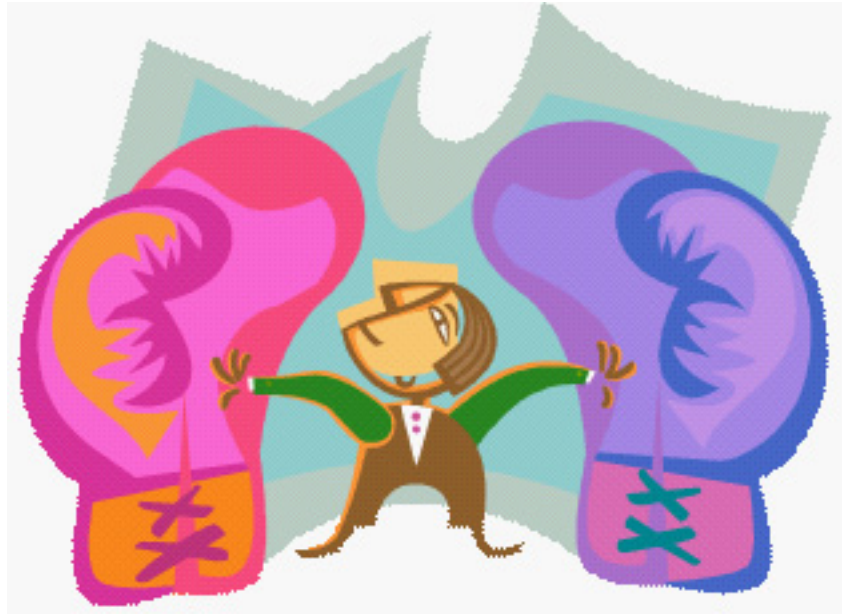
University of Southern California is under probation this year because they were paying their players to play. They lost everything including the National Title that they had won.

Reggie Bush had to give back the Heisman trophy that he had received because he was getting improper benefits, including money to play at USC.

The probation rules state that USC can't play in a bowl game or a conference championship until their probation ends. A possible championship they may have played in is the PAC 12

game. The NCAA said they couldn't, so the championship game was UCLA, who was 6-6, vs. Oregon, who was 10-2. As expected, Oregon won the game by a margin. This now makes UCLA 6-7, which means that they cannot go to a bowl game. However, the NCAA let them play in one this year because of the suspension of USC. USC's suspension ends in 2012, so that means that next year they will be able to go to a bowl game if they have a winning record.

So with that being said, Stanford would play in the PAC 12 game at the end of the year, but Oregon and Stan-



ford are in the same division. With USC in a different division Stanford can play them. That is why UCLA played in the PAC 12 championship

game. They were in second place in their division.

So maybe next year USC will play in the PAC 12 championship game or maybe a bowl game.

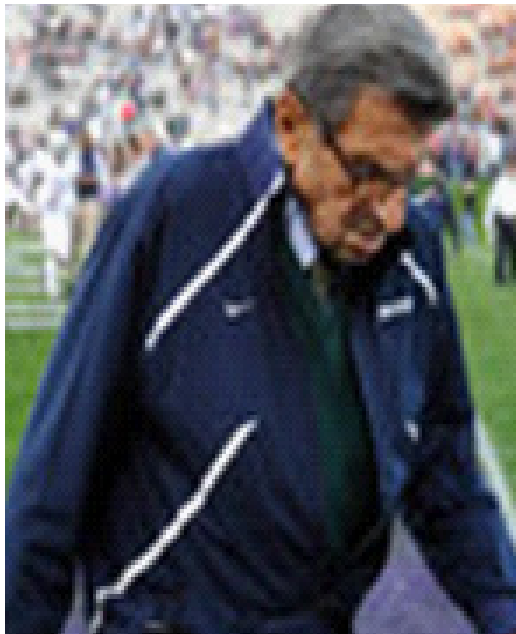
## JOE PATERNO GETS FIRED!

■ by: Will Black

We are Penn State! We are Penn State! The Penn State Nittany Lions will be yelling that without their head coach, Joe Paterno, who has recently been fired.

Joe Paterno is fired! No more "Joe Pa," as the Penn State students and fans called him. He was recently fired for breaking Pennsylvania state laws and university rules. He ended probably one of the best college football legacies with 409 career wins in his 44 seasons.

Penn State has been to 34 bowl games since Paterno has been head coach at Penn State, and has won 23 of the 34 bowl games he has coached. His legacy had abruptly come to the final stage as he was fired on November 9th, 2011. As of November 9,



Penn State University has no head coach. They have an interim head coach, Tom Bradley. He was named interim coach by the athletic director at the Penn State University. He was named interim instead of head coach because he is just filling the head coaching position until the end of the season.

Penn State University will find a new head coach eventually. Right now they are looking at the coach of Mississippi State, Dan Mullen. No one will know until the university has released its head coaching name later on in the year.

## NBA Lockout is Over

■ by: Will Black

Lebron, Wade, Nowitzki, Garnett, and all the other NBA superstars are back on TV. Who's going to win, and what was the lockout all about?

If you haven't heard, the NBA lockout is over. The players' association and the owners have come to an agreement and the season was to start by the 25th of December.

The owners say the teams are losing money, but the players say the ticket revenue is at an all-time high, so only some teams are losing money.

On August 2, the NBA filed two claims against the National Basketball Players' Association, claiming that the union had failed to negotiate in good faith by threatening decertification. The players are looking to protect their percentage of the league's basketball-related income (BRI) and want a shorter agreement with the NBA and a bigger income. The players are already making 51% of the team income while the team gets 49% percent. So why would the players need or want so much money? Look at Lebron James, for example. He is making \$16,022,500 a year and he says that isn't enough. Kobe Bryant makes \$25,244,493 and both of them want even more money!

However, before the case could play out in the courts, the league and the players came to a tentative agreement in the early morning on Nov. 26, following a 15-hour bargaining session.

# Soccer

■ by: Osbaldo Gonzalez

There are a lot of arguments from people who like football but could care less about soccer. Some of those people don't know that soccer is one of the most played sports in the whole world, and millions of people from different countries love to play.

Many cultures play soccer from Europe and Africa to China and Mexico. And, let's not forget the fine people in Brazil. Soccer is not as well appreciated in the United States, but in other countries it is. Many people in the United States are football fans. Soccer is still a sport played here, but it's not as popular.

Some people may like contact sports much more, but in soccer there's contact, but you're not beating the opponent's face in or tackling the person. Soccer is a good sport to test your reflexes if you are goalie. Soccer is a less popular sport in the United States, but in other countries it's very popular.

## Girl's Lacrosse

■ by: Victoria Arte

THANK YOU OFFICIALS, THANK YOU FANS, THANK YOU BISHOP KELLY. UP, UP, LACROSSE! The TVYLL (Treasure Valley Youth Lacrosse League) team's chant at the end of each game basically thanks everyone for being there and supporting the sport.

Girl's lacrosse is very misunderstood and gets confused with boys lacrosse. Girl's lacrosse is aggressive but without brutal attacks that happen on the boy's teams. Girl's lacrosse incorporates a little bit of every sport: basketball, football, soccer... the list goes on, but you get the point.

As for team names, they change from year to year. For example, the Unstoppable Alpacas became the What-cha-mic-call-its. This sport can land you a good scholarship to a school in New York or somewhere on the east coast.

The sport itself is, in some people's eyes, amazing. Others think it's lame because the players get hit. Some people don't like the school way of playing where no one gets hurt.

Therefore it has its own ups and downs. Please try and play in the spring. For more information, please go to [tvyll.com](http://tvyll.com).



# The Green Bay Packers

■ by: Osbaldo Gonzalez

The Green Bay Packers have gone undefeated this year and have a shot at going to the Super Bowl in February 2012. Their chances are really good because only a couple of NFL teams have gone undefeated and some have actually won the Super Bowl. However, the New England Patriots who went to the Super Bowl undefeated lost, but they still had a good season.

The Packers have overall good stats and scores like their rushing at 1294 yards last season. Their passing yards are 1463 passing yards and they have 4163 receiving yards. Their average punting is approximately 44.9 and their returns are 12.0. Looking at their team's totals for first down: it was 291 and their team's total yardage is 5254 yards.

There is so much talent in this football team. Their next game is going to be with the Chiefs on the 18th of December. The Green Bay Packers have won 13 Super Bowls and have been to 15. The Packers have the most Super Bowl wins in the NFL and are one of the highest paid NFL teams. There have been 22 halls of famers in the Green Bay Packers.

The Green Bay Packers have a chance to go to the Super Bowl again and may win if they play their cards right. If they do play in the Super Bowl and win, they will be looking at an all time high of 14 times. That may be history in the making, but the question is who is going to go with them to the Super Bowl.

## Ununium

■ by: Alyssa Einfalt

We all know about the four seasons: spring, summer, fall, and winter. Also, we know how seasons affect us and which one is our favorite. With the votes in and the season picked, the winner is... Fall!!! With the 23 people surveyed, fall won with seven people liking this season. Summer, spring and winter were tied with four votes for each of the seasons. Unknown had three votes, and 'All' had one vote.

Some reasons given for fall is peoples' birthday, Thanksgiving, the breaks, Halloween. Also school starts which some people are happy about while others disagree, and there are other personal reasons.

When fall comes, the leaves turn from green to red, yellow, and orange. Fall gets us ready for winter and snow and Christmas.

## Life, How It Is

■ by: Alyssa Einfalt

Do you wonder about your view of life itself or how others view it? How do people live life? What is your motto for life? Should you try and live life to the fullest, or be regular with little fun?

This question has been asked to two girls in the eighth grade, Makena Kenerly and Catherine Clay.

Catherine's point of view of life is, "If you want life to be regular, go ahead, but if you want to have some fun, make it interesting." She also admits she is clumsy. "Also, don't forget if you fall off a roof or trip over a tree, it doesn't go well." That is her motto or philosophy to live and go by.

Now, Makena's motto is, "Life is like a roll of toilet paper. The closer it gets to the end, the faster it will go." Also, she said, "Pack in as much fun as you can. Life is too short to hold a grudge. Enjoy life."

So, in the end, life is good.

## Child Abuse

■ by: Megan Boman

Katherine Haase was interviewed about her views on child abuse November 28, 2011. As you know, many people are against child abuse for many reasons. Katherine is one of those people.

The first thing she was asked in the interview was how much of an issue she thinks child abuse is. She said that she really hadn't heard much about it, so she really didn't know if it was major or not. She also said the thing she would do to help get the word out about what a problem child abuse is, is make cool stickers with a slogan on them. She would then hand them out to people and stick them everywhere.

The most important question asked was why she thought that adults these days abuse their children. She thought it was because the adults think it's effective to discipline their children, but she also said it was wrong. Another reason she mentioned is that it could stem from bad childhood experiences on the parents' part.

She was also asked her if she had any ideas on what people could do to help prevent child abuse. She suggested there could be an abuse hotline for children to call when they need help when they are being abused.

## Clean Up Your Act!

■ by: Victoria Arte

Can't close your binder? Wasting time in class digging through the mess you call your binder to find an assignment? Are teachers yelling at you to get with it? If you're looking for some way to make your life a little easier, all you have to do is be willing to give up a few minutes of your life, and get organized!

Since life is already difficult enough for MMS student Olivia Habbestad, she likes to improve it with organization! Olivia believes organization is extremely important to further your education. It saves you time, improves your grades, pleases parents and teachers, and most importantly, does away with unneeded stress. Doesn't it sound like it would be absolutely delightful to know where all your stuff is located? She says, "Unorganized people are just like everyone else. All they really need is to make the effort to be, and stay, organized."

Some good tools Olivia uses to arrange her possessions are labels, file folders, boxes, and drawers. She states, "Time management skills are crucial to organization in one's life." Sounds pretty "funtastic," right?

## Cell Phones in Class

■ by: Megan Bowman

Tori Hall was interviewed about her ideas on cell phones in class. We currently aren't allowed to have them in class, but I wanted to know if she agreed with it or not.

She thinks having cell phones in class is a good idea because if kids have smart phones, they can look up what they need to know faster than going through a textbook. She also thinks it's more of a tool than a distraction. She also happened to mention that a lot of kids bring them into class anyway, even though it's against the rules. I asked her if the punishment for getting caught with one in class was too harsh, and she said teachers should at least let you put it in your locker--not just automatically punish you.

Another question asked is if it was easy to sneak her phone into class, and if she has had experience in doing so. She told me it was fairly simple and that she has done it before without getting caught.



She told me that she would want it in class so she wouldn't have to waste time looking through her textbook. She also admitted that she has taken her phone into class many times before. She also happened to say that not many people actually abide by the rule of no cell phones in class.

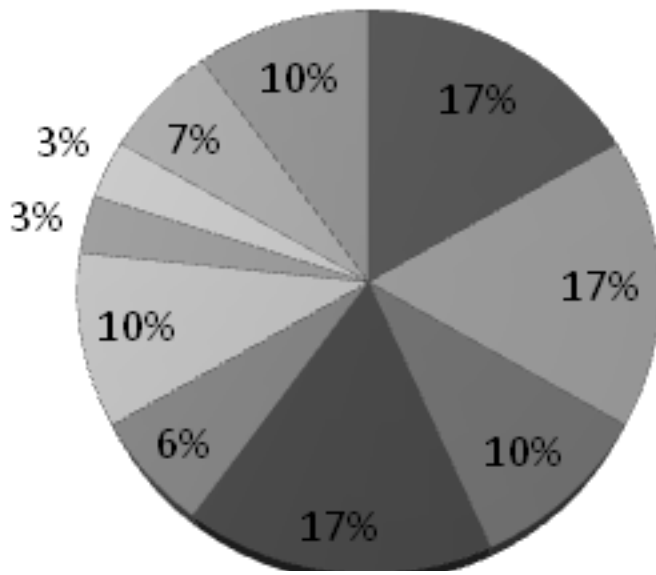
There really isn't anything teachers could do to keep students from having them in class.

What if teachers encouraged students to bring them to class?

## Favorite Colors

by: Shelby Hooker

- blue
- purple
- green
- lime green
- red
- rainbow
- indigo
- aqua
- turquoise
- black



What is your favorite color? Students were surveyed and these are some of the their favorite colors. The chart also shows the percent of students who chose each color as their favorite.

## Getting to Know SpongeBob SquarePants

by: Tori Hall

SpongeBob SquarePants is best described as a rambunctious sea sponge. He is recognizable by his yellow skin, buck teeth, large blue eyes, long nose, dimples, and greenish holes.

His closet is full of the same outfit: a white shirt with a red tie, and brown pants with a black belt. He wears white socks with a red and a blue stripe at the top and shiny black shoes.

Early in the morning he gets up and goes to work at the Krusty Krab Restaurant as a fry cook. He lives in a pineapple with his pet snail, Gary. His next door neighbor is Squidward Tentacles. He is a grumpy, clarinet playing squid. His best friend, Patrick Starr, lives on the other side of him. Patrick and SpongeBob have been friends forever. He visits his Grandma and his friend Sandy all the time.

Now, if you happen to see SpongeBob SquarePants, you will know who he is.

## Sudoku Puzzles

by: Canon Hix

		1			8	6	7	2
3							8	5
6	4					1		
			2				3	
9	8			5				
		3	7			5	1	4
			4					9
				1		8		6
4	2			7				

			6		7	8	2	
5	6	1						
	1						4	
7			3					
	4	3		9			5	7
		8						9
6						1		
					1			
			2		8	5	9	6

## Cake!

by: Thomas Sutton

- ANGEL CAKE
- BLACK FOREST CAKE
- CHOCOLATE CAKE
- CARROT CAKE
- DEVIL'S FOOD CAKE
- FAIRY CAKE
- FRENCH FANCY CAKE
- FROG CAKE
- ICE CREAM CAKE
- JAFFA CAKE
- LEMON CAKE
- MARBLE CAKE
- MOLTEN CHOCOLATE CAKE
- MOON CAKE
- NAPOLEON CAKE
- OPERA CAKE
- PUMPKIN CAKE
- RED VELVET CAKE
- SPICE CAKE
- SPONGE CAKE
- STACK CAKE
- STRAWBERRY CAKE
- VANILLA CAKE



IN THE 18TH CENTURY, CAKES WERE MADE FOR THE FIRST TIME IN EUROPE. THERE, THE NAME FOR CAKE (DERIVED FROM THE GREEK TERM) BECAME "PLACENTA." PLACENTA WAS MORE LIKE A CHEESECAKE, BAKED ON A PASTRY BASE, OR OCCASIONALLY INSIDE A PASTRY CASE. EVENTUALLY, CAKES WERE MADE WITH YEAST AND WATER.

IN THE 19TH CENTURY, CAKES WERE INTRODUCED TO THE UNITED STATES. THEY WERE BROUGHT TO AMERICA BY CATTLE DOCKS AND EXTENSIVE BOXES FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD.

NOWADAYS, CAKES ARE MADE POPULAR BY THEIR FLAVORED FROSTINGS AND CREATIVE DECORATIONS, NOT TO MENTION THEIR DELICIOUSNESS.

## Sledding at Bogus Basin

■ by: Katherine Haase

Instead of sledding down that stupid hill in your neighborhood for snow-time entertainment, Bogus Basin offers a marvelous, icy hill and plenty of tubes to ride.

Located just down the road from the bunny hill is a small lodge where you can register your ticket and grab an inner tube. Attendants line you up and prepare you for the exhilarating journey

ahead. As you fly down the hill you will laugh in amazement.

There are multiple ways you can go down the hill; on your belly, bottom, or doubles. For only ten dollars you get a two hours session, a tube to ride and the lift ticket is included in the price. But before you hop in the car and take that long drive up the mountain remember that reservations are advised as there are only one hundred tickets available.



## Oreos! Oreos! Oreos!

■ by Shelby Hooker

How would you like to win a year's supply of Oreos? Would you think it's impossible and never going to happen? Well, it happened to Justice Alger, one lucky seventh grade student, on November 18th. He got a year's supply of Oreos.

He says, "I was, surprisingly, picked up by my dad and taken to McDonalds and Fred Meyers. My dad and I had no idea that the 'Oscar Meyer' Weiner truck was outside Fred Meyers until we got there, and they were having a thirty second Oreo stacking contest." When Justice decided to try it, he stacked 24 oreos, and the highest rival had only stacked 19. He had no idea he had won until he got a surprising call. He was so excited, he went and picked up five cases of twelve packages of Oreos. Justice says, "I am getting sick of Oreos," and, "I have forty-six packages left!" He said it was a dream come true at first and they were his favorite treat, but now they are just not as good. He said stacking the Oreos wasn't that hard, but he didn't expect to win.

So, if you think it's impossible, it may not be. Give it a try.



## GAMES!

■ by: Canon Hix

Are you a gaming fanatic? If so, this is the perfect read for you!

On December 5, 2011, Matthew Meloche was asked some questions about video games. To kick off the interview, Matthew was asked what his favorite gaming system was. His response was the Xbox and his favorite game was Modern Warfare 3. Matt believes that the most popular game for the Xbox 360 was Skyrim, and thinks Modern Warfare 3 was the best seller game of 2011. When asked what he thought about current gaming, such as cameras that monitor movement (like the Kinect), he said that he thought it was really cool because you can be the controller. Matt also commented on the Kinect, saying that the graphics are amazing. According to Matthew, the recently released games such as Skyrim, Battlefield 3, Modern Warfare 3, and Dark Souls are all really fun games to play, and they are better graphically because they are newer.

The most important reasons as to why newer videogames are better-loved, however, are their graphics, better weapons, and storylines that are more interesting.

