



# 2016 Know Your Government Conference

## Together We Are Infinite

By: Kortney Sims

**K**now Your Government is a 4-H program that gives the youth of Idaho insight on what occurs at the state legislative and judicial government levels. Every February, teens from across Idaho come together to learn more about state government. Government representatives and law professionals volunteer their time to teach the delegates during the mock judicial and legislative sessions. The delegates are able to tour the Capitol Building, Idaho Supreme Court Building, and for the first time, delegates will visit the University of Idaho Law and Justice Center.

At the conference, there is an option for youth to apply for a third year at KYG. To do this, delegates fill out applications, and are interviewed. These are the teens who plan the conference each year. This gives young adults a chance to gain experience on creating 4-H involvement.

KYG provides a safe environment that allows teens to have a positive experience away from home. This conference can increase a teen’s self-esteem by providing opportunities to practice public speaking, meeting new people, leadership skills, and new friendships that last forever.

The mission of the conference, “*is to provide 4-H members an opportunity to learn more about the decision making process in their communities and state.*” After the conference, teens return to their home counties and talk to their local 4-H groups, schools, and community officials.

The goal of this conference is to make the delegates’ future full of infinite possibilities through hands on workshops and peer networking.



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- Bill 111: School Lunches– Healthy Choices
- Bill 222: 32 Hour Work Week
- Bill 333: Distracted Driving
- Bill 444: Cellphones in School
- Bill 555: Mandatory Concussion Helmets
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- Sponsors
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### To Get More Information About KYG

Facebook– [www.facebook.com/ui4hkyg.com](http://www.facebook.com/ui4hkyg.com)

Youtube– <http://goo.gl/jc2gyp>

Instagram- [#idkygclover](https://www.instagram.com/idkygclover)

4-H Website- <http://www.uidaho.edu/extension/4h/events/know-your-government>



## Food Fight by the Numbers

By: Tucker Glick

In bill 111, Madam Chairman Jenna Harris proposes to raise the calorie limit of school lunches and increase lunch length. The bill suggests a higher calorie intake for students, which could help solve malnourishment and hunger in high populated areas. The lunches could improve student performance in class by reducing student's hunger which in turn may help students focus better on their studies. Jenna has noticed that students avoid school lunches due to their lack of flavor, size, and nutritional value. Legislator Annette Furness wants the calorie intake raised for students who do sports. Also extending lunch time

would allow more time for students to eat.

Despite the positives of the bill there are a few downsides. The higher caloric intake could increase obesity rates. The bill could also influence school lunch cost, which could cause a chain effect and compromise school funding or make the lunches unobtainable for lower income students. Increasing lunch length could also cause an issue because the schools would have to compensate for the lost time by extending school day length or days in school. This could mean that teachers could have more work hours which would increase costs and com-



promise the budget.

Legislator Titan Walker conveys that the bill needs changes before it could pass legislation. Overall this bill may seem minor but shouldn't be overlooked as it could make a dramatic impact on the school lunch system. If the bill is passed or reformed, it needs to be for the benefit of the students.

## From Workaholic to Family Fan

By: Jewlia Dopkins

"How would you like to spend more quality time with your family and work fewer hours?" proposed Justin Keogh, chairman of Bill 222. Chairman Keogh's hope is that his bill will help motivate people to get a job and earn enough money to live well while only working a 32 hour week.

Cristian Rennella co-founded elMejorTrato.com, a Latin American search engine. Like nearly all other companies he and his em-

ployees worked five days a week. But then two years in, they decided to try something different: they stopped working on Fridays.

"We said we were going to try it for only three months and if everything is working and the same amount of work is done, we would continue for three more months," Rennella explained to ThinkProgress. "Five years later we haven't stopped." In that same timespan, the company has grown its annual revenue by 204 percent.

For some companies there may be disadvantages to a 32 hour work week. The types, sizes, positions, and workloads of companies all need to be considered. Some companies may have to cut employee's pay checks in order to match a lower work output.

The advantages outweigh the disadvantages. Family's will have an opportunity to spend more quality time together. Single people will have more of an opportunity to date. Employees will be healthier and less exhausted from working less. A shorter work week may look more appealing to the unemployed. Employees may be paid less, but this will help lower company costs. Also, the extra day of staying out of the office will allow companies to save 20% on their weekly building costs.

Whether you choose to side with Chairman Justin Keogh or not, this bill could definitely put a spin on society. It could make a positive or negative effect on society.



## Eating vs Driving

By Laura Neiwert

A study done by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration concludes that those who eat and drive increase the odds of an accident by 80% and 65% of near miss accidents are caused by drivers due to worries about their food and drink. These numbers are worse than the texting and driving numbers!

Tanner Mecham states, "Eating and driving is wrong, it endangers others. "Delegates should consider if eating while driving constitutes distracted driving."

The first and second violations would result in an \$80 fine and after the third offense, the violator will spend up to three months in jail. The offense? Eating while driving.

Along with Tanner's comments, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration created a list of the top ten most dangerous foods and beverages. Here are a few of them:

First is chocolate. After eating chocolate it can leave a trail all over everything you touch. What do you do? You clean them up while taking your eyes from the road.

If it can drip, it will. Don't let that McDonald's burger endanger you and everyone else.

Tacos can turn into a fiesta bowl right in your lap because of the movements of the car. Like any other food, cleaning it up or eating it will take your focus from the road.

What is the most dangerous beverage overall? Coffee. When we



think of eating and driving, we think of solid foods, but coffee is responsible for more accidents than any other food. Even in a travel mug, coffee can make its way up and out of your cup and cover you. Coffee brings a new meaning to the term, "Don't drink and drive."

Is eating and driving a form of distracted driving? This bill has been left in the hands of bill supporter Malissa Meline and our 2016 KYG delegates to decide.

## Becoming Disconnected

By: Olivia McMurray

There are countless students who see using electronics in schools as a necessity of life. In bill 444, Madam Chairman Janae Swenson has designed a law that will prohibit every student of any age using electronics inside of the classrooms, with few exceptions. Janae decided on the topic for this bill because she feels that the delegates will all have opinions to offer about the bill on electronics, so she will get plenty of participation from the Know Your Government Conference attendants. She also feels that her bill will make the lobbyist's job more manageable by giving them a topic that is easy to debate.

The main goal of the bill is to eliminate phones from the classroom

to help prevent distractions from learning. If technology is allowed in the classroom, the students may soon become too focused on texting and not focusing on learning and paying attention in class. If a phone is visi-



ble during class time, it may be confiscated. The bill will have no fiscal impact, and it applies to all students

of all ages. Phones will be allowed only during breaks and for special cases, such as medical needs. Janae believes that her bill will have positive effects on the students by allowing them to focus on schoolwork during class.

Andrew Saulls, one of the Legislative bill delegates, agreed that electronic usage in classrooms should be monitored, but he didn't agree completely with all the amendments. He felt that electronics should be confiscated if they were in use at inappropriate times, but if an electronic device was visible and not in use, it shouldn't be confiscated. All in all, he felt like the bill would have good discussion and he was excited to debate the bill.

## Concussion Discussion

By: Erin Trent

High school athletes take the biggest bang when it comes to sports concussions. They take longer to recover and experience more severe symptoms and after-effects compared to college students. A concussion can leave a child with anything from headaches and dizziness to depression and memory loss if not healed properly. Plus, a concussion can knock an athlete out of play for weeks. If athletes suffer enough concussions, it may ruin their ability to play. Planning Committee Member Sarah Woodward proposed Bill 555: Mandatory Concussion Helmets to help, if not resolve, this problem.

Ms. Woodward proposes that “concussion-proof” helmets should be worn for rough



sports, such as football, softball, baseball, soccer, volleyball, and rough-stock rodeo. These are the most common sports people are injured in. Ms. Samantha Boutte, a legislator for the bill, commented that she “plays sports and the bill interested her”. She has also been studying up on CTE, or Chronic traumatic encephalopathy, a disease found in athletes, and says that people with CTE are more likely to commit suicide. Merriam-Webster dictionary defines *concussion* as “a stunning, damaging, or shattering effect from a hard blow; *especially*: a jarring injury of the brain resulting in disturbance of [brain] function.” According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, over half of all high school sports injuries could be prevented. Ms. Woodward’s intentions are to reduce the amount of concussions among high school students because she knows high school athletes who have suffered from concussions and doesn’t want to see anyone else hurt.

However, Concussion-proof helmets will raise the cost to play sports. Concussion-proof helmets cost more than a regular helmet, and would be costly to some families, therefore, potentially lowering the amount of people playing these sports in a high school setting. Another thing is that there really is no such thing as a “concussion-proof” helmet. The way a helmet works is the more it absorbs the impact, it takes longer for the force to hit. The longer it takes the force to get somewhere, the better the helmet.

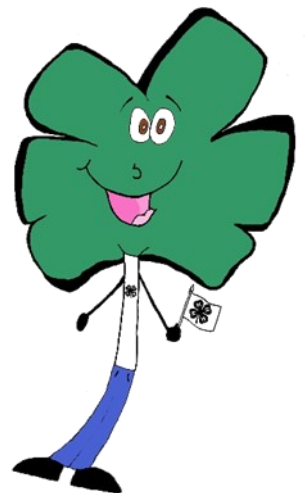
If this bill is passed, all high school athletes will be required to wear the “Concussion Proof” helmet, if not they will be unable to play. People not willing to comply with this bill will not be included on the roster and schools not willing to comply will not be able to play for the season.

## KYG Clover: To Infinity and Beyond

By: Kortney Sims

KYG Clover was born in 2013 at the Summer Planning Committee Meeting and first met delegates at the 2014 KYG Conference. Since then he has traveled from Idaho to Mexico, Oregon and Washington D.C. He even continued his travels outside the US! With so many sights to see, people to meet, and new things to learn, he decided to attend some amazing activities such as: T.A.L. K retreat, Ag Days at the University of Idaho, and the Idaho 4-H Teen Ambassadors retreat. He even visited a cloned mule and watched Vandal football after the livestock judging contest

in Moscow, Idaho. All of his journeys have helped prepare for the 2016 Know Your Government Conference. This little guy has a following, and wants you to join in the fun! It’s easy, to get started all you need to do is take a picture with KYG Clover and post it to social media using the hashtag #idkyglover. Look him up to see all of his adventures throughout the years, and now it’s your turn to take him with you! Remember to snap a photo, and hashtag #idkyglover!



# DUI/ Manslaughter: Reasonable Doubt?

By: Sydney Olson

After departing from his girlfriend's house on November 1st of 2015, a car accident led to death of a KYG High School student. The cause of the car accident may have been due to substance abuse, but the accused has claimed innocence. The court date is scheduled for February 15th of 2016.

As he was leaving his girlfriend's home, Charles Campbell was struck by a Dodge Dakota belonging to Stacey Richards. Emergency services were called and once Officer Terry Anderson and paramedic Taylor Jones arrived, Mr. Campbell was declared deceased at the scene. The officer then found Stacey Richards unconscious in her vehicle. Both a foil wrapper and syringe were found under Richards' seat and, after being tested, were found to have traces of heroin. Richards, while being treated at the hospital,

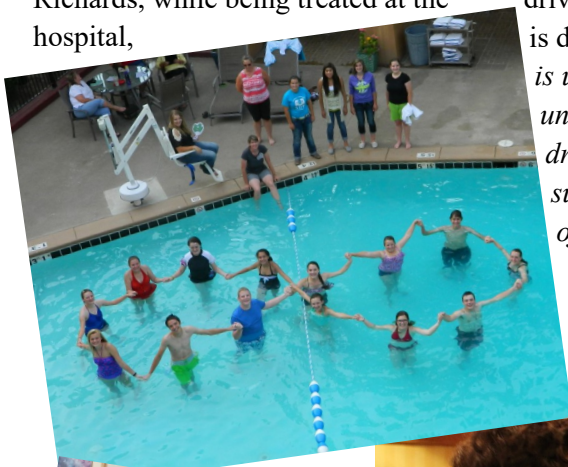
was found to have traces of the narcotic in her blood as well.

Richards admitted to being a substance abuser who, after becoming clean, relapsed into her addiction on October 31st. However, when she hit Campbell, she claims that she had not been under the influence and the loss of consciousness was caused by the lack of insulin caused by her type one diabetes. Her pediatrician, Dr. Kendall Lewis, confirmed that Richards, after refusing to take insulin, has had similar spells before November.

At Richards' court trial, she will be tried for Vehicular Manslaughter. *"Manslaughter is defined as the unlawful killing of a human being without malice, vehicular is in which the operation of a motor vehicle is a significant cause contributing to the death."* Richards is also being tried for driving under the influence which is defined by Idaho law saying, *"it is unlawful for any person who is under the influence of alcohol, drugs or any other intoxicating substances, or any combination of alcohol, drugs and/or any*

*other intoxicating substances ..., as shown by analysis of his blood, urine, or breath, to drive or be in actual physical control of a motor vehicle within this state."* In order to be guilty, it must be proven beyond reasonable doubt that the heroin played a part in the manslaughter of Charles Campbell.

According to Prosecuting Attorney Erin Olson, "I think this trial is going to be so interesting because it involves both insulin and possible drug overdose; which have overlapping boundaries because of their sometime symptoms."



# Scott Backovich: Complain Less and Give More

By: Kortney Sims

A Disneyland fanatic as well as a Chipotle and Netflix lover, Scott Backovich is famous for his comedic way of empowering today's youth. At a young age, Scott was influenced by a speaker that he heard and he hopes to give students the same insight that the speaker gave him. Scott was 17 when his career started and he booked his first professional job. After that, groups continued to call to ask him to speak. For 10 years, Scott had based his career on, "Not saying no," which gives him the joy of

speaking all over the country. On Saturday night, Scott directed activities to promote leadership skills, such as listening, taking action, and never stop improving. Sunday morning, Scott's speech reminded the delegates that everyone could use a little hope. Scott's message is to be a catalyst, meaning take action, whether it is in your school, your community, or even in your county. As Scott told reporters, "complain less and give more." By giving to others, we create a network of positivity and greatness, which can continue through many generations.



Shoshone Falls drops 52 feet further than Niagara Falls



4-H is offered in every county in Idaho.



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AMENDMENT  
 BILL  
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 COMMITTEE  
 COURT  
 DEFENDANT  
 GOVERNMENT

LAWYER  
 LEGISLATOR  
 PROSECUTOR  
 REPORTER  
 REPRESENTATIVE  
 SENATE  
 WITNESS

Idaho's Capitol Building is the only one in the United States heated by geothermal water



More than 72 different precious and semi-precious gemstones are mined from Idaho. Some of these stones can't be found anywhere else in the world.



## Kevin Davidson: 4-H Volunteer

By: Kortney Sims

On February 14, 2003, Kevin Davidson made his first appearance at the Know Your Government Conference. He was a chaperone for his son, Dustin. Kevin experienced both the legislative and judicial sides before he was asked to help coordinate the Reporter workshop. His work with Cheryl Lockard and Rosie Davids has been rewarding, fun, and allowed him to grow as a person. His favorite thing about the KYG experience, overall, is seeing how youth change from being 8<sup>th</sup> grade children, to being young adults who are involved in their communities. Kevin is known for his fun, boisterous personality that can always brighten your day. He believes KYG is beneficial to the youth in many dif-

ferent aspects, including: legislative session, judicial cases, and leadership within the planning committee and reporters. Kevin still believes that Know Your Government is a great

program. However, it is now time for the next generation to bring new light and ideas to help the youth develop their life skills.



## Plate Update

By: Laura Neiwert

Over thousands of Idaho residents have decided to be a proud part of the University of Idaho 4-H Youth Development Program by participating as leaders and youth. Through their involvement, 4-H members and leaders have the opportunity to learn essential life skills, while making a positive influence on the lives of those around them.

To recognize and assist the Idaho 4-H program, a special license plate program was created. The program enables alumni, parents, members and state supporters to show their 4-H pride. Part of the money from the sale of the plates will be used to generate financial support for the Idaho 4-H programs.

Funding from the plates assist 4-H programs such as the annual Know Your Government Conference and Teen Conference. Some of the money raised is also used for scholarships for 4-H members.

Turns out, these plates are pretty popular. After a long legislative debate in 2014, the plates were made and available for the public purchase in January of 2015. Since then, over \$1,500 worth of sales has been made.

What most people don't realize is when a 4-H plate is purchased, about 50% of the money is returned to the county and the rest goes to the state. The initial fee for a plate is \$35; about \$22 goes to support the Idaho 4-H programs. Plate renewals are \$25

with a \$12 return.

As of December 2015, 169 plates were sold throughout the state of Idaho. In order to keep the program going, there needs to be 250 plates sold by the third year of the program, and 1,000 plates sold by the fourth year.

Kevin Davidson, District 3 Reporter Advisor, stated "The Idaho 4-H plate program benefits in a couple of ways. It gives money back to the programs and it provides publicity for the 4-H program. Anyway we can help our youth develop life skills, is a good thing." Mr. Davidson encourages everyone to buy a plate in support of 4-H.

## 2016 Planning Committee Members



Back row: Justin Keogh, Nathan Hampton, Kendra Evans and Harlee Nordby

Middle row: Tristan Hendricks and Jenna Harrison

Bottom row: FaithAnn Hynek, Sarah Woodward, Jacqueline Hernandez, and Jenae Swenson



## 2016 Reporters



Back row: Sydney Olson, Jewlia Dopkins, Laura Neiwert, Tucker Glick, and Erin Trent

Front row: Olivia McMurray, Kortney Sims, Shelby Burlile, Cheryl Lockard, Rosie Davids, and Kevin Davidson



## Sponsors

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