

# LUCKY NO. 12:

## Boy turns 12 on 12/12/12

Moscow native weighed 12 pounds when he was born in 2000



*Dean Hare/Daily News*

***Estelle Gwinn/Moscow Pullman Daily News reporter***

Riley O'Connell, left, 11, and his friend, Isaac Falen, 11, ride their bicycles away from Moscow Middle School on Tuesday. O'Connell turned 12 today — 12/12/12.

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By Estelle Gwinn, Daily News staff writer | [0 comments](#)

Twelve years ago, Riley O'Connell was born Dec. 12, he weighed nearly 12 pounds and was born 12 minutes before midnight - that's 12 a.m.

O'Connell is an avid outdoors person, he enjoys hunting and fishing along with organized sports. When he takes to the field for a baseball game, his uniform sports No. 12.

"It should be his lucky number," said Patrick O'Connell, Riley's father.

Riley said he's looking forward to hunting big game with his dad for the first time this week, now that he is old enough to go. Unfortunately, there's only going to be two days left in the season, but Riley said he will take what he can get.

Riley has witnessed some big changes in the past 12 years, from advancements in technology to reconfiguration of the Moscow School District. Twelve years from now, he hopes to be attending

the University of Idaho and "getting good grades." Although Riley's dream job is to be a professional football player, he has more realistic expectations to work for the federal wildlife services. He hopes to stay close to his hometown because of the outdoor and sporting opportunities.

Patrick O'Connell remembered the day Riley was born and the doctors told him Riley was the second biggest baby they had seen yet, weighing in at nearly 12 pounds.

"It's interesting that 12 just keeps popping up," Patrick said. "When he was born he was just huge."

Riley's accomplishments so far include hiking Hell's Canyon, earning his wilderness survival badge in the Boy Scouts and being an accomplished athlete in football and baseball.

Riley does not have many predictions for the next 12 years, but he is not one for superstition. He quickly dismissed one of the Mayan calendar's apocalyptic prediction of the world's end today.

"A lot is going to change in their lifetime," Patrick said. "Health insurance, retirement, Social Security, education, everything is going up so much. It's nice for them to grow up in Moscow where they're isolated from a lot of that stuff."

Riley is not too concerned with the future of his retirement. These days he is more interested in learning how to trap, getting good grades and saving up money for hunting gear. He celebrated his birthday early with a trip to the UI climbing wall last week followed by a party that lasted until about 7 p.m.

"I needed about 12 aspirin by the end of the day," Patrick joked.

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