

MAYOR'S CORNER

Medite has once again graciously given the Town of Butte Falls some land. Thus, we will be the recipients of the "Truck Road" and "Mac Field" (The Little League field). A special thanks to all the Medite folks who planned for this to happen. Thanks to Art Rambo for the surveying work and Dave Erickson for coordinating the transfer paperwork.

Shortly after the news was firm that we would own the ball field, Danny Krenwinkle contacted the city about a community service project he planned to submit. Danny presented his ideas for restoration of "Mac Field" to the Town Council at the November meeting. The Council agreed to have Danny proceed with the project plan. Danny will present his final plan to the Council at the December 11 Council meeting.

The members of our new Water Commission worked diligently the past several weeks to finalize a draft water ordinance detailing the operational guidelines of our water system. This was a major task, taking many hours of work and long meetings. The draft was presented to the Town Council for approval at the November meeting. Dave Wilson, our financial consultant and grant writer for our water system replacement, was present to give a status report. Questions were again raised about whether or not we need to spend the dollars now to replace our system. In 1993 an engineering study was completed which then recommended that we replace the water distribution system. Had the town proceeded then with the project, federal dollars were available to pay for seventy-five percent of the total cost. At that time we would have had to raise our water rates to the state average of \$24 per month. Today, our construction costs are higher and we have only fifty percent federal dollars available in grants and we estimate our monthly rates will need to be raised to \$32 per month. The \$32 rate will not need

to go into effect until the project is completed. When the budget committee put together the 97-98 budget this past spring, we realized that we would need to raise our water/sewer rates by \$7 beginning July 1 just to balance the Public Works portion of the budget. We waited month after month to raise the rates, first trying to get a water commission established, then preparing a water ordinance. The draft ordinance that was approved, was approved without the rates listed. These rates will be approved by the Council later, after final approval of the grant and loan. It is currently estimated that the total loan costs and an estimated yearly operation and maintenance costs will equate to \$32 per month. In the meantime, the Council will need to pass a resolution to increase the water rates by \$14 per month beginning in January to balance the Public Works budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1998. We will provide residents with more information in their December water statements. We will also be glad to meet with residents to personally answer questions.

By the time this newsletter is out, the Thanksgiving holiday will be over, and residents will have received their 97-98 property tax statements. I have been told that the Town of Butte Falls has the highest tax rate in the county, and that Measure 50 did not do us any favors. With this news, you can be certain that I regret asking residents for more money to replace our water system. However, if we do not do it now, we will be pouring dollars every year into an old system, and the costs will get worse instead of better. The thought comes to mind, "You get what you pay for".

Thanks for listening. May you and yours have a very happy holiday season. I personally am "Dreaming of a White Christmas", but I know some folks would not join me wishing for snow.

Sara Beck, Mayor



OUT OF TOWN SUBSCRIPTIONS

It's time again for those living outside the Butte Falls School District to renew their yearly delivery of **THE BULLETIN**. For \$5 you may still have **THE BULLETIN** mailed to any address in the Continental U.S.. Renew now or send **THE BULLETIN** to a friend. Make checks payable to The Town of Butte Falls, The Bulletin. Mail to P.O. Box 326, Butte Falls, Or. 97522



DECEMBER COMMUNITY and SCHOOL CALENDAR



- 4 - Student of Month Award Assembly 2:30
- 8 - Santa Night 6:15PM
- 8-11 Santa's Secret Shop
- 14 - AOG Special Christmas Program 6pm
- 15 - Winter Concert 7PM
- 22 - Winter Break begins
- 24 - Candlelight Ceremony
Community Church 5:30-6:30
- 25 - MERRY CHRISTMAS
- 31 - HAPPY NEW YEARS EVE

JANUARY BULLETIN

Due to the Holidays, the deadline for submitting information and articles for the January **BULLETIN** is December 20. Please leave information at City Hall. If you have information about yourself or your family for *The Chat*, (our new community information page which provides you with local news and personal information on what's been happening around town such as family reunions, parties, awards, new people in town, whose moving out of town, where they're going and why, new babies, or who's not feeling well), please call Debbie at the General Store 865-3223. Debbie says mornings are the best time to call.