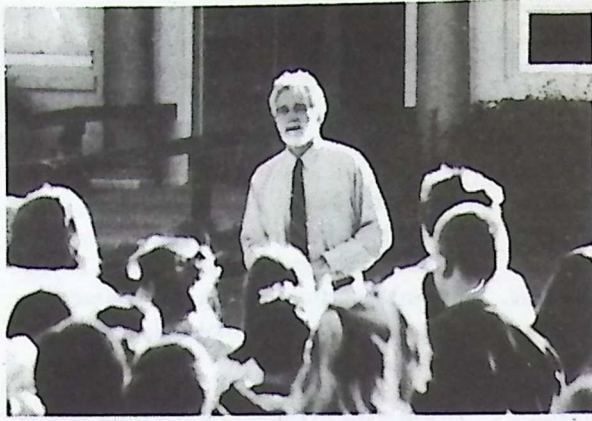


# Up Close and Personal with Mr. Pine

By Mickie Burns



## Balancing Act

By Mr. Pine, Butte Falls Superintendent

It's no easier at the district level than it is at home, and it seems apparent that it is not so easy at the state level either! Money is tight in any case and balancing a budget has become a lost art. We in education are feeling the crunch just as are the rest of the state's services, though we are doing the best we can to find a remedy while we continue to offer what the students require as they face increasingly difficult standards imposed by the same state that can no longer fund the initiatives. Butte Falls schools have fallen prey to this dilemma in a number of ways.

### For the 2002-2003 school year so far:

- A reduction in extra-curricular activities offered
- Across the board extra-duty compensation cuts
- Requirement to pay fees for sports/activities
- Loss of school days, number to be determined
- Loss of an administrator
- Consolidation of bus routes
- Possibly fewer sports programs if volunteers can't be found

These are what we are faced with at present, and there are more in the wings as the costs of doing business continue. While the passage of Measure 19 helped, but it will not prevent what is yet to come.

### We will see:

- Rising costs associated with insurance and PERS
- Facilities maintenance costs continue to rise
- Increasing transportation costs for special needs students

While it is never popular to be the bearer of bad news, it is important that we all realize the impact that decisions at the state level have on our existence. Please make every effort to take advantage of opportunities provided by the school district to discuss what measures we can take to enhance the cause of our community school.

According to the latest data available from the state, our business office reports the following:

- Currently the district will be receiving \$391.00 less per student compared to the original estimate put out by the Oregon Department of Education.
- The tax referral which goes to the voters on January 28 will also have an impact on the funding for the district.

He snowboards, sky dives, rides motorcycles, hang glides, scuba dives, kayaks, and races bicycles. I'm sure you're all wondering, "What else does he do?" Mr. Pine, the new Butte Falls School District Superintendent and principal at both schools, has been all over the world, and has done just about everything. He's visited Germany, Romania, California, and Alaska. His favorite place was Southern Germany. "It's a beautiful place, with a beautiful lifestyle," stated Mr. Pine.

Mr. Pine's first teaching job was at McLoughlin Middle School in Medford, Oregon. "It was the most memorable experience I've had teaching," Mr. Pine said. He also taught all the way across the world at a public school in Germany. He was a Special Ed teacher, and he also taught German and English.

He obtained his formal education from Western Oregon University and the University of Alaska. "I have extremely high standards for the students and the teachers just like I have for myself."

"I came to Oregon because I love the area." He chose to live in Butte Falls with his wife Brenda and his two children which attend Butte Falls Elementary because he felt it is a small community where everyone works together to get things accomplished. Mr. Pine is one of our youngest administrators in recent years. By the way, Mr. Pine is younger than Mr. Bone, but only by a year.

Most students wanted to know why Mr. Pine changed a lot of the rules. When asked why we can't eat at BFHS anymore he said, "It's too big of a mess." He also stated that the to-go trays at the cafeteria were taken away because of the same reason, "They cause a mess everywhere." When asked what happened to the Pop Machine, he replied, "I didn't take away the pop machine, I upgraded it." We now have healthy juice machines at both schools. He wants to promote healthy nutrition for students and staff. Mr. Pine also changed the schedule because he wants to increase the test scores and he felt that providing an extra day for some math and English classes to meet might help up with that goal.

Mrs. Torres' biggest question was about Mr. Pine's philosophy about Art Education. Mr. Pine's response was, "Art is a wonderful enriching experience." He also added, "Art education allows students to view the world in wonderful and enriching ways." (I hope this answers your question, Mrs. Torres.)

Mr. Pine has noticed that the students are friendly and curious, which he sees as a positive thing. He also added that the staff has been very supportive and enthusiastic.

His goals for the students are to recognize the wealth of their potential and to use our school to its best advantage. He wants the staff to understand the importance of their position in the lives of each and every student. He wants everyone to take advantage of every learning opportunity while continuing to generate enthusiasm. He wants everyone to achieve their potential.

In closing Mr. Pine stated "I understand that I bring a lot of changes, but I do appreciate everyone's patience and cooperation while keeping in mind I have the best interest of the educational community at heart." Mr. Pine closed the interview with a personal note to students and staff . . .

"Please come and talk to me about everything on your mind. I can't help you if you don't let me."

## Twisting Fate by Amanda Hamilton and Shannon Sizemore

Changes, sometimes good, sometimes bad, depending on your point of view. As many of you know, several changes have occurred in Butte Falls High School. We are going to exploit some of these changes, and the opinions of the student body and faculty.

The most noticeable change that affects the student body is the fact that students can no longer have food within the walls of the high school except during Nutrition Break. We have talked to students of Butte Falls High School, and asked them, "What changes affects you the most?" The NO FOOD POLICY was the most commonly heard answer. All the upper classmen responded the same. They are wondering why, "Why must one of the few privileges that they still had taken away from them?"

There are some other changes that have been made in Butte Falls High School, one being a stricter punishment schedule. The majority of students do not favor this change. They feel that some of the restrictions aren't fair to their fellow classmates and themselves. Some of the changes include grade enforcements. For example, students now only have one week of probation per semester. After one probation, students are automatically ineligible for the week even if its for another class. Students are also concerned about the new school detention program for being tardy to class, and not having to receive any verbal warnings for violations before getting a referral. As for the after school detention, this could cause a very large problem. Not only the fact that it would interfere with sports practices, it would also cause a major problem with non-athletes. Just think about it, would you want to have to come and pick up your child in Butte Falls a half an hour after school is out just because they showered too long and was fifteen seconds late to class? Many students do not think this change will last. Many students feel that we do not have enough freedom. We talked to senior Arron Shaw and he said, "We aren't perfect, so don't try to make us that way; we all make mistakes".

Butte Falls is already one of the only schools in the state that requires portfolios and community service hours to be done by the student body. Perhaps this is why many students are wondering why they are being given more responsibilities and restrictions, although they are already ahead of the game. Just to further the point, only one year ago Butte Falls was ranked at the top of Jackson County in test scores.

Although changes are meant to help the students, sometimes people can go overboard. This may or may not be the case here, but with so little privileges and so many responsibilities all at one time, we don't think that all the changes will stick. What do you think?