

# If I Could be the Mayor of Butte Falls . . . by Tiffany Smith

When you become a young adult, you wish to change rules and regulations to your benefit. Skaters want streets to be able to ride their skateboards and roller blades, while city walkers want no limit to the ever-annoying curfew. This is what I would do if I had the power to change and build what I would like to have.

Butte Falls is a cozy, small town. The adolescents find the community monotonous and dreary after walking around and jumping off the infamous Falls multiple times. The lack of activities will cause more negative deeds for our youth. I would like to increase the healthy activities around our little community.

There is some unused space in this town; an old tavern that is collecting nothing but dust and dirt. That former bar could become a youth recreational center which would surely improve the levels of positive activities. The former bar consists of two

buildings. Both buildings are one story according to the resourceful locals. The previous Youth Center was a particularly small one story structure. A possible new Youth Center would be bigger than the previous center. The dark brown future viable Youth Center could contain more objects than the former tiny Youth Center could. For instance, the only public Internet access is the library. The library is open only a few days and for only a few hours after the school. The library has only two computers, which are not enough for the young people's desires to work at and loosen up after a stress filled school week. Two buildings could provide more than the library's resources.

High school students need community service. The reformation of the Youth Center will need helpers to paint and clean it. That alone will provide

many hours of useful community service.

To get the supplies that the renewing of the structure would need, we could have ask for help from the Butte Falls High School for fund raisers. I would hope that the owners of the tavern will contribute to the formation by letting the building turn into a youth recreational area. The city could contribute by helping to pay for the paint, the equipment, and some refreshments for the hopefully hard working volunteers.

This is just one of the several yearnings I wish to do if I were mayor. Some youths wish for a skate park, while others for a higher curfew. I would try to produce more places for recreational and academic reasons.

What would you do if you were the mayor of your city?

## EXCERPTS FROM OTHER BFHS STUDENT 'S IDEAS

### Food Handlers are We

by Kari St. George

On September 5, 2002, an individual came to our school from the Jackson County Health Department to give a class to all our freshmen and sophomore students and all other interested students on proper food handling procedures. Students had the opportunity to purchase the Food Handlers card, which is required for employment at food establishments, for \$10 if they passed the test. The Food Handlers Card lasts for 4 years. When the 4 years is up you have to go down to the Health Department and take the test again. This is important because you wouldn't want people that don't have the card to be touching your food when they don't know what they are doing.

The following students took advantage of this opportunity and now are proud owners of a certified Jackson County Food Handlers card: Freshman Mickie Burns, Nikki Harms, Dusty Hayes, Ronnie Lyon, Thomas Ownby, Elysia Rodriguez, Heather Shimer, Tiffany Smith, and Shawna Wright; Sophomores Bonnie Biando, Melody Carlisle, Julie Hayes, James Parlet, Chris Smith, Trae Stephenson, and Jason Stevenson, and Juniors Melissa Gilbert, James Grieve, Whitney Irwin, Britani Johnston, Jacob Shepherd, Alec Smith, Kari St. George and Kathi St. George. All these people can now work in the concession stand or get a job working in a restaurant. Those students who took the class but didn't opt to buy the card may still work in concessions.

When Shawna Wright, Elysia Rodriguez, and Britani Johnston were asked why they wanted to get their food handler's card, Britani Johnston said, "So I can work in a restaurant when I go to college." Shawna replied, "So I can work in the Concession Stand when it is the Freshmen's turn." Elysia said, "So I can work at my Grandma's restaurant (Totem Pole) and work in the Concession Stand, too."

This was definitely a beneficial program provided to our students. The majority who took the class are now proud owners of the card, and everyone is now more knowledgeable about the proper and safe handling of food. In closing, there are now twenty-four more BFHS students who have their Food Handlers license that are able to work in concessions as well as the employment industry. Good Deal!

First off, we would fix the Public Works Department. Don't you think we should have more than one official water treatment guy? Our town's water supply is one of the most important things to protect in Butte Falls. Why don't we train and qualify at least one more person? How come we do not have any police protection in town on weekends or after six o'clock on weeknights? Just because cops are gone does not mean people are not going to stop committing crimes.

Dusty Hayes and Ronnie Lyon

We would like to see NO SMOKING in ALL public places, such as the park, outside of restaurants, and any where except your citizen's own private property. The reason for this transformation is to reduce second hand smoke and to respect non-smokers. By doing this, it would make a healthy environment for all ages.

Asia Million, Hope VanLandingham & Sarah Matthews

If I were mayor there would be lots of things on my mind to change. I would want the community to be more involved in things like sports activities, Barbeques and Karaoke nights for people of all ages. Most of all I would like to have a mini mall. Our town is too small and there is nothing for the girls to do. For the guys, there needs to be a dirt bike track, because when the girls are busy shopping they will have something to do. It would bring the guys in the community together, and they could have fun doing it.

Nikki Harms

Butte Falls is a very historical town. If I had the power I would restore all of the historical landmarks. I would renovate the old bank that is now apartments, and make it a bank again. This would save people time and money because they have to drive to Medford just to make a transaction at their bank. .... The last thing that I would change is I would make a youth center. Everybody in Butte Falls complains about the kids being trouble, but they have done nothing to help the situation when you complain. I would make a youth center with a three-lane bowling alley, a basketball court, and an arcade. This would keep the troubled teens under control, and headed in the right track.

B.J. Parker

If we were mayor, we would offer tax breaks to people who were willing to start new businesses in town. More jobs would help the economy grow stronger and help us towards the goal of zero unemployment rates. With a stronger economy, there would be more money in the city's budget for education and recreational needs. The extra money would allow the government to make the town attractive and maybe even allow tax breaks for the residents.

by Kathi St. George, Kari St. George, Melissa Gilbert & Sarah Madden

If I were mayor of Butte Falls, Oregon, I would put a medical clinic in town because there isn't any doctor R or hospital in the town of Butte Falls and the closest hospital is nearly 30 miles away.....I would also put a bank in town because the closest one is almost 20 miles away..... As for a final idea I would put in an arcade and bowling alley in town because there is hardly anything to do, and it would keep all of the kids and teens out of trouble.

Thomas Ownby

If I were mayor of the town of Butte Falls, I would make a lot of big changes. For starters I would allow more of the town's money to go into the school education program. Education is essential for all of the student's of Butte Falls. . . . The Falls is another thing that can be worked on. People are always trashing it up, trying to camp over night and having parties there needs to stop. People are littering and destroying the property. So, I think the town cop needs to go down the Falls every once in a while and check things out.

Jason Stevenson

If I were elected as mayor of Butte Falls I would encourage more people to get involved with the school and their extra curricular activities. When our students are encouraged in a positive way, they will always do better in their activities as well as in school. I believe our community plays a big role in how our school achieve. One more thing I would do is help the churches. When a church can outreach it will affect the people. By showing God's love, the people will begin to love and care more, I believe a few changes can make a world of difference. When you have a positive atmosphere to live in kids are more likely to succeed.

Kelly Harrington