

# THE TATTOO

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Joe Keo / The Tattoo

## Skatepark to be built soon

By KATE HAIRE  
The Tattoo

Finally, after years of being kicked out of vacant parking lots, skaters will now have a place to call home, even if the lot for this home hasn't been decided yet.

Park board members talked last month about plans for Bristol's new skatepark, but haven't yet settled on a spot.

But the skatepark may be operating by fall or next spring, said Ed Swicklas, superintendent of the city parks department.

The city allocated \$125,000 for the skatepark. Swicklas said that amount would probably buy about eight pieces of equipment for the park.

Possible locations include Page Park, Lake Avenue, or behind Chippens Hill Middle School on Peacedale Street.

Park board members liked the proximity of the Peacedale location, which the city already owns, to the middle school because kids can go there after school and the fact that it doesn't have close neighbors.

Rules for the park are yet to be written, and the committee is more concerned about construction of the park right now.

"Supervision is the logical thing to have," said Swicklas.

The skatepark is going to have many things to skid, roll and grind on. There will be a "half pipe, pyramid, grind rail, a curved ramp, banker ramp, and a fun box," said Swicklas.

Farmington built a skate park about two years ago. The park is booming with business, drawing about 50 people a day, said Bruce Till, superintendent of parks in Farmington.

Half of the visitors are from out of town, Till said.

The Farmington park took about three to four months to build, according to Till. Projected cost for that park was about \$100,000, but the actual tab ended up being around \$70,000, he said, covered by taxes and donations.

Many kids use the park, but a pass is required to get in, Till said.

Passes cost \$75 for a season if you are a resident of Farmington and \$125 if you live out of town.

The park is open from April 1st to November 30th. The park closes at sunset.

Till said safety items like knee and elbow pads are recommended.

But, he said, "We don't require them." Helmets are mandatory to enter the park, he said.

Till said word spread through town about Farmington's skatepark. There's no age limit to use it, Till said, so the whole family can go.

Till said family passes are available at the Farmington facility. It's not clear yet whether there will be a charge for the Bristol park.

**The new skatepark will have a half pipe, pyramid, grind rail, curved ramp, banker ramp and a fun box, said Ed Swicklas, Bristol's park chief.**

## Scooby-Doo is still a lot of fun

By MIKE NGUYEN  
The Tattoo

Scooby-Dooby-Do, where are you? You're in a wildly cheesy movie with Freddie Prinze Jr. and Sarah Michelle Gellar.

I must admit, when I watched the Scooby cartoons (even the ones with Scrappy) as a young child, there wasn't any talk or even speculation of Shaggy the pot-head or Velma the lesbian. It was just the Mystery Machine gang, a bunch of smart, crime-solving teenagers and their little dog too.

I absolutely loved it. And now, with a brand new live action remake of my favorite mystery-solving dog, it's like watching it with new eyes — and I really don't like it.

I wish I was that little six or seven-year-old out there in the theater just watching the cartoon for the mystery (a pretty good one) and the funny antics of the group.

But now, being fully aware of what our parents *really* thought about the movie, you can't help but to look out for any lesbian activity from Velma, or the love connection between Daphne and Fred.

The movie plays with all that for adult viewing audiences. It totally flies over even the smartest elementary school kid, but I'm sure they can't help wonder why us big kids are chucking when Shaggy tells Scooby, "We're toasted!"

For a person who just absolutely adored

the whole Mystery Inc. gang, it's kind of disheartening. But back to the movie.

The plot is simple: the whole gang, after foiling another typical spooky crime, is tired of their roles. They want respect as their own private investigators and split up for two years to do their own thing.

### Mikey at the movies

They're all invited separately to Spooky Island, to find out why all the spring breakers there seem to turn into zombies during their stay, and slowly put their differences aside and reunite after the lovable Scooby is kidnapped.

The movie's style plays just the same as the half-hour cartoons, just with more to the mystery than the shorter cartoons. The characters are enhanced a little more too, with much more focus on them than the mystery itself.

Like the cartoon, the movie tries to steer the viewing audience in all sorts of directions, as usual, so that anyone in the movie is a suspect. But, it couldn't be more obvious in the end when the absent-minded and quirky gang of five foil the villain.

As with any good remake, you have to bring back all the characters, and the transformation from television cartoon to live-action movie is actually not that bad.

The characters now are out of their trendy '60s outfits and into some nice turn-

of-the-century remakes of the outfits.

Linda Cardellini plays Velma, Freddie Prinze Jr. is Fred, Sarah Michelle Gellar plays Daphne, and Shaggy is played by Matthew Lillard. Scooby is still Scooby-Doo, just in 3D.

Scooby's laugh, his slobbering attempts at talking and his love for Scooby Snacks are all still there, just like we remembered them. Lillard, I think, does a great job as Shaggy and he and Scooby look like they popped right out of the cartoon.

I remember Fred and Velma as a bit bigger on TV, but I'm glad they dieted into the shapes of actor Prinze Jr. and petite Cardellini since I last saw them. Their appearances all resemble their Saturday morning, animated predecessors so it's almost like watching the cartoon, just in real life.

Scooby-Doo is definitely a movie for all. Kids will absolutely love it, and although certain scenes don't try as hard to cover all those speculations you hear about the Mystery Inc. gang later on in life, they're minor references at most. The cast only go as far as kissing. There's no sex in Scooby. It's wholesome, but it's cheesy too.

If you like cheesy, like I do, you'll love it, but there's no intelligent humor in the movie as far as the eyes can see, so be forewarned.

It's fun, though, and you'll love how it all turns out in the end.

You'll be hitting your head against your chair, it's that obvious.

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wants YOU

*The Tattoo*, is in recruitment mode. We'd like to get our clutches on a few good teens.

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## Here's Jen, hangin' with Tony Hawk

By JEN PLONSKI  
The Tattoo

I broke the "Tattoo Curse." Before I joined *The Tattoo*, no one here could snap a shot of anything but their pinkies. Then I came and broke the curse with my photography talent. Along with that, I write and draw cartoons, and occasionally proofread.

I've been in *The Tattoo* for a little over a year because I joined in sixth grade. I'm the youngest person to join *The Tattoo* since it started.

I joined because I had dropped almost all my sports and had nothing else to do. But, I'm glad I did.

My favorite thing about being in *The Tattoo* is that we get to do a lot of awesome things that we wouldn't if we weren't in the group. We got into Ultimate X, ESPN's X Games IMAX movie before

Tattoo photo

Skateboard legend Tony Hawk and Jen Plonski in an ESPN studio last summer.

it opened in the theater, and because we were working reporters, we were allowed access to the skaters in their restricted area at the X Trials at Lake Compounce last summer.

Besides that, I was able to take an hour-long hot-air balloon ride through Harwinton and Bristol, and pet the penguins at Mystic Aquarium.

One of the most fun interviews I've done so far was with Tony Hawk. I got to go to ESPN and see this weird commercial he did with his entourage. He kept checking and re-fixing his hair in anything that showed his reflection. He signed the back of my *Tattoo* t-shirt, and I got my picture taken with him.

If you can help us break our other curses, and you'd like to join, call *The Tattoo's* advisors at 1-800-break-the-curse, open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

**Who's who in  
*The Tattoo***

## Texas teen tells tales on Lone Star state

By SAM NAISHTAT  
The Tattoo

Why don't I tell our readers a little bit about Texas?

Of course, I may not be the right person to ask, since my view is a little bit, well, biased.

See, originally, I'm from Los Angeles.

When I was 8, my parents decided it would be a great idea to move.

I was the only one in the family against the idea. ("Sam, of course you have a say in whether or not we move! Oh, you don't want to go? Well, sucks to be you, go get packed!" ... my loving family...)

After almost seven years, I am still in total culture shock.

I went from the land of sun, surfing and baseball to the land of sun, sun, sun, SUN, SUN, SUN, SUN, football, "huntin'," SUN, SUN and SUN.

In Texas, the freezing point of water was changed to 68 degrees, or else we would never have ice.

In California, it was hot, too, but we had surfing.

In Texas we have a sport where you cover your entire body with 800,000 pounds of padding, and you ...RUN INTO PEOPLE.

That, actually, is a good measure of the Texas intellect.

"Gee, Mitch, since we're big and our skulls are 18 inches thick, let's run into people and try to make them fall down!"

"Hey, good idea, Tex! Even if we get hurt, our nerve cells will have such a hard time reaching our microscopic brains, by the time they actually find the brain, we'll be dandy!" For reasons that I can't quite place, I refrain from participating in football.

Now, don't get me wrong. Football is a good sport, like any other sport. However, in Texas, football is not quite the same.

In the pros (and probably in every other state in the country) they formulate strategies and plays to help overpower the opposition. In Texas, the play is:

"OK, we each pick a guy and run into him as fast and as hard as we can!"

Here's another thing about Texas: names. In Austin, Texas (where I live) I know many people named both Austin and Tex.

What other state decided it would be a good idea to name people after their state? (Let's keep in mind that the Mary in Maryland and the Louis in Louisiana were already names.)

You don't live in California and say

to your fellow soccer mom, "Yes, we're very proud of our little Sacramento."

You don't visit New York and ask your resident cousin, "Oh, and how is little Brooklyn? I haven't seen him in so very long."

"Oh, he's fine, how's your Ohio?"

"Oh, he's great, it's little Pennsylvania I'm worried about!"

That conversation would never take place.

Texas is such an arrogant state that it feels its insufferable glory must be spread all over.

Texas' main resource is arrogance. More than oil and cotton, they mine arrogance here.

Yes, it can be found in any truck dealership in the state.

You should see these commercials: "We have trucks so darn big and strong, it's fit for a Texan!"

"These trucks are perfect for drivin' all across our Promised Land!"

### What I say

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