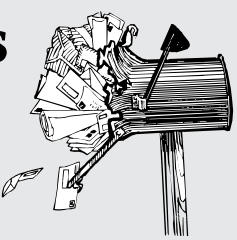


Letters to the Editor



The Southwest Portland Post
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Shattuck Road Alpenrose, and the Fanno Creek bridge construction

In response to letters in the December 2014 issue of *The Post* about Fanno Creek and also Shattuck Road, the idea that both pedestrians and bicyclists should avoid Shattuck Road is bizarre.

TriMet bus no. 1 has run on Shattuck Road for years. Residents in nearby unincorporated Multnomah County and the adjacent Bridlemile neighborhood want better bus service. Who uses bus no. 1 without walking, using a wheelchair, or riding a bike?

Driving in illegal manners or with illegal devices, overgrown brush, mud, and trash are the easily-changed things that will help pedestrian travel on Shattuck Road.

The Alpenrose velodrome often has bike riders who travel on their bikes on Shattuck to enjoy that rare treat.

In no way was I discrediting what Alpenrose brings to Southwest Portland. I stated that they employ many industries.

I greatly appreciate the public events they have. Alpenrose freight

traffic is having a difficult time entering and exiting the property due to the poor driving habits of others.

No one is forced to travel on Shattuck Road due to Washington County building a modern bridge over Fanno Creek. There is even a temporary bike and pedestrian bridge at the construction site on Oleson Road.

Part of the \$7.3 million Fanno Creek bridge price tag relates to cost of buying an adjacent apartment building, bulldozing it, removing dirt, and landscaping with tens of thousands of native plants and trees.

The new bridge deck will be seven feet higher than the previous one due to the flood plain. It took over two miles by foot to get around the old bridge when it flooded; who wants soaking wet clothes and shoes?

Parking spots on Oleson adjacent to RadioShack will be removed in order to make a south-bound bike lane. \$50,000 is the cost of just one of the 16 new vaults that will contain the storm filters.

The new Fanno Creek bridge on Oleson Road is taking eight months to build because Washington County is not requiring the contractor to work full-time of that bridge and also due to the confined area.

Carter & Company from Salem is also currently building a bridge in downtown Beaverton so they have to split time and energy.

*Rick Kappler
Raleigh Hills*

Editor's Note: Due to space limitations, what appears above are excerpts of the original letter. *The Post* welcomes letters, photos and news tips. For best results, readers should limit letters to one subject and 300 words.

Wilson High School sophomore dies in hospital after home suicide attempt

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

By Don Snedecor
The Southwest Portland Post

A candlelight vigil was held Dec. 19 at the Wilson High School track for Shea McCune-Sims who died after an attempted suicide on Dec. 14.

According to Wilson principal Brian Chatard, McCune-Sims was resuscitated by emergency medical technicians and taken by ambulance to Doernbecher Children's Hospital where she was placed on life support.

She died on Dec. 18 when it was determined she would not recover from her injuries and her family made the decision to disconnect her from life support.

"The news of this devastating loss has had a deep impact on this school and the community that we are only beginning to deal with," said Chatard, in a letter addressed to the Wilson community.

"We are deeply concerned about our students' mental health and safety, particularly for Shea's friends and for those who may be struggling with depression or who may already be in crisis themselves," said Chatard.

A sophomore at Wilson, McCune-Sims had previously attended Capitol Hill Elementary School and Jackson Middle School.

Kevin Crotchett, principal at Jackson Middle School, sent a letter addressed to Jackson families and the community.

"Shea is well-remembered by many teachers at Jackson as a vibrant, active

young woman and a student they cared about," said Crotchett. "As a teen in our community, Shea had many friends at Wilson and Jackson. She is remembered and in our minds,"

In language directed at parents, Chatard went on to say that, "It is important to allow the grieving process to happen. It is helpful for young people to get together and talk about what has happened. Isolation from peers at this time, and/or bottling up the emotions that this has brought up, are not going to help your child cope with this loss."

Chatard urged families to use the Multnomah County Crisis Line, 503-988-4888, "as an informational resource as well as for responding to a crisis you may encounter."

Principals Chatard and Crotchett also included additional information including help for parents to talk to their children about suicide. Concerned individuals should contact Wilson High School or Jackson Middle School to speak to counselors or for more information.

The Post welcomes reader response. Send letters or commentary to: Editor, *The Southwest Portland Post*, 4207 SE Woodstock Blvd #509, Portland, OR 97206. Fax (866-727-5336) or email editor@multnomahpost.com.

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