

► *Dr. Kirsten Carr is interviewed by Erik Vidstrand in a followup story about west side school boundaries. – Page 7*



► *Who was this famous woman driving a horse-drawn carriage at the Hunt Club in Garden Home? Find out in "Community Life." – Page 8*



► *Wilson alum strives to revive dance teams at Jackson and Gray middle schools. – Page 5*



# The Southwest Portland Post

Volume No. 24 Issue No. 5

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Portland, Oregon

Complimentary

March 2016

## New bridge over Fanno Creek key segment for Red Electric Trail

By Erik Vidstrand  
The Southwest Portland Post

The city of Portland Bureau of Transportation held an open house on Feb. 1 in Hillsdale to unveil several draft concepts of a key segment of the Red Electric Trail.

City and federal transportation monies are committed for a new bridge which will cross the Fanno Creek headwaters from Southwest Capitol Highway (near Bertha Station) west to Bertha Boulevard.

"The area is owned by Portland Parks & Recreation," explained Portland Bureau of Transportation project manager, Elizabeth Mahon, "and is designed to be multi-use and will comply with Americans with Disabilities Act statutes."

The planned Red Electric Trail would start at Parkhill Drive (east of Terwilliger Boulevard) then travel west under Interstate 5. The trail climbs up to Wilson High School, past Rieke Elementary, and along Florida Street to

Bertha Station.

After crossing Fanno Creek, the trail continues west along Bertha Boulevard. SW Trails PDX founder Don Baack said the planned trail will follow much of its original rail alignment.

"Our goal is to connect this new segment with a future trail which parallels Beaverton-Hillsdale Highway," Baack said. "It intends to pass behind Hayhurst elementary school and connect with the eastern Fanno Creek Trail at Alpenrose Dairy."

According to Baack, much of the trail still needs funding while some funding is already in place.

Artist renderings were prepared by KPFF, the engineering firm who designed the Portland Esplanade among other infrastructure projects. The construction will include a bike and pedestrian bridge plus improvements to Southwest Nebraska Street.

GreenWorks, a landscape architectural firm, has been hired for the additional features.

Residents and community leaders met with planning team members

and provided feedback on the three proposed designs.

From 1914 to 1929, the Southern Pacific Railroad operated an interurban passenger train (the Red Electrics) in the Willamette Valley which included stops at Union Station, Bertha Station, and travelled as far south as Corvallis.

The trail has been a long time project of SW Trails PDX, a local community group which promotes walking and biking in southwest Portland.

A second open house is yet to be scheduled sometime in April. The



Multnomah neighbor Kim Isaacson (left) discusses plans for a new Red Electric Trail bridge with Shawn Kummer of GreenWorks, the landscape architect for the project. (Post photo by Erik Vidstrand)

transportation bureau will present the selected design and explain next steps for construction.

For more information, contact Elizabeth Mahon@portlandoregon.gov or <http://swtrails.org>.

### THE COUNTRY STORE

By Erik Vidstrand  
The Southwest Portland Post

## Multnomah Village restaurant Acapulco's Southwest Gold closes

After 31 years in business, Acapulco's Southwest Gold Mexican restaurant has closed. Located in the iconic building on the corner of Southwest 35th Avenue and Capitol Highway in Multnomah Village, owners, Mick and Jolene, are calling it quits. They took over the business

from family members back in 1991.

"I don't have anything to say except, 'I'm retiring'," Mick said uncomfortably when asked to make a comment for *The Post*. "We've put in 25 years and time to move on."

He pointed to the announcement on the window which thanked his loyal customers remembering the many conversations and experiences. Then he continued serving his customers.

Long-time customer Stuart Ellis has been going there since 1989. He's eaten there at least once a month for the last 15 years.

"I've always enjoyed the food and drinks," Ellis reminisced, "and the staff have always been great. They will be missed."

Another Mexican restaurant from Southeast Portland is scheduled to open later this year in the same location.

## Sacred Money Studios and Prosperity Pie Shoppe almost ready to open

A new business is close to opening in the former Le Meitour Gallery space in Multnomah Village.

Luna Jaffe, who owns Lunaria Financial, has founded the community-based business, Sacred Money Studios and Prosperity Pie Shoppe. She envisions it as a place to gather community, eat pie, and if people want to, be exposed to financial literacy.

"It's a whole separate business," Jaffe replied from



Luna Jaffe paints an inspirational message on the wall during construction of Sacred Money Studios. (Photo courtesy of Sacred Money Studios)

her office above the Umpqua Bank.

When asked if she would be moonlighting after her day job focusing on her client's financial matters, Jaffe said that she plans to be an occasional instructor and help with some of the events in the making.

"I have two partners: Amy Dier and Jennifer Paauwe-Riffe. They will be the chief operators."

Modeled after Next Door, a Chicago community-based financial institute sponsored by State Farm Insurance Company, the pie shop will be first, and foremost, a community gathering spot that will stay open until the late evening.

"I imagine different speakers, both local and national on a variety of financial matters like how to get your relationship [with money] in alignment and navigating financial literacy."

"Many people who need financial

guidance cannot afford my services," Jaffe confessed. "That's what this concept will be for."

There will be a membership, some classes will be free or low-cost, and teens and young adults will be targeted for basic skills.

"There will be art supplies, storytelling, journaling opportunities, and books available," Jaffe said. "It will be approachable and affordable with a creative flair. And there will be pie!"

Jaffe is a past-president of the Multnomah Village Business Association and founded Lunaria Financial in 2010 after a distinguished career at Edward Jones. A soft opening for Sacred Money Studios, if construction goes as planned, will be at the end of March with a grand opening soon after. Visit <https://www.facebook.com/sacredmoneystudios/> for more information.



Mexican restaurant Acapulco's Southwest Gold closed Feb. 25 after 31 years in business. (Post photo by Erik Vidstrand)

# Letters to the Editor



## Trinidad reader says it's sad to see Le Meitour Gallery shuttered

I read with interest Erik Vidstrand's story, "Le Meitour fights city hall for permits to reopen his boutique mall," in the January 2016 issue of *The Post*.

Yves Le Meitour's gallery on Capitol Highway was among the best reasons to visit Multnomah Village for shopping, and it is sad to see it shuttered.

I don't live in Portland but am a frequent visitor and customer at Multnomah Village shops because my family lives nearby.

Mr. Le Meitour is a fine ambassador of good will and taste for the Village regardless of where he might choose to do business and his new Multnomah Boulevard place of business warrants an accommodating outlook on the part of planners.

It is unimaginable that he would be experiencing resistance or undue regulations. Surely there is a way forward for planners to encourage

Mr. Le Meitour's creative, productive aspirations.

He is right in suggesting that his project is being singled out for expensive parking and sidewalk improvements. Over the years it appears that many, many new businesses open up all over Portland with few demands for parking or sidewalk upgrades.

This note is just to suggest that a very fine entrepreneurial and ambassadorial asset for Portland like Mr. Le Meitour should be given the benefit of the doubt in planning the opening of his new French Quarter.

*Patti Fleschner  
Trinidad, Calif.*

## Remember a shoe repair shop in Multnomah run by Jim Cummins?

I'm trying to find information on my Uncle Jim last name maybe Cummins. He owned a little shoe repair shop on the hillside off of Main Street in the 1950s and '60s. He also had hounds and the police would call on him at times to help them.

*Bill Parker*

*Bill: Thank you for your letter. I would recommend you contact the folks at the Multnomah Historical*

*Association. Tim Lyman I believe is the president. You can find this organization on the Internet at [www.multnomahhistorical.com](http://www.multnomahhistorical.com).*

*Don Snedecor*

## Multnomah Village comes out in force to rescue missing, injured dog

I don't know if you are aware of the story that unfolded over the past week of the missing dog but thought you might be interested in the story for the paper.

There was a missing dog for nine days that got out and got hit by a car. Through NextDoor and Facebook the whole community came together to search for the dog, even having 24-hour barbecues going to try to lure the dog out with food. The dog was found yesterday afternoon [Feb. 2] being lured out by bacon!

My son and I spent hours looking for the dog and ran into over 100 people out doing the same thing. Turns out the dog belongs to a woman on the U.S. Olympic Ski team. There is much more to the story so if you want more details let me know and I can put you in touch with people.

*Lisa Jensen  
Multnomah Village Dental Care*



## POLICE BLOTTER

### Taylor's Ferry Road closed after pedestrian struck by two different vehicles

*By Don Snedecor  
The Southwest Portland Post*

On Wednesday Feb. 17, 2016, at 5:48 p.m., Portland police officers from Central Precinct and Traffic Division responded to Southwest Taylor's Ferry Road, between Macadam Avenue and Boones Ferry Road, on the report that a teenage boy was injured after being struck by vehicles being driven on Taylor's Ferry Road.

The teenager injured on Southwest Taylor's Ferry Road has been identified as 15-year-old Timothy Baranow.

Officers and medical personnel arrived and located the victim, who was suffering from traumatic injuries. He has been transported to a Portland hospital with what are believed to be life-threatening injuries. He remains in critical condition.

The Traffic Division's Major Crash Team responded to investigate the crash. Taylor's Ferry Road was closed from Macadam Avenue/Highway 43 up to Boones Ferry Road and remained so for several hours.

Crash investigators have learned that Baranow started to run northbound across Taylor's Ferry Road to his home when he was first struck by a westbound 2015 Toyota 4Runner, driven by 36-year-old Peggy Yam.

*(Continued on Page 3)*



## The Southwest Portland Post

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# Mayor brings community together for second meeting to address homelessness in Southwest

By Jack Rubinger  
The Southwest Portland Post

After three articles, three meetings, numerous interviews, edits and rewrites on the subject of the Sears Shelter and homelessness in southwest Portland, this reporter has come to the following conclusion:

The struggle continues but the city and neighborhoods are making progress in the exceedingly polite manner that characterizes our community.

Ironically, when concerns are aired, many are paranoid about the presence of the media, showing a reluctance to be quoted and downright fear of being photographed.

When this reporter first visited the Sears Shelter located on Southwest Multnomah Boulevard, the care, concern and compassion the staff showed was impressive.

The neighbors who live near the Sears Shelter do care about the homeless; they want to help and contribute with donations of food and clothing.



Mayor Charlie Hales discusses the Sears Shelter noise with a concerned neighbor. (Post photo by Jack Rubinger)

They're also wary of strangers on their streets, frustrated about excessive noise from shuttle buses that transport people to and from the Sears Shelter, and angry about people loudly arguing across the street from the facility.

A community forum on Feb. 16 at the Multnomah Arts Center featured an all-star cast including Portland Mayor Charlie Hales, his chief of staff Josh Alpert, facility manager Bob Kieta, and Stacy Borke from Transition Projects, the agency that runs the shelter.

The community came together to get a status update about the success of the Sears Shelter, the mayor's plans to deal with homelessness on a wider scale throughout Portland, and the future of the building now housing the shelter.

Neighbors also collected socks and canned goods for the shelter.

Greater clarity — and some tensions — were released at the community forum.

Here are some of the highlights:  
The Menashe family opened up a temporary men's shelter on a whole floor of one of their buildings.

A former strip club on 162nd and Stark is now a family shelter. The city now offers about 1,000 shelter beds and 695 homeless veterans are housed.

An online homelessness "tool kit" from the Mayor's Office will go live soon.

The Multnomah Neighborhood Association and the Sears Shelter are drafting a memorandum of agreement, which will address who to call for emergencies, what the police will agree to do, and what neighbors will agree to do.

"We have an increased budget for housing and homelessness as our city and county budgets have grown modestly and we're in the market to purchase buildings or land or both in Southeast Portland to accommodate our homeless population," said Hales.

"We want to bring order to the chaos of people camping and we're also working on changing zoning laws. But, homelessness has grown more visible because more people are sleeping in tents on the streets vs. being curled up in doorways."

Stacy Borke, from Transition Projects, the organization that manages the Sears Shelter, reported that things are operating swimmingly. "Possessions, pets, and partners ease the pain of homelessness," said Borke.

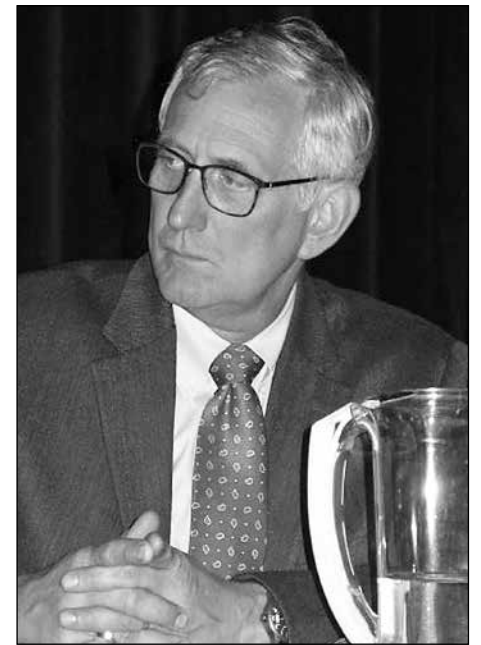
Neighbors and volunteers have provided more than 8,000 sack lunch since opening in November. Residents are saying that they have gotten the best night's sleep in a long time.

People are getting jobs and moving onto permanent housing.

"While it may seem that people are choosing Portland as a destination to be homeless, of the thousands who are homeless, only dozens came to Portland homeless. Most are longtime residents of Multnomah County. The large majority of people that are homeless are from here," said Hales.

"The ability to sleep is a basic human right," said Hales. "For the 1,800 or so people sleeping outside, we want to give them a constructive answer with a basic approach to camping because it is legal to camp on some sites if you roll up your stuff and move in the morning."

As to the future of the Sears Shelter,



Mayor Charlie Hales listens to a panel member during the community forum on homelessness. (Post photo by Jack Rubinger)

which transitions into an emergency management facility in May, crews are working on heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems, and upgrading elevators.

By the end of the meeting, the mayor and the woman who lived across the street from the shelter were putting their heads together to come up with a solution to the noise and the beeping from the shuttle buses.

## POLICE BLOTTER

(Continued from Page 2)

After being struck by Yam, Baranow was struck a second time by an eastbound 2015 Toyota Rav4, driven by 57-year-old Carolyn Smith. Both drivers stopped at the scene and cooperated with authorities. Neither driver was impaired by alcohol or drugs.

The investigation is continuing and, once complete, it will be presented to the

Multnomah County District Attorney's Office for review.

The Portland Police Bureau is committed to working with our partners in government and the community to create safer streets and work towards reducing, and eventually eliminating, traffic fatalities as part of Vision Zero.

To learn more about the city of Portland's Vision Zero effort, please visit: <http://www.portlandoregon.gov/transportation/40390>.

## Westside Candidates Forum



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# Legacy-GoHealth opens urgent care facility in Burlingame

By Erik Vidstrand  
The Southwest Portland Post

Legacy-GoHealth, an urgent care center, opened Feb. 1 in the Burlingame neighborhood next to the Banfield Pet Hospital on Southwest Barbur Boulevard.

The center provides convenient access to quality healthcare for non-life threatening illnesses and injuries without an appointment.

There are no medical doctors on site. Instead, GoHealth is fully staffed with a nurse practitioner, medical assistant, and physician assistant. An on-call medical doctor can be teleconferenced in as necessary. GoHealth providers are part of the Legacy Medical Group.

There are onsite X-rays, flu shots, and lab services available. Looking like a robot, the MobileArt Evolution X-Ray machine, the first of its kind, is brought to the patient in their room by the technician.

According to Dr. Gregory Carroll, president and medical director of

Legacy-GoHealth, the company is the fastest-growing urgent care provider in the Pacific Northwest.

"GoHealth accepts most types of health insurance," Carroll stated. "Of course, if you are in the Legacy system, you'll be in-network. This will allow access to the patient's medical records and primary care provider."

Upon visiting the center at the open house held in early February, this reporter saw large examination rooms which you could see right through from the open floor plan. Alarmed and questioning this at first, staff quickly demonstrated with a flick of a switch the electronic window shield to provide total privacy.

"The rooms are extra big," said Heidi Kayser, GoHealth's marketing director, who led the tour. "This is so additional family members or loved ones can comfort the patient as they are being examined."

Legacy has five hospitals region-wide with 11 of these smaller more convenient urgent care clinics

scattered throughout. With another one opening in the Johnson Creek area, eight more are planned to open this year with one or two more in Southwest Portland.

When asked about the competition, Zoom Care came up.

"They have additional staff like pediatricians, psychologists, and nutritionists," said Kayser. "We focus on the pressing issues and immediate injuries at hand and provide a more convenient and closer location for our members."

Legacy-GoHealth is located at 7461 SW Barbur Boulevard and is open Monday through Friday, 8-8. Weekends, 9-5. If closed, the patient needs to head to the nearest hospital emergency room.



Brittany Bradford, medical assistant, shows off the mobile X-ray machine that can be moved around the various exam rooms. (Post photo by Erik Vidstrand)

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# Wilson alum strives to revive dance teams for Jackson, Gray middle schools

By KC Cowan  
The Southwest Portland Post

Whatever happened to the dance team at Wilson High School? Once one of the premier activities at Wilson, young women endured tough auditions with fierce competition to win a coveted spot as a "Trojane."

The team would dance halftime performances at football and basketball games. They had great uniforms and were looked up to in the school. But while other Portland high schools have dance teams, Wilson hasn't had one since 2013.

High school students have so many activity choices these days, it makes sense that some long-time clubs may fall by the wayside, because of waning popularity.

"There are a lot of different options for high school students," said Gina Aman of the Portland School District athletics office. "Sports, clubs, academics. Kids are pulled in multiple directions so it's hard to figure out where they want to go."

One former Wilson alum, however, is doing her best to revive the tradition.

Maureen Berrie-Lawson was a Trojane herself, as she jokingly puts it, "...back when the earth was cooling." She has nothing but fond memories of performing and competing on dance team.

"You know how people ask you what teacher had a profound effect on your schooling?" she asked. "One of

my answers is Mrs. Lee, who was my dance team coach at Wilson. Mrs. Lee wasn't a great dancer, but she was fair and kind and we still trained hard and won many first place titles."

Now Berrie-Lawson is the coach and choreographer. She is not starting her dance team at Wilson, however. Her earlier efforts last year failed to build any steam.

"Mostly, because there are no funds, no practice space, and no administrators have time to lend support. Without proper support, the participants will not come."

So instead, Berrie-Lawson is trying to build support and enthusiasm for dance team at Robert Gray and Andrew Jackson middle schools.

"By building a dance program at the middle school level, we can entice the interested and talented individuals at an age to build a very strong program and continue through high school and beyond," she said. "I met with district athletic director Marshall Haskins and then dance and cheer director Gina Aman in the district athletic office and we devised a middle school pilot project. If we are successful at Jackson and Gray, we will assist other Portland middle schools to build a similar program."

West Sylvan currently has a dance team and Sellwood has had dance programs for the past 15 years, as does Da Vinci. So there is enthusiasm for dance teams from the district, though not much in the way of financial support. Travel expenses to competitions can run



Middle schoolers try out for dance team. Left to right in the kickline are Ruby Minato, Amelia Winkelman, Uma Freeman, Aslan Newson, Mya Gray, Aria Morgan, Audrey Carlson. (Post photo by KC Cowan)

about \$500, with another \$250 for the competition fees.

"We pay for competition costs, and try to help with transportation costs and uniforms," said Aman. "We help them out to get a discounted rate. We're not in a financial position to pay for coaches. But my hope is we'll have it across the board, eventually."

Berrie-Lawson and others are stepping up in a volunteer capacity to do just that. She is Head Coach and choreographer.

"As of now, Jerry Watson Jr., a graduate of Parkrose Dance Team, is assistant coach and we have some interested parties waiting in the wings to join us," she said. "There is not a single coach that expects to get rich leading a sport. We do it expecting the gratification will be knowing that we've helped build character in our youth and

because we love it."

The first round of auditions took place in February—the first steps towards rebuilding a tradition that Berrie-Lawson says can be a life changer for some girls

"Dance team had a huge impact on shaping me into the person I am today more than anything else I can think of from my youth. I can remember wanting to dance so badly, I couldn't imagine my life if I didn't make it on the team! All young people have to have a desire or passion they identify with at work in their lives. If that isn't esteem-building, I don't know what is."

Girls interested in joining the dance team must be currently in fifth grade and plan on attending Wilson High School as a freshman. Contact Maureen Berrie-Lawson at grumpyswife925@gmail.com

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# New Sellwood Bridge span opens, yet nine months of work remains

By Erik Vidstrand  
The Southwest Portland Post

The new Sellwood Bridge opens to traffic on March 1. While it marks a major milestone, more construction work will continue which cannot be performed until the new bridge opens. This will allow contractors to begin removing the old bridge and complete other projects.

The current bridge opened in 1925 replacing the Spokane Street Ferry. The \$442,000 cost was reputed to be "the most extensive bridge programme (sic) of any city in America" (The Oregonian, Jan. 1, 1924). It took 250 working days to construct.

It would be Portland's first Willamette River bridge without a movable span and the first Portland bridge to be designed without trolley tracks.

The problems with the 90-year old Sellwood Bridge were well known: foundation problems, general deterioration, and a narrow, lightweight design that poorly served all traffic modes.

Multnomah County, who owns the property, maintained a rigorous safety program that included visual inspections every three months to ensure that the bridge continued to be safe to use but was decided it needed replacing.

The project began back in 1999 with the South Willamette River Crossing Study looking at a variety of options for a new bridge. Community input was provided and local school children developed their own models. Work began in summer 2012.

"One of the most important messages we want to convey to the public about the bridge opening on March 1," stated bridge spokesman Mike Pullen, "is that we still have nine months of construction to complete.

"I think your westside readers would be especially interested to know what work will be completed after the bridge opens and why."

The westside trail from the bridge to Willamette Park is expected to open in April. The wide trail will follow the trolley corridor and Southwest Miles Place. It will be a major improvement compared to the old trail along the east side of busy Macadam Avenue (Highway 43).

The Macadam Bay/Freeman Motors

driveway work has resumed after a 30-day delay due to an archaeological find of a century-old brick house foundation and expected to be completed by April.

The old concrete truss spans (deck, sidewalks and railings) will be removed in March and April. The steel truss will be disassembled and removed in May and June.

Northbound Highway 43 which goes under the bridge is expected to open in May. The left turn from the Sellwood Bridge to Highway 43 south is expected to open in late August. It will eliminate the need for drivers to travel north and turn around at Taylors Ferry.

Final paving on Highway 43 will take place in August. Bioswales will be installed on the both sides of the river from August to November.

The new bridge features a steel deck arch design, with three arches supporting the deck of the main river spans. It

measures 1,976 feet in length, including the main river spans and the east and west approaches.

This design picked by a community advisory committee allows for a 64-foot width at its narrowest point. Two 12-foot travel lanes, two 12-foot shared use sidewalks, and two 6.5-foot bike lanes/emergency shoulders make up the bridge.

"While no plans are underway for a streetcar at this time, the deck is ready when the need and budget present itself," Pullen commented. "A MAX line was never in the design and will never



Aerial view of the new Sellwood Bridge as it appeared in January. (Photo courtesy of Multnomah County)

go over the span."

A farewell candlelight walk was held at the end of February. Participants strolled across the 90-year old bridge one last time to say goodbye. At press time, a community celebration was scheduled to be held Feb. 27 to dedicate the new bridge. Dignitaries, workers, media, and the community were scheduled to be on hand.

## Harry Austin Blythe, Jr. 1927-2015

### OBITUARY

Harry Austin Blythe, Jr. passed away on Dec. 19, 2015. Harry died at home of cancer with the care and support of hospice, his family and a dear close friend.



Born Aug. 25, 1927 in Chicago, Harry attended Hyde Park High School, graduating in 1945. He enlisted in the U.S. Navy and was stationed in Corpus Christi, Texas and served as a medical corpsman.

After his discharge from the Navy, Harry returned to Illinois to attend Bradley University, where he met Barbara Joanne Stone. Harry and Barbara were married in 1950 and settled in Peoria, Ill. where Harry got a job selling ads for the local newspaper and Barbara became a schoolteacher.

In 1953, the family moved to Burbank, Calif., so Harry could accept a job selling ads for the *Los Angeles Times*. Their son John was born in 1954, daughter Merry in 1955 and daughter Leslie in 1956.

Soon after this Harry began working for Ohio Medical and the Blythe family grew by one more with the birth of daughter Stephanie in 1962.

In 1968, Harry's company transferred him to the San Francisco area, so the family moved to Piedmont, Calif. In the mid-1970s, Harry and Barbara purchased a home on four acres on the Mendocino, Calif. coast and spent most of their weekends there.

Harry soon bought the *Coast Peddler*, a small newspaper which evolved into the *Mendocino Commentary* under his ownership. The Blythes sold their home in Piedmont and bought a new home in San Francisco. Throughout the 1980s, Harry split his time between Mendocino and San Francisco, selling surgical equipment for Medical Technologies and continuing to publish his newspaper.

In 1991, Barbara retired from her teaching career so the Blythes sold their home in Mendocino along with the newspaper and moved to Portland. In 1997, Harry began selling ads for the *Southwest Portland Post* and he and Barbara (who were married for 55 years) did some traveling. Barbara died in 2005.

For the next 10 years, Harry continued to sell ads for *The Post* while making new friends and enjoying time with his family.

Harry primarily covered Hillsdale (where he lived) and Multnomah Village.

Harry was a lifelong fan of the Chicago Cubs, as well as an all-around fan of football, basketball, baseball, and track & field.

He loved listening to music and public radio, going to see movies on Sunday afternoons, and having breakfast at his neighborhood bakery. He loved to read, and especially enjoyed poetry, periodicals, and the *New York Times*.

Harry is survived by his sister, Bette Blythe of Las Vegas; children John Blythe (Denise) of San Anselmo, Calif., Merry Pettis (Bill) of Portland, Leslie Pressman (Stuart) of Carmel Valley, Calif., and Stephanie Evjen (Eddy) of Portland. He is also survived by seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Harry will be missed by his friends and family and will be remembered for his quick wit, corny jokes, snappy one-liners and his overall kind and caring nature.

*The Southwest Portland Post is researching funding a journalism scholarship at Wilson High School in the name of Harry Austin Blythe, Jr. Contributions to this fund can be made care of this newspaper.*

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# School boundary committee revises recommendations after Wilson forum

By Erik Vidstrand  
The Southwest Portland Post

The first set of recommendations for West Side schools was presented to Portland Public Schools Superintendent Carole Smith in mid-February.

The District-wide Boundary Review Advisory Committee, which formed almost two years ago to address overcrowding and under enrollment issues, made a revised set of recommendations after a mid-January forum held at Wilson High School.

The original recommendation redrew Rieke Elementary School boundaries to send some Rieke students to Bridlemile School, some Bridlemile and Rieke students to Hayhurst School, and some Ainsworth Elementary students to Bridlemile and Rieke.

But the boundary committee decisions came with a divisive tone after comments made by Hillsdale Professional and Business Association president Mike Roach which set off a chain of reactions from the Hayhurst community.

Representing Rieke Elementary school that night, Roach spoke out against the proposed boundary changes saying it would create a traffic nightmare in the Hillsdale town center caused by parents taking their children to their new school assignments.

News stations ran Roach's comparison of the traffic situation to the "carnageddon" seen in Los Angeles.

Roach did not clarify that he was not speaking for the business group. His comments didn't sit well with Hayhurst parents since they were in favor of the proposal. Angry Hayhurst parents wrote Roach and many threatened to boycott Hillsdale businesses. Roach apologized to the Hayhurst community for the misunderstanding.

Dr. Kirsten Carr, a parent who plays

an active role on the Hayhurst strategic planning committee, commented that the proposal did not sit well with the Rieke neighbors.

"Adopting Roach's proposal," Carr said, "would make Hayhurst under-enrolled since the Hayhurst Odyssey program will either move to Jackson Middle school or a renovated Smith Elementary School."

The boundary committee took Roach's words to heart and revised its recommendations, now called 2B. It now includes no boundary changes for Rieke and only a small boundary change from Maplewood to Hayhurst retained from the previous scenario. It shifts around Ainsworth so Rieke isn't impacted.

"These results alleviate overcrowding at Hayhurst without creating enrollment imbalance," Carr told *The Post*.

"They do not fully understand our specific predicament and obviously want to protect a perceived integrity of their own school community," Carr commented referring to Rieke School. "We felt the need to voice our displeasure."

*The Post* was not able to reach Roach for comment for this story. However, Roach did send an email to Hillsdale Business Association members and apologies to Hayhurst for misrepresenting the association.

"I suggested other Hillsdale business owners would oppose a change in the boundaries," Roach's email continued, "about which Rieke parents were extremely upset and opposed to."

Roach's email stated that the business association has no official position on proposed changes and is unlikely to have one in the future.

"Each business owner is (of course) free to express their opinion, if they dare!" Roach wrote.

Hayhurst has long been intertwined with Rieke. Over the years the two

schools have seen growth and contraction as generations of families moved into the neighborhood as young families and out of the neighborhood as retirees.

Although Hayhurst is large enough for almost 600 students, due to the inclusion of the Odyssey program, the building is out of room to accommodate growth.

"In the 2017 school year," Dr. Carr said, "we are expected to be even larger through natural growth of the neighborhood. But, we are out of room and will need space for two additional classrooms."

Brian Unflat, a Rieke, Gray, and Wilson parent, has been meeting with Carr and others to come up with an alternative scenario.

"One possible solution," Unflat wrote, "is that the Rieke leadership support families in Rieke, Bridlemile, and Maplewood neighborhoods to opt into Hayhurst to help keep them at right-sized enrollment."

Carr said that a recent survey shows 50 percent of the parents are in favor of looking into these boundary options.

This month, Superintendent Smith makes final recommendations to the school board who will then deliberate and vote. In the spring, the boundary committee will reconvene to assist the Portland school district in setting boundaries and feeder patterns for the reconfigured K-8 schools.

The school board will consider and vote on those recommendations as well. The decision is expected before the end of the school year giving



Dr. Kirsten Carr, parent of a first grader at Hayhurst Elementary School, continues to testify on issues concerning West Side school boundary issues. (Post photo by Erik Vidstrand)

families certainty about their school assignments a year in advance.

Planning, staffing, and building improvements will then take place to prepare for K-8 reconfiguration by the 2017 school year. There will be opportunities for additional public comment.

To learn about other local changes, visit [www.pps.net](http://www.pps.net) and click "Growing Great Schools."

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## COMMUNITY LIFE

By KC Cowan  
The Southwest Portland Post

**JAM Art Show and Sale:** March is Jewish Arts Month. Enjoy a rotating exhibit in the lobby of the Mittleman Jewish Community Center, 6651 SW Capitol Hwy. Members of ORA: Northwest Jewish Artists will answer questions, accept commissions and sell their art. A portion of the proceeds benefits the MJCC.

**4 Beauty and Anxiety:** March 4 is the opening reception for an exhibit of paintings by Patty Maly. The oil-on-wood paintings incorporate the human form in landscape and explore how we have changed the landscape and how nature is responding. Reception is from 7 to 9 p.m. The show is on display at the Multnomah Arts Center, 7688 SW Capitol Hwy, until March 29.

**5 Youth Symphony:** Portland Youth Philharmonic and musical director David Hattner present the Winter Concert Saturday, March 5, at 7:30 p.m. in the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall. PYP continues a long held tradition of performing its most demanding program of the season during the Winter Concert. PYP will perform three pieces, opening the concert with American composer Marion Bauer's *Sun Splendor*. For more information, visit [www.portlandyouthphil.org](http://www.portlandyouthphil.org).

**12 SW Trails PDX** is sponsoring a walk on Saturday, March 12,



Portland Youth Philharmonic holds its Winter Concert on March 5 at the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall. (Photo by Joe Cantrell)

through far southern and western portions of Portland and into Tigard, including five natural areas. The walk is 6.2 miles long. Meet behind the bleachers, near the food carts, at Wilson High School, Sunset Boulevard and Capitol Highway, and be ready to car pool at 9 a.m. You're encouraged to bring a snack and water and dress for the weather. Well-behaved dogs are allowed on leash. For more information, contact Sharon Fekety, [fekety@hevanet.com](mailto:fekety@hevanet.com).

**14 Garden Home History Project:** Pat and Andy Dignan will present a free discussion and slide show on the Hunt Club area, horse racing activities, and summer homes of early Garden Home on Monday, March 14, at

6:30 p.m. at the Garden Home Recreation Center, 7475 SW Oleson Road. For more information call 503-246-5879.



In the 1930s, Mrs. Aaron Frank drove a hackney harness pony. (Photo courtesy of Garden Home History Project)

**15 Meet the Author:** Valerie Geary will read from and discuss her book, *Crooked River*. Find out about her new project, the differences between writing a debut and sophomore novel, as well as other questions and answers. The book signing will be held Tuesday, March 15 at 7 p.m. at the Garden Home Community Store, 7306 SW Oleson Road.

**16 On Klickitat Street,** Beverly Cleary's beloved character Ramona made her own costumes and wore them year-round. You can too! Learn to make attachable ears and tails using fabric and recycled materials. Turn yourself into an animal or creature of your choice, and finish your costume off with face paint. Great for children ages 4-10. Wednesday, March 16, 4-5:30 p.m. at the Hillsdale Library, 1525 SW Sunset Blvd. For more information call 503-988-5388.

**19 Are you ready for the Big One?** Earthquake preparedness isn't that hard. Come to a workshop, to learn what to do before, during, and after an earthquake. You'll learn how to make a family plan, build an emergency kit and what items should be included and the proper way to store it. Saturday, March 19, 10:30 a.m. to noon at the Capitol Hill Library, 10723 SW Capitol Hwy. Register online, in the library or by calling 503-988-5234.

**Cello Bop:** Composer and electric cellist Gideon Freudmann enjoys an international reputation for his innovative compositions and unique style of playing. His art is inspired by the best of classical, modern jazz, and blues traditions. Hear him play on Saturday, March 19, from noon to 12:50 p.m. at the Hillsdale Library, 1525 SW Sunset Blvd. Call 503-988-5388 for more information. Free.

**26 Portland Brewery Stories:** Portland has more breweries in and around the city than any other city in the world. This lecture will explore Portland's beer history with an emphasis on the elements that led to Portland becoming the center of the craft beer world. It's on Saturday, March 26 at 2 p.m. at the Hillsdale Library, 1525 SW Sunset Blvd. Register online, in the library or by calling 503-988-5388.



Spencer Conway is the hero Bullshot Crummond and Kelly Stewart is the imperiled heroine Rosemary in the Lakewood Theatre comedy, "Bullshot Crummond: The Evil Eye of Jabar and The Invisible Bride of Death." All shows at Lakewood Center for the Arts, 368 S. State Street, in Lake Oswego. It runs March 4 through April 10 with evening and matinee performances. For tickets, call the Lakewood Theatre Box Office at (503) 635-3901 or order online at [www.lakewood-center.org](http://www.lakewood-center.org).



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