

Our website has received a number of comments in the past several days regarding a photo that was published in connection with a fatal traffic accident earlier this week on Big Springs Road.

Several commented that the photo was "distasteful" or "disrespectful" while others said it is necessary to run these type of photos in order to make the public better aware of the dangers that loom on our public streets, roads and highways.

Speeding, not wearing a seatbelt, texting, mixing alcohol with driving, and other factors often contribute to a loss of life in an automobile accident.

We see our role as a community newspaper as making the public better informed about happenings and events that occur locally. These reports many times are not pleasant. They often involve matters and issues that result in death. And while they may not be reports of "good news" they do, we believe, serve a purpose.

They tell us to slow down, to be watchful as we drive, to not be distracted by cell phones, to wear seatbelts, and to practice other good habits that will result in us being better drivers and perhaps helping to save our life and the lives of others.

These stories teach valuable lessons to all ages and while we're sensitive to the victims and family members, we do also recognize that these stories can provide sobering thoughts and a make an important difference, a difference that may in fact save a life.

We take this opportunity to thank the many who responded on our website about this story and ask that you continue to visit our website, www.wilsonpost.com , for all current news.

Below are some of the comments that were both critical and supportive of the photo and story about the accident on Big Springs Road.

"I think that it is pretty disrespectful of you to post this picture without getting permission from the family. I am sorry but your news story is not more important than what this family is feeling right now."

"If you wreck your vehicle in public, the public has a right to learn from your mistake."

"Knowledge saves lives. It is very sad, but if I died in a preventable accident I would want to be front page. I am not cold hearted. Too many people die on our roads. This story might save someone's life."

"There is no "knowledge" to this story. She was not driving too fast. This picture did not need to be put in the newspaper to the public."

"My heart goes out to this family, this happened at my driveway and my thoughts and prayers have been with them since."

Editor's Note: The story in question appeared on www.wilsonpost.com on Monday, May 14 and in the Wednesday, May 16 edition of The Post.