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ON THE The First Snow of 2025

Swap Meet to Start 2025 Season

SIDE....

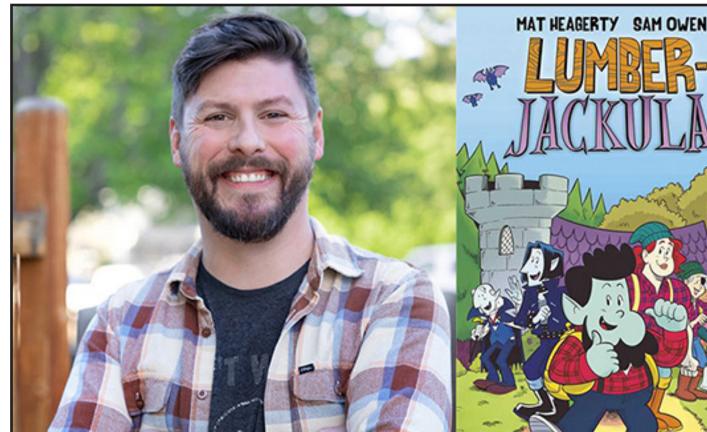
By Bill Archer

This **Saturday**, **February 8** Pacific Raceways will be holding its 6th Annual All-Motorsports Swap Meet in the paddock area of the Premiere Racing Facility of the Northwest.

The event runs from **9:00 a.m. till 5:00 p.m.** Entry fee of \$10 at the gate and gets you into all the action.

Currently there are 140 plus vendors set to be on hand for this one-day event. If you're into Drag Racing, Muscle Cars, Collector Cars, Sports Cars, Hot Rods, Imports or Motorcycles then you'll not want to miss this.

So, if you're looking for something your vehicle might need, then come on out this Saturday to Pacific Raceways, you'll probably find it there. For more information or register for booth space then give the track a call at (253) 639-5927 or check out www.pacificraceways.com. Mat Heagerty Visits Maple View and Summit Trails Schools





Last week, Mat Heagerty, comic book author, came to the 6th graders at Maple View and Summit Trail middle schools for an unforgettable visit. Mat shared his journey of overcoming dyslexia and following his passion of becoming an author. He inspired our students with his humor, vulnerability, and message of perseverance. The Tahoma Schools Foundation made this visit possible! Tahoma Schools Photos





Arletta Mae (Casberg) Rasmussen

Arletta Mae (Casberg) Rasmussen passed away on January 9, 2025 in Burien, WA, with family by her side.

Arletta Mae Rasmussen was born on May 17, 1934, and raised in Clayton, WA. She graduated from Deer Park High School. Arletta first met her husband, Myron, when they both worked on her grandpa's farm as teenagers. Myron admired Arletta, this hard-working beauty who proficiently drove the tractor during hay-bailing. During senior year, Arletta asked what he wanted for his birthday, she granted his wish when they were married on his birthday, August 8, 1952.

Arletta was a loving wife and mother who gave birth to Sharlene, Myrna, Terry, and Timothy. Her dedication and loyalty were seen as she worked to help support her family at Eastern Washington University, where Myron went to college on scholarship. Arletta worked at Seafirst Bank in Maple Valley, but resigned when she was a robber's targeted bank teller for a second time. She then did payroll at Tukwila City Hall.

Life's adventures and job opportunities took Arletta and family to Cheney and Deer Park, Washington; Hobart, Oklahoma; Grandview, Idaho; and Maple Valley, Auburn, and Renton, Washington. Arletta and Myron moved to Riyadh, Saudi Arabia with Boeing for 4.5 years. They led an underground church in Riyadh and did short-term missionary outreaches in Canada and Fiji.

Arletta's love languages were hugs, kisses, and quality time spent with family and friends. Arletta and Myron team-led Bluebirds, Campfire Girls, and Cub Scouts; and attended family's sporting events. She raised many farm animals, and loved to garden and share farm-to-table home-cooked meals with loved ones. Arletta enjoyed The Great Outdoors in many ways; most concluded with visiting and warming up by a "Rasmussen bonfire". She had a great passion for playing cards and board games and the children of family and friends. Arletta read God's Word every day, shared Jesus' love, and was active in church life wherever they lived.

Arletta was survived by her daughters, Sharlene Bielefeld and Myrna (husband Ron) Eller; her son Terry (wife Michelle) Rasmussen; grandchildren: Tracy, Brad (wife Erica), Amie, Heather (husband Ben), Anna (husband Josh), Gabe (wife Erica), Heidi (husband Doug), Garrett (wife Nicole); seventeen great grandchildren, one great grandchild, numerous



siblings-in-law, nieces, nephews and friends. She was preceded in death by her husband, Myron Rasmussen; parents, Edward and Dorothy Casberg; sisters, Evelyn Whitmore and Gerry Evans; brother Dick Casberg, son Timothy Rasmussen and son-in-law Mark Bielefeld.

Arletta's big, welcoming smile and open arms, warm heart, kindness, love, generosity, and joy will be missed.

We welcome family and friends of Arletta to join us for her Celebration of Life at 11:00 AM on Saturday, February 15th, 2025, at Generational Hope Church (26040 SE 216th St, Maple Valley, WA 98038). Dessert reception to follow.



An Encouraging Word Taylor Creek Church

By Pastor Jason Katen

Proverbs 6:16-19 says, "There are six things which the LORD hates, Yes, seven which are an abomination to Him: ¹⁷ Haughty eyes, a lying tongue, And hands that shed innocent blood, ¹⁸ A heart that devises wicked plans, Feet that run rapidly to evil, ¹⁹ A false witness *who* utters lies, And one who spreads strife among brothers." Yes, God hates. He hates evil. Now, this is not a complete list but rather a Hebraic form of writing to bring emphasis. The first six seem to lead to the seventh. God hates the one who stirs up strife and all the actions that achieve it.

Though this list is not exhaustive, it reveals what God sees as evil. This being the case, the opposite should be true of those who claim to be followers of Christ. Several Scriptures make this clear. Psalm 97:10 says, "Hate evil, you who love the LORD." Amos 5:15 says we are to "Hate evil, love good, and establish justice..." and Proverbs 8:13 tells us that "The fear of the LORD is to hate evil." The real question is, "What is it that you or I hate?"

God is not telling us to be perfect because we cannot. However, if our lives are characterized by the things listed in Proverbs 6:16-19, we cannot say we love the Lord. God hates evil, every form of it, and so should those who love Him.

Knowing this, we must understand that God will judge all sin, meaning he judges all men, for "all of have sinned…" – Romans 3:23, and the "wages or consequence of sin, is death." Romans 6:23, meaning eternal judgment. This sounds bad, and it is, but God does not leave us here - Romans 6:23, "The wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." This is good news! In Christ, we can be forgiven of all our sins. Jesus took upon himself the judgment for sin and offers forgiveness to those who repent and believe. Notice how clear the Bible makes this, telling the sinner, "that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; 10 for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation. 11 For the Scripture says, "WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED." - Romans 10:9–11.

Would you like to know more? We would love to speak with you. Call us at 425-432-0634 or contact us at www.taylorcreekchurch.org. We invite you to join us for Sunday service: 9:00 AM for Sunday School and 10:15 AM for Worship. Address: 21110 244th Ave. S.E., Maple Valley.



Church Information and Services

HOPE FELLOWSHIP

Are you wondering if there's a God and what place He should have in your life? Join us Sundays! Sing to contemporary music. Hear the Bible explained simply. Keep your money. Wear normal clothes. Nursery and children's program provided. Did we mention coffee? Visit either at 9 a.m., 10:45 a.m. or 6 p.m.

Hope Fellowship, 21115 Kent Kangley Road just past Sawyer's Village. 425-432-5114. www.HopeFellowship.net

TAYLOR CREEK CHURCH

A place for you to grow in your relationship with the Lord and fellowship with His people. We invite you to join us each Sunday for Sunday School Classes for all ages at 9 am, and for our Worship Service with verse-by-verse teaching of the Word of God at 10:15 am. (Children's Church and Nursery are provided through Kindergarten) A cry room is provided for nursing mothers with a video feed of the service.

We invite you to also join us throughout the week for personal encouragement and spiritual growth through Adult Small Group Bible Studies, Studies for Men, Studies for Women, as well as Youth Ministry

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from 9am to 12pm for our in-person hiring event. Meet other drivers, tour the buses, learn about training, and more! (grades 7-12) and Adventure Club (ages 3 through grade 6).

We are located at 21110 244th Ave. SE (right off Hwy 18). For more information about our church or other activities, please call the church office at (425) 432-0634 or visit our website at www.taylorcreekchurch. org. Senior Pastor: Jason Katen



Obituaries printed in VOICE



Write up the memories you cherish about your loved one to pass on from generation to generation with an obituary in the VOICE of the Valley.

Obituaries can be placed by emailing voice9696@comcast.net Call 425-432-9696 for prices!!

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When Coal Was King By Bill Kombol



When this colorized photo was taken in June 1932, there were two circuitous ways to travel between Black Diamond and Enumclaw. Each involved crossing the Green River. One route crossed the Whitney Bridge and climbed up the Enumclaw Plateau to dairy farms that dominated the landscape. The other course traveled east past the abandoned town of Franklin, passing over the Green River Gorge Bridge, then headed south along the Enumclaw-Franklin Road.

Fifteen months later a new road, called the Kummer Cut-off provided a direct connection and became King County's highest bridge. It stretched over two football fields long and crossed steep canyon walls as it towered 15 stories above the rushing waters of the Green River. The Kummer Bridge on State Route 169 cut the travel distance by four miles. Today it sees typical daily traffic volumes of 10,000 to 15,000 vehicles. During the 1932-33 construction of the Kummer Bridge, Thomas Blum, a licensed surveyor who also served as King County's bridge inspector, periodically snapped photos to document construction of the new route.

This picture looking north along Highway 169 was taken where vehicles first enter Black Diamond, when coming from the south. The view is just before passing Jones Lake. In the upper right-hand corner, just below the skyline was the Old Lawson railroad trestle that connected the coal mining towns of Black Diamond and Franklin. The branch rail line was abandoned two years later in 1934. The grassy fields on either side of the road have been owned by the Banchero family since the early 1920s.

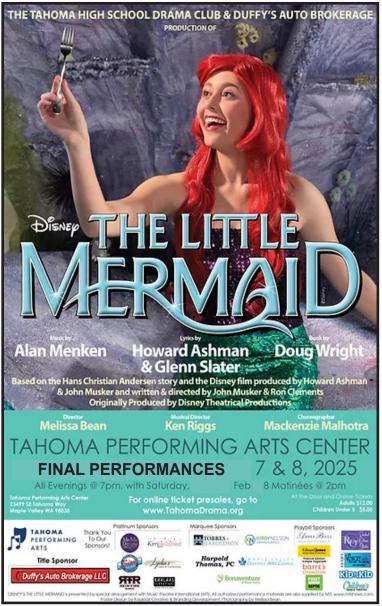
The John Ottesen Construction Co. of Seattle was awarded a \$37,000 contract to build the two-mile section of road between Black Diamond and the future bridge. The Union Bridge Company of Portland won the \$95,500 contract to erect a 688-foot-long cantilevered design comprised of steel trusses held aloft by support towers resting on enormous concrete foundations.

Though King County funded this section of the road and bridge, the entire route's 25-mile length from Enumclaw to Renton was incorporated into Washington's transportation network in 1937 as Primary State Highway No. 5. It was renamed State Route 169 in 1964. However, between Nov. 2008 and June 2009, the Kummer Bridge was closed during an emergency reconstruction project after the discovery of major ground movements on the Enumclaw side. The \$10 million project included a new retaining wall and was financed with funds from the federal government.

Officially the bridge is called the Dan Evans / Green River Bridge. But its common name, Kummer came from a small clay mining that was founded by the Puget Sound Fire Clay Co., and absorbed by the Denny-Renton Clay & Coal Co. around 1892. George W. Kummer was their ceramist, engineer, and one of the first



to realize the site's potential. Mr. Kummer later became the company's sales manager. In later years coal was mined in and around Kummer with some of the production burned on-site to fire the clay.



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VOICE Welcomes Letters

The VOICE of the Valley welcomes letters to the editor on any subject, although we reserve the right to edit for space, potential libel, and/or political relevance. Letters addressing local news will receive priority. We prefer letters to be typed and E-mail is preferred. Letters must be signed and have a daytime phone number and address to verify authorship. Deadline for letters is 3 p.m. on Thursday each week. Address: 26909 206th Ave SE, Covington, WA 98042

E-mail: voice9696@comcast.net



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On 12/28/2024, officers observed a disabled vehicle stopped in an intersection at the 24100 block so SE 288th St. Officers provided traffic control until KCSO deputies responded to the scene. Officers pushed the vehicle safely off the roadway.

On 12/28/24, officers were dispatched to a welfare check at the 24400 block of Roberts Dr. Dispatch advised officers that the reporting party was being followed by a Toyota Highlander. Officers responded, met with the reporting party and were unable to locate any following vehicle. Officers determined no crime had occurred.

On 12/29/2024 at 1430 hours, the Black Diamond Police Department located and stopped a vehicle with stolen license plates affixed to the front and rear near the 30900 block of Black Diamond Ravensdale Rd SE after being notified by the city Flock cameras. Through investigation, Officer's determined the stolen license plates actually belonged to the vehicle they were currently on. The driver advised Officer's that the vehicle was a previous recovered stolen and the license plates were not on the vehicle when it was found but were located inside the vehicle at a later date. No crime was committed and the driver was free to go. The plates were removed from WACIC as stolen.

On 12/29/2024 Officers were dispatched to respond priority to assist Enumclaw Police Department on a burglary in progress located at Gateway Christian School. Officers responded to the location and assisted as EPD placed a suspect in custody and then cleared the building. The Black Diamond Officer then cleared the scene without incident.

On 12/29/24 KCSO requested Black Diamond Officers locate the registered owner of an RV that was in a hit and run collision and left abandoned outside of the Black Diamond city limits. Officers located the R.O. who initially claimed his vehicle was missing but post-miranda confessed that he had wrecked the RV and fled the scene. KCSO was advised of the results and they impounded the abandoned vehicle and advised they would be charging the R.O. with the crimes committed in their incident.

On 12/29/2024, an Officer was dispatched to the 31700 block of 3rd Ave reference to a traffic complaint. Complainant advised that there was an aggressive driver at the above listed location traveling southbound who was driving into the oncoming lane of traffic. The Officer responded and was unable to locate the vehicle.

On 12/29/2024, Officers were dispatched to a 911 hang up at the 31100 block of 3rd Ave. Officers attempted to contact with the persons at that residence; however nobody would come to the door.

On 12/29/2024, Officers responded to the 32400 block of 6th Ave reference to suspicious persons. The complainant advised that to subjects with flashlights entered St Barbaras property and then walked through a broken part of a fence on the east end of the property entering Lawson Hill Estates. The church property and Lawson Hill Estates was searched and nobody was located.

