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VOICE of the Valley

56TH YEAR, NUMBER 09
 MAPLE VALLEY, WASHINGTON
 TUESDAY, MARCH 4, 2025



Since 1969

Public Invited to Open House for New SR 169 Pedestrian Bridge

Tahoma Families - All Maple Valley community members (including students!) are invited to the city's open house on Thursday, March 6th from 6-8pm at Lake Wilderness Lodge. This is a great opportunity to participate in the planning of the new pedestrian bridge that will cross over 169, near Rock Creek Elementary.

There will also be pizza, prizes and activities for kids. So come on down to the Lodge and help us imagine a future Maple Valley landmark! For more details, see the attached event poster. RSVP, visit: <https://forms.gle/8aCCfnBm8zAmz27X9>



**Maple Valley
 Idol, Jr.
 Registration
 Now Open**

Maple Valley Idol, Jr. Registration is now open on **online** Attention performers aged 8-16 with a talent and passion for singing—Maple Valley Creative Arts Council is gearing up to host its 15th annual ever-popular Maple Valley Idol, Jr. singing competition.

This year, includes a refreshed format that splits these rising stars into two spotlight-worthy groups. Whether you're a budding Young Star aged 8-12 or an aspiring Teen Star aged 13-16, we've got the perfect platform to let your talent shine.

With 40 coveted participant spots and a few extra chances from the wait list, the competition is bound to be thrilling. Go to MapleValleyArts.com to check out the Frequently Asked Questions and learn about the exciting new changes and requirements that have been incorporated into the program this year.

Registration is now open• Auditions at the MVCAC **March 29 @ 11 a.m.**• Finale event at the Tahoma High School Performing Arts Center on **May 30 @ 7 p.m.**

(Continued on page 4)



YOU'RE INVITED!

A PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE FOR THE NEW SR-169 PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE

Thursday, March 6, 2025

6:00pm - 8:00pm PST
 Lake Wilderness Lodge
 22500 SE 248th St
 Maple Valley, WA 98038

- Free pizza + prizes!
- Activities for kids!
- Intérpretes de español disponibles.



**RSVP
 HERE!**

The City and its consultants are working to design a new pedestrian bridge over SR-169 Maple Valley Black Diamond Road at SE 258th Street to provide safe crossing for pedestrians and cyclists. The new bridge will improve connectivity between neighborhoods, the Farmers' Market, local trails, and Rock Creek Elementary School, as well as provide additional public amenities.

Proposed Improvements:

- Safe, ADA accessible crossing over SR-169 for pedestrians and cyclists
- New sidewalks and bike connections to Maple Valley Farmers' Market and Rock Creek Elementary School
- Improved street lighting, additional bike parking, new play area, public seating, and integrated public art elements
- Diverse plantings + additional street trees

Help us imagine a future Maple Valley landmark!

For additional questions, comments, or translation services, email the Project Team at tawni.dalziel@maplevalleywa.gov.

Hay servicios de interpretación y traducción a su disposición sin costo alguno. Si los necesita, póngase en contacto con nosotros mandando un correo electrónico a tawni.dalziel@maplevalleywa.gov.

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On Monday, February 24, all 5 Tahoma school board student representatives and several district stakeholders traveled to Olympia to meet with elected officials from the 5th legislative district. The students did an incredible job presenting the district's priorities for this year's legislative session to Sen. Bill Ramos and Reps. Lisa Callan and Victoria Hunt.

Learn more about the priorities on the Tahoma School District website at <https://www.tahomasd.us/.../tahoma-highlights-key...>

Tahoma's coalition, who makes the annual trip to Olympia, is represented by district students, staff, Tahoma's labor unions, district PTA/PTO organizations, the school board and City of Maple Valley. Thank you to all of these valued community partners for their ongoing collaboration, and a very special shout out to our student board reps (Sam Lindell, Maya DeFrance, Shrihan Mehrotra, Amira Nesru, and Jenny Zhong) for advocating on behalf of all TSD students! (TSD Photo)

Obituaries

Gary Van de Brake

Gary Van de Brake, 82, former longtime resident of Maple Valley in the 1970's and 80's, passed away with loved ones by his side on February 5, 2025, while vacationing in Hawaii.

Born to Earl and Patricia Van de Brake in Seattle on November 10, 1942, Gary, the oldest of seven, was raised in Thorp, Washington. Following high school, he moved to Southern California and began a long and varied career in the transportation industry. While working for TWA in Los Angeles, he met and married his first wife, Cheryl Pollard. In 1965 they welcomed a son, Eric, and four years later, Doug. Shortly thereafter they moved to Hobart, Washington.

Gary became a truck driver, logging daily double trips to and from British Columbia. Despite long hours on the road, Gary always found the time to make it home and coach youth sports. He was a heck of a baseball player, but soccer became his passion. He was among the pioneers who founded the Maple Valley Youth Soccer Association in the early 1970's. He devoutly followed the Seattle Sounders from the club's inception in 1974.

Gary moved from driving truck to working in logistics for Boeing's hydrofoil program. In 1989, Gary married Kathryn Osborne, and they raised their sons Jack and Kirk in Burien, Washington.

For those who knew him, Gary had a huge heart and devoted his life in service of others. Over the years many have remarked that Gary was the father they never had. He was ever-present at his children's and grandchildren's school activities and sporting events.

He was an avid lifelong fisher and particularly loved drifting the Sol Duc, bank fishing the Satsop, and trolling the Lower Nehalem. Gary was an enthusiastic teacher of fishing to his children, grandchildren, and countless others, somehow ensuring no tangled lines and always freshly baited hooks.

Gary is survived by his wife, Kathryn; their sons Jack and Kirk; his first wife Cheryl and their sons Eric and Doug; grandchildren Gavyn, Derek, and Desmond; his brother Phil Van de Brake, and sisters Tamara Osborn and Lisa Schuld.

Gary was preceded in death by his sister, Cheryl Van de Brake, sister Patricia Minshull, and brother Brooke Van de Brake.

Beloved husband, father, grandfather, and brother, you'll never walk alone Gary Van de Brake, born November 10, 1942; died February 5, 2025.

Friends and family are invited to attend a celebration of Gary's life at noon on Saturday, April 5, 2025, at the Minshull residence in Thorp, Washington.

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"OPEN TO ALL AGES"

SATURDAY
MARCH 29, 2025

6PM - 9PM

Tahoma High School Commons
23499 SE Tahoma Way
Maple Valley, WA 98038

Early Bird Tickets
\$35 per adult
\$15 per daughter
At the Door Tickets
\$40 per adult
\$20 per daughter

Admission includes:
Digital photo
Keepsakes
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Activities

Theme: Enchanted Forest

Website:
<https://thspta.givebacks.com/w/ProgramsAndActivities/Father-DaughterBall>
Contact: tahomahspta@gmail.com

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 (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

An Encouraging Word Taylor Creek Church
By Pastor Jason Katen

Not Discouraged by Discouraging Words

Don't you find it amazing at times how cruel people can be with their words, especially when you are trying to do the right thing? Unfortunately, it happens all too often. This shouldn't be a surprise to us in that the Bible tells us that "the tongue is a small part of the body, and yet it boasts of great things. Behold, how great a forest is set aflame by such a small fire!" – James 3:5.

You may be one of those who use your words to gossip, discourage and tear others down. To you, God says, "The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole person, sets the whole course of his life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell." – James 3:6. This means that the mouth that tears down others has its origins not from above but below.

What about those who are on the receiving end? How should they respond? How are they to deal with discouraging words? First, they are not to lower themselves to the same depths. The Bible says, "He who restrains his words has knowledge, and he who has a cool spirit is a man of understanding." ²⁸ Even a fool, when he keeps silent, is considered wise; when he closes his lips, he is counted prudent." – Proverbs 17:27-28. So then, the best thing to do is to respond in the way Christ would.

This reminded me of a story I read about a man who purchased a paper at a newspaper stand. He greeted the newsman very courteously but, in return, received gruff and discourteous service. Accepting the newspaper, which was rudely shoved in his face, the customer politely smiled and wished the newsman a nice weekend. A friend observed this and asked, "Does he always treat you so rudely?"

"Yes, unfortunately, he does." "And are you always so polite and friendly to him?" "Yes, I am." "Why are you so nice to him when he is so rude to you?" "Because I don't want *him* to decide how *I* am going to act." That is some good advice.

Second, you must understand that those who bring words of hurt toward you are not your judge. It is what the Lord thinks that matters most. When we understand this, then such discouraging words from others become disarmed and unimportant. The Bible says, "The eyes of the LORD preserve knowledge, but He overthrows the words of the treacherous man." – Proverbs 22:12. So don't be discouraged by discouraging words. Take them before the Lord and let Him decide. It is His word that matters most!

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.

Have a Nice Day

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

When Coal Was King

By Bill Kombol

For nearly a century, a gas station standing at the corner of S.E. 416th Street and Highway 169 has served motorists traveling from Black Diamond and Enumclaw – even before the 1933 construction of the Kummer Bridge that directly connected the two towns. For over half that time, the station was owned by the Chambers family, so the intersection became known as Chambers Corner. During the Chamber years, the station sold Standard Oil of California products later rebranded Chevron.

Robert John Chambers, better known as Bob Chambers, opened the business around 1925. The exact date is lost to time. His son, Robert Elmer Chambers, also called Bob took over in 1948 and operated the business for the next three decades. The name Bob's Service and later, Bob's Service Station didn't change until the business was sold in Sept. 1979, after 54 years of continuous operation by the Chambers family. Since November 1993 it has been owned by Naginder and Serene Dhami who live above their convenience store and gas station. Today the same business under Stop-N-Shop in a building much expanded from its 1925 roots.

The elder Bob Chambers (Robert John) was born in Ontario, Canada in 1876. His parents were of Scottish descent. We will refer to him as Bob Sr., and their second child, Robert Elmer as Bob Jr., even though they weren't seniors and juniors, having different middle names. Bob Sr. married Maybelle Embree in 1902. The couple spawned four children, Violet May, Robert Elmer, Frederick Roland, and Lottie Thelma. Shortly after the



birth of Lottie, the Chambers children's mother, Maybelle died from tuberculosis.

At age 13, Bob Jr., together with siblings Violet and Fred ran away from home and supported themselves by working odd jobs while traveling from town to town in Canada. At age 15, Bob Jr. learned how to fight. By age 17, he excelled as a pugilist and began boxing professionally under the ring name, "Mazouk," a nickname given by friends. One story suggests the name came from Bob's habit of saying, "I'm from Missouri – you'll have to show me." Or perhaps it's derived from the 18th-century Mazouk dance comprised of a short sequence of distinctive foot movements, like boxers often display.

Meanwhile, his widowed

father, Bob Sr. moved from Kootenay, British Columbia to Washington State in 1922. Around 1925, Bob Sr. settled in Enumclaw where he acquired property on the southeast corner of S.E. 416th about halfway between Enumclaw and Krain. Bob Jr. followed his father to the U.S. in 1927 where he learned the trade of repairing and certifying gasoline pumps. It was a smart career move as the number of vehicles was growing rapidly and gas stations were popping up everywhere. Bob Jr. made a living fixing and calibrating service stations, while the property his father owned increasingly became known as Chambers Corner.

At the time of this Aug. 17, 1939 photo, Bob's Service Station was in its second decade of business. The picture comes from King County Assessor records, managed by Puget Sound Regional Archives in Eastgate. Photo enhancements were undertaken by Boomer Burnham, a Tahoma High School teacher and entrepreneur who operates www.BoomersPhotography.com.

Facts about the life and times of the two Bob Chambers come courtesy of Donna Brathovde, a Ravensdale research specialist, plus Penny Reich, who wrote a short biography about her grandfather (Bob Jr.) several months before his death in February 1984.

Next week, more about the Chambers family and the business they operated at Chambers Corner.

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.

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LEGAL NOTICE

Court of Washington County of King In re the Estate of Josephine Sturtz, Deceased. No. 25-4-00686-4 KNT Probate Notice to Creditors (RCW 11.40.030) PLEASE TAKE NOTICE

The above Court has appointed Lisa J. Sturtz as Personal Representative of Decedent's estate.
Any person having a claim against Decedent must present the claim:
•Before the time when the claim would be barred by any applicable statute of limitations, and
•In the manner provided in RCW 11.40.070:
•By filing with the Court the original of the signed Creditor's Claim, and
•By serving upon or mailing by first class mail to me at the address provided below a copy of the signed Creditor's Claim. The Creditor's Claim must be presented by the later to occur of:
•Thirty (30) days after I served or mailed this Notice to you as provided in RCW 11.40.020(3), or
•Four (4) months after the date of first publication of this Notice.
If the Creditor's Claim is not presented within the foregoing time period, the claim will be forever barred except as provided in RCW 11.40.051 and 11.40.060. This bar is effective for claims against both the Decedent's probate and non-probate assets.
Date of First Publication of this Notice: Tuesday, February 18, 2025. Dated: February 12, 2025
/s/ Jennifer A. Gellner: Jennifer A. Gellner, Gellner Law, Attorney for Personal Representative, WSBA #30701
Address for Mailing of Service: Jennifer A. Gellner, Gellner Law, 8407 S. 259th Street, Suite 203, Kent, WA 98030-7536
(Published VOICE of the Valley, Tuesdays, February 18, 25 and March 4, 2025)

ABANDONED VEHICLE AUCTION

ABANDONED VEHICLE AUCTION Dick's Towing and Road Service, Inc. 8425 1st Ave S, Seattle, WA 98108. 206-364-2000 Ext. 137. **Wednesday, March 12, 2025.** 2 hour preview @ 8-10 a.m. **Auction @ 10 a.m.** For list of vehicles see www.roadnonesattle.com
(Published VOICE of the Valley, Tuesday, March 4, 2025)

ABANDONED VEHICLE AUCTION Lincoln Towing Enterprises Inc., 1201 North 125th St., Seattle, WA 98133. 206-364-2000. **Saturday, March 8, 2025.** 3 hour preview @ 7-10 a.m. **Auction @ 10 a.m.** For list of vehicles see: www.roadnonesattle.com
(Published VOICE of the Valley, Tuesday, March 4, 2025)

ABANDONED VEHICLE AUCTION Lincoln Towing Enterprises Inc., 8425 1st Ave S, Seattle, WA 98108. 206-364-2000 Ext. 1370. **Wednesday, March 12, 2025.** Preview 8-10 a.m. **Auction @ 10 a.m.** For list of vehicles see: www.roadnonesattle.com
(Published VOICE of the Valley, Tuesday, March 4, 2025)

ABANDONED VEHICLE AUCTION Payless Towing & Recovery 33905 Pacific Highway South, Federal Way, WA 98003. 253-941-4565. **Thursday, March 6, 2025 @ Noon/Viewing @ 11:30 a.m.**
(Published VOICE of the Valley, Tuesday, March 4, 2025)

ABANDONED VEHICLE AUCTION Payless Towing & Recovery 33905 Pacific Hwy South, Federal Way, WA 98003. 253-941-4565. **Tuesday, March 11, 2025 @ Noon / Viewing @ 11:30 a.m.**
(Published VOICE of the Valley, Tuesday, March 4, 2025)

ABANDONED VEHICLE AUCTION Royal Towing Maple Valley - 5 Vehicles Royal Towing Black Diamond - 5 Vehicles. 31121 3rd Ave., Black Diamond, 360-886-7605. **Friday, March 7, 2025 @ 2 p.m.** Viewing @ 12 p.m. \$100 Bid Deposit Required. List of Vehicles @ www.towhelp.com/Auctions.aspx
(Published VOICE of the Valley, Tuesday, March 4, 2025)

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Court of Washington County of King In re the Estate of Cherie Russell Olson Et Anoz, Deceased. No. 25-4-00819-1 KNT Probate Notice to Creditors (RCW 11.40.030) PLEASE TAKE NOTICE

The above Court has appointed Cynthia Olson as Personal Representative of Decedent's estate.
Any person having a claim against Decedent must present the claim:
•Before the time when the claim would be barred by any applicable statute of limitations, and
•In the manner provided in RCW 11.40.070:
•By filing with the Court the original of the signed Creditor's Claim, and
•By serving upon or mailing by first class mail to me at the address provided below a copy of the signed Creditor's Claim. The Creditor's Claim must be presented by the later to occur of:
•Thirty (30) days after I served or mailed this Notice to you as provided in RCW 11.40.020(3), or
•Four (4) months after the date of first publication of this Notice.
If the Creditor's Claim is not presented within the foregoing time period, the claim will be forever barred except as provided in RCW 11.40.051 and 11.40.060. This bar is effective for claims against both the Decedent's probate and non-probate assets.
Date of First Publication of this Notice: Tuesday, February 25, 2025. Dated: February 13, 2025
/s/ Jennifer A. Gellner: Jennifer A. Gellner, Gellner Law, Attorney for Personal Representative, WSBA #30701
Address for Mailing of Service: Jennifer A. Gellner, Gellner Law, 8407 S. 259th Street, Suite 203, Kent, WA 98030-7536
(Published VOICE of the Valley, Tuesdays, February 25, March 4 & 11, 2025)



Are You The Next Maple Valley Idol, JR?

(Continued from page 1)

If you have additional questions and the FAQ does not provide an answer, then reach out to us at MVCAC@comcast.net.

Mark your calendars for **Wednesday, March 12, 6-8 p.m.** The Maple Valley Creative Arts Council (MVCAC) is hosting a Spring ArtWalk highlighting the incredible talent of MVCAC member artists! Plan an evening filled with tasty food, live music, and the opportunity to appreciate (and even take home) some stunning original artwork. Celebrate creativity, community, and connection!

The ArtWalk will kick off at **6 p.m.** starting at the Maple Valley City Hall, 22017 SE Wax Rd. 200, Maple Valley, WA 98038, then travel to the Maple Valley Creative Arts Center 23220 Maple Valley Black Diamond Rd. SE Ste. 15, Maple Valley, WA 98038 at **7 p.m.**

Free admission and parking. We can't wait to see you all there!

Ready for a night of laughter and unforgettable moments? The Maple Valley Creative Arts Center is excited to introduce our newest program -- JC's Improv Night, the perfect blend of date night and game night, brought to you by our talented MVCAC Council youth board members, John Riedel and Cole Wolf! Whether you want to

unwind or take center stage, this monthly FREE event (to be held on the second Thursday of every month) promises endless fun and unforgettable memories. Join your community for our grand opening on **March 13 at 7 p.m.** at the Maple Valley Creative Arts Center at 23220 Maple Valley Black Diamond Rd. SE Ste 15, Maple Valley, WA 98038 (we are behind Stockton's Res

Maple Valley Open Mic March 27 at 7 p.m.

Unlock your creativity and share your talents at our Open Mic Night. Imagine a welcoming space where you can express yourself through music, poetry, or a spontaneous jam session without any pressure and surrounded by friendly faces. Whether you're an aspiring artist or simply looking to enjoy a night of entertainment, the Maple Valley Creative Arts Center (MVCAC) has a spot for you.

The MVCAC is located at 23220 Maple Valley Black Diamond Rd. SE Ste 15, Maple Valley, WA 98038, just behind Stockton's Restaurant. This free event is held on the last Thursday of each month and offers something for everyone, regardless of age. So grab your guitar, warm up those vocal cords, or polish that poem, and join us for an unforgettable evening of fun and community spirit!



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