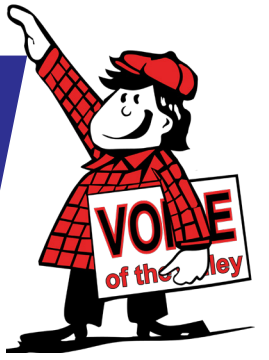


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VOICE of the Valley

56TH YEAR, NUMBER 13
MAPLE VALLEY, WASHINGTON
TUESDAY, APRIL 1, 2025



Since 1969



A happy little lad points to the playground at Vine Maple Place on Dorre Don Road. Vine Maple provides housing for single parents with children. ~ Photo by D'Ann Tedford

Vine Maple Confronts Homelessness

By D'Ann Tedford

The motto at Vine Maple Place is "heal, restore, transform." A non-profit, Vine Maple Place provides services to single parents and their children who have no place to live. Services include housing, education, personal care, toys, clothing and more. Executive Director Michelle Frets has reported, "The first night of shelter is one of the most life-changing gifts you can give to a family in need. Imagine how wonderful it feels for a child to finally have a warm and safe bed to sleep in every night," Michelle stated. "For some children it's an escape. A family finds comfort knowing they will be safe for as long as needed to get back on their feet."

The Vine Maple homes are located on Dorre Don Road in Maple Valley. Any community member is welcome to sign up for a tour of the facility and to actively participate in Vine Maple's effort to end homelessness for the clients. Also, for \$37 at Grocery Outlet discount store, one can shop for and donate nine "most needed" personal care items for the residents: shampoo and conditioner, deodorant, lotion, paper towels, toilet tissue, soap, toothpaste and dish-washing liquid. Purchases and monetary donations to Vine Maple are tax deductible. Personal donations from the community this winter have ranged from \$20 per person to \$1,000. All contributions make a difference in the lives of children.



The Greater Maple Valley Unincorporated Area Council (GMVUAC) will hold its regular monthly meeting on Monday, April 7, 7-9:30 p.m. at the Maple Valley Fire Station 22225 SE 231st Sat (across from King County Sheriff's Precinct #3). Visit the website for the agenda and Zoom information, which will be posted several days before the meeting.

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The Emperor Moth and Trials

A man found a cocoon of an emperor moth and took it home to watch it emerge. Later, a small opening appeared, and for several hours the moth struggled; it seemed unable to force its body past a certain point.

Deciding something was wrong, the man took scissors and snipped the remaining bit of the cocoon. The moth emerged easily, its body large and swollen, its wings small and shriveled.

He expected that in a few hours, the wings would spread out in their natural beauty, but they did not. Instead of developing into a creature free to fly, the moth spent its life dragging around a swollen body and shriveled wings.

The constrictive cocoon and the struggle necessary to pass through the tiny opening are God's way of forcing fluid from the body into the wings. Moreover, the merciful snip was actually cruel.

Many people look at trials that we go through in the same way the man looked at the moth's struggle. We think that God is not merciful in letting us go through trials, but the trial is part of His great mercy. It is the "testing of our faith that produces endurance." - James 1:3.

One of the greatest comforts we have in going through trials is to know that the Lord has allowed it to happen, and because He has allowed it, we can trust Him to bring us through it.

We see this reality in Jesus' interaction with His disciples. One day Jesus had a crowd with him, but there was no place nearby to purchase food for the people. Jesus said to Philip, who was one of his disciples: "Where are we to buy bread, that these may eat?" This He was saying to test him; for He, Himself knew what He was intending to do." - John 6:5-6. Jesus later multiplied a few fish and pieces of bread to feed all of the people. Jesus knew what was intending to do from the beginning.

When trials come, we must realize that Jesus put them into our lives for His glory and our good. He knows how it will end. Trials are part of His plan for our lives so that our faith might be strengthened, and most importantly, He will be glorified.

Evangelist, Dr. Vance Havner, told a story about an elderly lady who was greatly disturbed by her many troubles—both real and imaginary. Finally, someone in her family tactfully told her: "Grandma, we've done all we can for you. You'll just have to trust God for the rest." A look of absolute despair spread over her face as she replied: "Oh dear, has it come to that?" Havner commented, "It always comes to that, so we might as well begin with that!"

Jesus knows what you are going through because He allowed it. Trust Him, He will bring you through it, and your faith will be strengthened because of it.

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.



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



On 02/26/2025, at approximately 15:15 hours, officers observed a known subject driving a motor vehicle while her license was Revoked 1st Degree. Officers confirmed the driver's license status. A criminal citation for DWLS 1st Degree will be issued to the driver via mail.

On 02/26/2025 at approximately 1903 hours, an officer was flagged down in reference to a female attempting to locate her elderly husband. It was discovered the male drove to an unknown location nearby with his dog for a walk four hours earlier. The male failed to return home in a reasonable amount of time. With the assistance of KCSO the male vehicle was located in an unincorporated area of King County. The male was later found at his residence which he walked back to, after having a mechanical vehicle issue.

On 2/26/2025 at 2125 hours, the Black Diamond Police Department conducted a traffic stop at the 30400 block of 3rd Avenue after running the license plate and discovering the registered owner had a suspended driver's license. Officer's identified the driver as the registered owner and issued a criminal citation for the offense and an additional infraction for no insurance.

On 2/26/2025 at 2325 hours, the Black Diamond Police Department responded to a verbal domestic violence near the 22800 block of SE Fir St. It was reported that an ex girlfriend and ex boyfriend were arguing. Through investigation, Officer's discovered the argument was due to living situations and no crime had been committed and that the incident was verbal only.

On 2/28/2025 at 0505 hours, the Black Diamond Police Department responded to a CPR in progress near the 23200 block of SE Dogwood St. Prior to Officer's and Fire personnel arriving, the patient regained consciousness and CPR was no longer needed. It was later determined the patient suffered from a seizure and Fire personnel transported them to a nearby hospital. Officer's cleared the scene.

On 03/01/2025, at approximately 00:50 hours, officers conducted a traffic stop in the 24300 Roberts DR. Officers discovered that the driver of the vehicle had a license that was Suspended/Revoked 3rd Degree. Officers issued the driver a criminal citation for DWLS 3rd Degree.

On 03/01/2025, at approximately 04:04 hours, officers were dispatched to a theft in the 33300 block of Evergreen AVE SE. Officers arrived on scene and spoke with the victim, who told officers that her wallet was stolen and someone had recently attempted to make purchases in Maple Valley with her debit and credits cards. This investigation is ongoing.

On 03/02/2025, officers were dispatched to a welfare check at the 21600 block of SE 288th St. Dispatch advised that an anonymous caller advised that two juveniles were walking in the dark on the side of the roadway. Officers contacted the juveniles who advised that they were walking to their home that was 5 minutes away. Officers offered the juveniles a courtesy transport that was denied by the juveniles.

On 03/01/2025 officers were dispatched to a shooting at the 22400 block of Terrace Pl. Dispatch advised the incident was reported as a self inflicted gunshot wound. Officers responded to the scene and conducted a death investigation.

On 03/03/2025, at approximately 03:40 hours, officers observed a possible protection order violation occurring in the 30600 block of 3rd AVE. Officers had seen a vehicle that was registered to the respondent of the order travelling northbound on 3rd AVE in the direction of a residence he was not allowed to be at. Officers turned around and observed that the vehicle had pulled into the driveway of the residence and the vehicle had been turned off. Officers contacted the protected party, who denied that the respondent was at the residence.

On 03/03/2025, an Officer was dispatched to the 31100 block reference to a citizen assist. The complainant advised that Royal Towing would not allow him into his vehicle to retrieve belongings because he had no identification with him. The Officer verified the complainant's identity and provided that information to Royal Towing.

On 03/04/2025, at approximately 05:06 hours, officers were dispatched to an unwanted subject in the 32200 block of Morgan DR. The reporting party was an Uber driver who had a subject refusing to get out of his vehicle. Officers arrived on scene and woke up the subject, who was still located inside the Uber. The subject exited the vehicle with no further issue.

Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor,
DO NOT Necessarily Reflect the Opinion of the Newspaper

New Fire Station Sits Empty—No Staff, No Equipment, No Use

Editor, the VOICE:

"Planned" development was supposed to ensure increased city services to serve new growth. However, the **City of Black Diamond's failure to manage growth has led to:** a brand-new fire station with no staff, no equipment, and no plan to use it.

This stems from a **failed agreement** with OakPointe, the developer behind the city's rapid expansion. Under Ordinance 970 (2011), the City and OakPointe's Development Agreement:
•Section 13.4 required construction of a new fire station.
•Section 13.6 provided funding for new emergency services staff at a rate of 1.4 full-time firefighters/EMTs per 1,000 new residents, as set by the 2009 Comprehensive

Plan.

To ensure funding, a fiscal analysis was required in 2019 [City Code 18.98.080(3)(A)]—but it wasn't completed until August 2021, two years late. Even worse, the projections have since been proven completely inaccurate. Despite the city's rapid growth, in September 2021 leadership signed a fire district contract that failed to provide the necessary staff and funding increases. As a result, Black Diamond's fire and emergency medical services now remain the same as before Ten Trails, even though the city's population has surged by 75%.

With no action from City Hall to slow down growth or address the crisis, Mountainview Fire & Rescue District has decided it can't sustain operations under these conditions. They have triggered their three-year termination clause, officially ending service to Black Diamond in 2027.

This isn't just poor planning—it's a **failure of leadership**.

What can we do? Start by commenting on the city's draft Comprehensive Plan, Public Hearing April 8, 2025 at 6 PM. Insist on better standards for safety and city services to hold developers accountable. The City staff involved with this new Fire Station fiasco should be fired. All the City Council Members involved with this new Fire Station fiasco along with the Mayor should resign immediately.
Geoff Bowie



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When Coal Was King

By Bill Kombol



This is the concluding column of a five-part series about the 100-year-old business at the intersection of Highway 169 and S.E. 416th Street that many still refer to as Chambers Corner. The gas station and convenience store was founded by Bob Chambers Sr. and over the next 54 years operated by him and his son, whom we call Bob Jr. even though they didn't share the same middle name. Theirs is a story of hard work, long hours, and a commitment to the customers they served. The business still operates today as Stop-N-Shop under the management of Nick and Serene Dhimi who like the Chambers family live in the upstairs second-floor apartment.

In 1947, twenty years after moving from Canada to Washington, Bob Chambers Jr. purchased his father's business and property. Bob Jr. was then 45, single, never married, and recently became a U.S. citizen. Over the next two years, Bob married Betty (Hubbell) Saari, and the couple became parents to identical twin boys, Robert and Richard. Three more babies followed, Marilyn, Eloise, and Bruce Chambers, plus two older children from Betty's first marriage, Dale and Barbara Saari. The family of nine lived together and all pitched in by pumping gas, checking oil, cleaning windshields, and selling the large line of convenience products, 16 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Bob Chambers was one of the hardest-working men on the Enumclaw Plateau. For a time, Chambers rose at 3 a.m. to milk cows at a nearby 80-acre farm he managed. Then it was back to his filling station that opened at 6 a.m. The store didn't close until 10 p.m., so Bob paced himself with short naps throughout the day.

In his adjoining repair shop, Bob serviced vehicles and repaired machinery and equipment for local loggers and dairymen. As seen in this early 1960s photo, Bob wasn't afraid of getting dirty. Wally DuChateau, an Enumclaw Courier-Herald columnist observed, "The guy always looked like he'd just climbed out of a grease trap." For some his affectionate nickname was 'greasy Bob.'

Bob had an entrepreneurial spirit and always sought new

ways to make a buck. He built a brick outbuilding just off the kitchen where he started a laundromat with two coin-operated washers and dryers. He installed showers in the station's public restrooms so skiers and loggers could clean up at the end of the day. He purchased two cabins from Mt. Rainier that he intended to rent, but instead periodically were used by part-time employees and relatives. A forward thinker, Bob outfitted his building with in-floor heating in the early 1950s.

Inside the home and store, Betty Jean both raised their seven children and supervised store operations. The Saari and Chambers kids typically started working, at about age 9 or 10. Between customers, everyone was kept busy sweeping floors and dusting shelves. Successive customers were served by a 'next person up' system. They were typically paid on a commission system early 3% of their gross sales. Marilyn, the oldest Chambers daughter remarked, "There was

never a dull moment in the store." Yet one product was absent from the Chambers Corner shelves – no beer, wine, or alcohol was sold because Betty didn't want that type of customer.

Bob Chambers was diagnosed with cancer in 1972 at age 68, but he refused to really acknowledge it. His doctors had been wrong before, once when they wanted to remove his eye, which he healed with a home remedy, and again when they claimed he could never have children after an injury to his lower body. The cancer came back in 1979. That September Bob sold the business and property for \$120,000 to Dennis and Judith Slagel. The Slagels operated it for a decade before selling in June 1989 to Nick and Serene Dhimi for \$232,500 on real estate contract that was paid off in November 1993.

Bob and Betty moved to Auburn where in 1981, he suffered a stroke. A year later Bob had a heart attack while painting his home. Robert Elmer 'Bob' Chambers died at age 79 on Feb. 19, 1984. But as his step-granddaughter, Penny (Reich) Harp wrote in conclusion to her May 31, 1984 biography, "He never gave up on life." Betty Jean Chambers survived Bob by 26 years passing away on July 4, 2010, at 89.

Growing up in a home that was open as a store 16 hours every day, Marilyn (Chambers) Hoksbergen reflected on her upbringing, "I never realized how rich my life was until looking back at the experience of how we lived."

Photo LP1025M comes courtesy of the Enumclaw Plateau Historical Museum located at 1837 Marion Street. This five-part series of columns is indebted to the Chambers family members, Robert, Richard, Marilyn, and Eloise; to Penny Harp, daughter of Peggy (Reich) Chambers, who wrote Bob Chambers' biography as an 8th grade school project; Doug Walthers for his memories of working with Bob; genealogical research by Donna Brathovde, a Ravensdale historian; Courier-Herald articles by Joe Delmore (10-25-1979) and Wally DuChateau (2-7-1996); Puget Sound Regional Archives for 1939, 1950, and 1951 King County Assessor photos; and to Boomer Burnham, a Tahoma High School teacher doing business as: www.BoomersPhotography.

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ABANDONED VEHICLE AUCTION
Dick's Towing and Road Service, Inc. 8425 1st Ave S, Seattle, WA 98108. 206-364-2000 Ext. 137. **Wednesday, April 9, 2025.** 2 hour preview @ 8-10 a.m. Auction @ 10 a.m. For list of vehicles see www.roadoneseattle.com (Published VOICE of the Valley, Tuesday, April 1, 2025)

ABANDONED VEHICLE AUCTION
Lincoln Towing Enterprises Inc. 1201 North 125th St., Seattle, WA 98133. 206-364-2000. **Saturday, April 5, 2025.** 3 hour preview @ 7-10 a.m. Auction @ 10 a.m. For list of vehicles see: www.roadoneseattle.com (Published VOICE of the Valley, Tuesday, April 1, 2025)

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Lincoln Towing Enterprises Inc., 8425 1st Ave S, Seattle, WA 98108. 206-364-2000 Ext. 1370. **Wednesday, April 9, 2025.** Preview 8-10 a.m. Auction @ 10 a.m. For list of vehicles see: www.roadoneseattle.com (Published VOICE of the Valley, Tuesday, April 1, 2025)

ABANDONED VEHICLE AUCTION
Payless Towing & Recovery 33905 Pacific Highway South, Federal Way, WA 98003 253-941-4565
Thursday, April 3, 2025 @ Noon. Viewing @ 11:30 (Published VOICE of the Valley, Tuesday, April 1, 2025)

ABANDONED VEHICLE AUCTION
Payless Towing & Recovery 33905 Pacific Hwy South, Federal Way, WA 98003 . 253-941-4565
Tuesday, April 8, 2025 @ Noon Viewing @ 11:30 a.m. (Published VOICE of the Valley, Tuesday, April 1, 2025)

ABANDONED VEHICLE AUCTION
Skyway Towing & Recovery RTTO 5191 & RTTO 5023 2025 S 341st Pl. Federal Way, WA 98003
Tuesday, April 8, 2025 Viewing: 12:30 - Auction 1:30 p.m. See list at skywaytow.com (Published VOICE of the Valley, Tuesday, April 1, 2025)

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