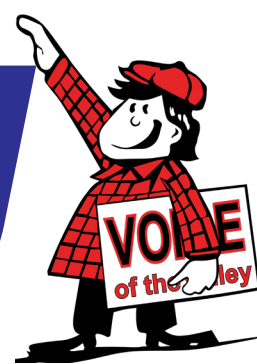


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VOICE of the Valley

56TH YEAR, NUMBER 35
MAPLE VALLEY, WASHINGTON
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2025



Since 1969

Congratulations to Little Chiefs Carson and Easton!



Black Diamond and Maple Valley Police Department Members were thrilled to have had Little Chiefs Carson and Easton represent the Maple Valley and Black Diamond police departments on August 29, 2025 “Chief for a Day” event, along with 15 other incredible little chiefs from around the state! The day kicked off with an exciting motorcade that rolled out from Showare in Kent and made its way to the WSCJTC Academy in Burien, with motorcycles from various law enforcement agencies leading the way. When they arrived, the Little Chiefs were greeted with a warm salute from cadets, who served as their personal escorts throughout this special day. After a memorable swearing-in ceremony and lunch, the Little Chiefs, along with their families and friends, enjoyed a fun-filled experience exploring amazing law enforcement specialty units, such as K-9, SWAT vehicles, learn about bomb squads, and even get a close look at the KCSO’s Marine Unit and the Guardian One helicopter. We would like to thank the WSCJTC for making this amazing day possible and for the generous support from the Maple Valley Rotary and the City of Maple Valley. If you’re interested in more details about the event, go to the webpage <https://cjtc.wa.gov/washington-state-criminal.../chief-day> (Maple Valley Police Story)



Temporary Support for SR 410 White River Bridge

UPDATE: WSDOT have a temporary fix in the works for the SR 410 White River Bridge. Crews are fabricating and installing 5 temporary braces. Think of these braces like a splint for a broken bone, they'll help spread the load so the damaged parts of the structure aren't carrying it all.

Once the braces are in place (expected mid-late September), traffic can return to the bridge in one lane, alternating directions. Drivers will move down the centerline of the bridge, guided by temporary traffic signals, similar to what's in place now on the SR 169 Dan Evans/ Green River Bridge.

Until then, the bridge remains closed to all vehicles, bikes and pedestrians. The detour via SR 164, 18, 167 and 410 will continue to add 45–60 minutes of travel, especially during busy times. We know this closure has disrupted daily life in Buckley, Enumclaw and beyond, and we appreciate how the community is adapting.

We are still working on a long-term repair plan and will share more about that when we have more information. Many thanks to our partners for your coordination and collaboration as we work through this.

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An Encouraging Word Taylor Creek Church

By Pastor Jason Katen



Coping with Life’s Problems

As we know, the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic has affected the world in many ways. One of its most significant effects has been on the young. Fear and depression peaked during this time and have remained high, particularly among those ages 17-24. Experts tell us it is driven by heightened levels of uncertainty, fear of illness, lack of socialization, compounded by an unhealthy focus on social media. Although not as pronounced among older groups, the numbers remained heightened across the board.

Depression is not something new, listen to the words of the Psalmist in Psalm 42:11, “Why are you in despair, O my soul? And why have you become disturbed within me?” The answer to his despair was in relation to where his hope was. He answers his own question, “Hope in God, for I shall yet praise Him, The help of my countenance and my God.” The word translated as “countenance” refers to what the face reveals on its surface. Notice it is directly related to his focus. His focus was upon the Lord.

What we learn here is that our ability to cope is directly related to where we place our hope. The Bible clearly states that those who do not know Christ have no hope and are without God in the world. – Ephesians 2:12. The good news

is that God invites us to have a relationship with Him through the Son. Jesus said, “Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me.” – John 14:1. Further, Jesus said, “I am the way, the truth, and the life” – John 14:6. This life refers to eternal life with Christ. The Apostle John makes clear that God “has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life.” That is eternal life - 1 John 5:11-12.

So first, coping with all that life brings begins by turning from our sin to Jesus as our Savior. Have you recognized your sin and need for forgiveness in Christ alone? From there, living above life’s circumstances comes through putting the mind on the truth of God’s word. The Apostle Paul makes clear that the scriptures were given to us by God “so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.” – Rom. 15:3. So we are to read Gods’ word.

To help you get started, I have included a reading list for each day this week. Read the following passages, one for each day, then ask these two questions: 1. What eternal/timeless truths are being taught? 2. How should these truths apply to my life? Daily readings: Wednesday – Philippians 3:7-21; Thursday – Psalm 119:1-32; Friday – Psalm 119:33-64; Saturday – Psalm 119:65-96; Sunday – Psalm 119:97-128; Monday – Psalm 119:129-160; Tuesday – Psalm 119:161-176.

In addition, spend regular time in prayer. To help, use the acronym ACTS that reflects Christ’s example of how to pray recorded in the gospel of Matthew 6:9-13: beginning with Adoration – we are to first give God praise to God. Confession – Sins that we are made aware of to confess. Thanksgiving – What things we see we are to be thankful for. Supplication – our prayer requests. Remember, God always answers prayer, yes, no, or wait.

Finally, pick a verse or verses from the day’s reading to memorize. Occupy your mind with the truth of God’s word. God tells us, “Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.” - Colossians 3:2 My friends, keep seeking the things above so you will be able to remain encouraged and cope with the things below.

Would you like to know more? Call us at 425-432-0634: We would love to talk with you, pray for you, and help you discover God’s truth and hope for life. Find out more at www.taylorcreekchurch.org. We invite you to join us on Sundays, 9 a.m. for Sunday school and 10:15 a.m. for worship service. We are located at 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 (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



The Greater Maple Valley Unincorporated Area Council (GMVUAC) will hold its regular monthly meeting on **Monday, September 8** (one week later than the normal “first Monday of the month” due to the Labor Holiday on September 1), **7-9:30 p.m.** at the **Maple Valley Fire Station 22225 SE 231st S.** (across from King County Sheriff’s Precinct #3).

Guest Speakers TBD; visit the GMVUAC website (<http://gmvuac.org/>) for the agenda and Zoom information, which will be posted several days before the meeting.

A Celebration of our Multicultural Community



NM FilAm Stick Dancing

A good time was had by all at the Filipino Fiesta at Neely Mansion, where, in addition to touring the

Mansion and grounds, a variety of cultural dances were performed by the Filipiniana Multicultural Dance Troupe. Tinikling,



NM FilAm Dancing

a traditional Filipino folk dance using bamboo poles, was among the dances performed. The exhibits included a hand-made jewelry display as well as a display featuring men’s and women’s Filipino-style evening attire. A ribbon cutting ceremony was performed at

the newly-restored Acosta Shed, built by Pedro ‘Pete’ Acosta, in the 1940s. A delicious Filipino-style lunch was provided by Catering by Edwin and dessert items were prepared by West Hill Deli at this delightful celebration of Filipino culture.



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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
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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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When Coal Was King

By Bill Kombol



For most families, Labor Day marks the traditional end of summer and the beginning of another school year. The story of the first school on the Enumclaw Plateau began 150 years ago. This was two decades after Allen Porter established a homestead on half a section of land, soon called Porter's Prairie. Allen Porter was only 19 years old when he trekked west in 1850 with his family on the Oregon Trail. Oxen pulled their wagon.

After three years of jobs and adventure, Porter filed a land claim for 320 acres. He became the first White settler on the vast plateau that stretches from the White River near Auburn to the foothills of the Cascades. Porter constructed a log cabin and planted oats and potatoes. During the 1855-56 Indian Wars, Porter was driven off his estate by Native Americans. After the fighting died down, he returned to his property and found that his barn, wagon, and oxen had survived.

Porter left and returned several times between 1856 and 1870 to prove his claim, but it was not until 1877 that he finally gained full and legal ownership of the land. Porter's homestead was in Section 29 on 196th Ave. S.E., two miles south of where the Auburn-Enumclaw Highway (SR-164) makes a distinctive turn to the north.

In 1875, Edwin White built a house on Porter's Prairie. Three miles east, James & Marion Johnson settled in Boise Creek, another burgeoning community. Their children, and others, began school in the nearby home of Manfred Hicks, where Edwin & Sara White were staying. Mrs. White taught her students in the Hicks family's living room.

It was the Plateau's first school, founded a decade before the name Enumclaw was coined for the Northern Pacific Railway station around which the town grew to prosperity. The first students were George Vanderbeck, Amanda White, Zina & Frank Smith, and Matilda & Haveleck Johnson. The following year, more students joined – James & Marion Montgomery, from Enumclaw, Charlie Johnson, Della & Ruby Poole, George Edgar, Emma & Clyde Cuyle, and Maggie, Nellie, & Walter Murphy.

By 1877, the community was growing, and the name Osceola was used for the establishment of its post office. Today, there are dozens of places in the U.S. named for the influential leader of the Seminole tribe in Florida, who in 1838 died a martyr in a federal prison. The following year, the Osceola School District was formed, and the school moved into a tiny split-cedar shack, a picture of which is held in the University

of Washington archives. That tiny, shake-roofed schoolhouse was near the future location of the Osceola pickle factory. Silas Smith, Mrs. White's brother, was its first teacher. School lasted only three months because the trails were so bad in winter, and pupils were needed at home on the farm.

The second Osceola school, seen here on Sept. 7, 1939, was erected in 1890, one-quarter mile west of the first. The original structure was 1,000 square feet in size, measuring 25 feet by 40 feet. Porches and the lean-to added another 800 square feet, but were probably added later. It was a one-room school with students from grades one through eight. Louie Smith donated the quarter-acre of land, with a stipulation that the property would always be used for educational purposes. His son, Charles L. Smith, was later the Mayor of Seattle, from 1934 to 36.

According to Emma Ekman, whose family arrived in Osceola from Sweden in 1892, "The teachers at Osceola school always tried to get a place to board near the school so they wouldn't have to walk too far, as they, of course, had to do the sweeping and make the fire in preparation for the day's session." In those days, teachers were typically paid \$30 to \$40 per month but generally enjoyed free room and board with host families who desired the extra education and culture absorbed by their family, at a time when literacy was far less common.

The Osceola School District No. 19 was consolidated into Enumclaw schools in 1937. After this structure was decommissioned as a school, the property was acquired by the Osceola Community Club, which used it for decades. It was then gifted to the Plateau Community

Players, who used it for theatrical performances and local events. The Players sold it to Alvin & Lisa Mierke in 2017, who live next door in the third Osceola schoolhouse. This building still stands today at 45623 – 220th Ave. S.E. Next week's column will tell the history of the Mierke home, Osceola's third school building.

On a personal note, this columnist's grandmother, Nina Marie Morris, plus two great aunts, Lena (Morris) Thompson and Ruth (Morris) Forest, grew up in Osceola and attended this school in the late 1890s and early 1900s. Because Enumclaw had no high school, they went to Buckley and boarded there, coming home across the White River railroad trestle only on weekends. All three attended Normal College and became teachers in surrounding communities until they married and were no longer eligible to teach. Lena (Morris) Thompson later held classes for immigrants to learn English and history to pass their citizenship tests.

This short account of Osceola's early years is indebted to Nancy Irene Hall's "In the Shadow of the Mountain" (1983); "There Is Only One Enumclaw" (1995) by Louise Poppleton; "The Pioneer History of Enumclaw" (1941), compiled by the Women's Progressive Club; and John Anderson's "A History of Enumclaw's Schools" (2013). This King County Assessor photo of tax lot 282006-9041 comes courtesy of the Puget Sound Regional Archives. Photo enhancements were undertaken by Boomer Burnham, a Tahoma High School photography instructor, doing business as <http://www.boomersphotography.com/>

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Black Diamond Police Reports

On 08/11/2025, Black Diamond Police Administrative assistants notified officers of a traffic complaint at the 23900 block of Roberts DR. Officers contacted the reporting party, who reported vehicles regularly failing to yield to pedestrians entering the cross walk at the intersection. The reporting party requested increased patrol in the area

On 08/12/25, officers were dispatched to the 25500 block of Lawson Street in reference a subject the reporting party suspected of being under the influence driving a vehicle. Officers located the vehicle leaving the area and upon investigation, arrested the driver for suspicion of DUI.

On 8/15/2025, an officer responded to the 32200 block of 3rd Ave for an animal complaint. An anonymous written complaint had been submitted to the City due to an ongoing barking dog. The officer checked the residence and the dog was not barking. The officer contacted the homeowner by phone and advised them of the complaint.

On 08-16-25, at approximately 14:55 hours, Officers received a call from Valley Communication Radio regarding an assist to the Black Diamond Fire Department. Officers were informed that a 4 year old boy was playing in his playroom when he fell from a second story window. Officers arrived at the residence and the Black Diamond EMT's had examined the child and found that he was stable, with a small cut on his chin. The child was transported to the hospital for an evaluation.

On 08/17/25, officers were dispatched to a suspicious vehicle at the 33300 block of Glacier Ave SE. Dispatch advised that a suspicious vehicle had been stopping at several different houses in the area. Officers conducted an area check and located the vehicle. Officers observed the vehicle commit a traffic violation and initiated a traffic stop. Officers contacted the driver who advised they were door dashing in the area. The driver received a verbal warning for the traffic violation.

On 08/18/2025, officers were dispatched to a non injury and non blocking accident at the 31900 block of Black Diamond Ravensdale Rd SE. Officers provided the involved parties with an information exchange form, completed a collision report, and issued the at fault driver a citation for a following to closely and driving without insurance.

On 08/19/2025 Officers were dispatched to a report of a stolen license plate in the 31100 block of 3rd AVE. Officers were advised that the plate had been taken overnight, with no potential suspect information available. The plate was entered into NCIC/ WCIC as stolen, and the case has been placed on inactive status pending the development of any suspect information.

On 08/19/2025 at approximately 1930 hours, an officer was dispatched to the 25800 block of Lawson Street in reference to a suspicious vehicle driving in the area often for the past several weeks. A matching vehicle was located in the area and upon making contact, officers found the owner and driver of the vehicle to be a residence of Black Diamond who lives nearby.

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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, September 10, 2025. 2 hour preview @ 8-10 a.m. Auction @ 10 a.m.** For list of vehicles see www.roadoneseatle.com
(Published VOICE of the Valley, Tuesday, September 2, 2025)

ABANDONED VEHICLE AUCTIONS **Gary's Westside Towing Inc #5951** will sell to the highest bidder the 15 abandoned vehicles on **WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2025 at 2 p.m.** prior inspections will be from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. The sale location is at 5939 4th Ave S., Seattle WA 98108.
(Published VOICE of the Valley Tuesday, September 2, 2025)

ABANDONED VEHICLE AUCTION **Lincoln Towing Enterprises Inc.** 1201 North 125th St., Seattle, WA 98133 . 206-364-2000. **Saturday, September 6, 2025. 3 hour preview @ 7-10 a.m. Auction @ 10 a.m.** For list of vehicles see: www.roadoneseatle.com
(Published VOICE of the Valley, Tuesday, September 2, 2025)

ABANDONED VEHICLE AUCTION **Lincoln Towing Enterprises Inc.,** 8425 1st Ave S, Seattle, WA 98108. 206-364-2000 Ext. 1370. **Wednesday, September 10, 2025. Preview 8-10 a.m. Auction @ 10 a.m.** For list of vehicles see: www.roadoneseatle.com
(Published VOICE of the Valley, Tuesday, September 2, 2025)

ABANDONED VEHICLE AUCTION **Payless Towing & Recovery** 33905 Pacific Highway South, Federal Way, WA 98003. 253-941-4565. **Thursday, September 4, 2025 @ Noon** Viewing @ 11:30 a.m.
(Published VOICE of the Valley, Tuesday, September 2, 2025)

ABANDONED VEHICLE AUCTION **Payless Towing & Recovery** 33905 Pacific Hwy South, Federal Way, WA 98003. 253-941-4565. **Tuesday, September 9, 2025 @ Noon** / Viewing @ 11:30 a.m.
(Published VOICE of the Valley, Tuesday, September 2, 2025)

ABANDONED VEHICLE AUCTION **Skyway Towing & Recovery RTTO 5191 & RTTO 5023** 2025 S 341st Pl., Federal Way, WA 98003 **Tuesday, September 9, 2025** - Viewing: 12:30 - **Auction 1:30 p.m.** See list at skywaytow.com
(Published VOICE of the Valley, Tuesday, September 2, 2025)

ABANDONED VEHICLE AUCTION **US Towing,** 24816 Pacific Hwy South, Kent, WA 98032 **Wednesday, September 10, 2025.** Viewing at 10 a.m. **Auction at 11 a.m.** 206-824-3448.
(Published VOICE of the Valley, Tuesday, September 2, 2025)

LEGAL NOTICES

Court of Washington County of King
In re the Estate of Dorothy Pieter James van Zee, Deceased.
No. 25-4-05615-2 KNT Probate Notice to Creditors (RCW 11.40.030)
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE

The above Court has appointed Pieter James van Zee 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, August 26, 2025. Dated: August 18, 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, August 26, September 2 & 9 2025)

Court of Washington County of King
In re the Estate of Dorothy Lee Howard, Deceased.
No. 25-4-05563-6 KNT Probate Notice to Creditors (RCW 11.40.030)

The above Court has appointed Leo Howard, Jr 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
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Date of First Publication of this Notice: Tuesday, August 26, 2025. Dated: August 20, 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
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