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# VOICE of the Valley

56<sup>TH</sup> YEAR, NUMBER 38

MAPLE VALLEY, WASHINGTON

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2025

Since 1969



Daughters of the American Revolution who attended the Bells Across America event included (from left) DAR treasurer Jeannette Carroll who is holding her bell, member Deana Ostgard, Mayor Carol Benson, Bells chairperson Dee Israel, regent Marge Ramsdell, and photographer Katie Hanzeli. Also in attendance were Ostgard's husband and the historical society president Steve Israel.

## Constitution Honored with Ringing Bells

"Bells Across America" is an annual observance that honors the signing of the U.S. Constitution. Participants ring bells to replicate how bells in Philadelphia announced the signing of the four-page U.S. constitution. The signing occurred on September 17, 1787 and church bells rang out, thus the bell ringing tradition began.

In Black Diamond on September 17, an annual observance is organized by Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), the Mary Fell Stevenson Chapter. They

celebrate to promote awareness and understanding of the U.S. constitution. On Sept. 17, 2025, DAR representatives stood near the large bell located next to Black Diamond Museum. They joined other United States communities in celebrating Bells Across America. Next year, on July 4th, 2026, America reaches 250 years of independence. ~ Submitted by D'Ann Tedford.



Preamble to the American Constitution, 1787

## Maple Valley HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Dick Peacock will be giving a presentation on the history of Maple Valley on September 27, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. at the Taylor Mountain Ranch at 28603 SE 204<sup>th</sup> Street, Maple Valley, WA 98038.

Please **RSVP at 425-444-1358**. The presentation has a lot of photos of old Maple Valley areas, schools, post offices, and businesses.

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# Black Diamond Police Reports

On 9/2/2025 at 0002 hours, the Black Diamond Police Department conducted a subject stop with a known male near the 31200 block of 3rd Avenue. Officer's discovered the male had a misdemeanor warrant out of the Department of Corrections. Officer's were advised the warrant was confirmed, placed the male in custody, and transported him to a nearby correctional facility for booking.

\*\*\*\*\*

On 09/02/2025 at approximately 1724 hours, an officer was requested by King County Sheriff's Officer to contact a resident in the 30600 block of 3rd Ave. Information requested was provided, additionally the officer confirmed an associated order of protection.

\*\*\*\*\*

On 09/02/2025 at approximately 1822 hours, an officer was dispatched to contact a subject by phone, in reference to a traffic complaint of a collision almost occurring and the reporting party being upset. Through information provided both drivers were contacted. It was discovered a collision almost occurred but was avoided by the drivers. The drivers were upset with each other for the others part in the incident. No crime was found to have occurred.

\*\*\*\*\*

On 09/02/2025 at approximately 1943 hours, officers were dispatched to the 23100 block of Roberts Drive, in reference to a verbal domestic. Through investigation, it was discovered an assault occurred and an arrest was made on scene.

\*\*\*\*\*

On 9/2/2025 at 2007 hours, the Black Diamond Police Department located an unoccupied blocking disabled vehicle in the 23700 block of Roberts Dr. Officer's contacted the registered owner, who arrived on scene shortly after to retrieve the vehicle. The vehicle was privately impounded and Officer's cleared the call.


\*\*\*\*\*

On 09/03/2025 Officers were requested to confirm a warrant for Kent PD. Officers advised the booking conditions on the warrant. Kent PD was unable to book the subject due to medical issues.

\*\*\*\*\*

On 09/03/2025 Officers responded to a Welfare check 29209 hundred block on 229TH AVE SE for a women going through a mental crisis. Officers requested medical personnel who were able to transport her to a hospital.

\*\*\*\*\*



# 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](http://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](http://www.taylorcreekchurch.org). Senior Pastor: Jason Katen



**WILDERNESS ANIMAL HOSPITAL**  
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## An Encouraging Word Taylor Creek Church

By Pastor Jason Katen



# The Blame Game

Temptation is very real as we struggle to make right choices on a daily basis. The Bible tells us that temptation is common to man, but also tells us that we have a choice and when we give into temptation we have no one to blame but ourselves. In all too many cases, instead of taking responsibility for our actions we blame it on someone else, even God. It is always easier in our minds to blame our faults on something or someone else, but in reality, justifying what we do and passing the blame never solves problems. It will never take care of the real issues in our lives that need to be dealt with. We must look at it as sin, take responsibility and deal with it. Today, many times we treat the symptoms and never deal with the problem. We never find real help because we are not willing to take real responsibility.

This problem is nothing new, when man sinned in the garden of Eden, he blamed it on someone else. God said to Adam, "Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" And Adam said, "The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me from the tree, and I ate." - Genesis 3:11-13.

Adam should have said "yes, I did it", but he put the blame somewhere else. Where did he put it? Was it on Eve? He implicates her, but in reality, he blames God. He said, it was "the women You gave me." It was as if he was saying "You could have picked any woman You wanted, why did You pick her?" "Why did you make a woman who would do such a thing?"

We see that Eve was no better than Adam. The Bible says ""Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" Like Adam, she passed the buck saying: "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." I am a victim just like my husband. I was in the wonderful garden and all the sudden this serpent showed up. I didn't make that serpent, or make him talk. It's not my fault!

We are all tempted and we all sin, but blaming someone else never solves real issues, it only compounds them. Don't be so proud that you're willing to lose all that is so good because you couldn't say the words "I'm sorry, I was wrong" and "will you forgive me?" If you can't, you will be the one who really loses in the end. Things like family, friends, and even your own soul. You see, ultimately, it is God's forgiveness you really need.

Would you like to know more about making plans? Contact us at 425-432-0634 or [www.taylorcreekchurch.org](http://www.taylorcreekchurch.org). We would love to talk to you about the hope we can have in Christ. You can also join us every Sunday at 9 AM for Sunday School and 10:15 AM for Worship. 21110 244th Ave. S.E., Maple Valley.

## 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](mailto:voice9696@comcast.net)  
**Call 425-432-9696 for prices!!**

# Make A Difference Day

## Saturday, October 25, 2025



### Breakfast and Registration starts at 8am

### Projects start at 9am

**Greater Maple Valley Community Center**  
22010 SE 248th St.

**Many hands coming together can truly make a difference**

For more information, to submit project ideas, or volunteer, call **425-432-1272**  
or follow us on Facebook: **Maple Valley Make A Difference Day**

Please submit grant proposal forms to [Ankiestroes@gmail.com](mailto:Ankiestroes@gmail.com) by noon **October 7.**









# When Coal Was King

By Bill Kombol



This is the final column of a four-part series focused on Osceola, a farming community located west of Enumclaw. In its early years, Osceola was the more populous of the two. Following the arrival of the Northern Pacific Railway in 1885, Enumclaw’s population grew rapidly, while Osceola and the surrounding Plateau settlements of Birch, Boise, Veazie, Krain, Fir Grove, Wabash, and others gradually faded in importance.

Yet, by 1890, Osceola was still considered the top school district on the Plateau and built this splendid new building, while Enumclaw’s students still assembled in a cedar shack. The following year, Enumclaw erected a two-story school building on the site where the city hall now stands, from land donated by the town’s founders, Frank and Mary Stevenson. Although this photo from the Enumclaw Plateau Historical Society is undated, the pristine condition of the school suggests it was likely taken in the early 1890s. The view is looking southeast.

While Osceola’s first school was a simple cedar shack built around 1879, this second one demonstrated the area’s prosperity, built on an influx of homesteading families, many of whom planted hops as their cash crop. Hops are a key ingredient in the production of beer, and farmers from the Puyallup, White River, and Snoqualmie valleys were all growing hops. However, by the early 1890s, Western Washington’s hop business had declined due to blights caused by aphids, as well as a damp climate that promoted mold and mildew. Hop production eventually moved to the Yakima Valley, which now accounts for 70% of U.S. output.

This second school was built on a quarter-acre of land donated by Louie C. Smith, who stipulated the property should always be used for education purposes. Smith was born in Oregon’s Willamette Valley to Mason and Mary Smith about 1856 and moved north with his family to Seattle. He helped log Beacon Hill in Seattle, then, in 1879, took

up his family’s 160-acre land claim on Section 28 in Osceola. Louie married a local girl, Mary Johnson, in 1878.

In 1895, the Buckley Banner recorded a series of interviews with farmers living on the Enumclaw Plateau. Their May 17<sup>th</sup> issue carried a paragraph devoted to Louie Smith: “L.C. Smith is a native of Oregon. He came here 17 years ago and homesteaded the place he farms, consisting of 160 acres, two miles west of Boise on the main road to Seattle. He has 13 acres of hops, a fine little orchard, extensive meadows and pasture, a handsome dwelling, and other valuable improvements. He raises horses, cattle, and all kinds of farm produce.”

Louie C. Smith was an important pioneer in South King County. He was one of the co-founders of Farmers Mutual Insurance Company, now known as Mutual of Enumclaw. Lou Smith was a pallbearer at the 1910 tragic funeral of the famous Dr. J.J. Smith, though not related. During his career, Smith served as a King County Commissioner, King County Sheriff, and mayor of Auburn, while his son, Charley Smith, was later mayor of Seattle.

After 25 years, Osceola’s second school had outlived its usefulness. In 1914, the third school, a larger structure, more than twice the size, was built next door. It isn’t clear how this second school was used over the next few years, but Victor Van Hoof was

listed as owner in 1920, and likely deeded it to the Help One Another Club, founded that year. From its earliest days, the clubhouse was decorated with photographs and newspaper clippings. After installing a kitchen in the original one-room school around 1925, the Help One Another Club began serving dinners to groups like the Kiwanis.

In 1926, the building was purchased by the Osceola Community Club, whose membership continued social functions in the area. A March 21, 1990, Enumclaw Courier-Herald article highlighted plans for a celebration to mark the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of the school building. At the time, Selma Schweikl, age 83, was the club’s oldest member. Catherine Sorensen, who joined in 1942, assembled a history of the club and the building. Then president, Judy Stacie, planned the anniversary party. The club’s old minutes referenced the “Chautauqua Salute,” where handkerchiefs were waved as a token of appreciation for a deaf and mute speaker who couldn’t hear the audience’s applause.

In 2003, the property was transferred via quit-claim deed to the Plateau Community Players, who used the building for theatrical performances and local events. The Players sold it to Alvin & Lisa Mierke in 2017 for \$19,500. This, the second Osceola building, still stands at 45623 – 220<sup>th</sup> Ave. S.E. The Mierkes live next door in the third Osceola schoolhouse.

This photo comes from the Enumclaw Plateau Historical Museum. Historical notes were assembled from Nancy Irene Hall’s “In the Shadow of the Mountain” (1983); the Women’s Progressive Club’s “Pioneer History of Enumclaw” (1941); and King County Assessor records for tax parcel 282006-9016, from the Puget Sound Regional Archives. Photo colorization was undertaken by Boomer Burnham, a Tahoma High School photography instructor, doing business as <http://www.boomersphotography.com/>

### 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.

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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, October 1, 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, September 23, 2025)

ABANDONED VEHICLE AUCTION Lincoln Towing Enterprises Inc. 1201 North 125th St., Seattle, WA 98133 . 206-364-2000. **Saturday, September 27, 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, September 23, 2025)

ABANDONED VEHICLE AUCTION Lincoln Towing Enterprises Inc., 8425 1st Ave S, Seattle, WA 98108. 206-364-2000 Ext. 1370. **Wednesday, October 1, 2025.** Preview 8-10 a.m. **Auction @ 10 a.m.** For list of vehicles see: www.roadoneseattle.com  
(Published VOICE of the Valley, Tuesday, September 23, 2025)

ABANDONED VEHICLE AUCTION Payless Towing & Recovery 33905 Pacific Highway South, Federal Way, WA 98003. 253-941-4565. **Thursday, September 25, 2025 @ Noon** Viewing @ 11:30 a.m.  
(Published VOICE of the Valley, Tuesday, September 23, 2025)

ABANDONED VEHICLE AUCTION Payless Towing & Recovery 33905 Pacific Hwy South, Federal Way, WA 98003. 253-941-4565. **Tuesday, September 30, 2025 @ Noon** / Viewing @ 11:30 a.m.  
(Published VOICE of the Valley, Tuesday, September 23, 2025)

ABANDONED VEHICLE AUCTIONS Stan's Mt. View Towing Inc #5254 will sell to the highest bidder the 18 abandoned vehicles on **September 30, 2025, at 2 p.m.** prior inspections will be from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. The sale location is at 9000 Delridge Way SW Seattle, WA 98106.  
(Published VOICE of the Valley, Tuesday, September 23, 2025)

ABANDONED VEHICLE AUCTION Todd's Towing, 1410 East North Bend Way, North Bend, WA 98045. Auction: **Saturday, September 27, 2025.** Preview @ 9 a.m. Auction at 10 a.m. 425-888-3414.  
(Published VOICE of the Valley, Tuesday, September 23, 2025)

More News on our website  
www.voiceofthevalley.com



SCOUT NIGHT  
at the fire station

REGISTER NOW!  
Two nights available

Monday, September 29 - 5:30-8:30pm  
at Puget Sound Regional Fire Authority  
Station 74  
24611 116th Ave. SE in Kent  
Register by 9/15 at (253) 856-4480 or  
CommunityRelations@pugetsoundfire.org

Wednesday, October 29 - 5:30-8:30pm  
at Valley Regional Fire Authority  
Station 33  
500 182nd Ave. E in Auburn  
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