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VOICE of the Valley

56TH YEAR, NUMBER 38

MAPLE VALLEY, WASHINGTON

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

Since 1969



Disney Character to Arrive at Charity Fundraiser



Maleficent, from the 1959 Disney movie "Sleeping Beauty", is on display at Black Diamond Community Center. She's standing next to Cheryl Hanson, BDCC's executive director.

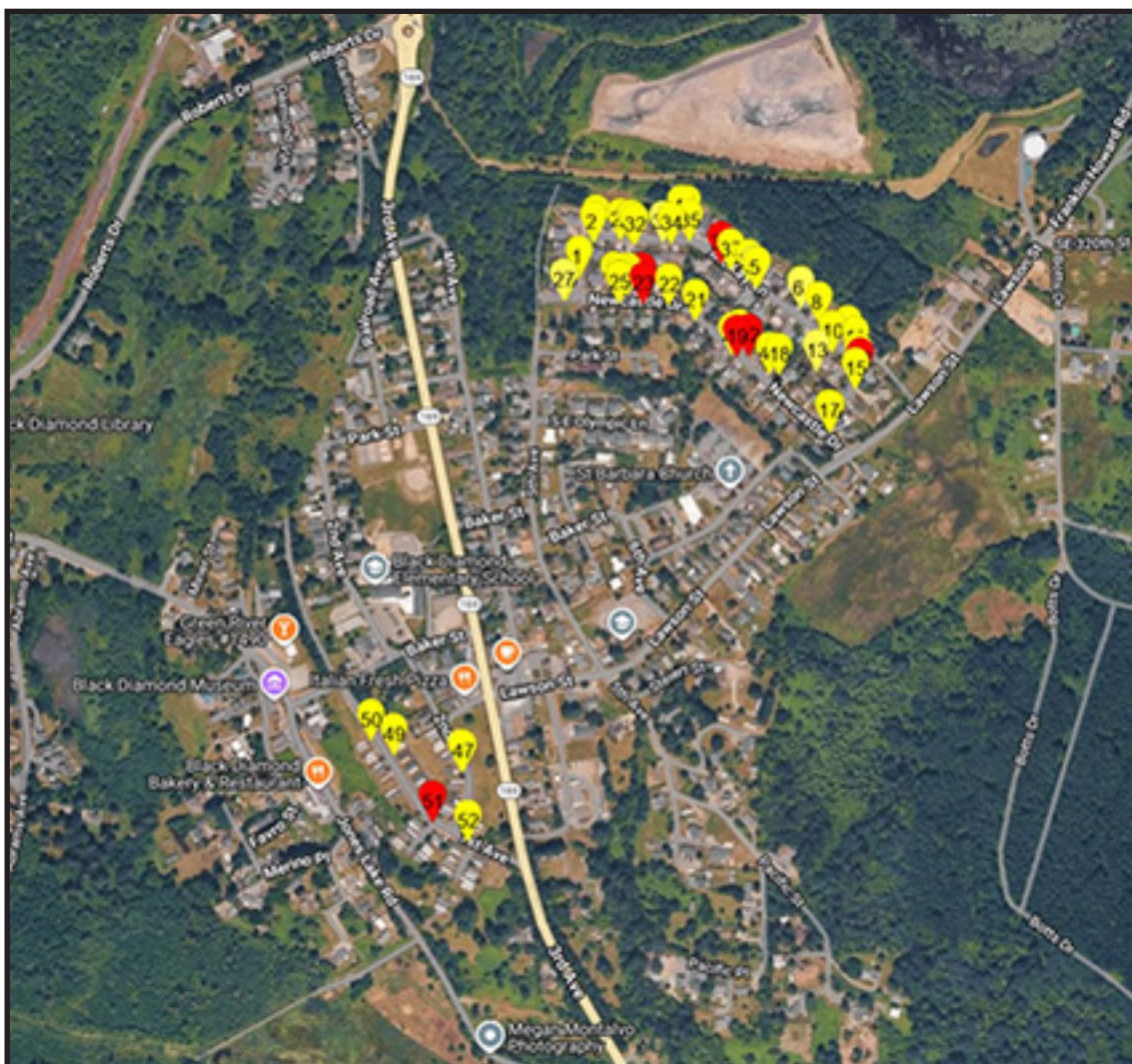
Maleficent will be featured at the Center's charity fundraiser where all proceeds will go to human service needs within the community.

Tickets are available. Questions can be directed to BDCC at 360-886-1011.~ Submitted by D'Ann Tedford



The Greater Maple Valley Unincorporated Area Council (GMVUAC) will hold its regular monthly meeting on Monday, October 6, 7-9:30 pm at the Maple Valley Fire Station 22225 SE 231st St (across from King County Sheriff's Precinct #3).

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



The City hired Precision Concrete Cutting to take care of some sidewalk maintenance in Lawson Hills Estates and Rainier View. Work removed potential tripping hazards in both neighborhoods and is scheduled to be completed by today, Sept. 30, 2025.

Community Needs Addressed at Community Center

Programs offered at Black Diamond Community Center range from kids to seniors to families. They include:

Senior Meals - BDCC partners with Sound Generations and their certified dieticians to provide fresh and nutritious lunches every Tuesday and Thursday.

Youth - 1) "Share the Joy" ensures that all low-income families and seniors receive holiday gifts to celebrate the season. 2) "School Supplies" has a mission to see that every child is prepared to learn and succeed in the classroom by giving free educational supplies to those students eligible for free or reduced lunch. 3) "Backback Program" provides weekend emergency food for kids.

Families - "Emergency Food and Clothing" gives access to food, warm coats, blankets, clothing, hygiene products, dairy vouchers and assistance with prescription medication to low-income seniors and families. BDCC also partners with The Salvation Army to assist Puget Sound Energy customers with heating bills. They give access to rental assistance for families facing eviction. They provide motel vouchers for displaced families or women, and to children fleeing domestic violence. They have gas vouchers for seniors needing to attend medical appointments.

Food Bank - Donations of emergency food needed to stock the Black Diamond Food Bank include pasta or tomato sauce, pasta or spaghetti noodles, Rice a Roni, Pasta Roni, Mac 'n Cheese, Ramen noodles, canned beans, corn or other veggies, canned soup and chili, canned fruit, peanut butter and jam or jelly, cereal.

Especially needed are diapers in sizes 3, 4, 5, 6. Questions regarding all BDCC programs can be directed to BlackDiamondCommCenter@yahoo.com, or call 360-886-1011.

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GROUNDBREAKING EVENT

LAKE WILDERNESS GOLF COURSE COMMUNITY CLUBHOUSE

October 1, 2025
1:00PM

25400 Wize Road SE
Maple Valley WA, 98138

CITY OF
MAPLE
VALLEY

A NATURE CITY

Carpooling is recommended.
Parking at the golf course is
extremely limited due to
construction activities.
Light refreshments served.

Out with the old. In with the NEW!

Everyone is invited to the groundbreaking ceremony and the official construction kick off of the Lake Wilderness Golf Course Community Clubhouse on Wednesday, October 1 at 1:00 p.m. Carpooling is recommended. Light refreshments will be served at the event. For more details, read our full release: https://www.maplevalleywa.gov/news_detail_T26_R252.php

They don't stay this age very long.... Cherish their special moments forever!

Put a birthday ad in the VOICE of the Valley

Email voice9696@comcast.net or call 425-432-9696

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 by noon October 7.

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Obituaries

Brenda Lynn “Bren” Fraser

Brenda Lynn “Bren” Fraser, 62, of Ferndale, WA, passed away on July 30, 2025 surrounded by her loving husband, Timothy, and her devoted family.

She was born on October 12, 1962 to Patricia and DeVere Simmons, and was raised in Maple Valley, WA with her sisters Nancy Jo and Carole.

She graduated from Tahoma High School and was active in the National Honor Society, band, and the Black Watch Drum and Bugle Corps.

After attending CWU she married her one forever love, Timothy P. Fraser and they were inseparable for over 45 years. Bren and Tim moved as Tim’s career flourished and they raised three sons – in Calgary, Alberta; Port Coquitlam, BC; and in Kent, Vancouver, Bellingham, and Ferndale, WA.

Wherever she moved, Bren’s lively personality and friendliness drew people to her. She was immensely proud of Tim’s achievements as a leading structural steel engineer, and a fierce advocate for her sons. Bren was not one to “sit still.”

”She was an expert seamstress and accomplished baker. As the owner of Custom Draper-

ies and Grannie’s Cobblers and an active church supporter, she was especially well known in the Bellingham/Ferndale area.

Bren was a loyal, supportive friend to many. She loved to travel with Tim to his professional events. Ever spontaneous, she took her family on adventures – to find the Christmas Star in Montana, chase an eclipse in Oregon, enjoy the San Diego zoo with her grandsons – and many more.

Ever generous, she and Tim opened their timeshares to others for decades. During COVID she sewed and donated masks for customers of Foley’s Produce. She loved sewing, cooking, home decorating, gardening, cats (more are best), and holidays (especially Easter, Christmas and the 4th of July). In the fall her veranda was an autumn showcase.

The roles Bren treasured most were as the infinitely generous, devoted, and loving wife, mother, mother-in-law (to Jessica) and grandmother of Oliver and Toby.

She loved being a Simmons girl, intensely missed her mother Pat, who passed away in 2023, and deeply loved her father.

She is survived by her husband Tim and their three sons (Brandon, Ben, and Tanner); her father (DeVere Simmons of Cle Elum, WA); and her sisters Carole Cheatham (David) and Nancy Jo Foley (Michael). She is also survived by Tim’s parents (Robert “Bob” and Barbara Fraser of Edmonton, Alberta) and his brothers (Mike and Brian, also of Alberta), and by two of her uncles (Rev. Robert Leonard and Larry Slyter).

She is the crazy fun Aunt Brenda (or Auntie Bren) to Sean, Michelle, Aaron, Adam, and Allen, and Great Auntie to Aidin, Killian, Joey Lynn, Bodhi, Aaden, Amelia, Archer, and Meadow.

Bren will be missed by many, including special friends Brandon “Hack” and Katie Montgomery, Aaron “Monty” Montgomery, and Dr. and Mrs. Spencer and Ruby Hinds.

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 Katzen

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!!

When Coal Was King

By Bill Kombol

White River Suspension Bridge

South King County bridges are in the news, with both the Kummer Bridge, which crosses the Green River between Black Diamond and Enumclaw, and the White River Bridge, between Enumclaw and Buckley, closed to traffic. During an annual inspection of the S.R. 169 bridge over the Green River, cracking and advanced corrosion of stringers were discovered, frustrating the 11,000 vehicles that cross each day. The White River Bridge on State Route 410, which supports 22,000 daily crossings, has been closed since August 18, after a tractor truck ran into the framework, causing extensive damage to the seven horizontal and vertical bridge panels. The Kummer Bridge was completed in 1933, and the White River crossing in 1949.

Rivers have always presented challenges to humans. There are only four ways to cross: by fording, boat, bridge, or tunnel. A ford is a shallow place with good footing where people can cross a river or stream by wading or horseback. Many towns in the English-speaking world gained their name from fording, such as Oxford and Stratford-upon-Avon. Deeper water requires a raft, boat, or barge. As the crossing frequency increases, a bridge is the natural solution. Tunnels, such as the one under the English Channel, are exorbitantly expensive and reserved for exceptional circumstances.

The first crossings of the White River between Enumclaw and Buckley were accomplished by fording, primarily where Boise Creek flows into the White. However, crossing this glacial river was sometimes nearly impossible, and several drownings occurred. James and Marion Johnson, who came to the area from New Brunswick, Canada, in 1872, built a grist mill powered by the Boise Creek falls, but there wasn't enough grain to grind. So, they abandoned the mill and started a rowboat ferry across the White River. Johnson and his sons operated the service, charging 25 cents per crossing. Travelers coming from Enumclaw stopped at the Johnson home to cross, and those coming from Buckley blew a horn or loudly hollered for service.

Even the Johnson family rowboat service was dangerous. On one occasion, James Johnson refused to cross because the river was too high, with logs and debris drifting downstream. Yet, two brothers, Tom and Jim Newlan, with their dogs, and Mr. Richards, a mail carrier, insisted on crossing over, promising to borrow Johnson's boat and bring it back. A nervous dog caught the arm of the rower who lost an oar, and the boat careened into a log jam. Their three bodies were never found. The Johnson family operated the ferry service across the White River for eight years until the railroad bridge was built around 1885.

It is unclear when this suspension bridge for pedestrians was built or



operated, but it was likely around 1905. This lithograph postcard was created from a photograph taken by Eric Skamser, who captured the railroad trestle that same year. Eric Skamser was a jeweler and businessman in Buckley. He rode a motorcycle in the early days and was an acquaintance of John Foseide, who had a Buckley studio specializing in stereo photography.

A second, black & white postcard photo shows the same suspension bridge with two cables, extending from both sides to hold up the center. This style of crossing is called a cable-stayed suspension bridge. It was believed to have washed away in a flood, as happened to the Northern Pacific Railway bridge, slightly further upstream, several times. A county highway bridge, upriver from the current structure undergoing repairs, was also lost to flooding.

This image from an unused postcard comes courtesy of JoAnne Matsumura, an Issaquah collector and historian. Norma Jean Contreas of the Foothills Historical Museum in Buckley provided additional information. Information about the Johnson family ferry service was found in the 1940 "Pioneer History of Enumclaw." Steve Faulkner, a forest engineer who specializes in bridges, provided technical information. Next week, more about bridges over the White River.

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gmvuac.org/train-show

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ABANDONED VEHICLE AUCTION
A1 Right Towing and Recovery, 18451 Des Moines Memorial Dr, SeaTac, WA 98148. **Saturday, October 4, 2025.** Viewing starts: 11:00 a.m. **Auction starts: 12:00 p.m.** (Published VOICE of the Valley, Tuesday, September 30, 2025)

ABANDONED VEHICLE AUCTION - **Dick's Towing and Road Service, Inc.** 8425 1st Ave S, Seattle, WA 98108. 206-364-2000 Ext. 137. **Wednesday, October 8, 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 30, 2025)

ABANDONED VEHICLE AUCTION **Lincoln Towing Enterprises Inc.** 1201 North 125th St., Seattle, WA 98133 . 206-364-2000. **Saturday, October 4, 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 30, 2025)

ABANDONED VEHICLE AUCTION **Lincoln Towing Enterprises Inc.,** 8425 1st Ave S, Seattle, WA 98108. 206-364-2000 Ext. 1370. **Wednesday, October 8, 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 30, 2025)

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

ABANDONED VEHICLE AUCTION **Payless Towing & Recovery** 33905 Pacific Hwy South, Federal Way, WA 98003. 253-941-4565. **Tuesday, October 7, 2025 @ Noon** / Viewing @ 11:30 a.m. (Published VOICE of the Valley, Tuesday, September 30, 2025)

ABANDONED VEHICLE AUCTION **Rainbow Towing**, 8333 219th St. S.E., Woodinville, WA 98072. **Saturday, October 4, 2025.** Preview @ 9 a.m. **Auction @12:00 p.m.** (Published VOICE of the Valley, Tuesday, September 30, 2025)

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Black Diamond Police Reports

On 9/8/2025 at 0851 hours, the Black Diamond Police Department was requested by e-mail to conduct a welfare check near the 24300 block of Morgan St. A son reported not being able to contact his mother in approximately four days and wanted to make sure she was okay. Officer's arrived on scene and contacted the mother, who stated she did not need any assistance.

On 9/8/2025 at 0945 hours, the Black Diamond Police Department conducted an area check for two vehicle's involved in a road rage incident near the 31800 block of 3rd Avenue. Officer's were later notified the vehicles were in Maple Valley and advised local Police in the area. Officer's were unable to locate the vehicles and cleared the call.

On 9/8/2025 at 1018 hours, a Black Diamond Police Officer was flagged down by a King County Sheriff's Deputy and requested to assist in taking a warrant subject into custody near the 31100 block of 3rd Avenue. Officer's located the subject and placed him into custody without incident

On 09/08/2025 Officers conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle for a speed violation in the 23200 block of Roberts DR. Upon contacting the driver, it was determined that he had a license status of Suspended in the 2nd Degree. The driver was cited and released to his parents at the scene.

On 9/9/2025 at 1356 hours, the Black Diamond Police Department conducted a traffic stop with a vehicle near the 25200 block of Park St after discovering the registered owner had a suspended driver's license and misdemeanor warrant for their arrest. The originating agency advised to release the subject for the warrant and the subject was issued a citation for their suspended driver's license.

On 09/09/2023 Officers were dispatched to a residence located in the 30600 block of 3rd AVE in regard to a third party call about a possible order violation. Officers determined that no crime was being committed and cleared the scene.

On 09/10/2025 Officers received a call from Thunder Mountain School asking for Officer to do a welfare check on a student who has not attended school for the past 10 days. Officers went to the student address and spoke to the parent who stated that the child had been sick, but they would soon return to school.

On 9/10/2025 at 1348 hours, an Officer conducted a traffic stop with a vehicle near the 24300 block of Roberts Dr after conducting a license plate check and discovering the registered owner had a suspended driver's license in the 3rd degree. The Officer identified the driver as the registered owner and issued a citation for the offense.

On 9/10/2025 at 1855 hours, Officer's were dispatched to a harassment report by phone that occurred near the 22900 block of Se 292nd PL. The reporting party stated that they were receiving harassing messages from a subject who was providing transportation services for personal belongings. Officer's determined no crime had occurred and cleared the call.

On 9/10/2025 at 1921 hours, Officer's responded to an accident with injury near the 32100 block of Sunny Ln. It was reported that a child fell off their bike and had a possible fracture. Officer's arrived on scene and offered care until fire personnel arrived. The child was transported to Mary Bridge Children's Hospital for further evaluation.

On 09/12/2025, Officers were dispatched to a complaint of loud music in the 32500 block of 3rd AVE. Officers made contact with a subject who identified himself as the renter of the property. Officers advised the subject of the municipal code and explained another complaint would result in a criminal citation. Officers were called back to the area again, reference incident number BP250004113. Officers issued a criminal citation to be served by mail to both the subject who rented the property and the owner of the property for violation of BDMC 8.12.040.

On 09/12/2025, Officers were dispatched to unwanted subjects at the 25200 Block of Baker St. Complainant advised that there were subjects standing near his driveway on Baker St and that he wanted them to leave. Upon arrival, the subjects were contacted and they agreed to leave and head over to the party they were attending.

On 09/13/2025, an officer was dispatched to an animal complaint at the 30500 block of Selek PI reference to an animal problem. A dog at the above listed address bit its owner causing an injury to the owners hand. The owner requested to have the dog removed. Animal Control was contacted and they advised that they would call the dog owner regarding removing it.