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Cof the Valley VOLE 56TH YEAR, NUMBER 50 MAPLE VALLEY, WASHINGTON TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2025 Since 1969









Last weeks rain flooded out so many streets, houses, farms and more in and around the area that devastated the community and made the commute to and from home and work nearly impossible in some cases. Many people had to evacuate their homes as the river and flood water ravage their property. Roads were closed and people were stranded for hours on the road ways in hopes of getting to their destination. Numerous drivers attempted to drive through the flooded roads, some made it and some were submerged and had to wait for help from others to be rescued. The photos above are just a few that were sent to the VOICE showing the devastation and we thank those who sent them. The forecast is showing we may be in-store for round two this coming week so we are hoping everyone will be as prepared as possible for this again. We hope that those who are in a safe place stay put and don't venture out to be sure they stay that way. Hope - Prayers - Safety For all!

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Sunday afternoon December 7th was the 2nd Annual Bad Santa Cruise-In held at Pacific Raceways. There were plenty of vendors on hand if you were looking for something special to put under the tree. There were cut out ornaments, items made from 3D printers, custom made bags for everyday use, among others. Of course, Santa and Mrs. Claus were on hand for photos, and getting your list to him. There was a float that had many lights and those things that remind us of the Christmas season. The reason for all the festivities was the collection of toys and donations by four local groups which included Pacific Raceways, Binford's Field of Dreams along with Cruise Enumclaw and Cruise Puyallup all to help children and families so that they would have a Merry Christmas. It was a good time for all that came out. Here's wishing all of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Photo by Bill Archer



On 11/26/2025, Officers attempted a paper service in the 32100 block on Bruckners Way. Officers contacted the home owner and were advised the subject involved did not at this time or ever live at this address.

On 11/24/2025 at 1146 hours, Officer's responded to a suspicious subject near the 25500 block of Lawson St. It was reported by WSP that a man was walking the sidewalk and swinging a knife. Officer's conducted an area check and were unable to locate the male.

On 11-26-25, Officers received a call from Valley Communication Radio regarding a court order violation. Officers were informed that the victim wanted phone contact to report the violation. Officers spoke with the victim and determined that no criminal charges could be filed.

On 11/24/2025, Officers were dispatched to a suspicious person at the 30400 block of 227th PL SE. Complainant advised that there was a male at that location using a chain saw to cut up a fallen tree. Upon arrival the suspect was not located.

On 11/24/2025, Officers were dispatched to a report of suspicious activity in the 32900 block of Ash AVE SE. Officers made contact with the reporting

party and reviewed home surveillance footage. In the video an individual in a ski mask can be seen running up to the front door, knocking, and running back to a vehicle stopped in the roadway. There were no signs a crime had been committed. Officers conducted an area check and were unable to locate the subject.

On 11/25/2025, Officers were dispatched to a residential burglary located in the 29400 block on 218th. Officers are still currently investigating the incident.

On 11/26/2025, an officer was dispatched for a missing person report. Through investigation the officer determined the incident occurred in unincorporated King County. The incident was referred to the King County Sheriff's Office for follow up.

On 11/26/2025, an officer attempted to stop a vehicle in the 31500 block of 3rd Ave for failure to transfer title and defective brake light. The vehicle accelerated and fled from the officer passing other vehicles. The officer did not pursue due to policy. The driver could not be identified.

On 11/28/2025, Officers

(Continued on page 4)



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



Are you looking for the perfect gift for the naughty one in your life? Stop in and pick up a lump of coal. All donations go to Vine Maple a place. Contact Palmer Coking Coal at 360-886-2841 or 425-432-4700 or stop in at 31407 SR 169, Black Diamond, WA 98010.www.palmercokingcoal.com



A Genie in a Bottle

In 1951, comedian Red Skelton and a party of friends flew to Europe, where Skelton was to appear at the London Palladium. As they were flying over the Swiss Alps, three of the airplane's engines failed. The situation looked very grave, and the passengers began to pray. Skelton went into one of his best comic routines to distract them from the emergency as the plane lost height, coming closer and closer to the ominous-looking mountains. At the last moment, the pilot spied a large field among the slopes and made a perfect landing. Skelton broke the relieved silence by saying, "Now, ladies and gentlemen, you may return to the evil habits you gave up 20 minutes ago."

Regardless of how one might look at Red Skelton's joking, it underscored the truth that whatever religious "commitments" those terrified passengers may have made, they were strictly temporary. The minute they stepped safely out of that aircraft, any promises made to God were canceled.

Unfortunately, this is the way many of us are even today, when things are going well, we hardly think about God, but when difficult times come, we cry out, "God help us!"

It is true that God desires to hear the heart of the repentant and the heart of the needy. However, we must understand that God is not a genie in a bottle we keep around to call on in case of a crisis. He is the living God and should be in our lives every moment, not just when difficult circumstances arise. He is not just there for the difficult times but at all times. Psalm 62:6-8 says, "He only is my rock and my salvation, My stronghold; I shall not be shaken. On God my salvation and my glory rest; The rock of my strength, my refuge is in God. Trust in Him at all times, O people; Pour out your heart before Him; God is a refuge for us." He does not promise to take us out of our trials but to walk through them with us. Remember, God is in the trial, forming you into the man or woman of faith. The psalmist, King David, learned this as he wrote this familiar scripture, "Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil; for Thou art with me..." -

Do you have a relationship with the living God? Don't be like those who cry out during a crisis and then forget Him soon after. They really don't know the Lord, but you can. Repent, believe Christ died for your sins, and live for Him today and every day. "Taste and see that the Lord is good" - Psalm 34:8.

Would you like to know more? We would love to talk with you, pray for you, and help you discover God's truth and hope for life. Contact us at 425-432-0634 or www.taylorcreekchurch.org. Join us Sunday at 9 AM for Sunday school and 10:15 AM for Worship. We are located at 21110 244th Ave. S.E., Maple Valley.

More News on our website www.voiceofthevalley.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.

Address: 26909 206th Ave SE, Covington, WA 98042 E-mail: voice9696@comcast.net



When Coal Was King

By Bill Kombol

Just minutes after the portal opening to the Rogers #3 mine was sealed shut with a dynamite blast, a group of miners watched residual smoke rise from the last underground coal mine in Washington state. The time and date – December 17, 1975, at 2:30 p.m. – when Palmer Coking Coal Company's Ravensdale operation closed was recorded for posterity. Fifty years ago this week, active and retired miners gathered to observe the solemn occasion. Pictured from bottom to top were John Costanich, John Streepy, Charles Anselmo, Tony Basselli, George Savicke, Bob Morris, and Bill McLoughry. Carl Falk, the company's office manager, captured the moment.

Rogers No. 3 mine was located at the 262nd block of S.E. Kent-Kangley Road in Ravensdale. The mine was connected below ground to the first two portals, Rogers No. 1 and No. 2, where coal mining commenced in 1959 and 1960, respectively. Enoch Rogers, a bulldozer operator from Enumclaw, uncovered the vein of coal. Afterwards, both management and miners began calling it the Rogers seam.

Enoch's father, Joseph Mattias Rogers, was a Welsh coal miner who immigrated to America in 1906, married a Welsh girl, Elizabeth Jones, and raised a family of 11 children, dying in 1954 after a 40-year mining career.

Their seventh child, Enoch James Rogers, was born in Cumberland in 1919 and began his mining career in Durham for Palmer. In 1987, Enoch told the story of a record set by him and his brother, Lew Rogers. For one 8-hour shift at the Durham Mine in 1939, Lew, who was 30 years old, and Enoch, age 20, drilled a round of 24 holes with steel augers and blasted the seam of coal with dynamite. They proceeded to load coal cars, each carrying 2.5 tons, pushed them out of the mine, dumped them, and returned, until 30 loads totaling 75 tons were tallied. The Rogers brothers' production of 37.5 tons per miner that day far outstripped the average miner's output of five tons.

Enoch Rogers married Helen (Shavic) Walczak in 1942, and their union produced five children: Arleen, Jo, Susan, Dick, and Mary, all of whom grew up in Enumclaw. Enoch left Palmer Coking Coal about 1967 but continued working as a heavy equipment operator. He finished his career with the State Game Department, retiring in 1981. Helen passed away in 1995, while Enoch died on March 17, 2001.

The Rogers coal seam was unique in Washington state coal history for its near-vertical dip. Coal seams are part of the sedimentary formation deposited millions of years ago in horizontal layers. Due to continental drift and plate tectonics, the Cascade Mountain range was formed. Its uplift caused the sedimentary layer to twist and bend.

The 6,000-foot-thick layer area around greater-Black Diamond was known as the Puget Group, which contains 18 interbedded coal seams. Between the Cedar River and Ravensdale, three coal seams were twisted upward, to an almost vertical pitch in the case of the Rogers, though not that steep in the nearby Landsburg and Danville veins. The Rogers seam is mostly the same McKay coal seam that made Black Diamond famous. Coal mining in Danville commenced in 1896. Danville was the name given to the area south of the Cedar River near the Summit-Landsburg Road. Early operations were small, and despite an extension of a Columbia & Puget Railroad branch line, all of them failed. It wasn't until 1937, when Palmer Coking Coal assumed operations, that mining flourished, first on the Danville and Landsburg seams, and later on the Rogers.

The Rogers seam was 16 feet wide and consisted of coal, interbedded shale, and parting rock. The No. 3 mine reached depths of 750 feet below the ground surface. The mine was operated on four levels, separated by counters and cross-cut tunnels used for access, production, and circulation of fresh air throughout the mine. Mining was accomplished by drilling and blasting coal with dynamite, causing it to cave through vertical chutes, where it was machine-loaded onto five-ton coal cars. The cars were pulled by a hoist (imagine a giant fishing reel



sporting a one-inch steel cable) out of the mine on rails, for initial processing. As a result of mining this near-vertical coal seam, a subsidence trench developed on the land surface above the mine workings.

During their 17 years of operation from 1959 to 1975, the Rogers No. 1, 2, and 3 mines extracted approximately 890,000 tons of raw coal, from which 493,634 tons were sold as clean coal. The operation typically supported a crew of 16 to 25 coal miners working two shifts. Surface facilities included a hoist, a machine shop, and a tipple with sorting screens and storage bunkers.

Raw coal from the Ravensdale mine was transported by dump trucks to a coal preparation facility in Black Diamond for cleaning and sizing. That plant was locally known as Mine No. 11, once the site of the nation's deepest underground coal mine. Most of the clean coal from the Rogers coal mines was sold to large institutional users, including the University of Washington, the Rainier School in Buckley, the Shelton prison, and the Monroe Reformatory.

In the 1970s, many state institutions began converting their fuel source from coal to natural gas. In addition, strict mine safety laws failed to account for the unique characteristics of the mine's vertically dipping coal seam, resulting in a rapid increase in mining costs. Declining coal markets, coupled with escalating production costs, led to the decision to close Rogers No. 3 mine. After 122 years, on December 17, 1975, underground coal mining came to an end in Washington.

Obituaries printed in VOICE



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ABANDONED

ABANDONED VEHICLE AUCTION Dick's Towing and Road Service, Inc. 8425 1st Ave S, Seattle, WA 98108. 206-364-2000 Ext. 137. Wednesday, December 24, 2025. 2 hour preview @ 8-10 a.m. Auction @ 10 a.m. For list of vehicles see www. roadoneseattle.com

VEHICLE AUCTION

(Published VOICE of the Valley, Tuesday, December 16, 2025)

ABANDONED VEHICLE AUCTION Easy Towing, LLC, 648 Elliott Ave W, Seattle, WA 98119. Friday, December 19, 2025 Viewing 8 a.m. - 10 a.m. Auction at 11 a.m.

(Published VOICE of the Valley on Tuesday, December 16, 2025)

ABANDONED VEHICLE AUCTION Lincoln Towing Enterprises Inc. 1201 North 125th St., Seattle, WA 98133 . 206-364-2000. Saturday, December 20, 2025. 3 hour preview @ 7-10 a.m. Auction @ 10 a.m. For list of vehicles see: www.roadonese-

(Published VOICE of the Valley, Tuesday, December 16, 2025)

ABANDONED VEHICLE AUCTION Lincoln Towing Enterprises Inc., 8425 1st Ave S, Seattle, WA 98108. 206-364-2000 Ext. 1370. Wednesday, December 24, 2025. Preview 8-10 a.m. Auction @ 10 a.m. For list of vehicles see: www.roadoneseattle.

(Published VOICE of the Valley, Tuesday, December 16, 2025)

ABANDONED VEHICLE AUCTION Payless Towing & Recovery, 33905 Pacific Highway South, Federal Way, WA 98003 253-941-4565. Thursday, December 18, 2025 @ Noon. Viewing @ 11:30

(Published VOICE of the Valley, Tuesday, December 16, 2025)

ABANDONED VEHICLE AUCTION Payless Towing & Recovery, 33905 Pacific Hwy South, Federal Way, WA 98003. 253-941-4565. Tuesday, December 23, 2025 @ Noon. Viewing @ 11:30 a.m.

(Published VOICE of the Valley, Tuesday, December 16, 2025)

ABANDONED VEHICLE AUCTION

Skyway Towing & Recovery RTTO 5191 & RTTO 5023 - 2025 S 341st Pl., Federal Way, WA 98003. Tuesday, December 23, 2025 -Viewing: 12:30 - Auction 1:30 p.m. See list at skywaytow.com

(Published VOICE of the Valley, Tuesday, December 16, 2025)

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LEGAL NOTICE

Court of Washington County of King In re the Estate of Stewart Harvey Martin Jr., Deceased.

CLASSIFIED A

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25-4-08175-1 KNT Probate No. Notice to Creditors (RCW 11.40.030) PLEASE TAKE NOTICE

The above Court has appointed Gloria E. Martin 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 as-

Date of First Publication of this Notice: Tuesday, December 9, 2025. Dated: December 2, 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, December 9, 16 & 23, 2025)

Court of Washington County of King In re the Estate of Charles Alvin Bryant, Jr., Deceased.

No. 25-4-08377-0 KNT Probate Notice to Creditors (RCW 11.40.030) PLEASE TAKE NOTICE

The above Court has appointed Joseph Bryant 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, December 16, 2025. Dated: December 9, 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, December 16, 23 & 30, 2025)

DONATE BLOOD



Black Diamond Police Reports

(Continued from page 2)

responded to the 32500 block of Tomlie Ln reference to a verbal Domestic Violence. Upon investigation, one subject was involuntary committed. This case will be forwarded to the Prosecutor for review regarding a possible criminal charge of Assault 4 (DV).

On 11/29/2025, officers were

dispatched to illegal dumping at the 32600 block of Railroad Ave. Dispatch advised officers that a subject had illegally dumped garbage in a commercial dumpster at the location. Officers contacted the involved parties and the reporting party advised they would not pursue criminal charges if the suspect removed their garbage from the dumpster

and they agreed.

On 11/30/2025, officers were on patrol at the 22000 block of SE 296th St. Officers observed a traffic violation and initiated a traffic stop. Officers contacted the driver and observed their driving status was suspended in the 3rd degree. Officers issued the driver

a criminal citation for the offense.

On 12/07/2025 Officers were requested to contact an individual by phone regarding a potential harassment. Officer were able to determine that no crime had been committed and advised the individual regarding obtaining a no contact order. Officers then contacted the other party involved and advised them that the first party did not want any further contact. ******

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