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# VOICE of the Valley

56<sup>TH</sup> YEAR, NUMBER 52  
MAPLE VALLEY, WASHINGTON  
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2025



## Behind the Scenes on Making the Drama Sets



Did you know that THS Drama's sets are homemade? Students in the stagecraft class have been hard at work bringing medieval Paris to life for The Hunchback of Notre Dame. And this winter break, Hunchback cast, crew, and volunteers are continuing that work. We cannot wait to see the finished set!

Our incredible drama program will present The Hunchback of Notre Dame on Jan. 30-31 and Feb. 5-7! You won't want to miss this spectacular show. (Recommended for ages 10 and up -- although this show uses some songs from the Disney movie, the story is much closer to the darker original Victor Hugo novel.) You can preorder tickets online at <https://bit.ly/THSHunchback>. Tahoma Drama Article and Photos.

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On Tuesday, December 23, 2025 Team Tahoma celebrates our Operator, Vincent Vargas, for 30 years of federal service.. Tahoma Photo



**An Encouraging Word Taylor Creek Church**

By Pastor Jason Katen

# Leaving It Behind

How many of you would run a race carrying extra weight on your shoulders or tied around your waist? I sure wouldn't, I have enough weight already. Those who race in competition would obviously hold this same view. It is interesting to see the bodysuits that our Olympiads wear. They are designed with stealth in mind. The less weight and resistance to the wind, the more seconds they can cut off their time.

This understanding can also equate to our daily lives, which used to be a walk but now seems to be a sprint. In this life, there are many people who struggle with a multitude of issues that keep them weighed down and from knowing true peace and joy. Most often, they are past issues that have not been let go, issues of abuse, guilt, failures, or even glory days gone by. Many go for counseling, and when these problems get brought out, they are not dealt with properly. Rather than forgiveness, reconciliation, and even confession, the issue turns to blame and adds yet another weight to those they are already drowning in.

When we look into God's word, we find a freeing truth concerning this issue. In the New Testament book of Philippians, the Apostle Paul relates our Christian life to a race. Not a race to earn salvation, but one that we are constantly running every day in Christ. Notice Paul's focus, "But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus." -- Philippians 3:13-14.

If you know anything about Paul, he was a man with lots of baggage. He was once a persecutor of Christians; many were beaten and even put to death at his command. When Paul met Christ, his life was radically changed -- Acts 9. Only Christ can forgive us of our sins and change our hearts, and it was evident Paul's indeed was. Paul had a newfound peace and joy, and he never let the past control Him. He found freedom in God's forgiveness. Paul believed the words of Jesus, who said, "If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed." -- John 8:36.

Paul could have lived in the past and been continually weighed down with such encumbrances, but he didn't. He was free! Laying aside the useless things he once trusted in, including thinking he could merit God's favor, he pressed on with his focus always on Christ.

Are you struggling with issues in your life, problems that are weighing you down, memories, or thoughts that keep plaguing you? Maybe it is abuse in the past, a failed relationship, or regrets. The Lord tells us, "forget what lies behind, and strain for what lies ahead." If it is a sin or sins in your life, repent of it and confess it all to Jesus. He paid for your sins on the Cross and stands ready to forgive you.

Don't live in the past! If Jesus has set you free, don't go back to it! Are you free?

If you have questions concerning the freedom that is only found in Christ, about the Bible, or simply need prayer, we would love to visit with you. Contact us at 425-432-0634 or [www.taylorcreekchurch.org](http://www.taylorcreekchurch.org). Our service times are 9 a.m. for Sunday school and 10:15 a.m. for worship. We are located at 21110 244<sup>th</sup> Ave. S.E. Maple Valley, WA



**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



## Black Diamond Police Reports

On 12/05/2025 at approximately 1337 hours officers were dispatched to the 22000 block of SE 296th Street in reference to a disturbance between clients. During the investigation, it was determined no crime occurred. One subject on scene was found to have a misdemeanor warrant, they were taken into custody and booked without issue.

On 12/05/2025 at approximately 1250 hours, officers were dispatched to the 32700 block of SE Cottonwood Street, in reference to a 911 hang-up with the sounds of children playing. Upon arrival, it was discovered the phone from which the call was placed was at this residence. The call history did not show the call and no problems were identified on scene.

On 12/05/2025 at approximately 1250 hours, officers were made aware of a subject recently released from jail for a recent domestic incident, was requesting a civil standby to obtain personal items from a residence in the 33000 block of SE Stevens Street. An officer provided the subject with a courtesy transport from the Black Diamond Police Department to the residence and stood by while personal items were obtains.

On 12/6/2025, Officers discovered a downed tree resting on the power lines in the 31200 block of Lake Sawyer RD. SE. Officers notified Puget Sound Energy and cleared debris from the roadway.

On 12/6/2025 at 0946 hours, Officer's located a wandering dog running down the road near the 31100 block of 228th Avenue SE. Officer's attempted to approach the dog due to seeing it had a collar and tags. Officer's were unable to contact the dog but followed it until it relocated its home down a nearby side road. Officer's contacted the owners and the dog was re-secured inside.

On 12/7/2025 at 1036 hours, Officer's responded to a suspicious vehicle near the 32000 block of Union Dr. It was reported an unknown vehicle parked on the reporting parties property and the driver then walked away. The vehicle returned clear and the registered owner could not be located. The reporting party did not want follow up contact.

On 12/07/2025 Officers were dispatched to a residence located in the 22800 block of SE Fir ST. in regard to a report of a dispute between family members. Officers contacted the parties involved, and determined that one met the criteria to be transported to a medical facility for a mental

health evaluation. The individual was transferred to ambulance personnel and transported to a local hospital without incident.

On 12/08/2025 Officers were dispatched to a request for an area check for a person who had left their residence previously in the day. Officers checked the area and were unable to locate the vehicle described. The reporting party advised that they would check with family and friends before reporting the subject as missing.

On 12/09/2025 Officers responded to the scene of a medical emergency in the 31900 block of 3rd AVE. Officers conducted traffic control while fire personnel removed a subject from the residence for transport to a medical facility.

On 12/10/2025, Officers were dispatched to assist Mountain View Fire Department in the 32400 block on Hammond PL. A patient was transported for medical care without police assistance.

On 12/07/2025, Officers were dispatched to a suspicious subject in the 29000 block of 216th AVE SE. It was reported an adult male was pointing a toy gun at passing cars. Officers made contact with the individual and his care taker. The subject in question had an apparent mental health condition and explained he was fighting crime in the area. The subject was asked to return to his home and he agreed to do so, he thanked officers for giving him the night off.

On 12/09/25 at approximately 0950 hours, officers received notification of a vehicle with a stolen license plate affixed being documented in the 29000 block of 216th Ave SE by a Flock Camera. Officers checked the area without success in locating the vehicle.

On 12/09/2025, Officer were dispatched to a Verbal Domestic incident in the 31100 block of 3rd Ave. Through investigation it was determined no crime occurred, a case report was completed.

On 12/12/2025 at 0527 hours, Officer's responded to a suspicious subject near the 30200 block of 234th Avenue SE. It was reported an unknown subject was prowling vehicles on the property and attempted to open the front door to the residence. The subject stole multiple items from the vehicles and soon ran off after being confronted by the homeowners. This case is under investigation.

On 12/12/2025 at 0912 hours, Officer's responded a vehicle

(Continued on page 4)



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# When Coal Was King

## By Bill Kombol

Even coal miners have contemplative moods. On a late afternoon in April 1974, Frank Manowski enjoyed a smoking break outside the hoist room at Rogers No. 3 in Ravensdale. Barry Kombol, a 1973 University of Washington graduate who worked a year at that mine, captured this and more than 200 other photos of his fellow miners, mostly at work but occasionally relaxing. Kombol later attended law school at the University of Puget Sound and parlayed his degree into a 40-year law practice in Black Diamond.

Frank Manowski was born and raised in Black Diamond, the son of German-Polish immigrants. Cornel Manowski and his wife, Anna, emigrated to the booming coal mining town in 1900. Born March 18, 1913, Frank graduated from Black Diamond High School in 1932. Afterwards, he continued his education with a scholarship to play baseball at St. Martin's College. Times were difficult during the Great Depression, so

Frank abandoned college and began his first job at a sawmill. Yet Frank never lost his love of sports. He played baseball for 22 years after his school days, and soccer for 11 years. He primarily played for Black Diamond's coal company-sponsored teams.

Frank followed his father, Cornel Manowski, into coal mining, as did three of his brothers, Max, Les, and George Manowski. All of them worked for Palmer Coking Coal during parts of their careers – George for a short time, Max 17 for years, Les 22 for years, and Frank for 32 years.

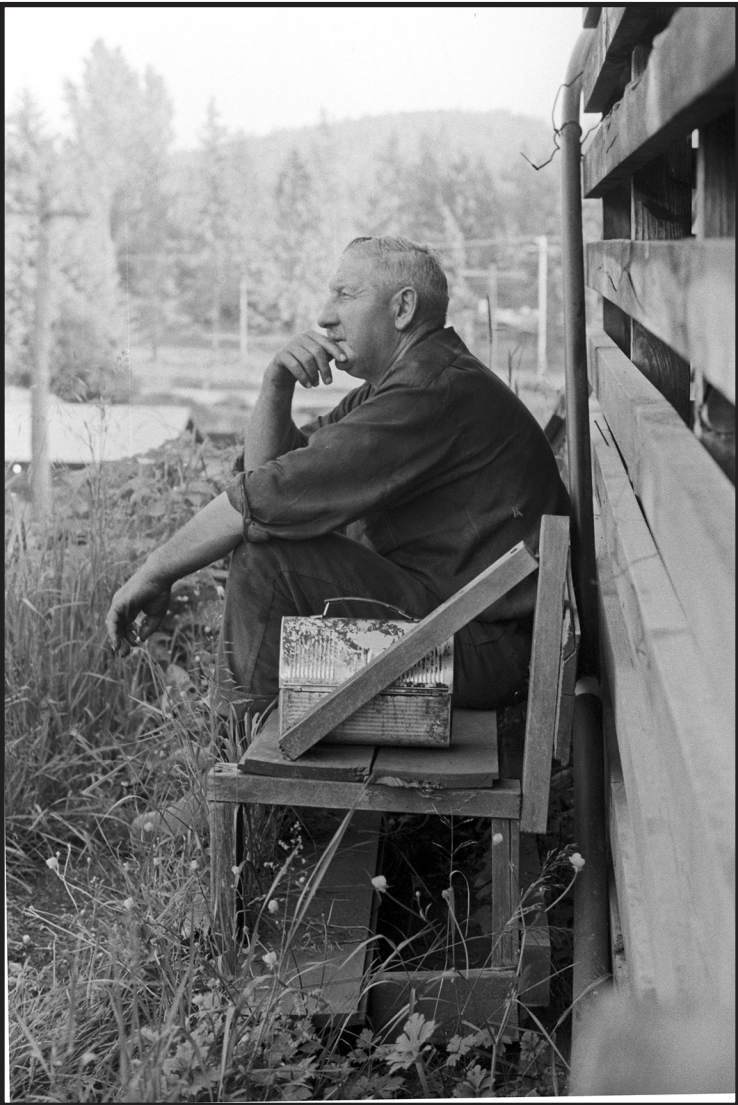
After working underground with his father at the Cedar Mountain coal mine for the West Coast Fuel Company from 1934 to 1936, Frank migrated towards surface work in preparation plants outside the mines. That's where raw coal was processed to clean coal by removing rock, shale, and other impurities before shipping to markets.

He first worked for Pacific Coast Coal, then Strain Coal Company, and finally Palmer Coking Coal. Manowski operated Palmer's Mine 11 wash plant for most of his career and was profiled in the Black Diamond Historical Society's June 2020 newsletter as "The Man Who Built a Mountain." The 'Mountain' is a reference to the rock and shale slag pile that rises 100 feet above the surrounding topography

west of Palmer Coking Coal's mine office on Highway 169.

Frank married Helen Strom of Enumclaw in 1939. Two years later, a son was born, named Frank, but not a junior. The family first lived on Lawson Street in Black Diamond, next to the old Presbyterian Church. They moved to Enumclaw in 1959 into a Wells Street home not far from the hospital. The younger Frank Manowski made a name for himself as a recreational coordinator for King County Parks, stationed primarily in Enumclaw at the Fieldhouse near Pete's Pool. He held that job for 32 years from 1965 to 1997.

The elder Frank Manowski retired from coal mining in 1978 and passed away in 1991. Helen (Strom) Manowski died in 2013, at age 94.



Frank Manowski in April 1974

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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.

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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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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, January 7, 2026. 2 hour preview @ 8-10 a.m. Auction @ 10 a.m.** For list of vehicles see [www.roadoneseattle.com](http://www.roadoneseattle.com)  
(Published VOICE of the Valley, Tuesday, December 30, 2025)  
\*\*\*\*\*

ABANDONED VEHICLE AUCTION  
Gary's Westside Towing Inc #5951 will sell to the highest bidder the 18 abandoned vehicles on Wednesday, **January 7, 2026, 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, December 30, 2025)  
\*\*\*\*\*

ABANDONED VEHICLE AUCTION  
Lincoln Towing Enterprises Inc. 1201 North 125th St., Seattle, WA 98133 . 206-364-2000. **Saturday, January 3, 2026. 3 hour preview @ 7-10 a.m. Auction @ 10 a.m.** For list of vehicles see: [www.roadoneseattle.com](http://www.roadoneseattle.com)  
(Published VOICE of the Valley, Tuesday, December 30, 2025)  
\*\*\*\*\*

ABANDONED VEHICLE AUCTION  
Lincoln Towing Enterprises Inc., 8425 1st Ave S, Seattle, WA 98108. 206-364-2000 Ext. 1370. **Wednesday, January 7, 2026. Preview 8-10 a.m. Auction @ 10 a.m.** For list of vehicles see: [www.roadoneseattle.com](http://www.roadoneseattle.com)  
(Published VOICE of the Valley, Tuesday, December 30, 2025)  
\*\*\*\*\*

ABANDONED VEHICLE AUCTION  
Payless Towing & Recovery, 33905 Pacific Highway South, Federal Way, WA 98003 253-941-4565. **Thursday, January 1, 2026 @ Noon.** Viewing @ 11:30  
(Published VOICE of the Valley, Tuesday, December 30, 2025)  
\*\*\*\*\*

ABANDONED VEHICLE AUCTION  
Payless Towing & Recovery, 33905 Pacific Hwy South, Federal Way, WA 98003. 253-941-4565. **Tuesday, January 6, 2026 @ Noon.** Viewing @ 11:30 a.m.  
(Published VOICE of the Valley, Tuesday, December 30, 2025)  
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LEGAL NOTICE

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)



Black Diamond Police Reports

(Continued from page 2)

prowl report near the 28800 block of 229th Avenue SE. The homeowner stated that during the night, a male subject was seen checking door handles on the home and attempting to steal their vehicle. Officer's were provided surveillance footage and this case remains under investigation.  
\*\*\*\*\*

On 10/12/2025 at approximately 1050 hours, officers were dispatched to a stolen vehicle report in the 30400 block of 234th Ave SE. Officer collected evidence and entered the vehicle as stolen. On 12/14/2025, Kent Police located the vehicle. The vehicle was secured by Kent Police at their impound lot to hold for prints.  
\*\*\*\*\*

On 12/12/2025 at 1129 hours, Officer's responded to a parking complaint located near the 33300 block of Liberty Avenue SE. It was reported that a vehicle had been parked on the side of the road for the past week and the reporting party stated that it did not appear to be a neighbors. Officer's located the vehicle and determined it was a nearby neighbors. A 24-hour notice was placed on the vehicle and Officer's cleared the call.  
\*\*\*\*\*

On 12/12/2025 at 1335 hours, Officer's conducted a suspicious subject report by phone that initially occurred near the 28800 block of 228th Avenue SE. It was reported that at approximately

0130 hours this morning, an unknown subject was seen on camera attempting to jiggle the door knob to the residence. The subject soon ran off. Officer's were provided with video surveillance.  
\*\*\*\*\*

On 12/12/25 at approximately 1416 hours, an officer was dispatched to the 30000 block of 232nd PL SE in reference to found property. The property was secured into evidence for safe keeping.  
\*\*\*\*\*

On 12/12/2025 at approximately 1504 hours, officers contacted a male in the 31600 block of Law Sawyer Rd SE. Officers identified the subject, finding him to have multiple outstanding warrants. The subject was booked without issue into a correction facility.  
\*\*\*\*\*

On 12/12/2025 an officer received a FLOCK camera notification of a vehicle with a stolen license plate. The officer found the front plate of the vehicle was reported stolen, but the rear plate had not been seized. The officer stopped the vehicle and seized the rear plate.  
\*\*\*\*\*

On 12/12/2025, an officer responded to the 32400 block of 5th AVE for a report of a juvenile having a mental health episode and threatening to harm others. The juvenile was involuntarily committed to the hospital.  
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