

# VOICE of the Valley

56<sup>TH</sup> YEAR, NUMBER 36  
MAPLE VALLEY, WASHINGTON  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2025



## Baim found guilty of killing Nick Valison

A guilty verdict came in on Friday, September 5, 2025, in the murder trial of Andrew Baim, who is accused of killing Nick Valison with a truck back in 2023.

Andrew Ralph Baim, 40, was charged in the death of Nick Valison, 53, on Sept. 21, 2023 after Valison tried to stop him from illegally dumping trash in a wooded area near homes.

Baim's sentencing is scheduled for Oct. 24, 2025.

## WSDOT to Start Construction on White River Bridge Next Week



WSDOT has begun installing temporary steel braces to stabilize the SR 410 White River Bridge between Buckley and Enumclaw. These braces will enable crews to make permanent repairs, which is expected to begin the week of Sept. 15, 2025. The bridge will remain fully closed to all traffic throughout the temporary and permanent repair process in order for contractor crews to work safer and more efficiently.

Once work on the permanent repairs begins, contractor crews will work seven days a week to replace damaged steel components, heat-straightening bent members and removing and repainting affected areas of the bridge to its original pre-strike condition.

The repair is expected to take 6 to 8 weeks with the bridge reopening to traffic between Oct. 31, 2025 and Nov. 14, 2025.

Until those repairs are complete, travelers should continue to use the signed detour via SR 164, SR 18, and SR 167, which can add 45 to 60 minutes. WSDOT Photos

## Scout Days Coming at PSF Station 74/Headquarters



Puget Sound Fire invites scouts and their families to the **Scouts at the Fire Station** event on **Monday, September 29, 5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.**, at Station 74/Headquarters, 24611 116<sup>th</sup> Ave. SE in Kent. This fire station open house features activities to meet scout badge requirements including: first aid, knot tying, emergency preparedness, and more!

**Please register by September 16** by calling (253) 856-4480 or emailing [CommunityRelations@PugetSoundFire.org](mailto:CommunityRelations@PugetSoundFire.org).

**Valley Regional Fire Authority**

Valley Regional Fire Authority are also hosting one on October 29, 2025 **5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.** at their Station 33 Located at 500182<sup>nd</sup> Ave E., Auburn Public. Email [info@vrfa.org](mailto:info@vrfa.org) or call 253-288-5881 for more information.

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# Black Diamond Police Reports

On 08/20/2025 Officers were dispatched to a business located in the 29000 block of 216th AVE SE in regard to a report of a shoplift. Officers conducted an area check and were unable to locate anyone matching the description provided.

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On 08/20/2025, Officers were dispatched to the 32800 block of 5th AVE for a noise complaint. Officers made contact with construction workers who were packing up their materials for the evening. Officers cleared the scene.

\*\*\*\*\*

On 08/20/2025, Officers were conducting routine patrol when they observed a vehicle parked in the 33000 block of Ten Trails PKWY SE. The vehicle had no license plate affixed to the front or rear. Officers conducted a DOL check on the VIN which showed the registration expired in 2024. Officers placed a 24 hour notice/warning on the vehicle indicating it would be impounded if not moved. Officers cleared the scene.

\*\*\*\*\*

On 8/21/2025 officers responded to the 32300 block of 3rd Ave for a noise complaint. Officers contacted the renter and advised of the noise complaint. The renter agreed to turn down the music.

\*\*\*\*\*

On 08/22/2025 Black Diamond resident walked into the police station regarding an miss delivered package. Officers contacted the owner of the package, who agreed to come pick it up.

\*\*\*\*\*

On 08/22/2025 Officer's responded to 22600 block on SE 296th ST for a complaint about a boat that beached on Lake Sawyer park. Officer's talked to the owner of the boat and had it moved.

\*\*\*\*\*

On 08/22/2025, officers were dispatched to a suspicious subject at the 22400 block of SE 296th St. Dispatch advised a subject was reported to have been seen looking into cars. Officers conducted an area check and located the subject matching the description. The subject was next to a black SUV and was shortly met with the driver and a second passenger who entered the vehicle. The subject advised they were waiting for their friends and refused to provide

identification. The subjects left the scene without incident.

\*\*\*\*\*

On 08/22/2025, officers were flagged down at the 25500 block of Lawson St. The reporting party advised officers of a possible DUI driver that appeared to have had fresh damage on their vehicle including a deflated tire. They advised that a female subject near the vehicle had flagged them down and advised they had left the Eagles bar in Black Diamond and needed a ride due to their damaged vehicle. The reporting party advised they observed the subject leave the scene in an Uber vehicle. Officers conducted an area check for any struck objects within the city with negative results. Officers forwarded the information to KCSO.

\*\*\*\*\*

On 08/22/25, while on patrol, officers observed suspicious subjects nearby a vehicle at the 25300 block of Park St. Officers contacted the subjects and observed two juvenile males who had recently consumed cannabis at the location. The juveniles contacted a licensed driver to remove the vehicle and the juveniles from the scene. Officers issued the subjects a warning for the offense and collected the substance to be submitted into evidence for destruction.

\*\*\*\*\*

On 08/23/2025, Officers impounded a vehicle in the 33000 block of Ten Trails PKWY SE under RCW 46.55.113(2)(J). The vehicle had an abandoned vehicle warning affixed to it on 08/20/2025, reference case 250000800.

\*\*\*\*\*

On 08/23/2025, officers observed a vehicle speeding at the 24200 block of Roberts Dr. Officers conducted a traffic stop and observed the driver exhibited signs of intoxication. Officers determined probable cause for the crime of DUI and arrested the driver. Officers applied for a blood warrant. 2 samples of the drivers blood were collected and the driver was booked into Enumclaw Jail.

\*\*\*\*\*

On 08/23/2025, Officers were dispatched to a party complaint in the 32500 block of 3rd AVE for the second time. Officers contacted the responsible party and he turned off the music and asked the people there to leave. Officers were then approached by security and advised two females were being disruptive and may be about to fight. Officers responded again, no fight was occurring. Officers remained on scene while subjects left to deter criminal activity.

\*\*\*\*\*

On 08/23/2025, Officers were dispatched to a verbal threat in progress in the 32600 block of 2nd AVE. It was reported a male subject was urinating on the reporting parties lawn and then threatened to shoot him. Officers arrived on scene and contacted the reporting party who advised the subject left the area. The description of the suspect was too vague for officers to identify anyone on scene. Officers contacted other individuals in the area who advised they did not witness anything.

\*\*\*\*\*

On 08/23/2025 Officers on viewed a single vehicle accident involving a motorcycle on Ravensdale RD SE and 3rd Ave. The driver sustain minor injuries and was able to drive away. A collisions report was completed.

\*\*\*\*\*

On 8/23/2025, an officer was in the 15700 block of SE Auburn Black Diamond Road when they came across a collision involving a motorcycle. Upon seeing the officer the motorcycle rider jumped over the guard rail and ran down a steep hillside. The King County Sheriff's Office arrived on scene and took over the investigation as it was their jurisdiction.

\*\*\*\*\*

On 8/23/2025 at 2255 hours, the Black Diamond Police Department responded to a noise complaint near the 32500 block of 3rd Avenue. Through investigation, Officer's determined the suspect was in violation of the Black Diamond Municipal Code noise ordinance and was issued a citation for the offense.

(Continued on page 4)

More News on our website  
www.voiceofthevalley.com



# 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



An Encouraging Word *Taylor Creek Church*

By Pastor Jason Katzen



# When Fear is Good?

We know not all fear is good. In fact, some fears can bring about many adverse effects in our lives, phobias that paralyze us, such as Nosophobia, the fear of getting a disease, Atychiphobia, the fear of failing, Aerophobia, the fear of flying, or Thanatophobia, to name a few. Yet we also know that fear can be good, especially the fear of the Lord. In fact, we are commanded to fear the Lord, and for good reason. Jesus said, "I say to you, My friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body and after that have no more that they can do. "But I will warn you whom to fear: fear the One who, after He has killed, has authority to cast into hell; yes, I tell you, fear Him!" - Luke 12:4-5. The Bible tells us over two hundred times that we should fear and reverence the Lord. Psalm 33:8 says definitively, "Let all the earth fear the LORD; let all the people of the world revere him."

To fear the Lord is to hold Him in the highest regard and desire to obey Him. Not because of consequences, which certainly is important, but out of love for Him and for His glory. In fact, the Bible says in Psalm 147:11, "The LORD delights in those who fear Him, who put their hope in His unfailing love."

If the Lord delights in those who fear Him, we should not fear those who do not. Psalm 27:1 says, "The LORD is my light and my salvation, whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life, of whom shall I be afraid?"

Do you fear the Lord? Have you placed your faith in Jesus Christ? If so, you can confidently say, "The LORD is with me; I will not be afraid." - Psalm 118:6. And, in the presence of great adversity, boldly proclaim, "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging." - Psalm 46:1-3.

Would you like to know more? We would love to speak with you. Call us at 425-432-0634 or contact us at www.taylorcreekchurch.org. We invite you to join us for Sunday service: 9:00 AM for Sunday School and 10:15 AM for Worship. Address: 21110 244th Ave. S.E., Maple Valley.

# 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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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



Last week’s column provided an overview of the beginnings of the Enumclaw Plateau’s first school, located in Osceola. The area was originally called Porter’s Prairie, after the first White settler, Allen Porter, established a homestead in 1853. Over the next 27 years, more families filed their own homestead claims, so that by the June 1880 precinct census, 16 families consisting of 67 residents were living in the area. In 1877, a post office was established using the name Osceola, and Porter’s Prairie faded from use. Allen Porter’s original homestead was located east of 196th Ave. S.E., two miles south of where the Auburn-Enumclaw Highway (SR-164) makes a distinctive bend north.

Nearby communities, such as Boise Creek, Firgrove, Krain, Coal Creek, Birch, and Veazie, also built schools for pioneer children. However, Stevensonville, as Enumclaw was colloquially known to honor its founders, Frank and Mary Stevenson, had no school. So, those few children hiked several miles north along the railroad bed to Coal Creek or trudged the muddy trail to Osceola. After the Northern Pacific Railway was finally completed and Enumclaw was attached to the rail station, the town’s residents began agitating to establish their own school district.

Yet, there was one big problem – the Osceola School District No. 19 claimed all the land between the White and Green Rivers, from Auburn to the crest of the Cascade Mountains, and resisted Enumclaw’s efforts for its own school district. Though nearly all of Enumclaw’s residents signed a petition to create a new district, the King County Superintendent of Schools rejected their efforts outright.

However, an election was soon to take place, and a Missouri native named S.P. Rich was running for Superintendent on the Citizens’ Party ticket. Enumclaw interests enlisted a town resident, and fellow Missourian, Oscar Welch to lobby the candidate. Welch met with S.P. Rich and promised to deliver all of Enumclaw’s votes to Rich’s candidacy. Rich received 80 of the 81 Enumclaw votes, won the election, and promptly fulfilled his promise. Enumclaw’s citizens got their school district in 1887. That same year, Enumclaw saw the arrival of regular passenger train service.

While most residents wanted a small district to serve only townfolk, Arthur Griffin, for whom Griffin Avenue was named, had a grander vision. He drew up a boundary map and submitted it to the newly elected School Superintendent. S.P. Rich kept his campaign promise and Enumclaw

was promptly awarded the same vast area stretching between the two rivers from Auburn to the Cascade crest that formerly belonged to Osceola. Through consolidations, annexations, and expansions, Enumclaw possesses one of the largest districts by area in the state.

Enumclaw’s first school was a simple shack built from hand-split cedar boards. It was likely located on Porter Street near the current Presbyterian Church. Porter Street was fittingly named for the pioneer, Allen Porter, whose original prairie’s name was replaced by Osceola.

In Osceola, the second school, built in 1890, was too small to support the area’s growing population of farmers. Osceola had grown to 282 by 1913. But Enumclaw’s rapid growth resulted in its population surging to 1,129 inhabitants, four times that of Osceola. For perspective, the booming coal mining town of Black Diamond, with 2,051 residents, was King County’s third largest town, bested only by Renton and Seattle.

The new school, Osceola’s third, was built in 1914, though the King County Assessor records list 1920. The schoolhouse measured 38 feet by 70 feet or

2,660 square feet with two porches of 90 and 65 square feet each. It featured cedar siding, a shingled roof, and was situated on a shy acre lot. However, it lacked plumbing and electricity until lines were extended in the 1920s.

The Osceola School District consolidated with Enumclaw in 1937. Afterwards, the former schoolhouse was used by the Sunrise Grange until 1976. Sometime around 1995, the structure underwent substantial renovations and was fully converted into a single-family residence. Alvin and Lisa Mierke purchased this third Osceola school, located at 21921 S.E. 456<sup>th</sup> Way, for \$412,000 in 2010. Seven years later, the Mierkes acquired the second Osceola schoolhouse, the former Plateau Community Players’ performance space, located next door.

Today, the placename Osceola is rarely used to refer to the broad plain west of Enumclaw. Many Plateau residents would be hard-pressed to locate it on a map. The term Osceola is now best known for the Mount Rainier lahar of 5,600 years ago, whose fast-flowing mudflow (reaching 40 miles per hour) buried 291 square miles (186,000 acres) between the White and Green Rivers with five billion cubic yards of soil. That is the equivalent of piling 3,000 feet of mud on top of 750 football fields.

From 1968 until the late 1970s, Green River Community College professor Gerald Hedlund conducted an archaeology dig near the intersection of S.E. 448<sup>th</sup> Street and 228<sup>th</sup> Ave. S.E. and discovered a Native American village overrun by the Osceola Mudflow. Students found fire hearths, earth ovens, and building posts. They recovered over 13,000 stone tool artifacts, many of them projectile points, scrapers, and knives. The age and number of finds made it one of the most important collections of native artifacts in the Puget Sound region.

This and last week’s history of the Osceola schools was based on information derived from 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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Keep our community safe.  
Talk to your kids about drinking and driving.

## Black Diamond Police Reports

(Continued from page 2)

Officer's cleared the scene without further issue.

\*\*\*\*\*

On 08/24/25, officers observed a traffic infraction at the 25200 block of Baker St. Officers conducted a traffic stop and contacted the driver. Officers detected signs of impairment and conducted vulnerary field sobriety tests. Officers determined probable cause for the crime of DUI and arrested the driver who was transported and booked into Issaquah jail.

\*\*\*\*\*

On 8/24/2025 at 0312 hours, the Black Diamond Police Department responded to an agency assist for the Enumclaw Police Department. Officer's were informed of a burglary in progress located near the 2400 block of Griffin Avenue. Officer's held perimeter at the business until Enumclaw Police could take the suspect into custody. Officer's cleared the call soon after without further issue.

\*\*\*\*\*

On 8/24/2025 at 0240 hours, the Black Diamond Police Department responded to an agency assist for the Enumclaw Police Department located near the 200 block of Petersen Dr E. Enumclaw Police requested to have Officer's standby in an attempt to take a domestic violence suspect into custody. Officer's were unable to locate the suspect at the time and cleared the call.

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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 17, 2025.** 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, September 9, 2025)

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ABANDONED VEHICLE AUCTION Lincoln Towing Enterprises Inc. 1201 North 125th St., Seattle, WA 98133 . 206-364-2000. **Saturday, September 13, 2025.** 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, September 9, 2025)

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ABANDONED VEHICLE AUCTION Lincoln Towing Enterprises Inc., 8425 1st Ave S, Seattle, WA 98108. 206-364-2000 Ext. 1370. **Wednesday, September 17, 2025.** 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, September 9, 2025)

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

(Published VOICE of the Valley, Tuesday, September 9, 2025)

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ABANDONED VEHICLE AUCTION Payless Towing & Recovery 33905 Pacific Hwy South, Federal Way, WA 98003. 253-941-4565. **Tuesday, September 16, 2025 @ Noon** / Viewing @ 11:30 a.m.

(Published VOICE of the Valley, Tuesday, September 9, 2025)

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ABANDONED VEHICLE AUCTION US Towing, 24816 Pacific Hwy South, Kent, WA 98032 **Friday, September 12, 2025.** Viewing at 10 a.m. **Auction at 11 a.m.** 206-824-3448.

(Published VOICE of the Valley, Tuesday, September 9, 2025)

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ABANDONED VEHICLE AUCTION Rainbow Towing, 8333 219th St. S.E., Woodinville, WA 98072. **Saturday, September 13, 2025** Preview @ 9 a.m. **Auction @12:00 p.m.**

(Published VOICE of the Valley, Tuesday, September 9, 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
- 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 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

(Published VOICE of the Valley, Tuesdays, August 26, September 2 & 9 2025)

# Have a Nice Day