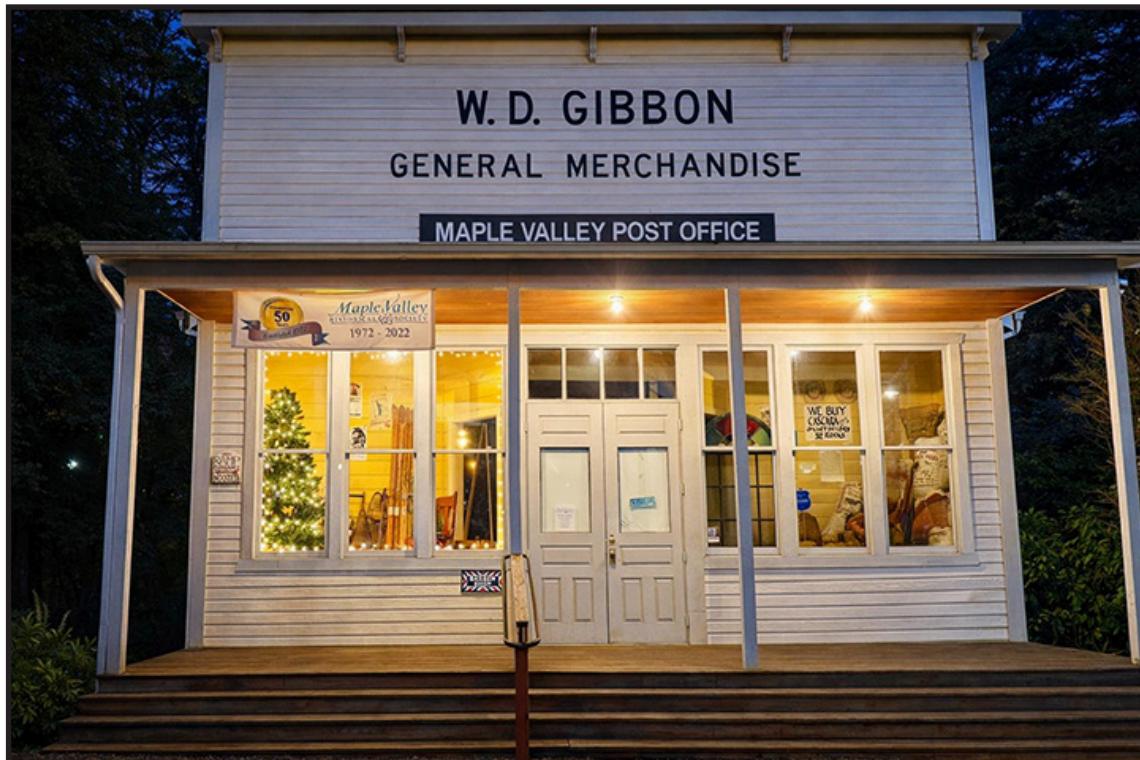


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VOICE of the Valley

57TH YEAR, NUMBER 02
MAPLE VALLEY, WASHINGTON
TUESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2026



Maple Valley Historical Museum some exciting news for the New Year. Our museums will now be open the first and third Saturdays of each month from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Come see their new winter window display and learn about the history of the ski trains on **Saturday, January 17, 2026** at 22024 SE 248th St., Maple Valley 98038. maplevalleyhistorical.com and info@maplevalleyhistorical.com



Black Diamond Historical Society and Museum is open Thursday 9 to 2 and Saturday/Sunday 11 to 3! Located at 32627 Railroad Ave., Black Diamond, WA 98010 museum@blackdiamondmuseum.org



Parents' Night Out – Kids' Musical Movie Night!

Enjoy a night out while your kids have an amazing time! Jan. 24, 2026 4:00–8:00 p.m. Maple Valley Creative Arts Center. Please register in advance — space is limited! <https://mvcac.clubexpress.com/> This 4-hour drop-off program for kids K-5 is packed with fun from start to finish. Each themed evening includes: A musical movie theme. A themed craft project.

A sing-along movie experience. Perfect for a date night, shopping, dinner with friends, or a quiet evening at home. Your night out. Their night of fun. Questions — drop us an email at mvcac@comcast.net



Local Subarea Plan

By Peter Rimbos, GMVUAC Corresponding Secretary

On Monday, January 5, 2026, from 7 - 9:30 PM at the Maple Valley Fire Station at 22225 SE 231st St. and via Zoom. Topics discussed were: (1) Local Subarea Plan; (2) Tahoma School District Levy; and (3) Requested Changes to King County Code.

Local Subarea Plan

The Greater Maple Valley/Cedar River (GMV/CR) Community Service Area (CSA) Subarea Plan is now being developed. The Area Council territory makes up most of the GMV/CR CSA, so this will be the Subarea Plan for our local area. The Subarea Plan focusses on locally specific policies that address long-range community vision over the next 20 years.

Long-Range Planning Manager, Lara Thomas, and Strategic Planning Manager, Susan McLain, both from the King County Department of Local Services (KC DLS), summarized the local subarea planning work with the Area Council and the community over the last year.

Susan presented the current schedule (all 2026):

Preliminary Plan—1st qtr (Community Virtual Meeting and a 30-day Public Comment Period)

Draft Plan—Summer (there will be a 30-day Public Comment Period)

Plan Transmittal to KC Council—December (including Public Hearings).

The Subarea Plan will include a *Vision* and *Guiding Principles* and consist of the following Chapters: *Land Use & Zoning*; *Housing & Human Services*; *Environment*; *Parks, Open Space, & Cultural Resources*; *Transportation*; *Services & Utilities*; and *Economic Development*. Each Chapter will include: *Narrative*, *Community Priorities*, and *Policies*.

The Area Council asked many questions and expressed concern with the short times allotted to reviews and Public Comment. Once the Preliminary Plan is released to the Public the Area Council Committees will hold meetings to conduct line-by-line reviews of each Chapter as follows:

Growth Management Committee—*Land-Use & Zoning* and *Services & Utilities*.

Environment Committee—*Environment and Parks, Open Space, & Cultural Resources*.

Transportation Committee—*Transportation*.

Economic Committee—*Economic Development and Housing & Human Services*.

The Public is invited to participate in these meetings to be announced on the Area Council's website: www.gmvuac.org.

Tahoma School District Levy

In February the Tahoma School District's (TSD) will be seeking direct replacements of the expiring *Educational Programs & Operations Levy* and the *Technology Levy*, not any new tax revenue. Current levies are 2 years in duration, while replacements will be for 4 years (2027 thru 2030). A longer levy duration means: Less spending on elections; Increased stability for budgeting; and Ability to engage in long-term planning. Ballots will be mailed in late January; Election Day is February 10. In attendance were Maple Valley Mayor Sean Kelly and TSD Board members.

(Continued on page 2)

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Bears win the first ever Claws Out Classic! The guys toed the line last week and went to work, battling their way to a 1st place finish against a field of top ranked teams. Tahoma Wrestling article and photo



An Encouraging Word Taylor Creek Church

By Pastor Jason Katen



Being Controlled by Unforgiveness

Studies show that forgiveness is not only good theology but also good medicine. Medical research shows that forgiving is good for our souls and our bodies.

People who forgive:

- Benefit from better immune functioning and lower blood pressure.
- Have better mental health than people who do not forgive.
- Feel better physically.
- Experience less anger and fewer symptoms of anxiety and depression.
- Maintain more satisfying and long-lasting relationships.

"When we allow ourselves to feel like victims or sit around dreaming up how to retaliate against people who have hurt us, these thought patterns take a toll on our minds and bodies," says Michael McCullough, director of research for the National Institute for Healthcare Research and a co-author of *To Forgive is Human: How to Put Your Past in the Past*.

Failure to forgive makes us a slave to someone else's sin. The question becomes, "Who is controlling whom?" When we fail to forgive, we are the ones who are being controlled. In many cases, the one who should be asking for forgiveness does not care or may not know they have offended. And so we let them control or consume our thoughts.

Whether an offender comes and asks for forgiveness or not, we need to stand ready and be willing to forgive no matter how many times they offend. The Bible tells us in Matthew 18:21-22 that the apostle Peter came to Jesus and asked: "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?" Jesus answered, 'I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.'

So it is that forgiveness is not an option but a command. We need to be careful that we do not let the Devil have victory in our lives because of our inability or unwillingness to forgive. It does not matter how bad the offense is, if we cannot forgive or be ready to forgive in our hearts, and place it at the feet of the Lord, we will have issues of resentment, anger, bitterness, and depression. In Romans 12:19, the Lord promises: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay, says the Lord."

Do not hold on to something that is keeping you from having victory in your life. The Bible says we are to: "Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you" - Colossians 3:13. In John 3:16-18, God teaches that forgiveness begins with asking Jesus Christ for forgiveness of our own sins.

Would you like to know more? We would love to hear from you. You can contact us at 425-432-0634 or at taylorcreekchurch.org. Join us for Sunday service: 9:00 AM for Sunday School, 10:15 AM for Worship. 21110 244th Ave. S.E. Maple Valley.



JOIN US

Looking for a preschool or resources?

Come to the Tahoma School District with Greater Maple Valley Preschool Community and Resource Fair.

Meet with many preschools and community resource providers from across the area and learn about what each has to offer. This is a FREE event hosted by the Tahoma School District.

Thursday, January 29th, 2026
6:00 - 7:30 pm
Lake Wilderness Elementary
24216 Wite Rd. SE, Maple Valley, WA 98038

TAHOMA
SCHOOL DISTRICT 409



(Continued from page 1)

State funds do not cover *all* actual costs. Local funding makes up 21% of the TSD Operating Budget. The majority of local funding includes voter-approved levies, making up 16% of the budget, with the other 5% coming from grants and other local funding.

The *Educational Programs & Operations* Levy covers safety and security staff; arts and music; career and college readiness; operational support staff; academic enrichment; and athletics. The *Technology* Levy covers safety technology and cyber security; devices for students and staff; technology support staff; technology tools for accessibility.

The *Educational Programs & Operations* Levy has a \$2.35 rate and the *Technology* level has a \$0.39 rate—both per \$1,000 assessed property value. Together the total levy rate is \$2.74. For a \$750,000 assessed property evaluation the annual tax would be: \$2,055. These levy rates remain the same as for the existing levies for which TSD is seeking replacements.

If the levy replacements do not pass, TSD would be required to make some difficult decisions to balance its budget, while priorities will be preserved to some extent, this could include reductions in staff, programs, and services.

For more information please see: <https://www.tahomasd.us/about/2026-levy>.

King County Code

King County uses an annual Docket Item (D.I.) process that allows citizens, groups, etc., to propose changes to Code and/or Policy. The Area Council, as part of a Joint Team of King County Unincorporated Urban and Rural Area Organizations, approved

two D.I. Requests: (1) Local Agricultural and Forest Product Processing (gmvuac.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/D.I.-Request-Local-Ag-Forest-Product-Processing.pdf) and (2) Consider Reclamation as part Mining 5-Yr Periodic Reviews (gmvuac.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/Docket-Request-Mining-Operation-Periodic-Reviews.pdf). These were submitted on December 19 to the KC Executive's Office.

A third D.I. Request: Battery Energy Storage Systems (gmvuac.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/KCCP-Docket-Request-BESS.pdf), was approved by individuals from various Joint Team organizations, as there was insufficient time to seek Joint Team approval due to deadlines to submit by the end of the calendar year. It was submitted to KC on December 26.

Next Area Council Meeting

The next Area Council monthly meeting will be held Monday, February 2, 2026, from 7 - 9:30 PM at the Maple Valley Fire Station at 22225 SE 231st St (across from the KC Sheriff's Precinct).

Meetings are held on the *first* Monday of the month (except for Holidays, when they are held on the *second* Monday). All meeting announcements, agendas, and Zoom information are posted on the Area Council's website: www.gmvuac.org and local *NextDoor* platforms. You can also find us on our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/GMVUAC/>. Each meeting begins with an open

(Continued on page 4)



The family of a former 2014 Tahoma Graduate, Josin Williams, who passed away in 2019 are making a difference. Check out their page at [www.histurnsl.com](http://histurnsl.com)

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When Coal Was King

By Bill Kombol



Black Diamond Show Hall, 1940

Last week's column told the early history of the Lodge Hall, built by the Black Diamond Coal Mining Company after the town's founding in 1885. The building was located on Main Street that paralleled Railroad Avenue. To the left of the hall stood the barber shop that doubled as a pool hall. Both were across the street from the General Store, which was slightly north of today's Smokehouse & More. This March 19, 1940, photo of both buildings comes courtesy of the King County Assessor records, tax parcel 084400-0695, held at the Puget Sound Regional Archives in Eastgate. Boomer Burnham, a Tahoma photography instructor, enhanced the image.

The lodge hall measured 30 feet by 80 feet and had two stories, at least in the early days. The upper floor was a meeting room for fraternal organizations, such as Freemasons, and the Slovener National Benefit Society, highlighted in last week's column. It was also used as a dance floor.

The lower level was a show hall for live performances, such as a 1915 full-cast production of Shakespeare's "The Merchant of Venice" featuring local talent. With regularity, minstrels, theater troupes, or medicine shows came to town. Medicine shows drew a full house because they promised free entertainment, such as dancing bears and other animal acts, plus cowboys and Indians. The show hall also hosted rallies around election time, church bazaars, union meetings, Christmas programs, and traveling companies of actors who stayed in town and put on shows for a week or so.

Gordon and Conrad "Coke" Roberts retained vivid memories of the show hall after "Dracula" starring Bela Legosi, was screened in the early 1930s. "Mr. Glenn, who ran the theater, came out on the porch to holler and report that the show was ready to begin! All of the miners came running out of the pool hall and tavern to pay and get ready for the show. Well, if Bella Lugosi, the star of the show, ever scared hell out of two kids, we were the ones. When the show was over, we ran as fast as we could for home, and when we got there, I can remember asking my dad to check all the closets, because the ending of the show stated that there really was a Dracula!"

Much of the town's local entertainment was coordinated by Henry J. Babb. He was a coal company man who organized the Community

Club, Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, and sports teams. He was on the school board and helped at the show hall. Babb also served as the town's Santa Claus during Christmas, handing out gifts to every child in town. Most of the town's children adored Henry Babb. The Roberts brothers were particularly fond of Babb, writing, "In our youth, our real heroes were the teachers. Above all, though, stood a very special one, who was the energetic leader of our community, Mr. Henry Babb. It seemed to the kids that he ran the whole town and was special in providing we kids with theatre, movies, sports, education ... YES, everything we wanted."

He also kept order in the show hall, walking up and down the aisles when kids were laughing or horsing around. The kids feared and respected him; he wasn't mean, but he kept order. Henry Babb was genuinely interested in Black Diamond and its people. He was a member of all three fraternal lodges that still exist in Black Diamond – Sons of Italy, Eagles, and Masons, as well as the American Legion and V.F.W.

Babb's primary job was supervising a small crew responsible for the town's utilities, garbage pickup, and general maintenance of the Pacific Coast Coal Company's properties. He was a very outspoken man, and it wasn't unusual to hear him lambasting one of his men who didn't do as he was told.

Pacific Coast Coal acquired the town from the Black Diamond Coal Mining Co. in 1904. By the late 1930s, Pacific Coast developed plans to sell off its interests. Homes would be sold to miners, and the company-provided utilities would be organized into publicly owned districts. The show hall building was remodeled in 1936 and turned over to the Black Diamond Improvement Club. In 1951, Charles and Hazel O'Connell purchased the building after plans to turn it over to Water District No. 66 failed to adhere to state law. The O'Connell's ran the show hall until the early 1960s when they quit showing movies. In April 1966, the O'Connell's sold the aging structure for \$2,000 to Allen Lynch. Later that year, Lynch tore the show hall down to salvage the wood.

Henry Joseph Babb was born in Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin, on August 31, 1888. His father, Louis Babb, was a railroad man, and his mother, Ida Farrell, was a housewife. Babb moved to Seattle around 1915 and, after the outbreak of World War I, served in the Army Engineering Division. After the war, Henry found employment as a pipefitter in the shipyards, and moved in with his brother, John, and his wife, Mary, in Seattle. By 1930, Babb was living in a Black Diamond hotel and listed his job as foreman of a building repair gang.

After the company town was disbanded, Henry Babb went to work for Boeing during World War II. He married late in life, at age 69, to Esther Vernarelli in 1958. That same year, Babb purchased a 1958 two-door Bel Air Chevy. He and his grandson, Greg Sambrano, became great friends. Upon his death on December 31, 1966, Babb gifted the '58 Chevy to Greg, who was only 9 years old at the time. Henry Babb is buried in the Enumclaw Evergreen Memorial Park. All who experienced Henry were richer for having known him.

Genealogical information about Henry Babb was provided by Donna Brathovde, a Ravensdale historian and researcher.

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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LEGAL NOTICES

SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF KING

ADRIAN WIGSTON v. ANDREW BUDDENHAGEN et al. Defendant. Case No. 25-2-14350-3 KNT

TO THE DEFENDANT ANDREW BUDDENHAGEN:

You are hereby summoned to appear within sixty (60) days after the date of the first publication of this summons and defend the above-entitled action in the above-named court, and answer the complaint of the plaintiff, **ADRIAN WIGSTON**, and serve a copy of your answer upon the undersigned attorney for plaintiff at the address stated below. If you fail to do so, judgment will be rendered against you according to the demand of the complaint, which has been filed with the clerk of said court. The object of this action is a Personal Injury Matter involving Plaintiff Wigston and Defendant Buddenhagen in a motor vehicle accident to recover damages arising from the motor vehicle collision on April 14, 2024, in King County, Washington.

Date of First Publication: January 13, 2026

Plaintiff's Attorney:

SCOTT A. VOLYN, WSBA No. 21829
VOLYN LAW FIRM, PLLC
23 S. Mission Street, Suite B
Wenatchee, WA 98801
[509] 665-6727

(Published VOICE of the Valley,
Tuesdays, January 13, 20, 27,
February 3, 10 & 17 2026)

DONATE BLOOD



Black Diamond Police Reports

On 12/21/2025, Officers were dispatched to a report of a suspicious vehicle in the area of Morgan ST. and Terrace PL. It was reported an ex-boyfriend of a resident was driving back and forth in the area. Officers contacted the subject by phone and he provided a valid reason for being in the area. The concerned party was advised she could petition the court for an order if she was fearful of the individual. This case is being documented for informational purposes

On 12/23/2025, officers were dispatched to a suspicious report that originated at the 22400

block of SE 300th St. Officers investigated this incident and determined no probable cause exists for the suspect in this case.

On 12/23/2025, officers were dispatched to an admin detail at 25510 Lawson ST. Dispatch advised that the Enumclaw jail notified Black Diamond officers of an inmate that was about to be released who had a Black Diamond Warrant. Officers confirmed the warrant and the subject was booked into Enumclaw jail.

On 12/24/2025, Officers were dispatched to a Domestic



(Continued from page 2)

Public Comment period where anyone can voice concerns, comments, etc.

Area Council Membership

Your Area Council, founded in 1978, is one of the longest continuously active local councils in King County. It serves as an all-volunteer, locally recognized advisory body to King County on behalf of all rural unincorporated area residents living in the Tahoma School District (TSD). The Area Council, in "working to keep the Rural Area rural," collaborates regionally with other King County Rural Area organizations through both the *Joint Rural Team* and its *Joint Transportation Initiative*.

The twelve-seat Area Council has four open seats. If you wish to join, please send an e-mail to: info@gmvuac.org or attend (either in-person or virtually) a monthly meeting and express your interest. To be eligible to join as a *Member* you need to live within the TSD.

Residents, even those not living within the TSD, are eligible to become *Associate Members* who can serve on any Area Council Committee: *Economic, Environment, Growth Management, Transportation, Public Relations, or Train Show*—please see the Area Council's website: www.gmvuac.org, and use the drop-down menu under *Committees*.

On our Home page recent *Monthly Meeting Summary Articles* can be in the *2026/2025 GMVUAC Monthly Meeting Articles* box (or by using the drop-down menu under *Correspondence*).

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violence report by phone. Officers contacted the both party's and documented a information report.

On 12/24/2025, officers observed a traffic infraction at the 30400 block of 3rd Ave. Officers initiated a traffic stop and identified that the drivers license was suspended in the 3rd degree. Officers issued the driver with citations for their traffic offenses.

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