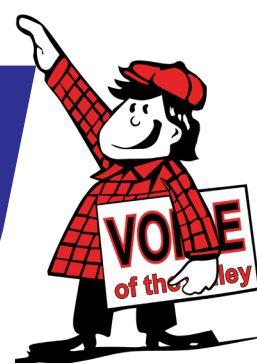


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VOICE of the Valley

57TH YEAR, NUMBER 03
MAPLE VALLEY, WASHINGTON
TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2026



Since 1969



Maple Valley Creative Arts Council members are thrilled to share that a brand-new mural has been installed at *Summit Park* in Maple Valley as of January 15, 2026! Created by local artist *Shelly Metzger*, this vibrant new artwork is officially in place and ready to be enjoyed by the community. This project was made possible through a grant awarded to the Maple Valley Creative Arts Council, in partnership with the City of Maple Valley. Planning began in Spring 2025, with a collaborative process to refine the concept, location, and design. The mural is inspired by Maple Valley's railroad history, the character of our community, and our shared love of gnomes. It also weaves in themes of perseverance and optimism, inspired by *The Little Engine That Could*, creating a playful and welcoming backdrop for visitors of all ages. The mural now proudly lives at Summit Park for the whole community to enjoy. A dedication ceremony will be held in the coming weeks. We look forward to officially dedicating the mural to the community and will share details once the City confirms the date. Stay tuned!

OPEN MIC Night

Join us, it's free!

January 29 @ 7 p.m.

Maple Valley Creative Arts Center,
23220 MV Hwy SE, Ste 15, Maple Valley, WA 98038



MAPLE VALLEY
Creative Arts Council

Upcoming Events & Programs

Open Mic Night January 29 at 7:00 p.m. This free monthly program continues to grow, and we're loving all the new faces! Share a song (new or old), read a poem, play a tune, or just come enjoy the creativity—no sign-up required, just show up.

JC's Improv Night February 12 at 7:00 p.m. Join us for an evening of laughs, creativity, and audience participation. Whether you jump in or sit back and enjoy the shenanigans, it's always a great time!

Mid-Winter Break Musical

Theatre Camp (Grades 3–6) February 17-20 from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Led by Pearl Thomas, this four-day camp gives young performers the chance to learn a short musical revue featuring favorite Disney and Broadway songs, practice harmony and group singing, and build confidence through musical theatre dance skills. Registration is open now, with only 20 spots available, so grab them while you can!

https://mvacac.clubexpress.com/content.aspx?page_id=4091&club_id=181069&item_id=2743396

The Case of the Missing Heart February 21 at 7:00 p.m. The Midnight Mystery Theater returns with *The Case of the Missing Heart*, written and directed by John Ruoff, this outrageous post-Valentine mystery—When Angst Bachstabber—is packed with corporate satire, murder, mayhem, and absurdity on the high seas. It's always a good time, and we'd love to see some new faces in the audience! Get your tickets at https://mvacac.clubexpress.com/content.aspx?page_id=4091&club_id=181069&item_id=2743396

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An Encouraging Word Taylor Creek Church

By Pastor Jason Katen



Sticks and Stones

We've all heard the old saying, "Sticks and stones may break your bones, but words will never hurt you." You may have shared this saying with your children. I know I used to hear it quite often, but nothing could be farther from the truth in all reality. Bones heal, but the damage that is done by the tongue reaches much farther and destroys much more than bones.

The Bible described the tongue as a small part of the body with a tremendous ability to destroy. It says that "the tongue is a small part of the body, and yet it boasts of great things. Behold, how great a forest is set aflame by such a small fire! And the tongue is a fire..." – James 3:5-6.

The amount of damage that begins with only a small spark is amazing. The great Chicago fire of 1871, before it could be contained, destroyed 17,500 buildings, killed 300 people, and left 125,000 others homeless. This blaze began when a lantern in Mrs. O'Leary's barn was presumably kicked over by her cow. What a tragedy. Equal is the tragedy of the many lives that are affected by the words that come forth from our mouths. Just as a spark can start a whole forest on fire, a few destructive words can destroy someone's character and life.

What is true of the negative sense of our words can be true of the positive as well. The Bible says, "A soothing tongue (word) is a tree of life, But a perversion in it crushes the spirit" – Proverbs 15:4. How many times do we use our words to hurt those around us, even our spouse and children? It only takes a few words to start an argument or crush the feelings of a loved one or acquaintance. The Lord tells us that we are to "Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, that it may give grace to those who hear." – Ephesians 4:29.

What proceeds from your mouth, blessing or destruction? Do your children or spouse feel like they are walking on eggs around you because you could go off like a rocket at any moment? What do your words convey about you? Remember, words can be much more damaging than sticks and stones. Think about this the next time you open your mouth, are you throwing a stone or speaking the truth in love?

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. Call us at 425-432-0634 or visit us online at www.taylorcreekchurch.org. Join us each Sunday, 9 AM for Sunday school and 10:15 AM for Worship. We are located at 21110 244th Ave. S.E., Maple Valley.



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 Katen

More News on our website

www.voiceofthevalley.com



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 Witte Rd. SE, Maple Valley, WA 98038

TAHOMA
SCHOOL DISTRICT 409





Black Diamond Police Reports

On 12/24/2025, officers responded to the 33100 block of Ten Trails Parkway SE for a report of a domestic dispute. Officers arrived and determined no crime occurred. The involved subject agreed to a voluntary mental health evaluation. The subject was transported to the hospital by a family member.

On 12/25/2025, Officers conducted a traffic stop in the 30400 block on 3rd Ave. Officer issued the driver a criminal citation for driving with a suspended license in the 3rd degree.

On 12/25/2025, officers responded to the 33000 block of Ten Trails Parkway for a welfare check. Officers contacted the subject and confirmed he was not in need of assistance and was not thinking of harming himself.

On 12/27/2025, Officers conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle due to the registered owner's driving status as showing suspended/revoked in the 2nd degree. Officers contacted the driver who identified himself as the registered owner. Officers issued a criminal citation for driving while license suspended in the 2nd degree and the vehicle was removed from the scene by a licensed driver.

On 12/28/2025, Officers were dispatched to a theft report in the 22000 block of SE 296th ST. Officers made contact with the reporting party who was concerned someone had stolen his identity, created a social media profile and sent nude photographs to people. After speaking with the reporting party Officers observed no evidence to support this had occurred. Officers provided the reporting party's care taker with their information and the case number before clearing the scene.

On 12/28/2025, officers observed a blocking disabled vehicle at the 22800 block of Ten Trails PKWY SE. Officers assisted in traffic control until the vehicle could be towed from the scene.

On 12/28/2025, officers observed a traffic infraction at the 33100 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.

On 12/31/2025, Officers were dispatched to suspicious activity where the reporting party believed that there car windshield was shot at. After investigations led by Officers it was determined that it was a rock chip.

On 12/31/2025, Officer were dispatched to a Welfare Check

in the 22800 block on SE Fir ST. Officers contacted that subjects and found that they were in no need medical attention and that there was no need for law enforcement action.

On 01-01-26, at approximately 07:32 hours, Officers received a call from Valley Communication Radio regarding a suspicious circumstance at a residence in the 32100 block of 3rd AVE. Officers were informed that a female called 911 to report that her garage light was on, and it should not be. Officers arrived and fond the garage door closed and locked. Officers found no one inside the garage. Officers cleared the scene.

On 01/01/2026, Officers were dispatched to assist King County Sheriffs Office for Verbal Dispute in the 31100 block on 3rd Ave. Officers were able to assist King County Sheriffs Office in helping the subject deal with a civil matter.

On 1/1/2026, officers responded to the 25700 block of Lawson St for a domestic dispute. The reporting party denied any crime occurred and simply wanted their property. The other party would not communicate with police. The reporting party will attempt contact later to retrieve their property.

On 01/03/2026, Officers were dispatched to the 33000 block on Ten Trails PKWY for a Civil Stand By. Officers were able to assist the reporting party with who to contact.

On 1/3/2026, an officer was in the 38100 block of the Enumclaw Black Diamond Road when they located a dog running in the roadway. The officer removed the dog from the roadway to keep it safe. A chip reader was used and contact information for the dogs owners was located. The dog was safely returned home.

On 01/03/2026 Officers were dispatched to the 25100 block of Favro ST in regard to a noise complaint. Officers contacted the subjects involved, who agreed to reduce the noise.

On 01/4/2025, Black Diamond Officers were dispatched to an animal complaint. Officers made contact with the complainant who reported their dog had been attacked by another dog and required medical treatment at a veterinary hospital. The reporting party was upset due to the cost of the medical bills and made statements that the owner of the dog that attacked hers was aware the dog was dangerous. This case has been forwarded to King County Animal Control for review.

On 01/05/2025, an Officer conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle at the 23900 block of Roberts Drive for expired tabs. It was found that the driver's license was DWLS 3rd Degree. The driver was issued a criminal traffic citation.

On 01/08/2026 an Officer responded to the 29000 block of 229th Ave SE reference to a malicious mischief. Victim advised sometime between 01/07/2026 and 01/08/2026 an unknown subject pried open her mailbox. The mailbox was damaged and it is unknown if any mail was stolen.

On 01/05/2025, Officers received a call for service regarding a suspicious subject in the 22900 block of SE 292nd PL. It was reported an unknown race, unknown age, male, wearing a reflective vest had attempted to open the reporting party's vehicle door. Officers conducted an area check in the surrounding neighborhoods and were unable to locate the individual.

On 01/05/2025, Officers were dispatched to a verbal domestic violence between a step-father and adult step-daughter in the 31100 block of 3rd AVE. Officers arrived on scene and spoke with the involved parties. It was determined no crime had occurred, the involved individuals agreed to not speak with one another.

On 01/05/2025, Officers took a report of suspicious circumstances. On 1/3/2025 two male subjects were soliciting religious information. The reporting party stated both subjects were white, one was short, and one was tall. The reporting party spoke with the tall subject in Russian. The two subjects did not solicit any of the reporting party's neighbors. At this time there is no evidence to support a crime has occurred or will occur.



Maple Valley Police News

Simple assault at 26500 block 225th Ave SE on 01/10/2026

All other offenses at 19400 block SE 266th St on 01/12/2026

All Other Larceny at 17400 BLOCK SE 270TH PL on 01/12/2026

Simple assault 26900 block 213th PI SE on 01/13/2026

Extortion/blackmail 27600 block 220th Ct SE on 01/14/2026

Wire fraud 26000 block 220th Ave SE on 01/15/2026



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When Coal Was King

By Bill Kombol



Among the nationalities immigrating to the United States during the 1800s, none were more associated with coal mining than the Welsh. By 1870, British immigrants, chiefly from Wales, accounted for more than 60% of all foreign-born miners in America. The Welsh miners were naturally inclined, bringing skills they had already perfected in Wales, then a global leader in coal and iron production. By 1900, more than half of the 100,000 Welsh-born residents lived in Pennsylvania, Ohio, and New York, where they were concentrated in coal mining, metallurgy, and slate quarrying. The life story of Joshua A. Morris is one of many Welsh success stories. His father, David Morris, was born in Ebbe Vale, Monmouthshire, Wales,

in 1830. Seven years later, in nearby Tredegar, his mother, Mary Harris, an orphan, was born. Tredegar was famous for its ironworks developed in 1797. The Morris and Harris families separately emigrated in the 1840s. David and Mary first met in Hickory Corner, Pennsylvania, an area in the anthracite coal belt. They married there in 1854. The family moved among the coal-mining areas of Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Iowa, where all ten children were born. Joshua Morris was their first, born in 1856 in Mahoning County, Ohio, where coal mining and iron blast furnaces dominated the economy. Coal and coke are critical inputs for the production of iron ore and steel.

Joshua's father, David Morris, was often on the move. In the 1850s, he traveled to California with three friends, pushing a two-wheeled cart loaded with their outfit. In 1876, David boarded a westbound Northern Pacific train to the Washington Territory, looking for opportunities. He returned two years later and purchased 150 acres of natural prairie, becoming the first landowner in the area that would later be known as Buckley.

Josh Morris joined his father out West in 1879. He found work at a Renton coal mine before traveling to California. There,

he joined Victor Tull's prospecting party that traveled to Washington and discovered high-quality coal deposits along the Green River in July 1880. That discovery led to the development of Black Diamond's coal mines. By 1882, Joshua was back in Renton, joined by his younger brother, David, and a sister, Mary Ellen.

Joshua married Izella Snow at the Snow family's Renton home on July 31, 1884. The wedding ceremony was performed by George Whitworth, an English-born Presbyterian missionary from Indiana who moved west in 1853. From his boyhood in England, Whitworth was fascinated by the Pacific Northwest, drawing inspiration from accounts of the Hudson Bay Company. In addition to his church work, Whitworth was instrumental in the development of coal mines in Newcastle, South Prairie, Renton, and Wilkeson. He later founded Whitworth College.

Josh and Izella Morris moved to Franklin, east of Black Diamond, in the mid-1880s. Their first daughter, Lena, was born there in 1887, followed by Nina Marie in 1890. Franklin was rocked by violence in late June 1891, when Black coal miners, recruited from the Midwest as strikebreakers, clashed with White miners who, through their Knights of Labor union, sought better wages and working conditions. The Franklin riot left two men dead, and two women seriously wounded before peace was restored. Franklin's mines were often mismanaged, leading to an August 1894 fire where 37 miners perished from smoke and suffocation after the mine's ventilation fan was turned off.

Soon after Joshua and Izella left Franklin and found a 40-acre farm in Osceola, two miles west of Enumclaw. They purchased the property for \$125, paid in gold. They also bought a lot in Renton. In Osceola, two more daughters were born to the Morris family: Ruth in 1892 and Lucile in 1896.

Next week's column will feature more about the Joshua & Izella Morris family and the Osceola home they built. This circa 1884 photo comes courtesy of two granddaughters, Betty Falk and Pauline Kombol. Its paper frame was playfully inscribed, 'The Lotus-Eater.' *The image was colorized by Boomer Burnham, a Tahoma High School photography instructor.*



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

State Board of Education Accepting Applications for New Student Board Member

The Washington State Board of Education is now accepting applications from current high school sophomores to serve as the Board's next Student Board Member for the 2026–2028 term. **Applications are open through Tuesday, March 31.**

Students from all backgrounds and postsecondary plans are encouraged to apply.

[https://sbe.wa.gov/about-board/student-board-members?utm_source=govdelivery&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Student+Ap](https://sbe.wa.gov/about-board/student-board-members?utm_source=govdelivery&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Student+Application+2026#apply)

About the Position

The Board's two Student Board Members represent more than one million students across Washington. Student members have the same responsibilities as adult members, including attending meetings, contributing to discussions, and voting on policy decisions.

In addition to participating in meetings, student members meet with lawmakers and other elected officials to advocate for policies that improve Washington's education system.

"Serving on the Board has not only given me the chance to represent my community and students statewide, but also the chance to learn more about myself and the education system I'm a part of," said Abby Wu, the Board's senior student member from Pullman High School. "This experience, from application to the work I partake in today, has equipped me with skills I've utilized to become a force for change."

Eligibility

We're looking for students who are willing to commit the time and energy needed to represent their peers. **You do not need prior experience in education policy or formal student leadership to apply.**

We value students who can understand and communicate the experiences of a wide range of students, including those who have faced academic challenges, pursued alternative learning pathways, or navigated school while facing barriers outside the classroom.

Eligible students must:

- Be a current sophomore (rising junior)
- Attend a public or private school in Washington during the 2026–2028 term
- Have a positive academic and/or extracurricular record, demonstrated by grades, activities, accomplishments, and/or recommendations of peers, educators, or community members

Benefits

Serving on the Board is a unique professional development opportunity and a powerful platform for student voice. Students gain leadership skills, policy experience, and professional connections that can support future goals after high school.

Student members work alongside policy and education leaders from across the state, many of whom can serve as strong professional references for career, college, or military applications.

Students are reimbursed for travel expenses and may receive a stipend of up to \$100 per day for Board meetings and other required activities.

Educators and Community Leaders: Help Spread the Word

Encouragement from a trusted adult is one of the most common reasons students decide to apply. We appreciate your help reaching students and those who support them.

We've created an informational brochure that explains the role, benefits, and how to apply. Additionally, you can share our announcement on Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn.

Direct any questions to Colton Kaltenfeldt, SBE Communications Manager Colton.Kaltenfeldt@k12.wa.us

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



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



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ABANDONED VEHICLE AUCTION

ABANDONED VEHICLE AUCTION
A1 Right Towing and Recovery, 18451 Des Moines Memorial Dr, SeaTac, WA 98148. **Saturday, January 24, 2026.** Viewing starts: 11:00 a.m. **Auction starts: 12:00 p.m.**
(Published VOICE of the Valley, Tuesday, January 20, 2026)

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ABANDONED VEHICLE AUCTION
Dick's Towing and Road Service, Inc. 8425 1st Ave S, Seattle, WA 98108. 206-364-2000 Ext. 137. **Wednesday, January 28, 2026.** 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, January 20, 2026)

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)

"Kiewit, Jamie Wisenbaker, 2200 Columbia House Blvd Vancouver, WA 98661-7753, is seeking coverage under the Washington State Department of Ecology's Construction Stormwater NPDES and State Waste Discharge General Permit. The proposed project, SR 169/ Rock Creek & UNTs to Jones Lake - Fish Passage Project, is located on SR169 in Black Diamond between Milepost (MP) 7.10 and MP 7.25 in Black Diamond in King county. This project involves 2 acres of soil disturbance for Highway or Road, construction activities. The receiving water are Jones Lake , Jones Lake North , Jones Lake South, Rock Creek , Stream 4, Stream 5. Any persons desiring to present their views to the Washington State Department of Ecology regarding this Application, or interested in Ecology's action on this Application, may notify Ecology in writing no later than 30 days of the last date of publication of this notice. Ecology reviews public comments and considers whether discharges from this project would cause a measurable change in receiving water quality, and, if so, whether the project is necessary and in the overriding public interest according to Tier II anti-degradation requirements under WAC 173-201A-320. Comments can be submitted to: ecyrewqianoi@ecy.wa.gov, or ATTN: Water Quality Program, Construction Stormwater Washington State Department of Ecology P.O. Box 47696 Olympia, WA 98504-7696"
(Published VOICE of the Valley, Tuesdays, January 20 & 27, 2026)

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Lincoln Towing Enterprises Inc. 1201 North 125th St., Seattle, WA 98133 . 206-364-2000. **Saturday, January 24, 2026.** 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, January 20, 2026)

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Payless Towing & Recovery, 33905 Pacific Highway South, Federal Way, WA 98003 253-941-4565. **Thursday, January 22, 2026 @ Noon.** Viewing @ 11:30
(Published VOICE of the Valley, Tuesday, January 20, 2026)

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ABANDONED VEHICLE AUCTION
Payless Towing & Recovery, 33905 Pacific Hwy South, Federal Way, WA 98003. 253-941-4565. **Tuesday, January 27, 2026 @ Noon.** Viewing @ 11:30 a.m.
(Published VOICE of the Valley, Tuesday, January 20, 2026)

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
Skyway Towing & Recovery RTTO 5191 & RTTO 5023, 2025 S 341st Pl., Federal Way, WA 98003. **Tuesday, January 27, 2026 - Viewing: 12:30 - Auction 1:30 p.m.**
See list at skywaytow.com
(Published VOICE of the Valley, Tuesday, January 20, 2026)

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ABANDONED VEHICLE AUCTIONS

ABANDONED VEHICLE AUCTIONS
Stan's Mt. View Towing Inc #5254 will sell to the highest bidder 11 abandoned vehicles on **January 27, 2026, at 2 p.m.** Prior inspections will be from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. The sale location is 9000 Delridge Way SW Seattle, WA 98106.
(Published VOICE of the Valley, Tuesday, January 20, 2026)

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