

Serving Black Diamond, Hobart, Maple Valley, Ravensdale & More
www.voiceofthevalley.com and <https://www.facebook.com/voiceofthevalley>

VOICE of the Valley

56TH YEAR, NUMBER 01
MAPLE VALLEY, WASHINGTON
TUESDAY, JANUARY 6, 2026



Since 1969



Maple Valley Toddler Time at the Maple Valley Community Center is back Tuesdays and Thursdays this week.

Mark Jones Promoted to Fire Chief



Puget Sound Fire promote to Fire Chief on Friday, January 2, 2026. During the ceremony, Chief Jones took his oath of office, given by Puget Sound Regional Fire Authority Governance Board Chair Toni Troutner, and then he had his badge pinned on by his wife. The Fire Chief of Puget Sound Fire provides overall leadership, strategic direction, and executive management for the organization while ensuring high-quality emergency services, fiscal stewardship, and compliance with all legal and governance requirements. The Chief also serves as the primary advisor to the Governance Board and is responsible for



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://mvmc.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 mvmc@comcast.net

organizational culture, community trust, and the development and wellbeing of all members. Mark started his career in the fire service in 1991 as a volunteer firefighter for the Kent Fire Department. He began his professional career in April of 1993 when he was hired by the Kent Fire Department. Mark and his family moved to Covington in 1984, and he graduated from Kentwood High School. After high school, he served in the Marines before becoming a volunteer firefighter. Please join us in congratulating Chief Jones on his promotion. Congratulations and good luck in your new role at Puget Sound Fire!



ARE YOU GETTING THE VOICE EACH WEEK?

Guarantee You Don't Miss A Single Issue!!

Call now to get a subscription and have it mailed to your home!

For only \$110 a year (52 issues) mailed directly to your home
billing@voiceofthevalley.com or call 425-432-9696



425-432-9696

www.voiceofthevalley.com



An Encouraging Word Taylor Creek Church

By Pastor Jason Katen





Church Information and Services

Something to Think About

I ran across this quote the other day and thought it quite powerful and sobering: “Ye call me Master and obey me not; Ye call me Light and see me not; Ye call me Way and walk not; Ye call me Life and desire me not; Ye call me Wise and follow me not; Ye call me Fair and love me not; Ye call me Rich and ask me not; Ye call me Eternal and seek me not; Ye call me Gracious and trust me not; Ye call me Noble and serve me not; Ye call me Mighty and honor me not; Ye call me Just and fear me not; If I condemn you BLAME ME not!”

Now listen to these words of Jesus: “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?’ Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’” - Matthew 7:21-23. In contrast, He also said, “My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand” - John 10:27-28.

Certainly, this is something to think about! Do you call Jesus Lord but obey him not? Jesus said, “You are My friends if you do what I command you.” - John 15:14. Cf. John 3:16 and 1 John 5:11-13.

If you would like to know more about how you can receive the hope found only in Christ, we would love to visit with you. You may contact us at 425-432-0634 or at www.taylorcreekchurch.org. Join us Sundays, 9:00 am for Sunday School and 10:15 am for worship. We are located at 21110 244th Ave S.E. Maple Valley, WA.

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



Black Diamond Police Reports

On 12/09/2025, Officers received a notification from a flock camera about a stolen license plate located in the 29200 block on 216th Ave SE. Officers conducted an area check of the area but, were unable to locate the vehicle.

On 12/10/2025, Officers responded to a one car motor vehicle accident in 30400 block on 224th Ave SE. Upon officers arrival it was discovered King County Sheriff's Office had completed the accident report.

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.

On 12/13/2025 Officers responded to a two vehicle collision that occurred in a parking lot located in the 22800 block of SE Fir ST. Officers completed a Collision Report to document the incident.

On 12/20/2025 at 1242 hours, Officer's conducted a traffic stop with an unlicensed vehicle at the 28600 block of 216th Avenue SE. Officer's observed multiple traffic violations and issued a citation and infraction for the offenses. The driver was released on scene.

On 12/20/2025, Officers were dispatched to the 31200 block for a Motor vehicle Accident with unknown injuries involving a vehicle and pedestrian. Officers completed collision report while the fire department was able to determine both party's involved in the collision sustained no injuries. The driver of the vehicle was issued a notice of infraction.

On 12/21/2025 Officers responded to the scene of a suspicious vehicle in the 32900 block of Ash AVE SE. The vehicle had been parked on the roadway without license plates for several days. Officers contacted the registered owner and determined that the vehicle was not abandoned.

On 12/21/2025 at 1230 hours, Officer's conducted a traffic stop with a vehicle after they observed no license plates attached. Officer's later discovered the driver was in possession and using an invalid trip permit and did not have vehicle insurance. Officer's issued a citation and infraction for the offenses and released the driver on scene.

— Shop Locally —

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.

Obituaries can be placed by emailing voice9696@comcast.net
Call 425-432-9696 for prices!!



JOIN US FOR A NIGHT OF JAZZ MUSIC AT OUR JAZZ FUNDRAISER

FRI JAN 9TH CONCERT AT 7:00

DESSERT RECEPTION
Starts at 6:30pm in the THS Commons

\$5 STUDENTS
\$12 GENERAL

TITLE SPONSOR:
AMBER BILLS REAL ESTATE GROUP

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO THE TAHOMA PERFORMING ARTS & BAND BOOSTERS



What Happens When You DON'T Advertise?

NOTHING!

Contact Us To Help Get You Started!
VOICE of the Valley
425-432-9696
voic9696@comcast.net

When Coal Was King

By Bill Kombol



In 1907, thirty Slovenian men, one woman, and two children gathered in front of the Black Diamond Hall to celebrate the chartering of Lodge 57 of the Slovene National Benefit Society. The flag in the photo is dated February 24, 1907. The lodge hall was located east of Railroad Avenue, across the street from the present-day Smokehouse & More. The Smoke House is situated on the same lot where the historic meat markets of Pete Fredrickson and Frank Zumek once occupied.

After its founding in 1882, Black Diamond's coal mines were magnets for immigrant miners. The Black Diamond Coal Mining Company, which relocated its operations from Nortonville, California, in pursuit of high-quality coal in the Green River district, was primarily composed of Welsh miners. Their long history of coal mining in Wales led many into management roles. The Welsh were followed by waves of Italians, who accounted for the majority of emigration during the 1890s. As the century turned, many Slavic people, including Slovenians, Croatians, Serbians, and Poles, began arriving to join the workforce that powered Black Diamond's booming economy. By the end of World War I, Slovenia was incorporated into the new nation of Yugoslavia (meaning South Slavs), before regaining its independence in 1990.

Behind the assembled Slovenians stood the lodge hall, which King County Assessor records date to 1898. However, it was actually constructed much earlier, likely in 1885 or 1886. As Carl Steiert, founder of the Black Diamond Historical Society, explained, "It was one of the first buildings the company built." Although the surrounding land was covered with bountiful forest, there was no sawmilling equipment available, so the lodge hall was constructed largely from redwood brought up from California.

The 30-foot-by-70-foot structure had two stories. The upper floor housed the lodge hall, which doubled as a dance floor. The lower level was a show hall for live performances. Later, it was converted into

a show hall where movies were shown.

Fraternal organizations experienced rapid growth in the United States during the late 19th and early 20th centuries as industrialization and immigration reshaped American life. Groups such as the Freemasons, Odd Fellows, Knights of Pythias, and numerous ethnic and religious lodges offered members a sense of belonging and stability in a fast-changing society.

The Slovene National Benefit Society (*Slovenska Narodna Podporna Jednota* or SNPJ), was founded in 1904 by immigrants to the United States. Like other fraternal bodies, the Slovene Society offered financial security, life insurance, and sickness benefits, while fostering solidarity among Slovenians far from their homeland. There were four SNPJ lodges in Washington State –Roslyn, Ravensdale, Black Diamond, and Cle Elum. Not surprisingly, all were coal mining towns.

Fraternal organizations were particularly appealing to working-class men seeking fellowship while navigating uncertainties of life in a new country. SNPJ supported cultural events, published newspapers, promoted education, and encouraged civic engagement within Slovene-American communities. The organization grew steadily, reaching peak membership between the 1930s and 1950s.

By the second half of the 20th century, fraternal organizations, such as SNPJ, experienced gradual declines in membership. Many factors contributed to the loss. The expansion of government welfare programs and employer-based benefits reduced the need for mutual aid societies. At the same time, increased leisure options, particularly television, provided competition for associations that relied on in-person meetings to promote brotherhood and retain members. The assimilated second or third generations often found formal rituals outdated. The changes left fraternal groups struggling to adapt in a society whose citizens no longer relied on them for material support or social connections.

Black Diamond still boasts three social organizations – the Fraternal Order of Eagles, Freemasons, and the Sons and Daughters of Italy. The Freemasons are the town's oldest, dating to November 1891, when Hugh Evans, John M. Phillips, Alexander Turnbull, William T. Jones, John Hamilton, Charles Peacock, Emilien Pommell, George F. Jones, Thomas Tonkin, David Webber, and R.A. Langford opened Diamond Lodge #83.

This photo comes courtesy of JoAnne Matsumura, an Issaquah historian. Colorization was undertaken by 'Boomer' Burhnam, a Tahoma photographer instructor doing business at Boomers Photography. Information about the Slovene National Benefit Society was provided by Gary L. Gorsha, former President of SNPJ Lodge 738, who has created several websites documenting information on Slovenes and their lodges.

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

WILDERNESS
ANIMAL HOSPITAL

wildernessvet.com
425.432.9975

Wilderness Animal Hospital is proud to serve the Maple Valley area for your pet's health care needs.

We're open Mon – Fri 7:30am – 7pm, and Saturday from 8am – 5pm
Book an appointment today!

23714 222nd PI SE, Suite L, Maple Valley | Located above QFC in the Wilderness Village Shopping Center

Service Directory

Call 425-432-9696 or
Email: advertising@voiceofthevalley.com

ACCOUNTING

SCHRAM Associates

Providing Accounting, Bookkeeping & Tax Prep Services for 30 Years!

Licensed to practice before the IRS

253-639-0494

www.schramandassociates.com

ASPHALT

Quality Workmanship • Reasonable Prices

COMMERCIAL • RESIDENTIAL

LAKERPC0503M

- Parking Lots •Driveways •Utilities Resurfacing
- Sub-Divisions •Roadways •Play Courts •Excavating

COMPLETE CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS AVAILABLE

Hours: M-F 6 a.m. - 6 p.m.

253-631-8290

AUTOMOTIVE

BLACK DIAMOND AUTOMOTIVE

Auto Repair & Muffler Shop

Professional, Friendly Service

360-886-2800

32607 3rd Ave. •Black Diamond
maplevalleymerchants.com

Wilderness Auto Service

- Electronic Engine Tune-up
- Complete Brake Service
- Air Conditioning
- Front End Alignment and Repair
- Headlight Aim
- Tire/Battery sales and service
- Lubrication and Oil Changes

A.S.E. Approved Mechanics

Open for Gas - 24 Hours

Mechanics 7 a.m. - 8 p.m. Mon.-Sun.

425-432-1636

Free pickup and delivery

CONCRETE

Serving the community for over 30 years. Locally owned and operated.

Free Estimates - 206.510.2005

rodney@sbconcretelc.com

SBCONL*970BP

Licensed*Bonded*Insured

CONSTRUCTION SUPPLIES

MILLWORK OUTLET

Windows, Doors, Mouldings, Etc. Surplus and new building supplies

425-432-5189 www.millworkoutlet.com

www.facebook.com/millworkoutlet

www.instagram.com/millwork_outlet

HEATING

Furnace Tune-up Special \$149⁹⁵

- Furnaces •Water Heaters
- Air Conditioners

All Major Brands

Puget Sound Energy Preferred Contractor

425-254-0031

COMPLHA036J3

NOTARY

Need A Notary?

Notarize Your Documents At The

VOICE Of the Valley

\$8 A Page!

425-432-9696

PLUMBING

Complete Plumbing and Drain Cleaning Service

Large Repair Parts Inventory

425-432-1977

24 hr. service

Commercial, Residential, Industrial

Prompt Professional Licensed

St. Contractors # CAHILPH150RKK

SAND & GRAVEL

PALMER COKING COAL CO

- Crushed Gravel: 3/8" 5/8" 1-1/4"
- Drain Gravel: Pea 7/8" 1-1/2"
- Sand/Rock
- Top Soil/Bark
- Red Cinders/Lava Rock

U-Haul or We Deliver +Open Saturdays

31407 Hwy. 169 - Black Diamond

425-432-4700 360-886-2841

www.palmercc.com

RECYCLE

REDUCE

REUSE

CLASSIFIED ADS

www.voiceofthevalley.com or www.facebook.com/voiceofthevalley
425-432-9696 or Email: advertising@voiceofthevalley.com

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 14, 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 6, 2026)

ABANDONED VEHICLE AUCTION **Lincoln Towing Enterprises Inc.** 1201 North 125th St., Seattle, WA 98133 . 206-364-2000. **Saturday, January 10, 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 6, 2026)

ABANDONED VEHICLE AUCTION **Lincoln Towing Enterprises Inc.,** 8425 1st Ave S, Seattle, WA 98108. 206-364-2000 Ext. 1370. **Wednesday, January 14, 2026.** 3-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 6, 2026)

ABANDONED VEHICLE AUCTION **Payless Towing & Recovery,** 33905 Pacific Highway South, Federal Way, WA 98003 253-941-4565. **Thursday, January 8, 2026 @ Noon.** Viewing @ 11:30 (Published VOICE of the Valley, Tuesday, January 6, 2026)

ABANDONED VEHICLE AUCTION **Payless Towing & Recovery,** 33905 Pacific Hwy South, Federal Way, WA 98003. 253-941-4565. **Tuesday, January 13, 2026 @ Noon.** Viewing @ 11:30 a.m. (Published VOICE of the Valley, Tuesday, January 6, 2026)

ABANDONED VEHICLE AUCTION **Skyway Towing & Recovery RTTO 5191 & RTTO 5023,** S 341st Pl., Federal Way, WA 98003. **Tuesday, January 13, 2026.** Viewing: 12:30 - **Auction 1:30 p.m.** See list at skywaytow.com (Published VOICE of the Valley, Tuesday, January 6, 2026)

Making A Difference Foundation Receives \$5,000 Grant

Submitted by Ahndrea Blue, President/CEO

Making A Difference Foundation (MADF) has received a \$5,000 grant from the June and Julian Foss Foundation to support its Feeding Our Future Youth Farming Program, an initiative designed to empower at-risk teens and young adults through agriculture, mentorship, and workforce development.

The Feeding Our Future program provides youth ages 16–25 with hands-on farming experience, leadership development, and business skills while strengthening food security and food sovereignty within the community. Participants work alongside local farmers and mentors to grow culturally relevant foods, learn sustainable agricultural practices, and explore pathways to employment and entrepreneurship.

"This investment helps us continue creating meaningful opportunities for young people who have experienced barriers to stability," said [Ahndrea Blue, President/CEO of MADF. "Through Feeding Our Future, youth gain practical skills, confidence, and a sense of purpose while contributing to a more resilient local food system."

The grant will support program operations and youth engagement activities, helping MADF provide consistent training, guidance, and support services that promote long-term success for participants.

Making A Difference Foundation is deeply grateful to the June and Julian Foss Foundation for its commitment to youth, families, and community-based solutions.

More News on our website www.voiceofthevalley.com

CALL FOR VENDORS

JULY 18 & 19, 2026

COMMERCIAL SALES

FOOD TRUCKS

ARTS & CRAFTS

NON-PROFITS

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

APPLICATIONS OPEN NOW AT WWW.COVINGTONWA.GOV/COVINGTONDAYS

PUBLISHED EVERY TUESDAY SINCE 1969!! ~ [HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/VOICEOFTHEVALLEY](https://www.facebook.com/voiceofthevalley) ~ OFFICE HOURS BY APPOINTMENT

VOICE of the Valley Newspaper

www.voiceofthevalley.com ~ Owner/Publisher - Donna Hayes ~ voice9696@comcast.net

News and Advertising Email: Advertising@voiceofthevalley.com & News@voiceofthevalley.com

WEEKLY DEADLINES: Display Ads - Wednesday by 5 p.m. News Copy: Thursday by 3 p.m. Classified Ads: Friday by Noon

26909 206th Ave SE, Covington, WA 98042 ~ NOTARY SERVICE AVAILABLE ~ OFFICE - 425-432-9696