

# Baby found inside truck after Olympia police chase on I-5, sheriff says, 2A

Edition readers get more | Subscribers can find bonus content at [theolympian.com/edition](http://theolympian.com/edition).



Your local weather forecast  
**12A**

VOLUME 136, No. 365  
STAY CONNECTED [THEOLYMPIAN.COM](http://THEOLYMPIAN.COM)



Stay on top of local news and sports at [theolympian.com](http://theolympian.com).

NEWS ALL DAY.  
YOUR WAY.

SUNDAY MAY 3 2026

\$5.99

# The Olympian

## Conflict prompts meetings between Tumwater, school board

BY TY VINSON  
[tvinson@theolympian.com](mailto:tvinson@theolympian.com)

After recent conflict, the Tumwater School District board of directors decided April 23 to put together a work group aimed at planning a series of joint meetings with the City Council that would likely happen once a year.

According to previous report-

ing from The Olympian, the Tumwater City Council and Tumwater School District were scheduled to have a joint meeting on April 14. Three out of the five school board members were absent from the meeting.

The agenda for the joint meeting included topics such as the School Resource Officer program, sharing facilities, the Tumwater FRESH Program, and creating a community of wel-

coming and belonging.

Board members Melissa Beard and Julie Watts were the only people from the district, including general staff members, who attended the April 14 meeting. School Board President Casey Taylor and board members Ty Kuehl and Rob Warner were not in attendance. Kuehl and Warner both notified staff they wouldn't be in attendance due to being out of town.



SCREENSHOT Tumwater School District

The Tumwater School District board of directors met April 23 to discuss creating a small work group aimed at planning a joint meeting with the Tumwater City Council.

Taylor did not provide an immediate reason to the city or school board for not being in attendance, but later told The Olympian he had a prior com-

mitment to coach a youth baseball game, and that the joint meeting was not official, there-

SEE MEETINGS, 8A



BRIAN HAYES [bhayes@thenewtribune.com](mailto:bhayes@thenewtribune.com)

The rural property at 1318 88th Ave SW., in unincorporated Thurston County, is the proposed site of 105 single family lots, on Thursday, April 23, 2026, in Tumwater, Wash.

## Developer proposes clearing forest to build 105 new homes

BY MARTÍN BILBAO  
[mbilbao@theolympian.com](mailto:mbilbao@theolympian.com)

A local developer aims to clear a heavily forested property near Tumwater to build 105 new homes.

The 22-acre property is located at 1318 88th Ave. SW in rural Thurston County but within the Tumwater Urban Growth Area.

Tenino Land Co. LLC is proposing subdividing the property into 105 single-family lots and

removing about 1 million board feet of timber, according to county documents. The plan has drawn the ire of some neighbors who worry about the environmental and traffic impacts of the project.

The developer applied for a preliminary plat in October 2024, and the Thurston County hearing examiner held a public hearing on April 14. County staff and representatives for the applicant detailed the project and responded to public com-

ments during the hearing.

The hearing examiner's decision is expected by May 4. However, it's unclear when construction may start.

"The development process is very time-consuming and prone to delay and revision," Todd Hansen of Tenino Land Co. LLC told The Olympian in an emailed statement.

If the preliminary plat is approved, the developer still needs to get approval for a civil construction plan before seek-

ing construction bids, Hansen said.

"This process can take several months, and it is not certain that it will be complete in time to begin construction in this building season," Hansen said.

### WHAT'S ON THE PROPERTY NOW?

The property is between the southern end of the Olympia Regional Airport and Interstate

SEE HOMES, 8A

## Trustees interview finalists for Timberland interim role

BY ROLF BOONE  
[rboone@theolympian.com](mailto:rboone@theolympian.com)

Twenty-six people applied to be the interim director at Timberland Regional Library, according to a trustee who updated The Olympian about the search for a new director to lead the five-county district.

Twenty-one of those applicants met an April 10 application deadline, followed by five more applicants after it, said Thurston County Trustee Mary Beth Harrington.

They received applications from local, national and even one international candidate, she said. The search process was developed by Harrington with approval from the board. She has conducted leadership transitions and searches over the past 20 years.

"Currently, the Interim Executive Director's contract will be for 6-12 months to allow time for an extensive search for the permanent or regular Executive Director," she wrote in an email to The Olympian. "The Interim Executive Director will not be considered for the regular Executive Director position, but that decision could change."

The library district needs an interim director after former longtime Executive Director Cheryl Heywood resigned in late March. The district is working its way through a difficult budget process that has included voluntary and involuntary layoffs, although those involuntary cuts were recently reduced.

Top candidates for the interim role were interviewed on April 18 and their responses were scored on a 5-point scale. Remaining initial interviews will be completed this week, she said.

The interview questions were developed by Pacific County Trustee Toni Gwin who has experience in that area, according to Harrington. The questions were based on the qualifications and characteristics the board identified as most desirable for the interim director.

"Qualifications for a successful Interim Executive Director include experience leading a multi-jurisdictional organization made up of both rural and urban

SEE INTERVIEW, 4A

## Iran threatens 'painful' retaliation over US' 'final blow'

BY BRENDAN COLE  
*Newsweek World*

Iran has warned of region-wide retaliation to U.S. strikes following reports that Washington was considering a "final blow" against the Islamic Re-

public.

According to reports, the U.S. military presented President Donald Trump with new options against Iran as negotiations to free up the Strait of Hormuz, which Tehran holds captive, have stalled.

Joint U.S. and Israeli strikes

on Iran began on February 28. On April 8, a ceasefire was announced through Pakistani mediation, but talks days later in Islamabad failed to yield a breakthrough agreement. As the fragile ceasefire Trump declared remains in place, Iran's Aerospace Force Com-

mander Majid Mousavi said any further U.S. attack on Iran would prompt "long and painful strikes" on American regional positions.

"We've seen what happened to your regional bases," he said on Thursday, according to local media. "We will see the same thing happen to your warships."

Mahmoud Nabavian, a member of parliament's national security and foreign policy

SEE IRAN, 3A



We're dedicated to delivering the journalism you rely on. Discover the stories that matter to you inside. Subscribers, explore more stories and features like puzzles and games at [theolympian.com/edition](http://theolympian.com/edition).

FOR CUSTOMER SERVICE QUESTIONS, CALL US AT:  
800-905-0296



0 40901 06202 8