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# VOICE of the Valley

56<sup>TH</sup> YEAR, NUMBER 01  
MAPLE VALLEY, WASHINGTON  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2025



Since 1969

## VOICE of the Valley Front Page Stories

### January

When two of our crew members saw a big green plastic bag on the side of the road, they thought it was just garbage. It was Christmas Eve and two members of the Leavenworth shed crew were checking conditions on US 2 near the Big Y east of Leavenworth, which had been cleared and treated earlier in the day. But when they picked up the bag, they discovered it was filled with Christmas gifts, all wrapped and tagged. and found the family they belonged to and returned them.

\*\*\*\*\*

Transparency, Trust and Tahoma's Superintendents, Sexual Abuse Prevention Strategies Improving in Tahoma School District and Ric Lewis is newest School Board Director were top stories by Jennifer Rydberg.

\*\*\*\*\*

Tickets For Tahoma High Schools Performance Of "Frozen" Are Sold Out! TBFJC Storm Cheerleaders earned the Grand Champion awards in both Game Day and Traditional.

\*\*\*\*\*

Congratulations to newly elected Councilor John Herbert, and incumbents Councilors Didem Pierson, Syd Dawson, Les Burberry, and Sean P. Kelly. They all took their Oath of Office with City Magistrate Rochon at the first Council meeting of the year on Monday, January 8, 2024. Photos Courtesy of City of Maple Valley.

\*\*\*\*\*

Terry Beckler serves coffee at Cedar Grange.

\*\*\*\*\*

### February

THS Class Picnic Set for July 27.

\*\*\*\*\*

Grand Celebration of Boat Racers Has Memories, Trophies, Articles.

\*\*\*\*\*

Vine Maple Place Receives \$200,000 Grant from KeyBank.

The next phase of the SR169 Traffic Improvement is relocation of a Puget Sound Energy main gas pipe, located at SR169 and



Roberts Drive in Black Diamond. Due to being on a state highway, the City will be working with WS-DOT.

\*\*\*\*\*

### March

Wilderness Animal Hospital raised an impressive \$9,414.90 for Left Behind K9!

\*\*\*\*\*

Tahoma High School senior Slayton Cooper was surprised with the prestigious University of Washington Presidential Scholarship!

\*\*\*\*\*

Tahoma Boys Swim And Dive Team Are The NPSL 4A League Champions. Bears Wrestling Is Back On Top

\*\*\*\*\*

0.2% sales tax increase to fund transportation maintenance for Covington on Ballot in August.

\*\*\*\*\*

### April

Maple Valley Council Adopts Shopping Cart Ordinance

\*\*\*\*\*

Tahoma School District to Hold Levies and Leaders Q & A's.

\*\*\*\*\*

Tahoma School District Replacement Levy.

\*\*\*\*\*

Heidi Beck, D'Ann Tedford and Grange Master Terry Beckler are among those who assist in serving visitors at Cedar Grange Hall.

\*\*\*\*\*

Maple Valley Celebrates First Ever Earth Day

\*\*\*\*\*

Judy Schiller and Sherrie Evans have been celebrated as winners in Cedar River boat racing. Both still live in the Maple Valley area.

\*\*\*\*\*

Diane and Cory Olson sign the books they compiled and edited, "Black Diamond: Mining the Memories"

\*\*\*\*\*

Maple Valley Farmers' Market placed FOURTH in the NATION!

\*\*\*\*\*

### May

Cemeteries spruce up day.

\*\*\*\*\*

Black Diamond for International Water Safety Day! Free life jackets and bicycle helmets will be distributed.

\*\*\*\*\*

Tahoma Black Lacrosse Team Is Heading To The Playoffs.

\*\*\*\*\*

Amid Record Level Of Overdose Deaths, Local Leaders Announce 4th Annual King County Conference On Substance Use.

\*\*\*\*\*

Eagle Scout Candidate Sofia Osses from Troop 711/7711 In Maple Valley, Recently Completed her Eagle Scout Service Project.

\*\*\*\*\*

### June

Maple Valley Days Is This Weekend!!

\*\*\*\*\*

As Sunshine Returns To The Pacific Northwest One Teenager Is Finding A Way To Amplify That Light with yellow transport buckets equipped with water taps – providing a way to wash hands in flowing water instead of communal bowls.

\*\*\*\*\*

Reminder on Boating Hours & Speed from the Black Diamond Police Department.

\*\*\*\*\*

### July

Fireworks at LakeWilderness and Lake Meridian Park.

\*\*\*\*\*

Miners Day in Black Diamond was Hot but Fun!!

\*\*\*\*\*

Near-Drowning at Lake Wilderness.

\*\*\*\*\*

THS Multi-Class Picnic At Mud Mountain.

\*\*\*\*\*

5th Annual Mission Foods Northwest Nationals at Pacific Raceways.

\*\*\*\*\*

### August

Tahoma National Cemetery to Host Civil War Ceremony and Honors Burial of 55 Union Soldiers and Spouses Is Among the Largest Since the End of the War.

\*\*\*\*\*

Mira, Murals and More Spotted Around Town (Black Damond).

\*\*\*\*\*

Attendees at "Celebrate Them – Boat Racers" included the racers who competed on Cedar River. The 2024 celebration was co-sponsored by Maple Valley Community Center and Maple Valley Historical Society.

\*\*\*\*\*

Members of Tahoma High School, Class of 1994, had an exciting and fun-filled thirty-year reunion. They started with a Maple View Middle School tour guided by Mayor Sean P. Kelly. The students also visited the new Tahoma High School at Four Corners. Their reunion weekend ended

(Continued on page 2)

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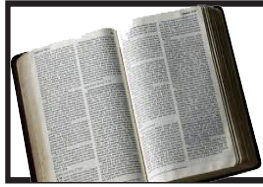
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\*\*\*\*\*

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\*\*\*\*\*

### 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



## An Encouraging Word Taylor Creek Church

By Pastor Jason Katen



## Taking God at His Word

In the Old Testament book of Isaiah chapter 22, the prophet Isaiah prophesied judgment upon the tribe of Judah. Isaiah told of an impending judgment by the kingdom of Babylon because of the tribe's rebellion and unrepentant hearts. God told them through the prophet Isaiah that their leaders would be captured without a bow, their valleys would be full of chariots, and horsemen would be at their gate. Despite the prediction of great judgment, repentance and renewed trust in the Lord did not follow. Isaiah said: "The Lord, the Lord Almighty, called you on that day to weep and to wail, to tear out your hair and put on sackcloth. But see, there is joy and revelry, slaughtering of cattle and killing of sheep, eating of meat and drinking of wine! 'Let us eat and drink,' you say, 'for tomorrow we die!'" - Isaiah 22:12-13.

Judah did not repent and trust in the Lord but rather said they could do it on their own. They trusted in their own resources, and Isaiah told them: "You counted the buildings in Jerusalem and tore down houses to strengthen the wall. You built a reservoir between the two walls for the water of the Old Pool, but you did not look to the One who made it or have regard for the One who planned it long ago." - Isaiah 22:10-11. In their rebellion, they indulged in the sins of immorality, false worship, and even offering up their children to false gods, all while professing to know God - Jeremiah 32:32-35. Is this not like so many today that hear and know of God's judgment for sin yet continue to ignore the warnings? We say, "We do not need God. We live our own lives, do our own things, in our own strength, and in our own way."

Sometimes we succeed. In His Grace, God allowed Judah time to repent, sustaining them in a few battles, but they did not survive Babylon, who God sent to judge them. You may survive a few on your own, but in the end, survival does not matter, only where we stand with God. The Lord made His truth very clear. The question is how do we respond, like Judah, who said let us eat and drink for tomorrow we die, or with repentance and obedience as they should have? The Lord wants us to be reconciled to Him. Sin has separated us, but He has made the way for us to know and stand in righteousness before Him - John 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life."

This is the love of God. Jesus invites you, "Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest." Matthew 11:28. 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. We are located at 21110 244th Ave. S.E., Maple Valley.

## 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](mailto:voice9696@comcast.net)

Call 425-432-9696 for prices!!

## Obituaries



### Lisa Jane Paris

Lisa Jane Paris, of Maple Valley, Washington, passed away on December 15, 2024 at 60 years old.

Growing up all of her life in Maple Valley, Lisa touched so many lives - as a paraeducator in Tahoma School District, a cashier at Fred Meyer, an incredible friend, a loving mother, and a dedicated Nana.

Lisa leaves a legacy of love, kindness, strength and care. Her warmth and light shine through all of those she has touched. She was an angel on earth and is now watching over us from above. We are eternally grateful for the time we shared with her, and we will always love her to the moon and back.

She is survived by her two daughters Audrey and Elizabeth, parents Jane and Roger (Sharon), twin sister Teresa, sister Robin, brother Ron, son-in-law Ryan, and granddaughters Keira and Claire.

We welcome loved ones, family, friends and all of those impacted by our beautiful mother to join us at her Celebration of Life on Sunday, January 12th, 2025 at 2 pm. at the Lake Wilderness Lodge (22500 SE 248th Street, Maple Valley, WA 98038).

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(Continued from page 1)

with a dinner at the Muckleshoot Casino on Saturday, August 24, and a family picnic at Kanaskat-Palmer State Park on Sunday, August 25.

\*\*\*\*\*

### September

Community Help Is Needed to Open Eatery and Cafe in Black Diamond.

\*\*\*\*\*

Groundbreaking at Switcher's Landing in Maple Valley.

\*\*\*\*\*

GMVUAC Local Planning Open House and Train Show.

\*\*\*\*\*

Penny Merriman, Chinook District Director, Jeanne Buchanan, Maple Trails President, and Tory Bennett, 2nd Assistant Director, enjoying the Trex bench at Shadow Lake Nature Preserve.

\*\*\*\*\*

### October

Black Diamond Museum Wins Seattle Times Peoples' Choice.

\*\*\*\*\*

Black Diamond Cemetery Tour Offers History, New Perspective.

\*\*\*\*\*

The 26th Annual Maple Valley Model Train Show.

\*\*\*\*\*

History of Black Diamond Featured at Museum.

\*\*\*\*\*

Tom Bowen, Maple Valley's Construction Inspector, Is The City's Longest Tenured Employee.

\*\*\*\*\*

Maple Valley Market Reopens after being closed for years.

\*\*\*\*\*

### November

Detectives Seeking Information On A Homicide Investigation.

\*\*\*\*\*

Maple Valley Veterans Memorial Dedicated.

\*\*\*\*\*

The biggest windstorm in a long time hit Washington State last week and left hundreds of thousands of people in the dark. The staff at the VOICE of the Valley thank the workers at PSE and other agencies for working around the clock to restore the power. We also thank the many unknown heroes who went above and beyond to help their fellow communities and neighbors who needed help during this horrible storm.

\*\*\*\*\*

### December

Tahoma High School Drama Club Will Be Performing The Little Mermaid.

\*\*\*\*\*

Ravensdale Market Is Open after being closed due to a car going thru the front to the store in November.

\*\*\*\*\*

GMVUAC On-Site Septic Systems Code Changes.

\*\*\*\*\*

Hometown Christmas Thrives in Black Diamond.

\*\*\*\*\*

Merry Christmas From All Of Us Here At The VOICE of the Valley!

\*\*\*\*\*

GMVUAC Monthly Meeting Announcement.

\*\*\*\*\*

All Of Us Here At The VOICE Of The Valley Wish You The Happiest New Year Ever!!

## More News on our website [www.voiceofthevalley.com](http://www.voiceofthevalley.com)

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# When Coal Was King

By Bill Kombol

Archie Eltz was the smartest coal miner this columnist ever knew. Archie had a mind like a steel trap and decades later could recite minute details of coal mine history. During two hours of interviews conducted in February and August 1985, Eltz remembered scenes and events stretching back to the 1920s with the conversation's running over 15,000 words.

Arthur Walter Eltz was born Sept. 30, 1915, in Butlerville, Utah, near Salt Lake City. His parents, Frank, and Annie (Zadnick) Eltz both hailed from Germany. After Frank Eltz worked hard rock mines in Spokane and Butte, Montana, plus a coal mine in Utah, the Eltz family moved to Black Diamond in 1921. Archie was six years old, and Black Diamond was paralyzed by a bitter strike starting in August 1921 over proposed wage reductions. A year after the end of World War I, coal prices fell precipitously, and the coal mine operators sought wage concessions that the United Mine Workers and their union members refused to accept. The lockout and strike were eventually settled, but bitterness within the town of Black Diamond remained for decades.

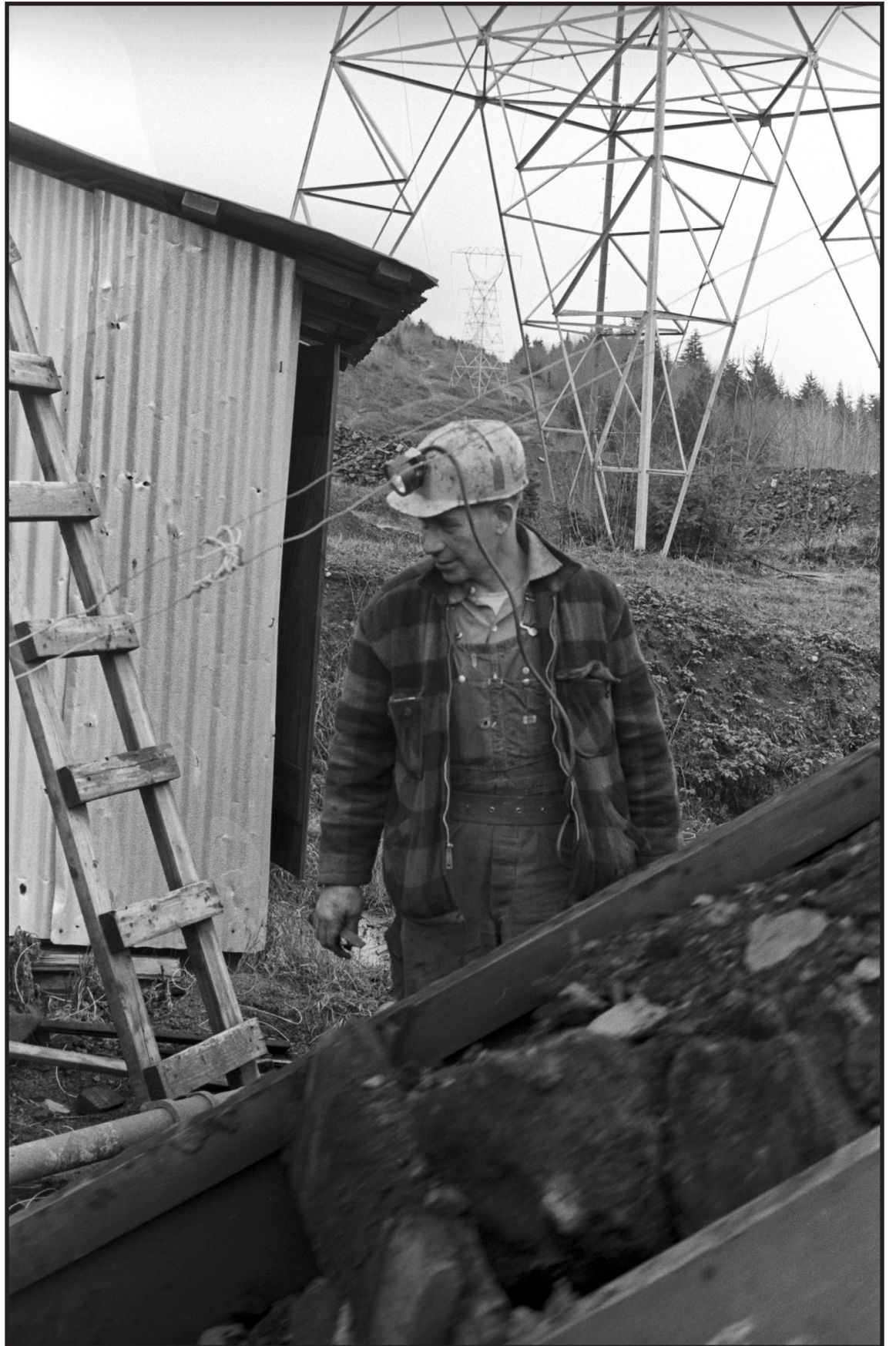
Two years later in June 1923, tragedy struck the Eltz family when a slab of rock fell from the roof of Mine 11 instantly killing Frank Eltz. He was 37 years old and left a widow with three orphaned children. The family lived across the highway from Mine 11, then the largest coal mine in King County.

During high school, Archie found employment working on the "Kummer cut-off" connection now called State Route 169 that created a direct connected between Black Diamond and Enumclaw. Eltz graduated from Black Diamond High School in 1934 and soon began packing timber for \$4.70 per day in a nearby mine. Eltz was eager to learn and became a jack-of-all-trades. By the end of his career, he'd worked as a loader operator, rope rider, cager, mucker, hoist-man, surveyor, mechanic, pipelayer, and heavy equipment operator. He was equally ambitious often working two jobs at a time

In 1949, Eltz joined Palmer Coking Coal Company where he remained for the next 24 years before retiring in 1972. In addition to his day job, Archie often cut mine props on a contract basis supplying the timber to shore up the roofs of Palmer's underground gangways and workings. With his "cherry picker" truck he cut Douglas fir trees of the required diameter, then bucked them to length, delivering the timber posts and collars to the mine. And from 1953-55, he worked part-time for Louie Draghi at his coal mine east of Highway 169 near Jones Lake. He also labored part-time for King County Water District No. 66 from 1956-59, a precursor to the Black Diamond water system. After retiring from Palmer, Eltz joined Black Diamond full-time, though he'd worked part-time for the City since 1966. He retired in 1982 at the age of 66.

During his retirement years, Archie continued volunteering around his hometown in whatever capacity was needed. He also was a constant presence in the mine office of Palmer Coking Coal where he delivered tutorials on surveying, coal mining, road building, local history, and anything else that came to mind. Archie died a happy man on July 2, 2000, at age 84. He was survived by his second wife, Agnes Eltz, and his three children, Archie Eltz Jr., Janet (Eltz) Chavanu, and Gary Eltz.

The full transcript of Archie Eltz's 37-page interview is held at the Black Diamond Museum. This column is indebted to Frank Hammond who not only transcribed the interview but wrote a touching tribute



celebrating Archie's legacy that was published in the January 2008 issue of the Black Diamond Historical Society Newsletter.

This April 1974 photo by Barry Kombol shows Archie Eltz at the Rogers No. 3 mine portal as a five-ton coal car is hoisted up the tippel, a triangle structure where the coal was dumped for further processing. At the time he was no longer employed by Palmer Coking Coal but was delivering the timber he'd cut for mine props. The BPA powerlines in the background stretched over the opening to the Rogers No. 3 mine, located just north of Kent-Kangley Road in Ravensdale.

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**2025 COMMUNITY EVENTS**

MARCH 1 - Superhero Social 11 a.m.-1 p.m.	AUG 1 - Outdoor Family Movie 9 p.m.
APRIL 5 - Daddy Daughter Dance 6-8:30 p.m.	AUG 8 - Outdoor Family Movie 8:45 p.m.
APRIL 19 - Underwater Egg Hunt 4-5 p.m. or 6-7 p.m.	AUG 9 - Covington KidsFest 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
APRIL 26 - April Pool's Day 1-3 p.m.	AUG 15 - Outdoor Family Movie 8:30 p.m.
MAY 3 - Tiaras & Tea 9-11 a.m. or 1-3 p.m.	AUG 16 & 17 - Covington Summer Slam Pickleball Tournament
JUNE 14 - Summer Splashtacular 1-3 p.m.	AUG 22 - Back to School Night 6:30-9 p.m.
JUNE 25 - Princess & Super Hero Meet & Greet 12-2 p.m.	OCT 25 - Spooky Swims 5-6 p.m. or 7-8 p.m.
JULY 19 & 20 - Covington Days Festival	DEC 6 - Community Tree Lighting 4-6 p.m.
JULY 25 - Concert in the Park 6:30-8 p.m. Outdoor Family Movie 9 p.m.	Hollydaze Swim 6:30-8:30 p.m.

[www.covingtonwa.gov/events](http://www.covingtonwa.gov/events)  
\*dates/times subject to change

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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, January 15, 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, January 7, 2025)

### ABANDONED VEHICLE AUCTION

ABANDONED VEHICLE AUCTION  
**Lincoln Towing Enterprises Inc.,** 1201 North 125th St., Seattle, WA 98133. 206-364-2000. **Saturday, January 11, 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, January 7, 2025)

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### ABANDONED VEHICLE AUCTION

ABANDONED VEHICLE AUCTION  
**Thursday, January 9, 2025 @ Noon / Viewing @ 11:30 a.m. Payless Towing & Recovery** 33905 Pacific Hwy South, Federal Way, WA 98003. 253-941-4565 (Published VOICE of the Valley, Tuesday, January 7, 2025)

### ABANDONED VEHICLE AUCTION

ABANDONED VEHICLE AUCTION  
**Tuesday, January 14, 2025. @ Noon / Viewing @ 11:30 a.m. Payless Towing & Recovery** 33905 Pacific Hwy South, Federal Way, WA 98003 . 253-941-4565 (Published VOICE of the Valley, Tuesday, January 7, 2025)

### ABANDONED VEHICLE AUCTION

ABANDONED VEHICLE AUCTION  
**Maple Valley Towing** 23829 SE 264th St., Maple Valley, WA 98038. 425-433-0516. **Friday, January 10, 2025.** Viewing 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. Auction @ 11:00 a.m.

Yr.	Make	Model	Lic. #
1995	Chevy	Tahoe	CFY3638
2010	Mitsubishi	Lancer	BQJ1125
2005	Dodge	Neon CA	5USY408
1982	Ford	Econoline	Frame
2006	Honda	Odyssey	BYA6458
2001	Mitsubishi	Montero	AKF9825
2004	BMW	325	BIV5128
2000	VW	Beetle	VIN# 3VWCD21C8YM480901

(Published VOICE of the Valley, Tuesday, January 7, 2025)

### ABANDONED VEHICLE AUCTION

ABANDONED VEHICLE AUCTION  
**US Towing,** 24816 Pacific Hwy South, Kent, WA 98032. **Friday, January 10, 2025.** Viewing at 10 a.m. Auction at 11 a.m. 206-824-3448. (Published VOICE of the Valley, Tuesday, January 7, 2025)

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On 12/14/2024, at approximately 14:35 hours, officers conducted a traffic stop in the 22000 block of SE 296th ST. Officers discovered that he driver had failed to transfer the title of the vehicle into his name within 45 days of purchase and had a driver's license that was Suspended/ Revoked 3rd Degree. Officers issued the driver a criminal citation for DWLS 3rd Degree. A licensed driver arrived on scene to provide the driver with a ride.

On 12/15/2024, Officers were notified by a King County Deputy that there might be a suicidal subject at the 36800 block of Enumclaw Black Diamond Rd (Kummer Bridge). There was possibly a person at that location with the intention of jumping off the bridge. Upon responding with the Deputy a search of the area was conducted and nobody was located.

On 12/15/2024, Officers were dispatched to a welfare check at the 30800 block of 3rd Ave. Upon arrival, an investigation was conducted and an arrest was made for violation of a no contact order.

On 12/15/24, officers were dispatched to assist the Enumclaw Jail staff with a possibly combative subject. Officers assisted jail staff in moving an inmate from a holding cell to the jail's transport vehicle.

On 12/15/2024, at approximately 18:25 hours, officers conducted a traffic stop in the 28200 block of 216th AVE SE. Officers discovered that the vehicle's registration had been suspended. Officers issued the driver a criminal citation for Suspended Registration.

On 12/15/2024, at approximately 20:21 hours, officers received a Flock notification for a stolen license plate travelling in the 34000 block of Enumclaw Black Diamond RD SE. Officers were on 3rd Ave when the notification came in and conducted an area check to locate the vehicle but the vehicle appeared to have turned off and left the area, not passing officers or any additional FLOCK cameras. The vehicle was not located.

On 12/15/2024, an Officer was dispatched to the 32700 block of Ten Trails PKWY reference to a missing person. Complainant advised that his mother had left their home earlier after making statements to his sister that she was going to hurt herself. Contact was made with the mother who had returned to the residence and she advised that she did leave the residence after a domestic dispute with her 13 year old daughter. Mother advised that she did not make threats to hurt herself. Contacted daughter and when asked if her mother made threats to hurt herself she said no. Mother did not wish to pursue criminal charges against daughter.

On 12/18/2024 Officers were dispatched to a request for assistance for the Lake Forest Police Department as part of the CSPA Major Crimes Task Force. Officers assisted in the execution of a search warrant on a residence in connection with an investigation into a rape case.

On 12/18/24, officers observed a vehicle travelling south on 224th Ave SE. Officers ran the vehicle's license plate and observed that the registered owner was suspended in the 3rd degree. Officers conducted a traffic stop and confirmed that the driver was the registered owner. Officers issued the driver a criminal citation for the offense.

On 12/19/2024 at 0909 hours, the Black Diamond Police Department conducted a theft report by phone. The reporting party stated that fraudulent activity was occurring on her debit card. Officer's were advised the reporting party did not want to be a victim of the crime and wanted to report the incident for information only at this time.

On 12/19/2024 at 1300 hours, the Black Diamond Police Department conducted a traffic stop with a vehicle after observing the registered owner had a suspended driver's license. Officer's confirmed the driver was the registered owner and issued her a citation for the offense.

On 12/19/2024 at 1334 hours, the Black Diamond Police Department responded to a non-injury blocking collision located at the intersection of 219th Avenue SE and SE 296th St. Officer's determined who the at-fault driver was and issued them a traffic infraction. Both vehicle's obtained extensive damage and were towed from the scene.

On 12/20/2024, officers were dispatched to confirm a Black Diamond Warrant for the Kent Police Department. Officers confirmed the warrant and met with Kent officers at the Kent jail. The suspect was then transported and booked to Enumclaw jail.

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