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# VOICE of the Valley

56<sup>TH</sup> YEAR, NUMBER 33  
MAPLE VALLEY, WASHINGTON  
TUESDAY, AUGUST 19, 2025



## Wendy's Celebrates Black Diamond Grand Opening; Names Local 13-Year-Old 'Wendy's Ambassador of the Day'



### *New Restaurant is franchisee WTC Ventures' 100<sup>th</sup> Wendy's*

**Submitted by Traci Mills, Marketing Director, WTC Ventures**

On Friday, August 15, Wendy's® held a grand opening at **31243 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave., Black Diamond, WA 98010**. Beginning today, customers can visit the new Wendy's restaurant. Black Diamond's newest restaurant has a sleek and modern design with new technology that places an emphasis on convenience, speed and accuracy.

To celebrate the Grand Opening of this location, Wendy's named local 13-year-old Easton "Wendy's Ambassador of the Day!" Easton, whose mom said Wendy's is her son's favorite spot to grab a meal when they have a family outing, was given the honor of being the first customer in line plus cutting the ribbon to commemorate the opening of the restaurant. "I can't believe I get to be the very first in line at my new hometown Wendy's!" Easton said. "For me, nothing beats a fresh Wendy's Baconator® combo, a Chocolate Frosty®, and hanging out at my favorite restaurant. Getting to help cut the ribbon and be part of the grand opening is just so cool—it's like a dream come true for a big Wendy's fan like me!" As Wendy's Ambassador of the Day, Easton was presented with a certificate by Wendy's Frosty mascot, as well as official Wendy's merchandise. Another special guest accompanying Easton with the ribbon cutting was Black Diamond's Mayor, Carol Benson.

This is Black Diamond's first Wendy's, and at this restaurant customers will be able to order their favorite menu items in several convenient ways, including with the Wendy's app, through select delivery services, in the drive-thru or inside the restaurant. The new restaurant also has dedicated parking for mobile orders and delivery drivers—making it easier than ever to grab our new Frosty Swirls™ and Frosty Fusions™, or the limited-time Wendy's® x Wednesday™ Meal of Misfortune.

"We're thrilled to open our brand-new Wendy's restaurant right here in Black Diamond, bringing our fresh, crave-worthy menu and legendary hospitality to even more fans," Traci Mills, Marketing Director for WTC Ventures, said. "This new Wendy's experience is designed from the ground up with our guests in mind from faster, easier ordering to more comfortable, welcoming spaces. Every detail puts our customers first." This is also WTC Ventures 100<sup>th</sup> Wendy's restaurant.

The location also offers Wendy's breakfast, featuring fan favorites like the mouth-watering Breakfast Baconator®—made with hand-cracked fresh eggs and oven-baked Applewood smoked bacon -- and the warm and fluffy Homestyle French Toast Sticks. To top it all off, customers can pair their savory or sweet breakfast items with delicious coffee offerings.

Jobs are still available at this location and others. Interested in employment opportunities at Wendy's? Visit <https://wendys-careers.com/job-search>.



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The weekend of August 7-10 the Lucas Oil Divisional Drag Racing Series came to Pacific Raceways for four intense days of drag racing action. Drivers and teams came in and around the Northwest and Canada all looking for points toward the Championship for 2025. Among those were drivers from Maple Valley and Hobart. From Maple Valley in the Super Comp class was Giovanni Collecchi in his "23 M&M dragster (Lower right). Getting ready to pull into the staging lights was Ryan Carlson competing in the Top Dragster class (Center Lower Right). From Hobart driving his 1997 Oldsmobile was Robert Smyth as part of the Super Gas class (Upper right). The weather was great and the action was exciting for all the fans. There is still more racing action on the schedule for the rest of the 2025 racing season. Also, coming in October is the Fall Swap Meet now being planned. Don't want to miss that. More information can be found at [www.pacificraceways.com](http://www.pacificraceways.com). Photo by Bill Archer

## Neely Mansion Association Host Filipino Fiesta



**By Karen Meador  
Community Outreach  
Coordinator**  
Join **Neely Mansion**  
**Association** located at 12303  
SE Auburn-Black Diamond Road  
Auburn, WA 98092 on **Saturday,**  
**August 23, 1 to 4 p.m.** for a

Celebration of Filipino Culture, emceed by Bert Caoili, Fil-Am Radio Host and Vice-President of FILAMCORP. Maricres Castro, singer, actress and City of Tacoma Commissioner for Immigrant & Refugee Affairs, will perform the national anthem.

Enjoy dancing presented by the Filipiniana Multicultural Dance Troupe (FMDT), Island music, family-friendly activities, and a variety of exhibits and presentations, including a Filipino Fashion Display featuring men's and women's evening attire.

Tour the Mansion and grounds, which include vintage farm equipment, and the 1940s Acosta Shed, built by Filipino immigrant and long-term Neely resident, Pedro 'Pete' Acosta. The Acosta Shed will feature displays, vintage tools and farm implements, many used by Mr. Acosta, as well as the wine barrel used in making wine from the Concord grapes he raised.

Box lunches featuring Filipino food items will be provided by Catering by Edwin. (While they last)

All are welcome to enjoy this free celebration of our multicultural community.

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# A Faith That Works!

A story is told of a European queen several centuries ago who left her coachman sitting outside during the winter while she attended the theater. The drama was so heart-wrenching that the queen sobbed throughout the entire performance. But when she returned to the carriage and discovered the coachman had frozen to death, she did not shed a tear! She was deeply moved by a fictional tragedy but completely untouched by a real one with which she was directly involved and for which she was even directly responsible.

How could this queen be so heart-wrenched over a play and not have any compassion for what was truly happening around her? Her lack of compassion for the coachman brings into question what kind of person she truly was. Her actions displayed her true character. Much can be known about a person's character by their actions. Jesus said that we are known by our fruits, that is to say, our actions - Matthew 12:33. The queen in our story revealed by her actions that she had no real compassion at all.

In the same way, the Bible tells us that if we have truly placed our faith in Christ alone for the forgiveness of sin, this faith will be exemplified in our actions. Jesus had great compassion for people, especially those who were in need. Those who claim to have saving faith in Jesus Christ and yet have no compassion for those around them exemplify a dead faith. James chapter 2, verses 17- 18, tells us that true faith in Christ is made evident by our works. James writes, "faith, if it has no works, is dead, being by itself." It reflects one with no faith at all.

What good is it if you say you have faith, and yet your character shows something else? You are only fooling yourself. Genuine faith in Jesus Christ is faith that works. It is abundant, peaceful, compassionate, active, and victorious. It is a faith that works not because of anything you can do, but because of what Jesus has done in you. This, of course, is if you have trusted in Him. Do you have a faith that works?

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](http://www.taylorcreekchurch.org). We invite you to join us for Sunday service: 9:00 AM for Sunday School and 10:15 AM for Worship. Address: 21110 244th Ave. S.E., Maple Valley.



**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](http://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](http://www.taylorcreekchurch.org). Senior Pastor: Jason Katen

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

## 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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# When Coal Was King

By Bill Kombol



When this picture was snapped in early January 1954, Tom, Joe, and Frank Zumek were in their early thirties, and seven years into the company store business they'd purchased from Margaret McDowell. Black Diamond, where they lived and grew to adulthood, was, for its first five decades after its 1885 founding, a company town owned by Pacific Coast Coal Co. (Pacific Coast). The company town was disbanded in 1938, when most of the homes and buildings were sold to the inhabitants.

This photo was staged to show how the three volunteer firefighters rushed from their store and ran one block up to the fire station. At the time, almost half of the volunteer firemen were brothers from four Black Diamond families: Zumek, Dal Santo, Maks, and Rossi. When the siren caused Tom, Joe, and Frank to leave the store, their wives, Georgia, Eileen, and Lois, would man the business. Sometimes the brothers used their delivery truck to transport fire crews to the blaze. The old fire siren was restored and is now on display at the nearby Black Diamond Museum.

The old company store seen behind the Zumek boys was originally located in nearby Lawson, whose mines were an early competitor to the Black Diamond Coal Mining Company. Eugene Lawson sold his mines to Pacific Coast in 1898, and six years later, he brokered a deal for the sale of all the Black Diamond Coal Mining Co.'s land, mines, and assets to Pacific Coast.

Around 1911, the large building was moved down Lawson Street to the commercial district on Railroad Ave. and henceforth referred to as the company store. The store had three floors selling general merchandise, dry goods, clothing, shoes, nails, hardware, on the main floor, while hay, oats, and chicken feed were located in the basement. Upstairs were furniture and the payroll guard's living quarters. After the store and building were sold to the Zumek Brothers Grocery & Market, dry goods were eliminated and replaced with a new meat counter and freezer.

In 1963, after 16 years of operating in the old company store, the entrepreneurial Zumecks and their wives built a modern store on State Highway 169 on land they purchased from Palmer Coking Coal Co. Their new 5,000-square-foot concrete block store was initially called Zumek's ShopRite with a grand opening in April 1963. Five years

later, in April 1968, the Zumecks sold the store business to Hi-Low Inc. of Issaquah but retained the building and property. Family members continued to work in the store. They later expanded the footprint and leased space for a liquor store and drug store as the building tripled in size.

In their new store, the old system of charge accounts and delivery service was eliminated in 1963. The historic company store was torn down in the mid-1960s by Jack Hope Sr. and Al Rossi. Jack Hope used some of the wood to construct his "Jack o' Diamond" hall on Lawson Street. The old company store safe was salvaged and is now displayed in the Museum.

All the Zumecks, including a fourth brother and eldest son, Louie Jr., were involved in civic affairs. Louie Zumek played an important role in the Black Diamond's incorporation, then served for decades on the city council and planning commission. Louie was also the city's second mayor. For decades, Frank and Louis Jr. played on both Black Diamond and Ravensdale baseball and soccer teams, where Frank typically played

goalie. Tom Zumek was Black Diamond's first fire chief, serving for over 20 years. Tom was also a school district director. Joe Zumek was a volunteer fireman and involved with the Black Diamond Historical Society. And their wives, Ruth (Schoning) married to Louie; Lois (Thomas), married to Frank; Georgia (Duncan), married to Tom; and Eileen (Kelly), married to Joe, were equally engaged in both the business and civic sides of life.

The Highway 169 grocery store that the Zumecks built, owned, operated, and worked in changed hands several times. It was last operated by Ron Pannell as the Black Diamond Neighborhood Market. Its doors closed in late July 2002 because it couldn't compete with the Four Corners Safeway store three miles north. Tom and Georgia Zumek, who ran and worked at the store for 25 years, died earlier that same year. A new Safeway supermarket was recently announced to be built in Black Diamond's booming master planned community, Ten Trails.

This photo originally appeared in the Jan. 3, 1954, Seattle Times in a story about Black Diamond and comes courtesy of JoAnne Matsumura, an Issaquah historian. Genealogical information was provided by Donna Brathovde, a Ravensdale researcher. Photo enhancements came courtesy of Doug "Boomer" Burnham, a Tahoma High School photography instructor doing business as Boomers Photography at <http://www.boomersphotography.com/>

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## Black Diamond Police Reports

On 07/21/2025 at approximately 1736 hours, an officer was dispatched to the 30400 block of 224th Ave SE, in reference to a vehicle striking a deer. The officers completed a collision report and euthanized the severely injured small deer on scene.

\*\*\*\*\*

On 07/21/2025 at approximately 1930 hours an officer was driving south bound in the 31500 block of Lake Sawyer Rd., when they observed a subject on foot waving them to stop. The female advised they observed a fire on the south east side of the Lake Sawyer Regional Park, on the Palmer Coking Coal property line. The officer notified fire personnel and met them on PCC property, locating the female and the small fire, which fire personnel extinguished.

\*\*\*\*\*

On 7/21/2025 at 2133 hours, the Black Diamond Police Department conducted a traffic stop with a vehicle at the 29000 block of 216th Avenue SE after observing a traffic violation. Officer's later discovered the driver had a suspended driver's license in the 3rd degree. The driver was issued a traffic infraction for their violations and a citation for their suspended driver's license.

\*\*\*\*\*

On 7/21/2025 at 2333 hours, the Black Diamond Police Department was advised a neighboring Police agency was contacting a subject with a Black Diamond misdemeanor warrant. Officer's confirmed the warrant and the subject was soon booked into a nearby correctional facility for the offense.

\*\*\*\*\*

On 07/21/2025 at approximately 1830 hours an officer was dispatched to the 22400 block of SE 296th Street, in reference to a single vehicle collision into a tree. The officer located a vehicle, which had been parked for over an hours, which now the owner wanted to report a collision with. All available information was obtained and a collision report was completed.

\*\*\*\*\*

On 7/23/2025 at 2258 hours, the Black Diamond Police Department conducted a theft report that occurred near the 31000 block of 228th Avenue Se. The reporting party stated that money was taken from their bank account yesterday and they had possible suspect information. This investigation is ongoing.

\*\*\*\*\*

On 07/24/2025, officers were dispatched to an verbal domestic with information provided of a fire on scene which was also illegal, in the 32100 block of Morgan Dr. Officers responded to the scene and contacted the involved parties who were both argumentative with officers. They advised there was no verbal argument and they agreed to put out their burn barrel fire.

\*\*\*\*\*

On 7/25/2025, officers responded to the 30800 block of 229 PL. SE for a welfare check. Officers found an elderly subject having a medical emergency. The fire department responded and the subject was transported to the hospital for treatment.

\*\*\*\*\*

On 07/25/2025, officers were dispatched to a hit and run collision at the 25200 block of Park St. Officers responded to the scene, investigated the incident, conducted a check for the suspect vehicle and completed a collision report. Officer assisted the victim in making their vehicle drive able.

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## ABANDONED VEHICLE AUCTION

**ABANDONED VEHICLE AUCTION - A1 Right Towing and Recovery** 18451 Des Moines Memorial Dr, Seatac, WA 98148. **Saturday, August 23, 2025.** Viewing starts: 11:00 a.m. **Auction starts: 12:00 p.m.**  
(Published VOICE of the Valley, Tuesday, August 19, 2025)

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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, August 27, 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, August 19, 2025)

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**ABANDONED VEHICLE AUCTION - Gary's Westside Towing Inc #5951** will sell to the highest bidder the 33 abandoned vehicles on **WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 27, 2025 at 2 p.m.** prior inspections will be from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. The sale location is at 5939 4th Ave S., Seattle WA 98108.  
(Published VOICE of the Valley, Tuesday, August 19, 2025)

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**ABANDONED VEHICLE AUCTION - Gerber Towing,** 16705 Aurora Ave N, Shoreline, WA 98133. **Thursday, August 21, 2025.** Viewing starts at 10:30 a.m. **Auction starts at 12:00 p.m.** Contact 206-524-9099 with questions.

Year	Make	Model	License #
2005	HONDA	CIVIC	CKT1017
2006	CHEV	COLORADO	D64659B
2004	NISSAN	TITAN	34514A4 CA
2001	BMW	325i	no plate
2004	FORD	EXPLORER	CKB4906
2002	JEEP	CHEROKEE	CFK8926
1990	HONDA	CIVIC	205ZFU
2005	NISSAN	ALTIMA	BWS4351
2012	VW	JETTA	CMW9044
2015	KIA	SOUL	CKE9331
1989	VW	JETTA	CSB0614
1999	VOLVO	V70SW	AB226543
2001	CHEV	CAVALIER	AHR3326
2007	VW	JETTA	CLP1349

(Published VOICE of the Valley, Tuesday, August 19, 2025)

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**ABANDONED VEHICLE AUCTION - Lincoln Towing Enterprises Inc.** 1201 North 125th St., Seattle, WA 98133 . 206-364-2000. **Saturday, August 23, 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, August 19, 2025)

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**ABANDONED VEHICLE AUCTION - Lincoln Towing Enterprises Inc.,** 8425 1st Ave S, Seattle, WA 98108. 206-364-2000 Ext. 1370. **Wednesday, August 27, 2025.** 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, August 19, 2025)

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**ABANDONED VEHICLE AUCTION - Payless Towing & Recovery** 33905 Pacific Highway South, Federal Way, WA 98003. 253-941-4565. **Thursday, August 21, 2025 @ Noon** Viewing @ 11:30 a.m.  
(Published VOICE of the Valley, Tuesday, August 19, 2025)

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**ABANDONED VEHICLE AUCTION - Payless Towing & Recovery** 33905 Pacific Hwy South, Federal Way, WA 98003. 253-941-4565. **Tuesday, August 26, 2025 @ Noon** / Viewing @ 11:30 a.m.  
(Published VOICE of the Valley, Tuesday, August 19, 2025)

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**ABANDONED VEHICLE AUCTION - Rainbow Towing,** 8333 219th St. S.E., Woodinville, WA 98072. **Saturday, August 23, 2025.** Preview @ 9 a.m. **Auction @12:00 p.m.**  
(Published VOICE of the Valley, Tuesday, August 19, 2025)

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**ABANDONED VEHICLE AUCTION - Skyway Towing & Recovery RTTO 5191 & RTTO 5023** - 2025 S. 341st Pl., Federal Way, WA 98003. **Tuesday, August 26, 2025** - Viewing: 12:30 - **Auction 1:30 p.m.** See list at [skywaytow.com](http://skywaytow.com)  
(Published VOICE of the Valley, Tuesday, August 19, 2025)

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**ABANDONED VEHICLE AUCTION - TBT Towing** - 16705 Aurora Ave N. Shoreline WA 98133. **Thursday, August 21, 2025 @12:00 p.m.** Viewing starts at 10:30 a.m.

YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	LIC #	Vin #
2003	BMW	X5	136XVE	5UXFB93513LN81090
2000	TOYT	COROLLA	CSX8033	1NXBR12E7YZ332952
2004	HONDA	CRUISER	5K9480	JH2RC50334K011890
2006	NISSAN	ALTIMA	CLD5139	1N4AL11D56C197036
1996	HONDA	ACCORD	CLX9006	1HGCD5656TA026068
2006	TOYOTA	PRIUS	CMT3286	JT3HP10V7X7111490

(Published VOICE of the Valley on Tuesday, August 19, 2025)

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**ABANDONED VEHICLE AUCTION - US Towing,** 24816 Pacific Hwy South, Kent, WA 98032. **Friday, August 22, 2025.** Viewing at 10 a.m. **Auction at 11 a.m.** 206-824-3448.  
(Published VOICE of the Valley, Tuesday, August 19, 2025)

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# Have a Nice Day