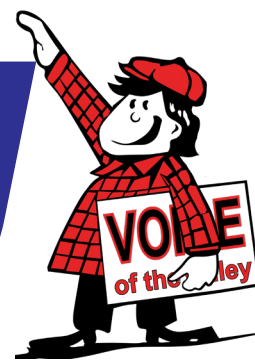


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# VOICE of the Valley

56<sup>TH</sup> YEAR, NUMBER 31  
MAPLE VALLEY, WASHINGTON  
TUESDAY, AUGUST 5, 2025



Since 1969



Last week Sheriff Deputy staffing in unincorporated KC is back to full strength! Thanks to funding secured by Councilmember Sarah Perry and Councilmember Reagan Dunn, the Sheriff has restored standard service in the North and Southeast precincts. Public safety = increased. Response times = decreased. A big win for residents of @kingcounty [bit.ly/deputy-levels-restored](https://bit.ly/deputy-levels-restored)

## Sheriff's Office Restores Deputy Staffing Levels in Unincorporated King County Following Council Action

Last Monday, July 28, 2025, the King County Sheriff's Office (KCSO) has increased minimum deputy staffing levels in unincorporated King County, restoring service to standard levels in both the North and Southeast precincts.

This staffing restoration comes less than two weeks after the King County Council approved a supplemental budget that included \$845,000 in funding proposed by Councilmembers Sarah Perry and Reagan Dunn to reverse earlier staffing reductions due to budget shortfalls.

"I am grateful that, as of today, our North precinct deputy services have been restored as a result of the \$845,000 in funding I fought for to meet the basic public safety needs of our unincorporated residents," said Councilmember Perry. "Everyone should feel safe in their communities and feel confident that if there is a need, there will be a response."

In March, the Sheriff's Office reduced minimum staffing levels in response to unanticipated overtime costs – a staffing reduction that stretched already limited resources and increased emergency response times in rural and suburban parts of the county.

"Today's restoration of staffing levels is a victory for public safety and for unincorporated King County," said Councilmember Dunn. "The safety of residents in these communities should never be neglected to pay the price for budgeting decisions beyond their control. Thank you to my colleagues for joining me in restoring the appropriate staffing levels our residents deserve."

The funding secured by Perry and Dunn has increased deputy staffing, reestablishing normal staffing levels in the affected precincts, and supports a broader effort to improve transparency and accountability surrounding the use of public safety funding in unincorporated communities. That includes a Council-directed work plan to evaluate long-term staffing models for the Sheriff's Office that meet the needs of unincorporated residents and regional partners.

## National Night Out is Tuesday, August 5



Don't be surprised if you see flashing lights and friendly faces cruising through

your neighborhood - it's National Night Out! Deputies from the King County Sheriff's Office (along with our amazing first responder partners) will be out and about, rolling through communities to celebrate this annual event.

It's all about making connections, sharing smiles, and celebrating the vibrant, diverse neighborhoods we're lucky to be a part of. So, if you spot a deputy rolling by, don't be shy - give 'em a wave, snap a selfie, or even flag them down for a quick hello at your block party or community gathering.

Let's make this night a celebration of safety, community, and some good ol' neighborly fun!

To learn more about National Night Out, please visit <https://natw.org/about/>



## Animal Scavenger Hunt & Steel Animal Sculpture Dedication

On Tuesday, August 19, 2025 from 5 to 6 p.m. at the Children's Garden, located at the Lake. Come join the Maple Valley Creative Arts Council and Lake Wilderness Arboretum for a special evening celebrating the installation of 8 handcrafted steel animal and bird sculptures by local artist Jenn Brown.

Funding for the exciting new artwork was made possible in large part by a grant from the Alan M. Painter Community Engagement Grant and King County.

Explore the garden, search for hidden animal sculptures, and enjoy self-guided tours from 5 to 6 p.m. Then stay for the free Summer Concert in the Arboretum at 6 p.m. in the Perennial Garden!

Family-friendly • Free admission • No RSVP required

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This past weekend of July 25-27 brought the GoodGuys 37<sup>th</sup> Griot's Garage Pacific NW Nationals to Pacific Raceways on Friday night for drag racing of these nostalgia machines while at the Washington State Fair Events Center over 2500 beautiful restored custom cars and trucks were on display for all to enjoy. The proud owners of these cars came from all around the country and Canada for three days of competition and remembering the past when these vehicles cruised the road. Photo by Bill Archer



in partnership with the Seattle Humane Society, The Maple Valley Community Center offers a free Pet Food Program for qualifying low-income seniors. Dry pet food will be provided each month for up to three spayed/neutered cats or dogs per household. Canned food will be provided when available and if requested. Special dietary needs will be met if food is available. Complete and submit the Pet Food Application Forms to For more information call the Community Center at 425-432-1272 if you would like to volunteer to help with this program.

# TRAVEL THE WORLD

## With Dino O'Dell!

### Wednesday, August 6 @ 2:00pm

Ages 3 - 10  
Older and younger children welcome!

Unearth the mysterious treasures of King Tut's tomb! Gasp in the thin atmosphere on Mount Everest! Learn to swim with piranhas in the Amazon River! This journey highlights all seven continents' culture and geography.

Music, stories and animations will keep you laughing and engaged.

No registration required.

Sponsored by the Maple Valley Library Guild

## Lucas Oil Division 6 Drag Racing Headed to Pacific Raceways

By Bill Archer

This weekend, **August 7<sup>th</sup> thru 10<sup>th</sup>** the Lucas Oil Drag Racing Series is once again coming to the Northwest. Pacific Raceways will host the three-day racing event this year presented by Epha Hose Protectors and Copeland Motorsports. This weekend's racing event includes such classes as Top Dragster, Top Sportsman, Competition Eliminator, Super Stock, Super Street, Stock, Super Comp, Super Gas and the Pro and Super Pro cars and motorcycles from in and around the Northwest and Canada. Local drivers will also be in competition for three days of exciting drag racing. **Gates open each day at 7:30 AM with qualifying beginning at 9:30 AM.**

Thursday is set for qualifying and time trials to start the weekend. Alcohol classes qualify at **12:00 PM, 3:00 PM and 5:30 PM** on Friday with eliminations on Saturday. **Tickets are \$25 for adults each day at the gate. Children 12 and under are free with a paid adult.**

Make your plans for another action packed NHRA drag racing weekend as the Lucas Oil Division 6 race makes a stop in the beautiful Northwest and Pacific Raceways. Need more information on this race or the remainder of the 2025 racing season then check out their site at [www.pacificraceways.com](http://www.pacificraceways.com).



## An Encouraging Word Taylor Creek Church

By Pastor Jason Katen



## The Lies We Believe

When I was young, there was an old run-down house in the middle of our town we called Fike's house. I was told that it was haunted because of some unusual things that were said to have happened there. Many of the kids around town were always daring one another to go into the house at night. I don't believe anyone ever did on account they were too scared. I came to find out later that the things that were said about the house were all untrue. Of course, there never was anything to fear, but isn't that the way life is sometimes? The anxiety I could have saved myself if I would have believed the truth.

All this may sound entertaining or even bring back some of your own childhood memories, but the truth is, we are still prone to be controlled by the lies we believe. This is exactly where the Devil would like to keep us if enabled, and many let him do just that. The Bible tells us that the Devil "is a liar and the father of lies." - John 8:44. When we choose to believe his lies, we allow ourselves to be controlled by them, lies such as: "Nobody loves me," "Nobody cares about me," "I can't overcome this," or "If the Lord really cared, He would..." When we fail to replace such lies with the truth, we choose to believe what is false and live a defeated life. Jesus tells us that it is the truth that sets us free - John 8:32. And what is truth? Jesus said, "Thy word is truth" - John 17:17.

The first truth you may need to come to is the need for Jesus Christ as your Savior. That's where victory begins. So, stop believing lies, and start believing the truth!

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.



## 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](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)



Looking forward to the fall hunting seasons?

When Coal Was King

By Bill Kombol

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) encourages new hunters to complete their mandatory hunter education course as soon as possible during some of the many summer offerings.

“Many WDFW volunteer instructors hold hunter education classes in the summer, making it easier to get into a class,” said Dave Whipple, WDFW hunter education section manager. “In the fall, those same volunteers are out hunting, which means we have fewer courses available. Completing the course now ensures you will be able to participate in hunting seasons this fall and beyond.”

Per Washington state law, all hunters born after Jan. 1, 1972, must complete a hunter education course to buy a hunting license. Visit <https://wdfw.wa.gov/.../remember-complete-hunter...> for more information on how to fulfill this requirement! #HuntWA #HunterEducation



Jacqueline Riedel alongside the wall as well as some campers who helped create this beautiful piece of art.

Headed to Lake Wilderness Park soon?

Be sure to swing by the Beach House and check out the new selfie mural wall painted by artist Jacqueline Riedel with help from Camp Wild campers.

Thanks to the Maple Valley Creative Arts Council for helping us with this project.

More News on our website

www.voiceofthevalley.com



For the second year in a row, our transportation team received a Letter of Achievement from OSPI and the Washington State Patrol! This recognition came after a successful inspection of Tahoma's school buses, and celebrates our drivers, bus maintenance crew, and more for their tireless efforts in keeping our students safe on their way to and from school.

Congratulations, transportation team! Thank you for keeping our students safe every day.

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When Louis and Frances Zumek moved to Black Diamond in 1924, few would have predicted their children would comprise one of the town's most consequential families for the next 50 years. The story of how they ended up in Black Diamond is as fascinating as how they came to America and got married. This photo of Louis and Frances was likely taken after that exchange of wedding vows.

Louie Zumek Sr. was born Alois Zumek in Dole pri Ljiji, Slovenia, in 1886. At a young age, he worked in the local coal mines of Zagore ob Savi, about 15 miles north of his native village. Franciska Minar was born in 1891 in Smartno ob Dreti, Slovenia, another 20 miles north of where Louie first found coal mine employment. Franciska worked as a maid for another family, but to prepare herself for marriage, she attended a domestic cooking class and received her certificate.

Family lore suggests that their marriage was arranged in Slovenia, but not consummated until both were living in the U.S. Louis left the port of Trieste and arrived on Ellis Island in New York on July 20, 1912. He made his way to Somerset, Colorado, to work in the local coal mine and save money for his bride-to-be's arrival. But Franciska was detained by immigration authorities for nine days. In one story, Louie was to have met her, and by another, money was supposed to be wired ahead. The situation was resolved upon payment for nine breakfast meals, and Franciska made her way to Colorado by train. Louie



and Frances, as she was now known, married on Sept. 26, 1913, in Somerset. Her wedding dress is now part of the Black Diamond Historical Museum collection.

In Colorado, the Zumek's first four children were born: sons Louie (1914), Francis (1915), Frank (1920), and Thomas (1921). Mrs. Zumek became friends with another Slovenian woman, Agnes Milautz, the wife of Jerry Milautz, both fellow Slovenian immigrants. Agnes sewed Frances' wedding dress. In "Mining the Memories," Ann (Milautz) Steiert explains how her father, Jerry, secured a coal mining job in Black Diamond for Louie Zumek Sr. On a later date, Jerry Milautz was in a serious cave-in accident in Mine 11, but his close friend, Louie Zumek, dragged him to safety.

The Zumeks moved to Black Diamond in 1924, where their last son, Joseph, was born. All five Zumek children graduated from Black Diamond High School. While Louie Sr. continued to mine coal, Louie Jr. became a civil surveyor and was a prime mover behind the measure to incorporate Black Diamond. The referendum passed by a vote of 170 to 144, and a new city was born in 1959. Louie Sr. died a few days after that election, while Frances passed nearly two decades later in 1978.

Louie Zumek Jr. was subsequently elected to the first city council and later became Black Diamond's second Mayor, serving from 1966 to 1969. In addition, Louis was a longtime member of the Planning Commission, a city engineer, and served on the city council for over 20 years, until his death in May 1986.

All the Zumek boys were civic-minded, serving as volunteers in the city's fire department, District 17. In fact, in 1954, nearly half of the volunteers were brothers from four Black Diamond families with surnames: Zumek, Dal Santo, Maks, and Rossi. Tom Zumek served at different times as Black Diamond Deputy Sheriff, Fire Chief, and Civil Defense Director. Frank Zumek was an early member of the Planning Commission, Assistant Fire Chief, and a charter member of the Black Diamond Lions Club. The Zumek men were also accomplished athletes, playing soccer and baseball on the coal company-sponsored teams.

Frank Zumek operated a butcher shop on Railroad Avenue in the late 1930s and early 1940s until he joined his brothers, Tom and Joe, in purchasing the old company store situated two lots north. The Zumek brothers later built a modern supermarket on Highway 169, which stands to this day, populated with an evolving collection of commercial businesses. Frank's son, Butch Zumek, continued his father's trade and opened up his own butcher shop that operated next door to Bob Selland's auto wrecking business. Bob Selland was another long-serving Black Diamond City Councilman.

Over the next several weeks, this column will feature additional photos and stories about the Zumek family. This photo comes courtesy of the Black Diamond Historical Museum with genealogical details from Donna Brathovde, a Ravensdale historian.

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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## Black Diamond Police Reports

On 07/05/2025 at approximately 2254 hours, an officer preformed a traffic stop on a vehicle for speeding. Due to the age of the passengers, parents were contacted and arrived on scene. An infraction was issued to the driver without issue.

\*\*\*\*\*

On 07/06/2025, an Officer was dispatched to a CPR in progress at the 33200 block of Crystal Ave. Upon arrival the Fire Department was already on scene and was treating the patient. Fire advised that they did not need the Officer's assistance and and the Officer cleared the scene.

\*\*\*\*\*

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### MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

ABANDONED VEHICLE AUCTION - Dick's Towing and Road Service, Inc. 8425 1<sup>st</sup> Ave S, Seattle, WA 98108. 206-364-2000 Ext. 137. **Wednesday, August 13, 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 5, 2025)

\*\*\*\*\*

### LEGAL NOTICE

**Court of Washington County of King In re the Estate of Phebe Sharlene LaTurner, Deceased.**  
**No. 25-4-04736-6 KNT Probate Notice to Creditors (RCW 11.40.030)**  
**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE**

The above Court has appointed Patricia LaFleur as Personal Representative of Decedent's estate

Any person having a claim against Decedent must present the claim:

- Before the time when the claim would be barred by any applicable statute of limitations, and
- In the manner provided in RCW 11.40.070:
- By filing with the Court the original of the signed Creditor's Claim, and
- By serving upon or mailing by first class mail to me at the address provided below a copy of the signed Creditor's Claim.

The Creditor's Claim must be presented by the later to occur of:

- Thirty (30) days after I served or mailed this Notice to you as provided in RCW 11.40.020(3), or
- Four (4) months after the date of first publication of this Notice.

If the Creditor's Claim is not presented within the foregoing time period, the claim will be forever barred except as provided in RCW 11.40.051 and 11.40.060. This bar is effective for claims against both the Decedent's probate and non-probate assets.

Date of First Publication of this Notice: Tuesday, July 22, 2025. Dated: July 14, 2025

/s/ Jennifer A. Gellner: Jennifer A. Gellner, Gellner Law, Attorney for Personal Representative, WSBA #30701  
Address for Mailing of Service: Jennifer A. Gellner, Gellner Law, 8407 S. 259th Street, Suite 203, Kent, WA 98030-7536  
(Published VOICE of the Valley, Tuesdays, July 22,29 & August 5, 2025)

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ABANDONED VEHICLE AUCTION **Easy Towing, LLC,** 648 Elliott Ave W, Seattle, WA 98119. **Thursday, August 7, 2025** Viewing 8 a.m. - 10 a.m. **Auction at 11 a.m.**  
(Published VOICE of the Valley Tuesday, August 5, 2025)

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ABANDONED VEHICLE AUCTION **Lincoln Towing Enterprises Inc.** 1201 North 125th St., Seattle, WA 98133 . 206-364-2000. **Saturday, August 9, 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 5., 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 13, 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 5, 2025)

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ABANDONED VEHICLE AUCTION **Payless Towing & Recovery** 33905 Pacific Highway South, Federal Way, WA 98003. 253-941-4565. **Thursday, August 7, 2025 @ Noon** Viewing @ 11:30 a.m.  
(Published VOICE of the Valley Tuesday, August 5., 2025)

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ABANDONED VEHICLE AUCTION **Payless Towing & Recovery** 33905 Pacific Hwy South, Federal Way, WA 98003. 253-941-4565. **Tuesday, August 12, 2025 @ Noon** / Viewing @ 11:30 a.m.  
(Published VOICE of the Valley, Tuesday, August 5, 2025)

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ABANDONED VEHICLE AUCTION **Payless Towing & Recovery** 33905 Pacific Hwy South, Federal Way, WA 98003. 253-941-4565. **Tuesday, August 12, 2025 @ Noon** / Viewing @ 11:30 a.m.  
(Published VOICE of the Valley, Tuesday, August 5, 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 12, 2025 - Viewing: 12:30 - Auction 1:30 p.m.** See list at [skywaytow.com](http://skywaytow.com)  
(Published VOICE of the Valley, Tuesday, August 5, 2025)

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ABANDONED VEHICLE AUCTION **US Towing,** 24816 Pacific Hwy South, Kent, WA 98032. **Friday, August 8, 2025.** Viewing at 10 a.m. **Auction at 11 a.m.** 206-824-3448.  
(Published VOICE of the Valley Tuesday, August 5, 2025)

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WWW.  
[voiceofthevalley.com](http://voiceofthevalley.com)  
and be sure to like us on Facebook!  
<https://www.facebook.com/voiceofthevalley>

On 07/06/25, officers were dispatched to a suspicious subject at 31500 block of 3rd Ave. Officers were advised that a suspicious male had attempted to open a door of a closed business in the area. Officers confirmed there was no entry made or damage to the business. Officers contacted the male who left the scene.

\*\*\*\*\*

On 07/06/2025 at approximately 1840 hours, an officer was dispatched to the Lake Sawyer Boat Launch, in reference to a jet ski which is recognized as a rule breaker being launched into Lake Sawyer. The officer located the only jet ski which was preparing to pull a tube, after the 3 p.m. high speed hours limit. The operator and owner were contacted and advised of the BDMCs for lake usage.

\*\*\*\*\*

On 07/08/2025, Officers assisted an individual who wished to surrender firearms he no longer wanted in the home. Officers took custody of the items and they were entered into evidence for destruction.

\*\*\*\*\*

On 07-09-25, at approximately 06:00 hours, Officers received a call from Valley Communication Radio regarding a small child locked out of his house in the 32300 block of Railroad AVE. Officers arrived and reunited the child with his mother who was asleep in the residence. During the incident, Officers recovered a stolen vehicle that was parked at the residence.

\*\*\*\*\*

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ABANDONED VEHICLE AUCTION **US Towing,** 24816 Pacific Hwy South, Kent, WA 98032. **Friday, August 8, 2025.** Viewing at 10 a.m. **Auction at 11 a.m.** 206-824-3448.  
(Published VOICE of the Valley Tuesday, August 5, 2025)

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## Support Your Local Food Bank By Donating Non-Perishable Food

On 07/09/2025 Officers were dispatched to the area of 244th AVE SE and SE 302 ST. in regard to a report of handbags abandoned on the side of the roadway. Officers checked the area and were unable to locate anything matching the description.

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On 07/09/25, Officers were dispatched to a welfare check at the Black Diamond Police Department. King County Sheriff's Office requested a welfare check on their reporting party for a call for service. Officers made contact with the subject and determined what she had reported to King County Sheriff's Office had not occurred. Officers relayed this information to dispatch, King County Deputies arrived and transported the reporting party back to her residence.

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On 07/10/2025 Officers contacted individuals who were in the Skate Park located in the 25200 block of Park ST. Officers advised the individuals that the park was still closed for construction, and the juveniles left the scene.

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