

Summer 2021



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Celebrating America!

Independence Day Fireworks Display on July 4

We have every reason to celebrate this Independence Day! America is winning the war against the COVID-19 Pandemic and life is slowly returning to normal. That is worth celebrating!

Valley's aerial fireworks display – This marks our 36th year that American Insurance has been a major sponsor of the Community Spirit aerial fireworks display on July 4 over the Lewiston-Clarkston Valley.

The big, spectacular aerial fireworks display will begin promptly at 10 p.m. on Sunday, July 4. They will be shot from the Clarkston High School baseball field as usual. Tune your radio to our media sponsor, McVey Entertainment Group, the new owner of KMOK, Canyon Country 106.9, KRLC Hometown Radio 1350 AM and 93.1 or KVTY Y-105 FM to hear our national anthem followed by patriotic music that is choreographed to the fireworks bursts.

... Read more on page 4.



COVID IN RETREAT

Causing some chaos in its wake

We should all be very happy to see COVID in our rearview mirrors as we cruise down the highway back to normal life. Hopefully, you have great summer plans to travel and have fun with your motorhome, camp trailer, 4-wheeler, motorcycle, boat, or other recreation toy. Of course, COVID's retreat is slower than any of us would like and our happiness is tempered by some financial disruptions and challenges that will affect us all.

TAKE NOTE OF 2 KEY ISSUES: These COVID issues are having a disruptive effect on insurance policies and premiums over the next 12 months. Inside this newsletter are articles that explore these issues, how they will affect you and what we can do together to lessen the financial impact.

- **Soaring construction material costs** and how that impacts insurance claim reconstruction costs, insured property limits, and premium rates.
- **WA state bans insurance scores** due to COVID unemployment issues causing rates to change wildly for some customers as insurance companies scramble to adjust rates.

WE ARE HERE TO HELP! If you are impacted by any pricing or coverage issues on your insurance, give us a call. We are ready to help. Our experienced agents and staff know how to reduce the impact of these new problems and will work closely with you to get the best results.

We Protect Your American Dream! Shawn, Philip & John Sullivan and Staff

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Direct Customer Service

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Personal Lines Services

(Auto, Home, Renters, MC, Boat, RV, ATV)

Lewiston Customer Last Names

A to G - Tina Heitmann, CSA

(208)816-4393 TinaH@Am-Ins.com

H to M - Shelly Abel, CSA

(208)816-4396 ShellyA@Am-Ins.com

N to Z - Natasha Sullivan, CSA

(208)816-4394 NatashaS@Am-Ins.com

Moscow Customer Last Names

A to Z - Jenni Waters, CSA

(208)816-4395 JenniW@Am-Ins.com

Commercial Lines Services

(Farm, Business, Bus Auto, Work Comp)

Lewiston Business Names

A to F - Anna Franklin, CISR

(208)816-4583 AnnaF@Am-Ins.com

G to O - Karen Virgin, CSR

(208)816-4585 KarenV@Am-Ins.com

P to Z - Brittney Allen, CSR

(208)816-4586 BrittneyA@Am-Ins.com

Moscow Business Names

A to Z - Karyl Wayt, CSR

(208)816-4587 KarylW@Am-Ins.com

WA STATE BANS INSURANCE SCORES

Auto and Home Insurance Rates Changing

NOTICE to Washington clients & residents

The Washington Insurance Commissioner made a COVID related emergency rule on March 22 banning insurance scoring as a factor in calculating insurance premium rates effective June 20 for new policies and Aug. 10 for renewal policies. The ban is in effect for three years.

This controversial order was made to protect Washington residents who became unemployed during the pandemic and may be adversely affected with lower insurance scores causing higher insurance premium rates that may not truly represent increased risk to the insurance companies. For more than 25 years, the credit-based insurance score (CBIS) has been useful as an insurance premium rating factor, but it is only one of many that are used.



Philip Sullivan
Vice President, CIC
Personal Lines
Manager



How does removing insurance scores affect insurance rates? With just 90 days to comply, insurance companies are scrambling to reprogram their computer rating systems and remove insurance scores from WA State policies without causing rates to fluctuate wildly for policyholders. In the short-term, it is likely that some WA policyholders will experience large unintended premium increases while others may see premium decreases.

What can you do? WA residents should pay special attention to your auto and home policies that renew after Aug. 10. If you notice an unusual premium rate increase, please call us immediately. Our agents will work to find additional discounts, make coverage changes or re-quote your insurance to find a better rate for you.

Put me in, Coach Sullivan!



Philip Sullivan, Vice President & CIC, coached two teams sponsored by American Insurance, which provided new gear that will last for many years. The the Brewers team (shown in yellow for 4-6-year-olds, including son Dashiell) and the Diamondbacks team (in gray, for 8-10-year-olds, including son Maxim) are part of the Lewiston Little League. Thank you, Philip, for your community service for our youth and representing American Insurance!

Q: Do soaring building costs impact my insurance?

A: Yes, the dramatic rise in building material cost translates into much higher reconstruction costs after a property loss. A study by Verisk shows that total reconstruction costs, including materials and retail labor were up 8.12% in the 12 months ending April 2021. Idaho is among the states with the biggest average increase of 11.93%!

Effect on insurance: Property policies including homeowners, apartments and commercial buildings are typically insured for "Replacement Cost". Replacement Cost (RC) mirrors new construction costs because after a claim (like a fire) the reconstruction is using new materials and current labor costs.

Review Property Limits: Insurance companies are increasing Homeowners Policy dwelling coverage and Property Policy limits by larger inflation factors at policy renewals. All property owners should review their policies to see if the current limits or the limits being offered at renewal are high enough to rebuild the structure in case of a total fire loss. Ultimately, the insured is responsible for the limit of insurance selected so you don't want to be underinsured. If you're concerned about your property limit on your policy, contact us.



Home Owners Take Note: At American Insurance our typical Homeowners Insurance policy contains an endorsement that agrees to pay more than your dwelling limit if you have chosen to insure your dwelling for full RC originally at the time of application. The additional limit may be anywhere between 25% and 50% depending on the insurance company. So, a temporary rise in reconstruction costs may not expose you to being underinsured.

Your American Dreams?

\$10 gift cards for first 10 responses

As we prepare for our 100th anniversary, we want to hear your experiences and memories of our relationship.

TELL US YOUR STORIES

- How long you have been a customer?
- Why did you choose American Insurance?
- Some memories of current or our past employees?
- Most memorable or some funny moments we've had?
- Times we've given you protection as needed?
- How we've insured your first car or home?
- How have we protected your American dream?

Contact Stephanie Herbert, marketing assistant, at stephh@am-ins.com or (208) 413-6242 or to share with us!

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Did you know? Interlink is Moving!

John B. Sullivan, is currently serving as board president of Interlink, and has announced that Interlink is moving to a new office location in the next 30 days. After 21 years at the same location in downtown Clarkston, Interlink will be relocating its office to the Valley Community Center building on 5th Street in Clarkston.

Located in Suite E on the north end of Valley Community Center, Interlink Volunteers will have access to a conference room, meeting rooms and convenient parking to continue Interlink's mission of **"providing volunteers to enable elders and those with disabilities to live independently in their homes."** Volunteers provide free transportation, minor home safety modifications and ramp construction.



GO AND GROW FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN! While making this move, Interlink hopes to improve their computers and telephone equipment. They will need some new furniture as well as new signage. Your donations are needed and would be appreciated. To make a donation visit www.InterlinkVolunteers.org or call 509-751-9143 for more information.



Click on our new Community tab!

Free publicity for your event, Community Calendar lists, current area events, plus Agency sponsored events.

Visit www.Am-Ins.com/Community to learn more.

**DO YOU
NEED LIFE INSURANCE?
WE CAN HELP!!**



Inside This Newsletter

- Fireworks ahead!
- COVID in retreat - with some chaos
- Washington rates are changing
- Agency sponsored baseball teams
- Construction costs and insurance rates
- Interlink is moving to a new office
- 99 years - we want your stories!!

CURRENT RESIDENT OR

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Valley fireworks display will happen July 4! (continued from page 1)

Adam's Field pre-show cancelled – COVID protocols in WA State were not relaxed in time to allow commitments to a live band or food vendors. Valley residents are not invited to sit at Adam's Field but can watch the big aerial display from their own backyards, the dike paths on the river or other visual vantage points looking toward the confluence.

We thank these corporate sponsors - Funding for the annual fireworks display is a cooperative effort of individual donations and our regular corporate sponsors that include:

- **Major sponsors** - **American Insurance**, McVey Entertainment; Pepsi Cola of Lewiston, and Vista Outdoor;
- **Other Sponsors** - Banner Bank, Centennial Distributing, El Sombrero, Grocery Outlet, Happy Day Corp., Inland Cellular, Joe Hall Ford, Karl Tyler Chevrolet, Mick McClure Honda, North 40 Outfitters, P1FCU, Roger's Dodge/Jeep/Chrysler, Roger's Subaru, Roger's Toyota, Rooster's and Hazel's Restaurants, Tri State Outfitters, Twin River Bank, and Wells Fargo.

Public donations needed - Without a pre-show again this year, other direct donations from the public would be appreciated to keep the show at its present level as costs continue to increase over time. You can make online donations now at www.LCValleyFireworks.org or mail your check to: Community Spirit Fireworks, 55 Southway Ave, Lewiston, ID 83501. Thank you all for your support! If you have any questions about the event, you can call our Event Coordinator, Stephanie Herbert, directly at (208) 413-6242 or email her at community@am-ins.com. Community Spirit has every expectation to have pre-show activities next year on Monday, July 4, 2022 and plans are being made for a bigger aerial show, great live entertainment, food vendors and family activities, so please plan to join us then at Adam's Field.

