

Summer 2015



Summer is the time when one sheds one's tensions with one's clothes, and the right kind of day is jeweled balm for the battered spirit. A few of those days and you can become drunk with the belief that all's right with the world. ~**Ada Louise Huxtable**

Here at Taylor-Thomason Insurance and A. E. Long, we are looking forward the summer. Peggy and Terrie will helping out with the annual horse club event "The Western Dream Ride" in Cle Elum, WA and of course

both are hoping to get in a lot of camping. Terrie is also hoping to take a road trip to Northport, WA to spend some time with friends. Heather is also excited about getting some camping time in along with long motorcycle rides and we can't forget her favorite pastime...Go Mariners! Ginger's family just purchased a new camper and are excited about breaking it in over the summer along with attending two of their nephew's weddings.

Grilling Safety

Summers mean backyard grilling - safely!

Just like hamburgers and hot dogs, a sizzling grill is a symbol of summer and grilling isn't just about great food. Backyard barbecues often create treasured memories with friends and family.

Keep in mind, however, that when you grill, you're literally playing with fire. Thousands of residents each year learn this the hard way, suffering damage to their homes or even serious injuries in grilling accidents.

There's good news, though: You can prevent grilling accidents by taking some simple precautions. The tips below can help ensure you cook only your burgers--and not your house--the next time you fire up the grill.

TIPS FOR ALL GRILLS

Your grill, whether gas or charcoal, should be on a level surface outdoors, away from anything that could be ignited by flames (bushes, fences, etc.). NEVER use a grill indoors. Odorless carbon monoxide fumes could kill you. Keep your grill clean and well-maintained. Check parts regularly to determine if replacements are needed.

Never leave a hot grill unattended or let children play near it.

CHARCOAL GRILL TIPS (From Kingsford.com)

Do not add lighter fluid directly to hot coals. The flame could travel up the stream of fluid and burn you.

Never use a gasoline or kerosene to light a charcoal fire.

Use flame-retardant mitts and long-handled barbecue tongs, as coals can reach up to 1,000 degrees.

To dispose of coals, allow the ashes to cool for at least 48 hours before disposal in a non-combustible container. If you cannot wait 48 hours, carefully place coals individually in a can of sand or bucket of water.

GAS GRILL TIPS (From the National Fire Protection Association)

Check your grill's hoses for leaks before using it for the first time each year. Apply a light soap and water solution to the hose. A propane leak will release bubbles. If you have a leak, and it will not stop after the grill and gas is turned off, call the fire department. If the leak stops when the grill and gas are turned off, have your grill serviced by a professional.

If you smell gas while cooking, immediately get away from the grill and call the fire department. Do not move the grill.

Do not keep a filled propane tank in a hot car or trunk. When getting containers refilled, make sure that it is your last stop before going home.

Store propane tanks in an upright position, and never indoors.

From all of us at Taylor-Thomason Insurance and A. E. Long, happy grilling, and stay safe this summer!

Gig Harbor Cinema Gig Outdoors

Come out to Gig Harbor to enjoy the city's Annual Outdoor Summer Theater. All movies start at dusk.

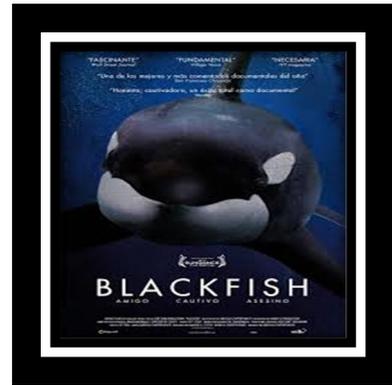
Friday night shows at Donkey Creek Park



Spaceballs
July 10 @ 9:15 PM



Back to the Future
July 24 @ 9:00 PM

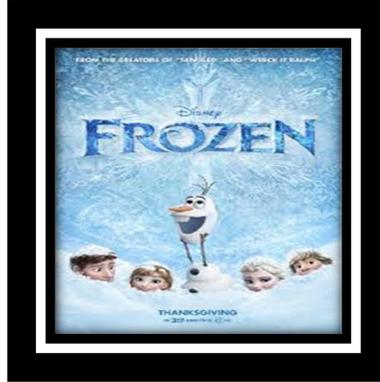


Blackfish
August 7 @ 8:30 PM

Saturday night shows at Skansie Brothers Park



E.T.
July 11 @ 9:15 PM



Frozen
July 25 @ 9:00 PM



Happy Feet
August 8 @ 8:30 PM

Customer Spotlight

In our summer issue we would like to introduce you to V&O Custom Woodworking.

Tips for safe driving in your RV

With spring just around the corner, it's a great time for a "spring break" RV trip. Whether you're heading to locally in the Puget Sound, or east of the mountains or even planning your getaway a lot farther from home, you'll want to make the trip safely.

At Taylor-Thomason Insurance and A. E. Long, we want you to travel safely too. Here are some great tips to help you get out there and back without worry, because nothing can ruin an RV trip faster than trouble on the road.



First, know your ride — even if you're just along for the ride

Of course, knowing the features (and limitations) of your RV is the first step to safely driving it. Are you towing a car? Be mindful of how that will affect your stopping power and maneuverability. Know the dimensions of your vehicle to help with parking and any tight spots you might encounter on the road. Make sure you know that you can fit under the overpasses and bridges on your route.

And even if you're just a passenger, it's a good idea to learn how to drive the RV as well. You might need to take over in an emergency or other situation.

Maintenance, maintenance, maintenance

Just like a car, keeping your RV well-maintained is extremely important. Are your tires in good shape and properly inflated? If you're towing a car or boat, do you need additional braking power? Are your mirrors angled correctly? Is your safety equipment (for example, your fire extinguisher) in good working order? Doing a walk-around and conducting some quick checks before you leave can save you a lot of frustration down the road.

Down the road!

Your RV is much bigger than a car, of course, and that means you need to act more carefully when you're driving it.

- Know your blind spots and use caution when changing lanes, merging or turning.
- Be patient and aware at all times. Consider installing a rear camera to help give you a complete picture of your surroundings.
- Other vehicles may act aggressively to get around you, and sometimes will cut you off once they have passed. Prepare for these situations and understand that many drivers don't realize that you need additional space in front of the RV.
- Because your vehicle is far heavier than others, it picks up speed faster when going down hills or mountain passes, so keep an eye on that speedometer.

What about parking?

- It's best to have someone to guide you into a parking spot. If you don't have anyone with you, check out the area before you try to pull in.
- Practice turns and backing up before you leave on your trip.
- Of course, never park for the night in an area unless you have approval or know that it's safe.

Need to learn more?

Consider taking an RV driving safety course, if possible. At the very least, practice in a large parking lot before hitting the road. Taking a little time to learn how best to drive your RV or improve your skills can have a big impact for you and your family!

You'll find a lot of helpful resources online for RV owners. We like:

- Good Sam Club at www.goodsamclub.com
- Family Motor Coach Association at www.fmca.com
- The list of RV clubs at www.rv-clubs.us/rv-clubs.html
- Great safety tips at www.safeco.com/rv-insurance/rv-safety-tips

Remember to give us a call at (253) 284-7900 when you need coverage for your RV or anything else. We're here to help!