2017 Referral Reward Yearly Winner
Your votes have been counted, and the $500 winner is...

Trump’s Crazy… But Hey, Whatcha Gonna Do?
What do we do if ANY President is incapacitated?

A Brief History Of Hawking
Thoughts from around the world on the death of a great man

Our Monthly Columns

**Tom’s Tidbits** - What, precisely, is a Domestic Enemy?

**Keith Tucker’s What NOW?!! Toon** of the Month

**Drew’s Kitchen** - Freezer-Friendly Shepherd’s Pie

**Shop Talk** - Our “Fire and Fury” book giveaway winner is…

**Health Notes** - Mind-Blowing Medical Technologies

**Book Spotlight** - Two Suggestions From One of Our Clients

**Humorousness** - April Fools Day pranks you’ll wish you’d pulled

**News To Make You Furious** - Copper Mining in Mt. St. Helens… IT’S BACK!

Our Popcorn Shorts

Sellwood’s Parking Problem… SOLVED!
113 Years of Oaks Amusement Park
How to Criticize With Kindness… and WIN!
Great Tricks You Didn’t Know Your Smartphone Could Do
Tom's Tidbits

What, precisely, is a “Domestic Enemy”?

Greetings,

Members of Congress and the Judiciary, enlistees in the military and intelligence, even some local police jurisdictions swear oaths to defend the Constitution against “all enemies, foreign and domestic”. It seems easy enough to define and find Foreign Enemies, but what exactly are “Domestic Enemies”? Since they are threats from the inside, theoretically “just like us”, they could be much harder to spot. I believe Domestic Enemies, just like the foreign ones, are defined by their actions and I’ve compiled a helpful list to clear things up...

A “Domestic Enemy” would be an entity trying to harm American citizens, values, or systems from inside our country. Few, if any, Domestic Enemies openly announce themselves... after all, the insidious power of a Domestic Enemy lies in their “just like us” camouflage. But you can tell who they are if you keep your eye on the ball...

Looking around our country today, who are our Domestic Enemies? Is it “the Muslims”? Well, some of our enemies may be Muslim but “the Muslims” as a group aren’t harming us. Is it “the Mexicans”? Aside from wanting jobs their biggest crime seems to be a desire for citizenship... hardly enmity. How about the evil Liberals or the evil Conservatives? Each side makes proposals the other decries as the end of America, but for all their faults (and yes, each side hits many of the points on the list below) each side can also occasionally make plausible cases for good intent, if not results. We all may disagree with our political opponents, but that doesn’t necessarily make them Domestic Enemies.

If “not agreeing with someone” isn’t enough to make them an enemy, what is? I think Domestic Enemies actually work toward things that harm us, things we would immediately rebel against if inflicted on us by a Foreign Enemy. In our America, today, we definitely have Domestic Enemies. This isn’t an exhaustive list, but they’re the ones who...

- Work to destroy the American governmental and/or legal systems
- Work against the general welfare (or real welfare)
- Put corporate interests ahead of those of human beings and the Planet
- Spin facts to distort truth, or simply perpetuate outright lies
- Work to deny voting rights
- Work to weaken government protections
- Put personal profit before country
- Involve America in unnecessary conflicts
- Condone and promote torture or war crimes
- Weaken our food and energy security

So by this definition, exactly who are America’s Domestic Enemies? Are there people, groups, or entities that have done any, many, most, or all of the things on that list? I would be surprising exactly no one by suggesting members of past and present Administrations qualify as strong candidates, but what is surprising is exactly how closely they match every point on the list. Goals like those articulated by Steven Bannon’s; “deconstruction of the administrative state” or Grover Norquist’s “drown Government in the bathtub”, and now they’ve assembled dream team to do it. Leave aside the Judicial nominees or low-level hires; even leave aside the domestic enmity of the current President himself and just look at his Cabinet picks... uniformly, they are at best unqualified or corrupt and at worst actively antagonistic to the goals of the agencies they now head.

The Trump reality show is full of Domestic Enemies as cast members, but it’s simplistic and wrong to think they’re the only internal threats we face. In government, “representatives” like Mitch McConnell, Chuck Schumer, Paul Ryan, Nancy Pelosi, Harry Reid, Ted Cruz, and so many more line both sides of the aisle to desecrate American ideals and values. Outside government, a seemingly endless stream of individuals like Jeff Bezos, Eric Prince, and the infamous Koch brothers build money, power, and networks to monopolize capitalism, privatize our military, and lock Americans into a neo-feudal serfdom of endless war and zero opportunity.

We could, conceivably, fight even Domestic Enemies like these. A larger threat may come from the “citizens” we can’t imprison... the corporate “people”, without human empathy to temper their greed, and whose only DNA commands them to harvest profits today without consideration for tomorrow’s costs; privatizing profits while socializing the real
expense. These Domestic Enemies include the worshipers of war along with the arms contractors and manufacturers locking us into endless war abroad and escalating violence at home, “food” conglomerates peddling processed food replacements while irreparably damaging the environment, strangling small farmers, ranchers, and grocers, those working against a single-payer system that saves lives and money, the increasingly dominant “information” companies providing corporate-friendly propaganda and precious little needed information.

It’s not hysterics or hyperbole to say America faces real threats from real enemies, foreign and domestic. Lots of people, for their own selfish reasons, are eager to tell us who those enemies are but they aren’t all telling us the truth. Who are the real Domestic Enemies? Pay attention to who’s actually harming us and why, and there’s the enemy, no matter what we’re told. The American People, bit by bit, are catching on. I’m waiting for the good Americans who have sworn that oath to protect and serve our Constitution, to take that Oath seriously and act against the real enemies threatening us now.

Make a great day,

Digging Deeper
There’s no shortage of links to support the abject assault on American values from every side so here are two of our radio ads from the dear departed KPOJ instead. They were written in 2010 and 2011, before Trump was even a gleam in Steve Bannon’s eye, yet they remain painfully relevant today. No need to rush to check them out... they’ll probably remain painfully relevant for years to come.
OKAY SPANKY! LET'S GET A WAR ON!
2017 Referral Reward Yearly Award

Your votes have been counted, and our $500 winner is...

2017 saw the heaviest voting for our Yearly Referral Reward Winner we’ve had, but our clients have spoken loudly and clearly. In today’s political climate, as hate and bigotry are casting off their hoods around the world, perhaps it’s no surprise that our winning group had such strong backing. They’ve begun in Montgomery, Alabama, in 1971, with the mission to “…use litigation, education, and other forms of advocacy to work toward the day when the ideals of equal justice and equal opportunity will be a reality”. Today their work is sadly just as relevant as it was more than 40 years ago, and they are one of the loudest voices tracking, exposing, and fighting hate groups and working for social justice. We’re very proud to announce that the winner of our 2017 Referral Reward Yearly Award is...

The SPLC is dedicated to fighting hate and bigotry and to seeking justice for the most vulnerable members of our society. Using litigation, education, and other forms of advocacy, the SPLC works toward the day when the ideals of equal justice and equal opportunity will be a reality.

SPLC History (From the Southern Poverty Law Center website...)

By the late 1960s, the civil rights movement had ushered in the promise of racial equality as new federal laws and decisions by the U.S. Supreme Court ended Jim Crow segregation. But resistance was strong, and these laws had not yet brought the fundamental changes needed in the South. African Americans were still excluded from good jobs, decent housing, public office, a quality education and a range of other opportunities. There were few places for the disenfranchised and the poor to turn for justice. Enthusiasm for the civil rights movement had waned, and few lawyers in the South were willing to take controversial cases to test new civil rights laws.

Alabama lawyer and businessman Morris Dees sympathized with the plight of the poor and the powerless. The son of an Alabama farmer, he had witnessed firsthand the devastating consequences of bigotry and racial injustice. Dees decided to sell his successful book publishing business to start a civil rights law practice that would provide a voice for the disenfranchised. His decision led to the founding of the Southern Poverty Law Center.

In the decades since its founding, the SPLC shut down some of the nation’s most violent white supremacist groups by winning crushing, multimillion-dollar jury verdicts on behalf of their victims. It dismantled vestiges of Jim Crow, reformed juvenile justice practices, shattered barriers to equality for women, children, the LGBT community and the disabled, protected low-wage immigrant workers from exploitation, and more.
In the 1980s, the SPLC began monitoring white supremacist activity amid a resurgence of the Klan and today its Intelligence Project is internationally known for tracking and exposing a wide variety of hate and extremist organizations throughout the United States.

In the early 1990s, the SPLC launched its pioneering Teaching Tolerance program to provide educators with free, anti-bias classroom resources such as classroom documentaries and lesson plans. Today, it reaches millions of schoolchildren with award-winning materials that teach them to respect others and help educators create inclusive, equitable school environments.

As the country has grown increasingly diverse, our work has only become more vital. And our history is evidence of an unwavering resolve to promote and protect our nation’s most cherished ideals by standing up for those who have no other champions.

**SPLC Strategy**

The SPLC “employs a three-pronged strategy to battle racial and social injustice”. Links below will take you to the relevant sections of the [SPLC Website](#).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fighting Hate</th>
<th>Teaching Tolerance</th>
<th>Seeking Justice</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Southern Poverty Law Center monitors hate groups and other extremists throughout the U.S. and exposes their activities to law enforcement agencies, the media and the public.</td>
<td>We know we don't achieve equality and justice through the courts and investigative reporting alone. The future of our great country lies in the hands of today's young people.</td>
<td>We use the courts and other forms of advocacy to win systemic reforms on behalf of victims of bigotry and discrimination.</td>
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**SPLC Hate Group Tracking**

SPLC’s Teaching Tolerance programs and legal work draw a little criticism, but their classification and tracking of hate groups has drawn much more. The controversy makes some degree of sense... since there is no formal definition or measure of a “hate group”, any count of such groups would involve some subjectivity and none (well, few) of the groups on the list appreciate being categorized as hate groups. But despite the allegations that all it takes to be listed as a hate group is to “disagree with the SPLC” they do have other standards for who they include and have a [FAQ page addressing them](#). (For a flavor of the controversy, check out “[Answering the SPLC’s Attacks Upon Family Research Council](#)”, compare it with [why the SPLC put FRC on the list](#), and wash it all down with a [nominal neutral party to arbitrate](#). You’ll get the idea of what’s going on). Yet despite the controversy, the hate group tracking is arguably one of the most useful things SPLC does... certainly no one else is doing it. Check the map above to see what the haters are doing in a town near you.
Trump's Crazy

But hey… whatcha gonna do?

The 45 Presidents of the US so far have had at least one common flaw. They’ve all been human beings, and subject to the human weaknesses of death, injury, disease, and insanity. The Founders provided for a President’s death, but death is less ambiguous than disease, injury, and insanity. The 25th Amendment filled this gap in 1967. Three of its four sections have been invoked with either the death or consent of the President but the fourth, which removes a President unable to discharge the powers and duties of the office, has not. Current events have prompted deeper consideration of the 25th along two lines… could the 25th remove any mentally incapacitated President, and should it be used to remove Donald Trump?

The 25th Amendment

Let’s start with a primer on the 25th Amendment itself. The actual text is here, and you can find a video explainer here, but its four sections boil down to this...

1. VP becomes President if the President dies or is removed from office
2. If VP office is vacant, the President nominates a VP candidate for Congressional confirmation
3. If the President is temporarily impaired, he can transfer power to the VP as Acting President for the duration of the impairment
4. If the VP and a “...majority of either the principal officers of the executive departments or of such other body as Congress may by law provide...” (taken to mean 13 of the 24 Cabinet Officers) decide the President is impaired, they can tell Congress and the VP will immediately become Acting President
   a. The President can tell Congress when he feels “no inability exists” and is returned to office
   b. The VP (and Cabinet) have four days to dispute
   c. In the event of a dispute, Congress has 21 days to settle the matter

Section 1 clarifies the original Presidential Succession in Article II of the Constitution. When Harrison died in office his VP stepped up, but there was a question as to whether he “became President” or just got the “powers and duties” of the President.

Section 2 fills a gap in the Constitution which didn’t provide a mechanism to fill a VP vacancy. Prior to the 25th the VP office was unoccupied over 20% of the time through death, resignation, or ascension to the Presidency.

Section 3 allows an Acting President to step in for temporary impairments. With the advent of nuclear weapons requiring a response within minutes, it became clear that the US needed a conscious and capable President 24/7/365. Presidents Reagan and Bush (the elder) used this provision when they were medically incapacitated.

Section 4, providing a procedure for an impaired President who cannot or will not step aside, has never been implemented.
The 25th Amendment in general application

Long before considering using the 25th Amendment on ANY individual President, we should look deeper at the amendment itself and how it could theoretically work. President X could be impaired for any number of reasons, but who determines “impairment” and what standards should they use? Is it left to the discretion of the VP and Cabinet to employ the 25th, or are they obligated to use it if/when they see impairment? The potential for political abuse by a president’s adversaries is obvious, but what about the potential for abuse by the president’s allies? Is it even possible to remove political motivations from the equation at all? What about the very human motivations of the people around the president... we’ve seen presidents shielded from press and politics by families and aides with the best of, or at least understandable, intentions. When does the interest of the Country override the interest of the family or even the President himself?

Washington's Growing Obsession: The 25th Amendment, by Annie Karni in Politico, Jan 2018
25th Amendment: How Do We Decide Whether The President Is Competent? By Elaine Kamarck at Brookings, Jan 2018
The 25th Amendment Makes Presidential Disability a Political Question, Jeffrey Rosen in The Atlantic, May 2017
Why Congress Won’t Touch the 25th Amendment by David Hawkings on RollCall, Jan 2018
Removing A President Using The 25th Amendment Would Require A Political Apocalypse, by Byron Wolf on CNN, Jan 2018
How To Remove The President With The 25th Amendment, video from “Madam Secretary”, Jan 2018
Movie: Duty To Warn “Experts discuss why President Trump is psychologically unfit to serve the country, how he is dangerous, and why this is not a partisan matter, but, rather, a patriotic defense of democracy and our citizens.”

Is Donald Trump, specifically, impaired?

Just considered in a vacuum, the 25th Amendment raises fascinating questions. A prudent society might consider answering those questions before they become more than just academic matters. But of course, the current interest in the 25th Amendment is because many people think it’s already too late.

Is Donald Trump insane? Here we don’t mean has he implemented ridiculous policies, or has he violated social norms, or does he hold fringe beliefs, but is he clinically insane? Does he meet the 25th Amendment standard for “impairment”? Actual insanity is no longer a psychiatric definition but a legal one used in evaluating a defendant’s ability to determine right from wrong when a crime is committed. The legal definition is

Insanity. n. mental illness of such a severe nature that a person cannot distinguish fantasy from reality, cannot conduct her/his affairs due to psychosis, or is subject to uncontrollable impulsive behavior.

Again we ask, is Donald Trump insane? Many people considering Trump’s behavior in light of the above definition might justifiably say yes, but the opinion of regular citizens far from the day-to-day functioning of Donald Trump hardly matters. Psychiatric professionals evaluating his behavior from afar might have a better claim of legitimacy, but even they will tell you that a remote evaluation is not the same as a diagnosis. Still the question lingers... is Trump insane?

The most honest answer is we’ll never know for sure. Even if there were a battery of psychiatric experts examining Donald Trump in a clinical setting, we still wouldn’t know. (See sidebar on The Rosenhan Experiment below) There is no “insanity test”, no blood test to detect delusion, no way to know absolutely for sure that Trump or anyone else is crazy. But just like with anyone else, we can draw tentative
conclusions based on available information, and make an informed judgement we can act on. Many people, faced with the daily evidence of Trump’s behavior, have tried to do just that...

We’re Psychiatrists. It’s Our Job To Question The President’s Mental State, by Lee and Glass in Politico, Jan 2018


Is Something Neurologically Wrong With Donald Trump? By James Hamblin in The Atlantic, Jan 2018

'Competent' Or 'Crazy' Misses The Point Of Presidential Mental Health, by Sanjay Gupta on CNN, Jan 2018

What Would It Look Like, Hypothetically, If A Public Figure Were Suffering The Symptoms Of Dementia? By Ashley Feinberg on on Deadspin, Feb 2017

This New Report On Trump’s State Of Mind Should Alarm You, by Greg Sargent in Washington Post, Mar 2018

Why Trump Needs A Cognitive Exam: It Should Be Standard Practice For Any President, Especially A Senior Citizen, by Gartner, Buser, and Reiss in NY Daily News, Jan 2018

Trump And The 25th Amendment: Why It Was Written And What It Can’t Do, by Petula Dvorak in The Washington Post, Jan 2018

Book: Aides Label Trump’s Behavior ‘Defiance Disorder’, by Mallory Shelbourne in The Hill, Jan 2018

Leaks Suggest Trump’s Own Team Is Alarmed By His Conduct, by Date and Wilkie on Huffpost, Feb 2017

So there you go. Our President is arguably insane and the Constitution provides a mechanism for removing impaired Presidents. But those two points aren’t enough to remove Trump because the Constitution’s checks and balances rely on the good intentions of people in power. The evidence to this point indicates the Republicans who currently control all levers of power are willing to keep an insane person in the President’s chair, knowing the immediate and long-term dangers to the country, rather than risk diminishing the power they have. And Trump’s base, far from disagreeing about the madness of the King, are reduced to saying we just have to live with him as though he were the weather.

The President of the United States is crazy, but hey... whatcha gonna do?

(from Wikipedia)
The Rosenhan experiment was conducted to determine the validity of psychiatric diagnosis. The study was done in two parts. The first involved the use of five healthy associates or "pseudopatients" who briefly feigned auditory hallucinations in an attempt to gain admission to 12 psychiatric hospitals in five states in the United States. All were admitted and diagnosed with psychiatric disorders. After admission, the pseudopatients acted normally and told staff they felt fine and no longer experienced any hallucinations. All were forced to admit to having a mental illness and had to agree to take antipsychotic drugs as a condition of their release. The average time that the patients spent in the hospital was 19 days. All but one were diagnosed with schizophrenia "in remission" before their release. The second part of the study involved an offended hospital administration challenging Rosenhan to send pseudopatients to its facility, which its staff would then detect. Rosenhan agreed and in the following weeks out of 250 new patients the staff identified 41 as potential pseudopatients, with 2 of these receiving suspicion from at least one psychiatrist and one other staff member. In fact, Rosenhan had sent no pseudopatients to the hospital.

See also "Ten Days in a Madhouse: The Woman Who Got Herself Committed" about Nellie Bly’s
Stephen William Hawking died on March 14 and was laid to rest in Westminster Abbey with Darwin, Newton, and other famous post-mortem companions. With science itself under attack and scientists becoming pop stars, Hawking stood out. It wasn’t just his decades-long battle with ALS, and not even his universe-defining discoveries, but his upbeat and charming personality that set him apart. Our grandchildren will stand amazed that we once shared the planet with Hawking, so we thought we should take one final look at his life. From memories of friends and family, to exploration of his mind-bending theories, to the effect his loss has had around the world, here are the best stories we could find from the end of a landmark mind...

Hawking.org.uk - Stephen Hawking’s official webpage with links to lectures, publications, books, photos, films, TV, and videos.

His Life
Awesome quotes from Stephen Hawking (video)
What many don’t know about Stephen Hawking by Tara Marie in Grunge, Mar 2018
10 things to know about Stephen Hawking (video)
Stephen Hawking: A life in pictures, BBC News, Mar 2018

Hawking lets loose
The time I took Stephen Hawking to a cowboy bar, Lawrence Krauss, Washington Post, Mar 2018
Stephen Hawking’s cameo: ‘I have been quite popular in my time’, BBC News, Mar 2018
That one time Stephen Hawking went for a carriage ride in Texas, Eric Berger on Ars Technica, Mar 2018
Remembering Stephen Hawking’s Greatest Scientific Accomplishment — and My Famous Bet Against Him by John Preskill in Time, Mar 2018
Richard Dawkins complains people keep confusing him with Stephen Hawking, Giordano in The Independent, Mar 2018

His scientific contributions
Stephen Hawking: Five of his achievements, BBC, Jul 2017
10 Major Accomplishments Of Stephen Hawking, Anirudh on Learnodo-Newtonic.com, Dec 2015
Stephen Hawking’s parting shot is multi-cosmic (Hawking’s final theory) by Jonathan Leake, The Times, Mar 2018
How Stephen Hawking’s Black Hole Discoveries Rewrote Physics Of Space-Time, Adami in Newsweek, Mar 2018
How Stephen Hawking’s biggest achievement linked opposing worlds of physics, Grush on The Verge, Mar 2018

These Are The Discoveries That Made Stephen Hawking Famous, Phillip Ball for BBC, Jan 2016
Stephen Hawking’s Last Paper (Probably) Doesn’t Prove We Live in a Multiverse, Ghose on LiveScience.com, Mar 2018
Stephen Hawking: Physicist who was light years ahead of the Nobel prize, Marcus Chown in The Independent, Mar 2018

His death
No, Stephen Hawking did not suddenly believe in God on his deathbed, Avi Selk in The Washington Post, Mar 2018
Texas Republican mocks Stephen Hawking after his death, Bob Brigham on RawStory, Mar 2018
Hundreds line Cambridge streets to honor Stephen Hawking, Gregory Katz in AP, Mar 2018

Hawking’s own words
Stephen Hawking’s final interview: A beautiful Universe by Pallab Ghosh on BBC News, Mar 2018
Professor Stephen Hawking’s greatest wish, Pallab Ghosh, Mar 2018
Stephen Hawking on Technological Unemployment, one of his final internet comments, Mar 2018
Stephen Hawking Thoughts About God and Religion, (video)

Goodbyes
Stephen Hawking dies: Scientist’s most memorable quotes, BBC News, Mar 2018
Erasing Stephen Hawking’s disability erases an important part of who he was, Jessica Roy in LA Times, Mar 2018
Shop Talk

Our book “Fire and Fury” book winner is...

Book Giveaway Winner

We’re pleased to announce the winner of Michael Wolff’s “Fire and Fury” is Stephanie S. She was entered by voting for our Referral Reward Yearly Winner, who you can read all about in this month’s article “Who won our 2017 Referral Reward Annual Award?” (Bad title… good article) Stephanie snagged this copy but we have more for checkout in our lobby Book and Bumper Sticker Library. Here’s an insider tip if you’d like to walk away a winner too… keep an eye out on our occasional emails, because we plan to be doing many more of these little giveaways in the months to come. Congratulations to Stephanie, and good luck to everyone else

Current Special Offers

If you’re used to looking in “Shop Talk” for our Current Offers, this is your last time to catch them here. We’re moving them to their own page and there’ll be a link in the email newsletter to get to them directly. For our last Shop Talk hurrah, though, we have two juicy offers for your consideration...

Start with your choice of a FREE 90-Point Inspection or our Comprehensive Inspection at $75 OFF (or FREE with min. purchase)

AND THEN Save 20% on Labor Charges for repairs from either inspection!

Our 90-point Inspection is our most thorough non-invasive vehicle checkup. Our Comprehensive Inspection is the next level; an in-depth mechanical examination, evaluation, and documentation by an ASE-Certified Technician to identify any vehicle issues you might be facing. If a problem IS found, the 20%-Off-Labor makes it easier to take care of right away!

(Expires 4/13/18. Comprehensive. Inspection normally $150; $100 min purchase for free inspection. Max labor charge discount $250)

Save 20% on Labor Charges for services over $500!

Spring is sputtering into Portland, and spring cleaning is on everyone’s mind. Don’t neglect your vehicle as you freshen up for the season!

(Expires 4/30/18. $500 min purchase required before discount. Max labor discount $250)
Comment of the Month

On our Post-Service Feedback Cards, under “What can we do to improve?”, Charla W. suggested...

“Maybe explain how soon to “monitor” certain pending issues... For example, my power steering has a small leak that I should monitor, but I don’t know how often/how/when to do so.”

You can relax, Charla. We said your power steering leak should be “monitored”, but that’s a note for US to pay attention to! On your next service your Technician will see that notation and be sure to check the leak and decide if it has grown to the point where it needs further attention. One of our biggest values to our clients is prioritizing our service recommendations, so when you pick up your car after service we explain what we did but we also make you aware of possible issues on the horizon. Your comment raises an excellent point for us to be aware of, and we’ll try to make sure our other clients know that we’ll be the ones “monitoring” their vehicle’s health!

What are they building across the street?

Sellwood Bridgehead, being built across the street from us at 8222 SE 6th, will be a 119 unit multi-family housing project with 49 underground parking spots. Everyone seems to ask about it when they come by the shop, so we’ll bring you a couple shots each month as our newest Sellwood neighbor takes shape. It’s been a while since our last check-in, so there’s been a lot of progress...

These two pictures will give you an idea of how fast they’re progressing. This picture was taken Feb 6....

...while this picture, taken from about the same position, was taken March 29, less than two months later.

Construction required the use of this unique piece of specialty equipment; a crane that fits UNDER the overhead power lines

The crane allowed the concrete electrical vault to be installed in one piece rather than cast in place
Your reviews and referrals matter
We’re constantly grateful for the supportive and loyal clients we’ve gained over the years. Your comments and appreciation keep us on the right road to providing the superior automotive service you deserve. Reviews and referrals are not only the highest compliments we can receive, they’re the lifeblood of our new business. If you like what you’ve found at Tom Dwyer Automotive, please tell a friend or review us on Yelp, Angieslist, Google, or the review site of your choice. Thanks!

Latest Automotive Recalls
Automobiles are like any other product; occasional flaws in manufacture or design can cause problems once they leave the factory. When issues are found the manufacturers and government work hard to bring the vehicles back in for refit or repair, but not all recalls make the front pages. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration maintains a constantly updated list of recalls from every manufacturer, and an occasional check of their website is a good idea.
Did you make it through St. Patrick’s Day without Shepherd’s Pie? Drew is here to make sure you don’t suffer the same humiliation next year…

Ingredients for the Beef and Vegetable layer:

- 1 pound ground Beef (85/15 recommended, but use leaner beef if desired)
- 1 ½ cup chopped yellow onion
- ¾ cups chopped carrot
- ½ cup frozen peas
- ½ cup frozen corn kernels
- 2 Tbsp butter
- 2 Tbsp flour
- 1 Tbsp fresh thyme leaves
- 1 clove garlic, pressed or minced
- 1 cup beef stock
- Salt and pepper

Ingredients for the Mashed Potato layer:

- 2 pounds Yukon Gold potatoes, peeled and cut into large cubes
- ½ cup heavy cream
- ¾ cup milk
- 3 Tbsp butter, softened
- 1 cup grated Cheddar cheese
- Salt and pepper

Preparation:

- Heat a large nonstick skillet over medium high heat, then add beef.
- Brown beef until fully cooked, about 5 minutes
- Soak up excess beef fat with a paper towel, then add onion and carrot
- Season with a pinch of salt and pepper
- Cook 10 min, or until soft
- Add peas and corn and cook for 2 min.
- Add butter to the pan and toss around until fully melted
- Stir in flour, thyme leaves, and garlic.
- Stir 1 minute until flour disappears.
- Add beef stock and bring liquid to a boil over high heat.
- Cook for a minute or two until broth thickens into a light sauce
- Remove pan from heat and transfer beef and veggie mixture to an 8x8 baking dish.
- Preheat oven to 425°
- To make the mashed potatoes, place cubed potatoes in a pot filled with cold water.
- Place on the stove set over high heat and bring to a boil
- Cook for about 5 minutes, until potato cubes are fork-tender
- Drain potatoes, then spread them out on a sheet pan in a single layer and let sit for a couple minutes so the steam can escape
- Use a fork or potato masher to mash the potatoes, then stir in cream, milk, butter, and cheese.
- Make any necessary seasoning adjustments with salt and pepper
- Spread mashed potatoes on top of the beef and veggies in the 8x8 baking dish
- Bake shepherd’s pie for 20-25 minutes, until mashed potatoes are golden brown and crispy on top.

Freezer Instructions

- After baking, let pan cool to room temperature, then cover with foil
- Place in the freezer for up to 2 months
- When ready to eat, reheat the shepherd’s pie (still covered with the foil) for 1 hour in a 350° oven
- If you thaw the pie in the fridge the night before, you can cut that time in half.

Total time: 1 hour; Prep time 0:15, Cook time 0:45
Serves 8
Original recipe on ThePioneerWoman.com
Health Notes

Mind-Blowing Medical Technologies

Technology is exploding all around us, but few arenas are as bulging with technological innovation as Health Care. New science leads to new technologies, fueled by both the money in health research and our desire to live longer, healthier lives. If you’re looking for Star Trek in today’s world, look no farther than these discoveries...

**Prosthetic Memory System Successful In Humans**
Scientists have demonstrated the successful implementation of a prosthetic system that uses a person’s own memory patterns to facilitate the brain's ability to encode and recall memory.

**Beating Heart From A Spinach Leaf**
Researchers bought spinach from a local market, removed all the plant cells to expose a cellulose frame, then seeded the frame with heart muscle cells. 5 days later, the ‘heart’ started beating...

**3-DIY: Printing Your Own Bioprinter**
Researchers have developed a low-cost 3-D bioprinter by modifying a standard desktop 3-D printer, and they have released the breakthrough designs as open source so that anyone can build their own system.

**New Blood Test For Alzheimer’s Disease**
New test detects disease 30 years before symptoms, with 90% accuracy

**Clinical Trial Shows Breakthrough On Reversing Blindness Caused By Macular Degeneration**
Macular degeneration begins leading to blindness as a support layer, behind the macula in our eyes, deteriorates. Doctors used stem cells to grow back a new retinal pigment epithelium and its support system, and then surgically implanted them in two patients.

**New Glue Seals Wounds In Just 60 Seconds**
New ‘squirtable’ elastic glue seals wounds in first aid and surgery

**Alzheimer’s Disease Reversed In Mouse Model**
Researchers have found that gradually depleting an enzyme called BACE1 completely reverses the formation of amyloid plaques in the brains of mice with Alzheimer's disease, thereby improving the animals' cognitive function. The study raises hopes that drugs targeting this enzyme will be able to successfully treat Alzheimer's disease in humans.

**What Do Cochlear Implants And Hearing Aids Sound Like?**
Cochlear implants are the cutting-edge tech for hearing loss. You probably know someone with one, or at least have seen one... but what do they sound like?

**Top 5 Advances in Medical Technology** *(American Society of Mechanical Engineers)*
Covers cancer nanotherapy, brain-machine interfaces, new stethoscope designs, wireless pulse oximetry, and genome editing

**20 Medical Technology Advances: Medicine in the Future – Part I, Part II**
From augmented reality surgery and all-new diseases to medical tricorders and optogenetics, MedicalFuturist has the skinny on... well, the Medical Future.

**The Most Exciting Medical Technologies of 2017**
These technologies aren’t ready for prime time, but you’ll be hearing news on all of them coming soon...

**AI Will Change Health Care Jobs for the Better**
Consider three issues that get a lot of attention: the use of medical records, the “human touch” in medical care, and the future of jobs in the industry. On balance, are people more glass half-full or half-empty? Our research points to an optimism that may surprise expert observers.

**New Technologies Fast Forward Treatment For Heart Disease**
“Cardiology is always one of the fastest evolving fields, so there’s always something new coming out as far as new stents, new devices ... upgrades to the old devices and the old stents, and that’s a constant thing,” United Hospital Center cardiologist Gerardo Lopez

**How 3D Printing Is Transforming Healthcare**
Tilly Lockey was a baby when she lost both hands after developing meningitis. Almost a decade later, Tilly made headlines when she received new hands created with a 3D printer, as the world’s first clinical trial of a new type of prosthesis gathered speed within the NHS in Bristol.

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**Healthcare Technology Review 2017 (ReferralMD)**
The future of healthcare is changing dramatically with medical and dental technology advances starting to accelerate and larger health systems taking notice.

**Top 10 Medical Devices on the Cutting Edge**
Epilepsy treated with a zap, contact lenses that dispense medicine, magnets for smoking cessation, mind-controlled exoskeletons, and more

**Science or Science Fiction? 12 Cutting-Edge Medical Advances**
Brain transplants? Face and Limb transplants? Mind reading? Yes to all. And more.
We’re taking a break this month from reading but never fear, our Book Spotlight will not go unfilled. Client Dick H. has two books to share with the Tom Dwyer Community, and we think you’ll find both of them to be extremely timely. Don’t forget, the books in our Spotlight are also in our Lobby Library for you to checkout, or they’re also available through Wallace Books if you want a copy of your very own. Thanks for the help, Dick!

“Democracy in Chains” by Nancy MacLean

Behind today’s headlines of billionaires taking over our government is a secretive political establishment with long, deep, and troubling roots. The capitalist radical right has been working not simply to change who rules, but to fundamentally alter the rules of democratic governance. But billionaires did not launch this movement; a white intellectual in the embattled Jim Crow South did. Democracy in Chains names its true architect—the Nobel Prize-winning political economist James McGill Buchanan—and dissects the operation he and his colleagues designed over six decades to alter every branch of government to disempower the majority.

Without Buchanan's ideas and Koch's money, the libertarian right would not have succeeded in its stealth takeover of the Republican Party as a delivery mechanism. Now, with Mike Pence as Vice President, the cause has a longtime loyalist in the White House, not to mention a phalanx of Republicans in the House, the Senate, a majority of state governments, and the courts, all carrying out the plan. That plan includes harsher laws to undermine unions, privatizing everything from schools to health care and Social Security, and keeping as many of us as possible from voting. Based on ten years of unique research, Democracy in Chains tells a chilling story of right-wing academics and big money run amok. This revelatory work of scholarship is also a call to arms to protect the achievements of twentieth-century American self-government.

Loaded: A Disarming History of the 2nd Amendment” by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz

With President Trump suggesting that teachers arm themselves, with the NRA portrayed as a group of "patriots" helping to Make America Great Again, with high school students across the country demanding a solution to the crisis, everyone in America needs to engage in the discussion about our future with an informed, historical perspective on the role of guns in our society. America is at a critical turning point. What is the future for our children?

Loaded: A Disarming History of the Second Amendment, is a deeply researched—and deeply disturbing—history of guns and gun laws in the United States, from the original colonization of the country to the present. As historian and educator Dunbar-Ortiz explains, in order to understand the current obstacles to gun control, we must understand the history of U.S. guns, from their role in the "settling of America" and the early formation of the new nation, and continuing up to the present.
Humorousness

April Fools Day pranks you’ll wish you’d pulled

The only holiday bigger than Christmas has just passed... April Fools Day 2018 is in the rearview mirror. Here’s a compendium of some of the tricks we saw bobbing about in the InterTubes this year. You’ll giggle at all of them, but do more than that! Write them down, because you know you’ll forget them by next year!

April Fools Day Web Pranks - C|Net

25+ Hilarious Pranks For April Fools’ Day - Bored Panda

Family-Friendly April Fools' Day Pranks - Parenting Magazine

29 Insanely Easy Pranks You Need To Play On April Fools' Day - BuzzFeed

15 Simple April Fool’s Jokes to Play On Your Kids - Readers Digest

Click here for the Dwyer April Fools Page, with all our favorite in-shop pranks!
Popcorn Shorts

Cool stuff that's too small for a big article

Just like it says, Popcorn Shorts is about the kind of things we think are really interesting, but don’t really need a large article to explain them. From the sublime to the ridiculous, check in here for crunchy bits of info you’ll love to munch. By the way, much (but not all) of our delicious Popcorn comes from articles we’ve posted on our Facebook page. If you’re on Facebook, please stop by and “Like” us and we’ll keep a fairly-constant-but-not-frequent-enough-to-be-annoying stream of these coming to your virtual door!

Great Tricks You Didn’t Know Your Smartphone Could Do

AMAZING FACT! Did you know your smartphone does more than let you receive anonymous robocalls? It’s true! From diagnosing leaky windows and natural identification to customizing vibrational patterns or even blocking those robocalls, your little black box is a bottomless bucket of usefulness. Check out these ideas to make your phone more than an expensive pocketweight...

Eight Things Your Phone’s Camera Can Do—Other Than Snapping Selfies by David Nield in Popular Science, Mar 2018
Things You Didn’t Know Your Smartphone Could Do by J. Gillman on BestPhoneSpy, 2017
Tips and Tricks For Using Your Android Phone or iPhone on BaBaMail
8 Things You Didn’t Know Your Smartphone Could Do by Calum Rutter on NewsShopper

Sellwood’s Parking Problem... SOLVED!

Sellwood is just one of the Portland neighborhoods overflowing with cars and nowhere to park them. As population density increases there are no simple solutions, but other people have tried before. Here’s a look at innovative parking solutions from around the country, including how Portland solved the problem over 60 years ago...

The Marvellous History of New York’s ‘Hotel for Autos’ by J. Metcalfe in CityLab, Sep 2015
15 Creative, Innovative & Hilarious Parking Solutions by Steve in WebUrbanist
A Ferris Wheel for Cars and Trucks by Benjamin Preston in NYTimes, Oct 2014
Parking Crunch? Tivoli Hopes To Stack Cars by Samantha Craggs in CBC News, Jun 2014
Pigeon Hole Parking, Portland, Oregon, 1955 by D. Strohl in HemmingsClassicCar, Feb 2014

113 Years Of Oaks Amusement Park

Who’s your oldest neighbor? Bet we have you beat. Our oldest neighbor (or at least one of them) is the 113-year-old Oaks Amusement Park on the Willamette River. As their new Adrenaline Peak Roller Coaster opens, the Oregonian has this great photographic retrospective of the park all the way back to its opening on May 30, 1905. Things have changed quite a bit, but one thing hasn’t... you’ll still see smiles on the faces of everyone there!

How To Criticize With Kindness (and WIN the argument!)

FOX News is one of the most glaring examples of screaming, blathering disputation pretending to be debate and discussion, but they’re hardly the only one. There’s two drawbacks to this type of “discussion”... no one “wins”, and no one learns anything. Philosopher Daniel Dennett proposes some simple rules for successful criticism that work because they transform an opponent into a more receptive audience for your criticism or dissent. It’s still up to you to make a strong case, but as Dennett (and others) point out, the best place to start is with respect.
In 2012 we were Furious that Mt. St. Helens was the target for exploratory mining. In 2014 there seemed to be reason to calm down when a Federal District Court ruled that federal agencies’ approval of the mining application violated numerous environmental laws and the project was canned. Now a new President means another bite at the apple for the miners, and this year the Forest Service gave consent for exploratory mining to go ahead in the Green River Valley bordering the Mt. St. Helens Volcanic Monument. Read this article from The Columbian laying out the current environmental insult, then check out our article from 2012 below. Yes, you’ll be Furious when you learn all the details, but you’ll be even more outraged when you see how little has changed since this first became an issue.

(If being Furious makes you want to be Active, we’ve provided links in the article to the group fighting the project... yet again.)

Some things that make us Furious are loud and obvious, but others evolve quietly behind the scenes until it’s too late to do anything about them. This is a story about a quiet thing happening right now... an exploratory drilling request that could lead to an open pit leach mine near Goat Mountain, 11 miles from the crater of Mount St. Helens. Unlike so many Furious stories, though, this isn’t a “done deal” yet so the story is also about what you can do to help stop it...

At 8:32 on May 18, 1980, Mount St. Helens exploded in an eruption that lasted 9 hours and decimated the surrounding landscape. In 1982 the President and Congress created a 110,000-acre National Volcanic Monument around Mt. St. Helens and within the Gifford Pinchot National Forest, preserving the area for research, recreation, and education. Inside the Monument, the environment was left to respond naturally to the disturbance. However, when the Monument was created there was some question about the mineral rights of a small section of land near Goat Mountain that borders on the monument area. Rather than hold up the whole process to clear up this little glitch, the government...
went ahead with protecting the rest of the area, but left out this controversial little bit.
After all, what could possibly go wrong?

In 2005, Idaho General Mines (now called General Moly, Inc.) stepped in to answer that question. They owned a 50% interest in the mineral rights, and wanted to start digging. After 3 years and 33,000 public comments (the majority of which were against the mining) the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) issued a “no decision”, stopping Idaho General but leaving the door open to other companies in the future.

It seems the future is now. Ascot Resources is a Canadian company that now owns the mineral rights to that odd bit of land, and they want to start exploratory drilling for copper, molybdenum, and gold. If they do decide there’s enough “gold in them thar hills” to make it worthwhile to mine, they aren’t large enough to do the work themselves. They would most likely sell (or sublet) their interest to one of the large global mining companies to develop the claim, and that’s when the trouble really starts...

- The mine would be approximately 3000 acres, directly bordering the legendary Mount St. Helens monument area.
- No matter what company takes over the claim, they would not be bound by any agreements Ascot made in their exploratory claim.
- Under the Mining Act of 1872 they can take the minerals while paying very little (if any) royalties to the US.
- Because the mine would be located in an active volcano, deep-shaft mining is out of the question. The only viable technology would be open-pit leach mining, which uses cyanide to separate the ore from the waste.
- The mine would threaten the watershed that supplies Kelso, Longview, and other smaller communities with clean drinking water.
- Since the penalties for not remediating the area are dwarfed by the profits from the royalty-free ore, there is little incentive to actually stay and restore the area’s environment after the mine is closed.
- Not surprisingly, one of the benefits used to sell the potential of the project is the number of jobs it would create. While glossy brochures distributed to area residents promised thousands of jobs for the life of the mine, other sources have estimated that 200 is a more likely number. In fact, company employees are quoted in the Longview Daily News saying only 18 jobs would be created for the actual drilling, one third of which have been promised to Canadian citizens. Also, the typical lifetime of a mine isn’t what it used to be. Mines used to be 20-30 year endeavors but now they’re used up after just 3-5 years.
- The mine would affect ancient forests, recreation areas, the Tumwater Inventory Roadless Area, and the entire Green River valley.

If Ascot completes the exploratory drilling they’ll have to apply for a permit for actual mine development, which would trigger an environmental review at that point. However, by investing time, money, and resources into this mining proposal now, the federal government is creating momentum that will be difficult to stop when it comes time to decide whether or not to permit actual mine development.

But like we said, this is different than our usual Furious stories because it’s not too late,
and you can still do something about this beyond grumbling.

The Gifford Pinchot Task Force was formed in 1985 to monitor timber sales and advocate for the Gifford Pinchot National Forest. Since then they’ve expanded their mission to support biological diversity and sustainable forest policy throughout the Northwest. The Task Force was instrumental in defeating the 2005 attempt to mine the area, resulting in BLM’s “no decision” in 2008. They’re taking the lead once again in this fight, and if mining at Mt. St. Helens matters to you then they need your help. Please consider helping financially, by donating your time, or by writing a letter opposing the exploratory drilling. If you’re interested, here’s how you can reach them:

(Edited 3/21/18 - In 2016 the Gifford Pinchot Task Force changed its name to the Cascade Forest Conservancy. The info below has been corrected appropriately)

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We talk about a lot of stuff in “Furious”… slavery, tax policy, nuclear energy, business and governmental abuses, and much more. The most infuriating thing about most of these stories is that the issues are too big or it’s too late to do anything about them, but this one’s different. Yes, it’s a big issue, and yes, it’s an uphill battle against moneyed interests. But IT CAN BE STOPPED, and most importantly, YOU CAN HELP! Please, call Bob at the GP Task Force and get involved… don’t let this treasure of our Northwest paradise be scarred forever for a short term gain!