



# “Your Car Matters”

Tom Dwyer Automotive Services Monthly Newsletter for January 2019



**YOU VOTED, so we're giving \$500 to...**  
...our 2018 Referral Reward YEARLY winner!



**Have you thought about the Big One lately?**  
Your life can change in the time it takes to read this headline



**Looking Back At 2018**  
Our best articles from 2018's "Your Car Matters"



Age, not politics, predicts who shares FAKE NEWS



China takes us to the Dark Side of the Moon



78% of US workers live paycheck to paycheck



Watch the world burn. Share it with your friends.

## Our Monthly Columns

**Tom's Tidbits-** Emergency. Emergency! EMERGENCY! No.

**Health Notes-** You can cut your cancer risk by eating organic.

**What NOW?!! Toons** Keith's First Toon of 2019

**Book Spotlight-** "The Vanishing Middle Class" by Peter Temin

**Drew's Kitchen-** Chef Lampe's Herbed-up Prime Rib

**Humorousness-** Welcome To The Flat Earth

**Shop Talk-** Construction Project #1... FINISHED!

**News To Make You Furious-** The Best Oil Spills Are The Ones You Never Hear About.

# Tom's Tidbits

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EMERGENCY! EMERGENCY! EMERGENCY? No.



Greetings,

DONALD TRUMP DECLARED A NATIONAL EMERGENCY! He's not 'thinking' about it, he's DONE it... three times, actually, once in [2017](#) and twice in [2018](#). (In a painful spasm of irony, one of these declarations even enabled sanctions "[in the event of foreign interference in a United States election](#).") But our clown-prince will have to look elsewhere if he wants to reach bigly new heights for misuse of power. Woodrow Wilson declared the first National Emergency in 1917, and the US is *currently operating under 31 separate national emergencies*, some going back to Jimmy Carter...

Donald Trump "proudly" shut down our Government because his own *Republican Congress* wouldn't give him money for an ineffective vanity project. He wasn't even asking for the \$60 billion (or more) to complete it, but a \$5.7 billion sucker's hook to commit us to a fantasy forcefield instead of needed and effective border protection. Bipartisan revulsion at Trump's idea of a sham "national emergency" to get his funding has stayed his hand so far, but as Trump's shutdown cripples the country, the idea of unfettered emergency power may grow more attractive. To Trump, at least.

Migration is a world-wide problem, and our own immigration system has serious flaws that need real attention. But "emergency" isn't a synonym for "problem". To me, "emergency" implies at least a serious and probably even existential threat that would destroy everything if the worst case happened. An "emergency" would threaten a large part of our people, our country, or our world... the peril of an individual, while serious, wouldn't be an "emergency" to the country. And there's a time element to "emergency" that demands action immediately because action later would be useless. Immigration policy is unresolved, unsettled, a *problem* by any standard, but not a "crisis" or an "emergency". It does NOT justify emergency powers.

Our Constitution constrains presidents for good reasons and I can't imagine a world where we'd be better off because Donald Trump had less supervision and more power. However, capable, qualified presidents may well face situations justifying rapid action, greater flexibility, or more control. World War II makes the classic case, but I don't think war is the only possible basis for emergency powers. I think there are real, existential, worldwide threats demanding immediate and widespread action.

Climate Change is the prime example... a potentially extinction-level event where even minimal action is blocked by the syndicate of fossil-fuel companies and the leeches paid to deny science. The latest models give us about 12 years to change or face a runaway positive feedback loop and a nasty, brutish, short path to destruction, but an extra-empowered President might put us on a track to useful action. How about the takeover of our government by corporations and billionaires? It's destroying our economic lives and political liberties, but it won't be solved if government is bought-and-paid-for by those same corporations and billionaires. A super-president not beholden to these financial interests could push rules to curb their power. Our lack of national healthcare is a disgrace that kills thousands every year, and I'd love to see a president with not just the will, but the power, to do something about it! What about loose nukes, endless war, Russian influence around the world, Flint's water, Puerto Rico's agony, rebuilding in the wake of fires and floods, or a host of other serious, time-sensitive foreign and domestic issues that are stymied by governmental gridlock? Any one of these would be stronger justifications for emergency power than Trump's border wall farce.

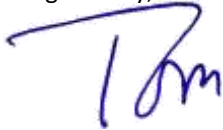
But even in these situations I'd hesitate to grant emergency powers to a president... *any* president. A president capable and balanced enough to trust with emergency powers probably wouldn't need or want them. They'd

be much better off using their skills working with citizens and government, within our existing process, to create innovative new solutions like the Green New Deal. The power available to a president in emergency is vast, but comes with no guarantees... it could be used for the reasons stated, or it could be used for things not covered by the original justification at all. Emergency powers might be used stupidly, for instance by a president who tries to solve Climate Change by implementing a massive new program to expand fracking or Clean™ Coal. And don't ignore Frederick Douglass' reminder that "Power concedes nothing without demand" ... what happens when 'crisis' is over and the president is reluctant to relinquish their intoxicating new power? Emergency power represents a roll of the dice that should only be taken as a very last resort. We face many real emergencies, but few if any are worth the risk of creating a rogue unitary executive.

All politics has a theater side, and emergency powers are no different. They sound scary but the [31 current national emergency conditions](#) prove our country can survive them... at least so far. But let's imagine some hypothetical day when a weak and incompetent president finds themselves the victim of their own inadequacy in a situation they can barely comprehend and certainly can't control. The power of political theatrics could easily help them manufacture an 'emergency' to terrify a fearful and unwitting base who won't see the downside of delivering unbounded power to their 'father figure'. But idiots, hucksters, demagogues, and tyrants are nothing new, and the Founders were familiar with them all. The method they devised to control them was to limit their power and force them to collaborate with colleagues to get things done, *not* to give them unbridled authority over an angry and uncompliant population.

"Emergency" may be somewhat in the eye of the beholder, but some aspects are undeniable... an existential threat, needing direct action, compounded by time. Our country is indeed faced with real emergencies, but not one of them would be better resolved by expanding presidential powers.

Make a great day,



## Digging Deeper...

[Could Donald Trump declare a national emergency for a border wall? Here's what we know.](#) Miriam Valverde on PolitiFact, Jan 2019

[The most dangerous climate feedback loop is speeding up,](#) by Joe Romm on Think Progress, Jan 2019

[National Emergency Declaration Could Trigger 'Power Grab'](#), Lindsay Koshgarian interview by Mark Steiner, Jan 2019

[Here's What \\$5 Billion In Border Wall Funding Would Buy,](#) Jake Gibson on FOX News, Dec 2018

[The Cost of the Border Wall Keeps Climbing and It's Becoming Less of a Wall,](#) Alex Nowrasteh at CATO Institute, Jan 2019

[The Wall: The Real Costs Of A Barrier Between US And Mexico,](#) Vanda Felbab-Brown, Brookings Institution, Aug 2017

[How Trump's Border Wall Would Fit With Previous National Emergency Declarations,](#) by Kevin Schaul in Washington Post, Jan 2019

[A Guide to Emergency Powers and Their Use,](#) Brennan Center for Justice, Dec 2018

[Trump Summons Thousands Back to Work Without Pay as Shutdown Drags On,](#) by Julie Hirschfeld-Davis and Sheryl Gay Stolberg in NY Times, Jan 2019

[The US Is Currently In 31 Other National Emergencies. Here's What That Means.](#) By Indra Ekmanis on PRI's The World, Jan 2019

[Here's A List Of The 31 National Emergencies That Have Been In Effect For Years,](#) by Kendall Heath on ABCNews, Jan 2019

[Poll: Slight Majority Opposes Trump Emergency Declaration For Wall Funding,](#) by Steven Shepard on Politico, Jan 2019

[Exactly How Bad Is Trump At Making Deals? Even Worse Than You Think.](#) Emily Peck on HuffPost, Jan 2019

[5 facts about illegal immigration in the U.S.,](#) by Krogstad, Passel, and Cohn on Pew Research Center, Nov 2018

# What NOW?!! Toons

Keith's First Toon of 2019



**"WHAT NOW?!!!"**

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WWW.WHATNOWTOONS.COM

## **Current Special Offers**

Take advantage of these special Dwyer offers!



# **Save up to \$200!**

Take 25% off Labor charges on any AC repair

You're not thinking about air-conditioning this time of year? Maybe you should be! Your vehicle's air conditioning is a critical system even in winter. It's linked with your defrosting system to help draw moisture from your vehicles' interior, so thinking about it in the off-season can make you safer and more comfortable in the winter and you'll be ready when the hot weather returns. And it WILL return!

*Offer expires 2/28/19*

# **YOU VOTED, so we're giving \$500 to...**

...our 2018 Referral Reward YEARLY winner!



Year after year, our biggest source of new clients is our existing clients. That's a deeply humbling fact. The idea that people see enough value in our service to send their family and friends... well, it's the highest compliment we can receive and we're profoundly grateful. Thank you!

Many shops say thanks for referrals by giving free oil changes or repair discounts. We did too until we decided it seemed a little too self-serving. Besides, if you're getting a free oil change for sending someone our way, doesn't that color your own thinking, even just a little? No more! Since 2014 we've been making a donation to the non-profit group of your choice for each new client you

refer. Not only that, but your choice goes into the mix with all the other Referral groups and our clients vote for Quarterly and Yearly awards from among them. That brings us to today and our 2018 Yearly Award Winner, a group serving people who have it hard in the best of times but are particularly hard hit by the Trumpocracy. Through their outreach in employment, family services, language, legal, community services, and more they're helping create self-sufficient people and vibrant communities. And without further ado, our \$500 Yearly Award for 2018 goes to...



## **Immigrant & Refugee Community Organization**

*From the IRCO Website...*

### **Mission & History**

IRCO's mission is to promote the integration of refugees, immigrants and the community at large into a self-sufficient, healthy and inclusive multi-ethnic society. Founded in 1976 by refugees for refugees, IRCO has over 40 years of history and experience working with Portland's refugee and immigrant communities. Following the 1970s political upheavals in Southeast Asia, Oregon and Washington were two of



the first states to offer new opportunities and homes to refugees. A group of Vietnamese, Laotian and Cambodian refugees in Portland formed the Indochinese Cultural and Service Center (ICSC) to help newly arrived families adjust to American society and find jobs.

By the mid-'80s, ICSC joined forces with another community-based organization, Southeast Asian Refugee Federation (SEARF). The newly formed International Refugee Center of Oregon (IRCO) became the sole service provider of employment services and job training for all newly arrived refugees, a role IRCO has retained ever since. We became the Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization in 2001. In 1994, IRCO founded the Asian Family Center, the first of our culturally and linguistically specific one stop service locations, followed by the establishment of Africa House in 2006.



### **Empowering immigrants and refugees from around the world to build new lives**

The Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization (IRCO) supports immigrants, refugees and mainstream community members to become self-sufficient. We strive in our programming, outreach and education to foster understanding, compassion and communication between Oregon's established communities and newest arrivals.

Oregon has one of the fastest growing refugee and immigrant populations in the country. Forced to leave their home countries for fear of persecution due to race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership in a particular social group, refugees and immigrants come to Portland to begin new lives. IRCO focuses on removing barriers to self-sufficiency and helping individuals and families thrive, by providing more than 200 culturally and linguistically specific social services, from employment, vocational training and English language learning, to community development, early childhood and parenting education, youth academic support and gang prevention.



### **Uniting newcomers and long-time community members**

The Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization (IRCO) serves the holistic needs of immigrants, refugees, and mainstream community members in Oregon and SW Washington. As a community-based organization, we empower children, youth, families and elders from around the world to build new lives and become self-sufficient by providing more than 200 culturally and linguistically specific social services.

Our vision is to be a leader of community driven, innovative programs delivered by compassionate staff who create equitable services that empower immigrants, refugees and underserved communities.



On behalf of all of us at Tom Dwyer Automotive and all our clients who voted for IRCO, congratulations! Not just for the \$500... that will be gone all too quickly. But congratulations on the difference you've made in our communities for 40 years... THAT will endure for generations.

# Have you thought about the Big One lately?

Your life can change in the time it takes to read this headline



The Cascadia Subduction zone runs from Canada to California about 100 miles inland from the Pacific Coast... basically right through Portland. It's had 41 quakes in the last 10,000 years, the last being a 9.0 magnitude quake in 1700. We're due again. This impending Big One makes the news every once in a while, people think about preparedness for a while, and then everyone fades back into their daily lives. But the pressure under our feet continues to grow. Since we haven't seen Big One Coverage in a while we thought we'd fill the gap ourselves. You didn't plan on seeing this article and the Big One will come just as unexpectedly, but it WILL hit... what will you do? If you don't have a clear, concise answer for yourself and your family, then please spend a few

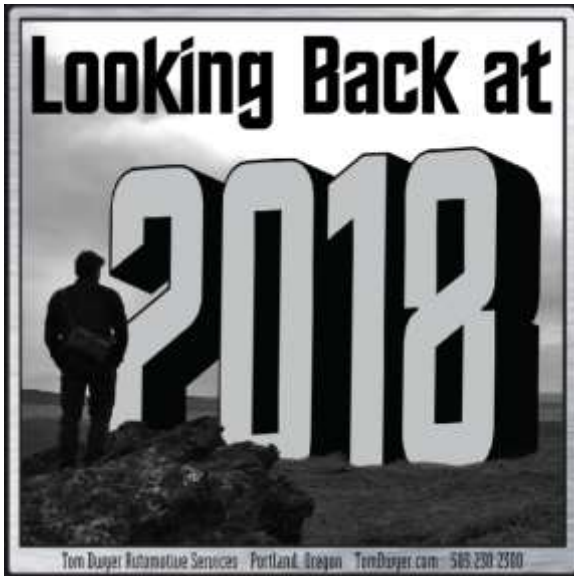
minutes checking out these resources... and making a plan.

- [The Big One Is Coming. What Will Happen to Portland?](#) By Randy Gregg and Sarah Hutchins in Portland Monthly, Feb 2018
- [Unprepared...Will We Be Ready For The Megaquake In Oregon?](#) Multiple stories by OPB Staff on OPB Website
- [Get Prepared, Oregon Health Authority on Oregon.gov.](#) Multiple articles on earthquakes and earthquake preparedness, broken into
  - Cascadia Resilience Information
  - Reducing The Health Impact Of Earthquakes
  - What To Do BEFORE An Earthquake
  - What To Do DURING An Earthquake (With Specific Situations)
  - What To Do AFTER An Earthquake
  - Children's Needs
- [Are You Prepared To Camp In Your Home After The Cascadia Quake?](#) By Tom Banse on OPB, Mar 2018
- [Music venues in 'danger of closure' over seismic upgrades,](#) by Emily Burris and KOIN 6 News Staff on KOIN6 website, Jan 2019
- [The Government Is Accelerating Plans For The West Coast's Earthquake Warning System,](#) by Emma Sarappo on Pacific Standard, Oct 2018
- [U.S. Pacific Northwest under-prepared for tsunamis, experts say,](#) by Sharon Bernstein on Reuters, Jan 2018
- [Looking Closer at LEAP- More detail on a vital program in Portland,](#) by Charles Letherwood in Your Car Matters, Oct 2011
- [The Really Big One- An earthquake will destroy a sizable portion of the coastal Northwest. The question is when.](#) By Kathryn Schulz in The New Yorker, Jul 2015
- [The Next Cascadian Megaquake May Be Sooner Than You Think,](#) by Mindy Weisberger on Live Science, May 2018
- [Parts Of The Pacific Northwest's Cascadia Fault Are More Seismically Active Than Others – New Imaging Data Suggests Why,](#) by Miles Bodmer and Doug Toomey in The Conversation US, Aug 2018
- [New Cascadia subduction zone earthquake study 'is worse news for Portland northward to Seattle',](#) by Douglas Perry in The Oregonian, Jul 2018
- [Newly Discovered Faults on Mount Hood Could Trigger a Massive Portland Earthquake,](#) Elise Herron in Willamette Week, Oct 2018



# Goodbye to 2018

Our best articles from 2018's "Your Car Matters"



THANK YOU for reading this issue of "Your Car Matters", the Tom Dwyer Automotive Services newsletter! We appreciate your interest, but we know if we want to *keep* your interest then we have to tell you about more than just cars. That's why we work so hard to make this like no other newsletter you've ever read. While we occasionally talk about cars, repair, and maintenance, you'll also find info on politics, health, food, science, humor and so much more. If you're new to the world of "Your Car Matters" then there's no better way to tell you what you're getting into then to tell you what you've already missed... here's a look at what we covered in 2018. What will 2019 hold? We don't know, but we guarantee we'll tell you all about it when it happens!

## Dec 2017-Jan 2018

Just like this year, [we opened 2018 with a look back](#). We try to run three Feature articles each month; larger articles that we spend quite a bit of time researching and writing. True to form, we had a couple Features on cars and our shop, including [Insider Tips for the Best Dwyer Service](#), [why we don't do oil changes](#), the [basics of buying quality tires](#), and [our 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in Sellwood](#). But we also had articles on a [Beaverton man fined for examining reality without a license](#), our [Technician's hobby of cleaning up Oregon rivers for art](#), the [completion of the Sellwood Bridge](#), [election integrity](#), [Net Neutrality](#), and a wonderful [example of effective journalism](#).



One 2018 article we're particularly proud of sprang from a client's comment in our shop. She didn't like the #RESIST bumper stickers we had right after Trump's election, so we wrote a detailed response in ["Business or Politics... YES"](#). We dove deep into why Tom is so up-front with politics in his business and why the commandment to keep business and politics separate may be changing. We posted the article on [Quora](#), where it's been viewed over 5000 times and received almost 200 upvotes.

We also pulled together all the 2017 stories from our varied columns. January brought a full year of [Tom's Tidbits](#), Keith Tucker's ["What NOW?!!" Toons](#), [Drew's Kitchen](#), [Shop Talk](#), [Health Notes](#), [Book Spotlight](#), [Humorousness](#), [Popcorn Shorts](#), and of course, [News To Make You Furious](#). We told you it's not like any other newsletter you've ever read!



## February-March 2018

In February Tom grappled with the question of [who, precisely, is a Domestic Enemy](#), and tried to define them so we'd know them when we

see them. Not coincidentally, one of our Features for the month was an exploration of [how the Constitution deals with a President who is impaired](#). We also said [goodbye to Stephen Hawking](#), who died in March.

Shop Talk announced the winner of our [“Fire and Fury” book giveaway](#), Health Notes showed you some [mind-blowing medical technologies](#), Humorousness [armed you for next month’s critical April Fools](#) holiday, a client recommended [TWO books for Book Spotlight](#), Popcorn Shorts looked at [Oaks Amusement Park’s 113<sup>th</sup> anniversary](#) and shared some [great smartphone tricks](#), and News To Make You Furious lived up to its name with the announcement that [copper mining was back on the table for Mt. St. Helens](#).

## June 2018- Our “Ethics” issue

Our “Your Car Matters” staff was on hiatus in April and May, but back in the saddle for June when national and local events led us to make this our “Ethics Issue”. Locally, [we were very honored to receive the Ethics in Business Award from Portland Rotary](#) so we took some time to explain the central role of ethics in our company. Tom backed that up by explaining why [ethics, in any venue, aren’t just a foofy luxury](#) but are essential to success. A huge part of ethics is credibility, so our article on the [Media Credibility Spectrum](#) seemed particularly appropriate.



Nationally, James Comey’s book “A Higher Calling” had just hit, so we recommended it in our [Book Spotlight with our own in-house review](#). We looked at the ethics of health in our Health Notes, pointing out the [Goldman Sachs representative who did the math to decide who was monetarily worth curing](#). [Wells Fraudo took a bow in our Popcorn Shorts with their “trust us” ad](#) campaign amidst continuing and intentional fraudulent business practices, and News To Make You Furious closed out the tour through the swamp with a look at [Scott Pruitt, poster boy for corruption](#) in an administration where there’s a lot of competition for the title.

## July and August

We stayed local in the summer, but stayed busy as well. One of our clients told us [the only thing the Willamette Shore Trolley needed to be perfect](#), so we shared it with our other clients so they could help. We also told you about Tom Dwyer staff out-and-about Portland in two unusual ways. First, ‘The Mechanics’ competed in the [2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Lovett Deconstruction Dropbox Derby](#), an event started by our clients and friends at [Lovett Deconstruction](#). We didn’t win, but we came up with a strong design that actually sold at the after-event auction! Our second appearance was even weirder: one of our staff used a complex process of cryptogenetic cloning to create the terrifying 10’ tall spider. Tom Dwyer was inexplicably sponsoring the appearance of [Arachno Giganticus at the Portland Maker’s Faire](#), so we took this opportunity to warn you.



In other news, Tom’s Tidbits thanked [John McCain for his final act of service](#), Shop Talk announced that [we can NOW DO YOUR DEQ TESTING](#), a [client recommended 2 books for our Book Spotlight](#), Humorousness showed the [power of weaponized humor](#), and News To Make You Furious delved into the [first-ever Pentagon Audit](#). Even Popcorn Shorts had a power-article... we showed you a way to [thread a needle that will change your entire life](#).

## September and October

As the elections approached, Tom was thinking about the importance of voting. To sum up, given a choice, [he thinks we should choose to be free](#). As important as it is, many people around the country aren’t

satisfied with just voting so we told you about a small slice of them who [are standing on street corners around the country to make their voices heard](#).

Our biggest article this issue was one on [ElectroMagnetic Frequency \(EMF\) Radiation from cell phones, power lines, and now-everyday life](#).

One of our clients' business is reducing EMF sources in people's homes and offices so he was able to arrange an interview for us with international EMF specialist Dafna Tachover, who told us about much of the changing science and legal landscape around EMF. However, since the idea of EMF pollution is still 'controversial', we did more than just pass on her information. We realized that we, as an auto repair shop, were hardly qualified to determine if EMF is science or pseudo-science so we brought in many of the opposing views on the issue and delved into the whole process of science itself. The article grew from our original intent, but again, we're very proud of the result and think you'd find the article very valuable.



But EMF was only getting us started. With Halloween upon us, we shared the most unusual mechanical stories we'd encountered... [Automotive Horror Stories from the Dungeons of Dwyer](#). Terror and pain continued into Health Notes on [The Neuroscience of Pain](#), and a horrifying look at [Anti-Intellectualism in America](#) in our Book Spotlight. More fear popped out of Popcorn Shorts with stories on [newly discovered faults on Mt. Hood that could contribute to "The Big One" in Portland](#) and the [Achilles heel lurking in all US weapon systems](#). Finally, News To Make You Furious frightened us all with a [terrifying look at a Holy Army takeover of America](#)... not proposed by some terrorist whackjob, but by an incumbent candidate for the State House in Washington state. He won, by the way.

## What's coming in 2019

We took another break through the Holidays, but it's a whole new year and WE'RE BACK! If you're reading this now we hope you stay with us on what promises to be a true rollercoaster ride of a year. We're planning new articles about your car of course, but life is much more than cars and we plan to comment on all of it. Please keep reading, share with your friends, and TELL US WHAT YOU THINK! If we're trying to stay interesting, are we succeeding? Is there something we're missing that you'd like to see more of? Is there something we're doing that just grinds your last tooth? TELL US! "Your Car Matters", like everything else we do, is about YOU. And without YOU, nothing gets done here at all. Thank you for your interest in our unique little newsletter, and we hope to see you again many, many times in 2019!

# Shop Talk

Construction project #1... FINISHED!



## Comment of the Month



“Thanks for working on the '91 Honda for about 25 years! I may end up selling it this year. ☺”

We're not just spotlighting this because it uses an emoticon on the pre-stamped Post Service Cards we put in every vehicle. It's shows another very important thing for all our existing clients. "15 years old and newer" is only for NEW clients... once we start caring for your vehicles, we'll keep them going for as long as it makes economic sense to you, even if it's for 25 years! And when it comes time to sell it, we'll still be here for your next one!

## What are they building across the street? Nothing.



## IT'S FINISHED!

Our clients know... since the Sellwood Bridge Project, Tom Dwyer Automotive Services has been at ground zero for the gentrification of Sellwood. The [Bridge finished in 2016](#), but 2017 brought the next wave with the Sellwood Bridgehead project. Since then we've dealt with stacks of construction vehicles, cranes, street shut-downs... you can imagine. But now IT'S DONE! The project is FINISHED, and [The HOLM Apartments are now open!](#) It's a 119 unit multi-family housing project with 49 underground parking spots. You can [read all about the finished project here](#), see some [very interesting pix from the builders here](#), or [check out our own coverage here](#). But all our clients need to know... IT'S FINISHED!



The FINISHED project!

Celebrating 30 years at the east end of the Sellwood Bridge!



A before-and-after with the HOLM with its old-school Sellwood neighbor



## Our Referral Reward Program

Our Referral Reward Program is how we say “thank you” to the clients who recommend our shop to their family and friends. When a new client comes in and gives your name as a Referral Source we’ll make a donation to the non-profit group of your choice, and all selections are eligible for Quarterly and Yearly awards as well. It couldn’t be easier!

We’ve made **23 donations for \$1,006 since our last count**; a total of 560 Donations totaling **\$24,405** since the program began! Here’s who our clients chose to help in December...

[Portland Animal Welfare Team](#) by Tawnya C.

[RoseHaven Women’s Shelter](#) by Billie L

[Rotary Club Foundation](#) by Mike P.

[American Diabetes Association](#) by Shirley W.

[Union Gospel Mission](#) by Marge L.

[Planned Parenthood](#) by Tom B. and Janice C.

[ACLU](#) by Lauren U.

[Oregon Food Bank](#) by Marge L.

[Volunteers of America](#) by Sue B.

[Portland Rescue Mission](#) by Joe N.

[Clear Fund \(Givewell\)](#) by Alex N.

[Cancer Society of Oregon](#) by Dave B.

[Salvation Army](#) by Nicolette D.

[Shriners Hospital](#) by Peter Z.

[Oregon Tradeswomen](#) by Sarah H.

[Friends of Columbia Gorge](#) by Suzanne B.

[Autism Service Dogs of America](#) by Jeremy B.

[Northstar Civic Foundation](#) by Brooke H.

[JOIN](#) by Cathy P.

[Oregon Humane Society](#) by Andrew J.

[Animal Rescue Care Fund](#) by Anne F.

[Doctors Without Borders](#) by Susan E.

**[And click here to find out who won our Yearly Award and recipient of \\$500!](#)**



## Your reviews and referrals matter

We are constantly grateful for the supportive and loyal clients we have developed over the years. Your comments and appreciation keep us on the right road to providing the superior automotive service you deserve. Your reviews and referrals are not only the highest compliments we can receive, but they’re the lifeblood of our new business. If you like what you’ve found at Tom Dwyer Automotive Services, please tell a friend or take a minute to write a review on [Yelp](#), [Angieslist](#), [Google](#), or the review site of your choice. Thank you!



## Latest Automotive Recalls

Automobiles are just like any other product; occasional flaws in manufacture or design can cause problems once they leave the factory. When an issue is identified 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](#). The last month’s recalls are below, but clicking the button at right will take you to the full list at the NHTSA website.

# Drew's Kitchen

## Chef Lampe's Herbed-up Prime Rib



Enjoy Drew's recipe for the Holidays... a succulent and simple Prime Rib that will be the centerpiece of any table.

### Ingredients:

- 1 (4lb) bone-in standing rib roast (prime rib roast)
- ½ cup (4 oz) salted butter, softened
- 2 Tbsp olive oil
- 2 garlic cloves, sliced
- 1 Tbsp (each) finely chopped fresh basil, tarragon, fresh rosemary, and thyme
- Kosher salt
- Black pepper



### Preparation:

1. Remove roast from refrigerator 1 hour before you plan to cook. Prepare a Big Green Egg or other charcoal grill for indirect heat with a drip pan at 350°F.
2. Combine butter, olive oil, basil, tarragon, rosemary, and thyme in a small bowl. Sprinkle with salt and pepper. Reserve about ¼ cup butter mixture.
3. Use a paring knife to cut several holes on both sides of roast; insert sliced garlic into holes. Sprinkle roast generously on all sides with salt and pepper. Spread butter mixture all over roast, applying the heaviest layer to fat cap.
4. Place roast, fat side up, on grill grate and cook until a thermometer inserted deep into center of roast registers 120°F, about 2 hours. Transfer roast to a platter; tent loosely with aluminum foil, and let stand 20 to 30 minutes.
5. Spread reserved butter mixture on a cutting board; place roast on top. Slice roast between the bones.

**Active time 0:30, Total time: 4:00, Serves 6-8**  
**Original recipe by Chef Ray Lampe (aka: Dr. BBQ)**

# Health Notes

## You can cut your cancer risk by eating organic



*From Susan Scutti on CNN.com, Oct 2018*  
[Click here for the original article](#)

You can protect yourself from cancer by eating organic, a new study suggests. Those who frequently eat organic foods lowered their overall risk of developing cancer, a study published Monday in JAMA Internal Medicine finds. Specifically, those who primarily eat organic foods were more likely to ward off non-Hodgkin lymphoma and postmenopausal breast cancer compared to those who rarely or never ate organic foods.

Led by Julia Baudry, an epidemiologist at Institut National de la Sante et de la Recherche Medicale in France, a team of researchers looked at the diets of 68,946 French adults. More than three-quarters of the volunteers were women, in their mid-40s on average. These volunteers were categorized into four groups depending on how often they reported eating 16 organic products, including fruits and vegetables, meat and fish, ready-to-eat meals, vegetable oils and condiments, dietary supplements and other products.

Follow-up time varied for each participant but lasted slightly more than four and a half years on average, and during that time, the study volunteers developed a total of 1,340 cancers. The most prevalent was breast cancer (459) followed by prostate cancer (180), skin cancer (135), colorectal cancer (99), and non-Hodgkin lymphomas (47).

### **The authors calculated cancer risk**

Comparing the participants' organic food scores with cancer cases, the researchers calculated a negative relationship between high scores (eating the most organic food) and overall cancer risk. Those who ate the most organic food were 25% less likely to develop cancer. Specifically, they

were 73% less likely to develop non-Hodgkin lymphoma and 21% less likely to develop postmenopausal breast cancer.

Even participants who ate low-to-medium quality diets yet stuck with organic food experienced a reduced risk of cancer, the authors found.

The authors theorize a "possible explanation" for the negative relationship between organic food and cancer risk stems from the "significant" reduction of contamination that occurs when conventional foods are replaced by organic foods.

"If the findings are confirmed, promoting organic food consumption in the general population could be a promising preventive strategy against cancer," Baudry and her colleagues concluded.

Dr. Jorge E. Chavarro, an associate professor in the Department of Nutrition at Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, said in a podcast that the new study is "incredibly important." He co-authored a commentary published with the study.

Most people who are not employed in agriculture are exposed to pesticide residues through food, said Chavarro, who was not involved in the study. The new findings are consistent with those of the International Agency for Research in Cancer, which found pesticides are cancer causing in humans, noted Chavarro. They also align with those of another study that showed a negative relationship between eating organic food and non-Hodgkin lymphoma, he said.

However, Chavarro added that researchers designing future studies should be mindful of certain limitations in this new study.

### **Drawbacks of the study**

"Assessing intake of diet is difficult, assessing intake of organic foods is notoriously difficult," said Chavarro. "That is because deciding to eat organic foods or not is a decision that has very strong social and economic determinants. Even though the authors had access to information of why people are choosing not to eat organic foods, they consider all non-consumers of organic foods the same."

For example, people who choose not to eat organic despite being able to afford to do so might have a poor attitude toward their health in general and that would likely influence the results.

Chavarro also said it is unclear that quantifying organic food consumption is really calculating what the study authors want to measure -- reduced exposure to pesticide residues through diet.

It's true that previous research, including one of Chavarro's own studies, have shown a correlation between organic food consumption and pesticide levels in urine, so the assumption is not incorrect. Still the authors need to show this, he said in the podcast about the study. And, different conventional foods are more "dirty" (contaminated with pesticides) than others, he said, so eating certain organic foods does a better job of protecting us against ingesting pesticides than others. Yet the study does not do a good job of sorting and evaluating these differences, he noted.

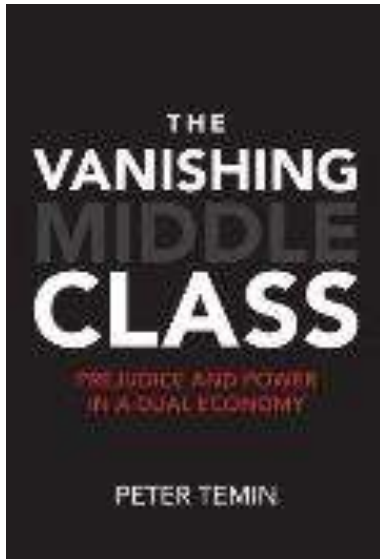
"At the current stage of research, the relationship between organic food consumption and cancer risk is still unclear," Chavarro and his co-authors wrote in the commentary.

In the end, the study's takeaway, according to Chavarro, is that we should all probably be paying more attention to how much organic food we eat and "we should probably be studying this more."!



# Book Spotlight

“The Vanishing Middle Class” by Peter Temin



## [“The Vanishing Middle Class: Prejudice and Power in a Dual Economy”](#) by Peter Temin

*Synopsis from Powells.com-* The United States is becoming a nation of rich and poor, with few families in the middle. In this book, MIT economist Peter Temin offers an illuminating way to look at the vanishing middle class. Temin argues that American history and politics, particularly slavery and its aftermath, play an important part in the widening gap between rich and poor. Temin employs a well-known, simple model of a dual economy to examine the dynamics of the rich/poor divide in America, and outlines ways to work toward greater equality so that America will no longer have one economy for the rich and one for the poor.

Many poorer Americans live in conditions resembling those of a developing country -- substandard education, dilapidated housing, and few stable employment opportunities. And although almost half of black Americans are poor, most poor people are not black. Conservative white politicians still appeal to the racism of poor white voters to get support for policies that harm low-income people as a whole, casting recipients of social programs as the Other -- black, Latino, not like us. Moreover, politicians use mass incarceration as a tool to keep black and Latino Americans from participating fully in society. Money goes to a vast entrenched prison system rather than to education. In the dual justice system, the rich pay fines and the poor go to jail.

## [Review by Yossarian Johnson on The Intellectualist, Dec 2018](#)

“America divided” – this concept increasingly graces political discourse in the U.S., pitting left against right, conservative thought against the liberal agenda. But for decades, Americans have been rearranging along another divide, one just as stark if not far more significant – a chasm once bridged

America divided – this concept increasingly graces political discourse in the U.S., pitting left against right, conservative thought against the liberal agenda. But for decades, Americans have been rearranging along another divide, one just as stark if not far more significant – a chasm once bridged by a flourishing middle class.

Peter Temin, Professor Emeritus of Economics at MIT, believes the ongoing death of “middle

America” has sparked the emergence of two countries within one, the hallmark of developing nations.

In his new book, *The Vanishing Middle Class: Prejudice and Power in a Dual Economy*, Temin paints a bleak picture where one country has a bounty of resources and power, and the other toils day after day with minimal access to the long-coveted American dream.

In his view, the United States is shifting toward an economic and political makeup more similar to developing nations than the wealthy, economically stable nation it has long been.

Temin applied W. Arthur Lewis’s economic model – designed to understand the workings of

developing countries – to the United States in an effort to document how inequality has grown in America.

The parallels are unsettling. As noted by the Institute for New Economic Thinking: In the Lewis model of a dual economy, much of the low-wage sector has little influence over public policy. Check\*. The high-income sector will keep wages down in the other sector to provide cheap labor for its businesses.\* Check\*. Social control is used to keep the low-wage sector from challenging the policies favored by the high-income sector.\* Mass incarceration – check\*. The primary goal of the richest members of the high-income sector is to lower taxes.\* Check\*. Social and economic mobility is low.\* Check\*.\*

Temin describes multiple contributing factors in the nation's arrival at this place, from exchanging the War on Poverty for the War on Drugs to money in politics and systemic racism. He outlines the ways in which racial prejudice

continues to lurk below the surface, allowing politicians to appeal to the age old "desire to preserve the inferior status of blacks", encouraging white low-wage workers to accept their lesser place in society.

"We have a structure that predetermines winners and losers. We are not getting the benefits of all the people who could contribute to the growth of the economy, to advances in medicine or science which could improve the quality of life for everyone – including some of the rich people," he laments.

The antidote, as prescribed by Temin, is likely a tough sell in today's political climate. Expanding education, updating infrastructure, forgiving mortgage and student loan debt, and overall working to boost social mobility for all Americans are bound to be seen as too liberal by many policy makers. Until the course is changed, he warns, the middle class will continue to fade and America will remain unsustainably divided.

# Humorousness

## Welcome to the Flat Earth



While it's getting harder to tell truth from fiction in today's world, we still have an obligation to try. Even in situations where we lack complete evidence, or lack the personal understanding of an issue to make any sensible determination, we still have an obligation to try. But frequently people don't spend their time learning about an issue before 'debunking' it; they save time by plowing right in. That can be a sad situation from so many perspectives, yet Humorousness is pleased to point out that it can be funny, too. Witness the Flat Earth movement, a growing group of people who believe, against all evidence, science, experience, and reality, that the Earth is flat and the facts are being covered up by a gigantic conspiratorial cabal. This month give you a glimpse into the flat world of the Flat Earthers, a laugh at what they're thinking, and a reminder that it can be serious after all.

Here's some of our favorite Flat Earth memes...



Adam  
Tuesday at 7:05 PM

The earth is flat, stationary and enclosed, exactly the way the bible says it is. Exactly the way God created it to be.

God is real. Game over 🏆

<p><b>THE GLOBE</b></p>	<p>THE FOUNDATION FOR EVOLUTION, THE BIG BANG, ATHEISM, ALIEN SEEDING, PAGANISM, AND THE OCCULT, THE NEW WORLD ORDER, AND SATANIC WORLD CONTROL</p>
<p><b>THE FLAT EARTH</b></p>	<p>DESCRIBED IN THE BIBLE, VALIDATES THE BIBLE, SCIENTIFICALLY PROVEN, POINTS TO GOD ALONE AS CREATOR, BLOWS SATAN'S DECEPTIONS WIDE OPEN</p>

NOW DO YOU SEE WHY THEY ARE LYING?





...and sources for more...

[The Internet Can't Stop Trolling Flat-Earthers With 38 Hilarious Memes](#), Bored Panda

[23 Flat Earth Memes That Dismantle Scientific Argument](#), CHEEZburger

[The Best Flat Earth Memes To School The Truthers Out There](#), Daily Dot

[Are You Globers Curvy Or Flat? Check Out The Top 10 Best Flat Earth Memes](#). DCW50

[...including this video "voted the Best Flat Earth Proof 2017"](#)

[Australia Doesn't Exist And People Who Live There Are Actors Paid By NASA](#) - Flat Earthers Claim, Sci-Tech Universe

[The Internet Demands A Reality TV Show Where Flat Earthers Search For The Edge Of The World](#), Sci-Tech Universe

Here's an article from our Popcorn Shorts on the first Flat Earth convention...



There's been no new discovery prompting a re-examination of Copernicanism, but people with a sense of humor discovered flat-earth crankology and started making tongue-in-cheek arguments in support. These arguments dripped through the InterTubes to create a tidal wave of uninformed experts that crested in Birmingham, England, at the first-ever Flat Earth convention. If you don't believe the Earth is flat then join us on a walk through Birmingham... it's only the first of many things you won't believe.

- [Inside Britain's first ever Flat Earth convention where conspiracy theorists discuss 'proof' our planet is shaped like a disc and that 'gravity doesn't exist'](#)
- [I watched an entire Flat Earth convention for my research- here's what I learned](#)
- [What it's like to attend a Flat-Earth convention](#)
- [Conspiracy theorist: You can't fall off flat Earth edge due to 'Pac-Man effect'](#)
- [Looking for Life on a Flat Earth: What a burgeoning movement says about science, solace, and how a theory becomes truth.](#)

...and some reminders why none of this is quite as funny as it first appears.

[If A Scientific Conspiracy Theory Is Funny, That Doesn't Mean It's A Joke](#), by Kaitlyn Tiffany on The Verge, Oct 2017

[Ph.D. Student's Thesis Presents "Scientific Evidence" The Earth Is Flat](#), Sci-Tech Universe

[More And More Americans Are Starting To Believe Earth Is Flat](#), Sci-Tech Universe

# 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!

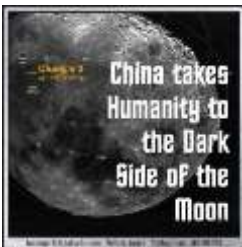


## **Age, not politics, is biggest predictor of who shares fake news on Facebook**



A study from Princeton and New York University found that people 65 years of age and over are seven times more likely to share fake news than those aged 18-29. "Political scientists tend to favor explanations based on stable, deeply held partisan or ideological predispositions. It is possible that an entire cohort of Americans, now in their 60s and beyond, lacks the level of digital media literacy necessary to reliably determine the trustworthiness of news encountered online." Researchers looked for links to a list of narrowly defined fake news sites and a list of fake news sites debunked by fact checking organizations. They also found conservative users were more likely to share fake news...

## **China puts Humanity on the Dark Side of the Moon**



On January 2, 2019, China took humanity back to the moon. Their Chang'e 4 lander touched down in the Von Karman Crater in the first ever soft landing on the far side of the moon. The "Jade Rabbit #2" rover will spend several months on the surface doing a range of science tasks (their plant package DID sprout, another first, but died soon after). If you haven't been paying attention, then here's just a few links to get you started...

[See Stunning Moon Photos from China's Lunar Lander](#), National Geographic  
[China's National Space Administration](#), website on SpaceTV

[China Makes Historic 1st Landing on Mysterious Far Side of the Moon](#), Space.com

[China lunar rover touches down on far side of the moon, state media announce](#), CNN

[China's Moon mission sees first seeds sprout](#), BBC

## **78% of US workers live paycheck to paycheck**



The partial government shutdown that began Dec. 22 has left approximately 800,000 federal workers in financial limbo. Around 420,000 "essential" employees are working without pay, while another 380,000 have been ordered to stay home. In some cases, the furloughs have forced government employees to tap into their savings, rely on credit cards or crowdsource funds to make ends meet. But government workers are far from alone in feeling stressed about not getting paid. Nearly 78 percent of American workers say they're living paycheck to paycheck. Women are particularly vulnerable: 81 percent of them report living paycheck to paycheck, compared with 75 percent of men...

## **Watch the world burn. Share it with your friends.**



Climate Change is a huge topic, and it can be hard to understand what all the doomsday statistics are telling us. Sometimes it takes a different way of looking at things to understand just what's going on. This video is only :37 long, but it shows the problem in a way statistics, photos, or even time-lapse photos can't. The video shows temperature anomalies by country from 1880 to 2017 with  $\pm 1^\circ$  and  $\pm 2^\circ$  events highlighted. At first, everything's pretty calm... a record here-and-there. As time passes the events come thick and fast, and the last few years look spectacularly grim. Remember that these aren't projections... they've already happened. And remember to share the shock with your friends.

# News To Make You Furious

The Best Oil Spills Are The Ones You Never Hear About



We don't even have to work to make you Furious these days when staying informed *means* staying angry. But even just staying informed requires information. While bald-faced lying seems to be the preferred weapon for today's Ministry of Truth, the old-school method of just burying serious problems still has adherents. It's been a working strategy in the Gulf oil fields off Louisiana since 1936, where environmental degradation and political corruption have become a grim and silent business as usual. The BP Debacle in 2010 was a spotlight on corporate negligence and governmental complicity, but you know who

breathed a sigh of relief? Taylor Energy. Their drilling platform, just 7 miles from BP's Deepwater Horizon, has been uncontrollably dumping oil into the Gulf since being wrecked in 2004. It escaped the glare of publicity before, during, and since the BP fiasco and continues to quietly hemorrhage away, and it will continue to do so for about the next 100 years...

Taylor Energy's Mississippi Canyon-20 platform and its pipelines were casualties of Hurricane Ivan in 2004. 145 mph winds and 71-foot high waves caused an underwater landslide that turned the platform horizontally, moved it 900 feet, and buried everything in mud up to 100 feet deep.

Taylor tried to contain the damage, but 'Conventional plugging and abandonment typically involves re-entering the target well internally from the surface, maintaining well control, and inserting cement plugs,' said Unified Command, the government-created body set up to oversee Taylor Energy's spill response plan. The company plugged about a third of the 21 wells before adopting "a longer-term well intervention strategy".

It's not clear what this long-term strategy involved other than a daily flyover and studied silence. Taylor Energy wasn't allowed to drill or bore through the mud because of the risk of making the spill worse. In 2008, four years after the disaster, Talyor Energy liquidated and reduced to one employee who theoretically remained to manage the cleanup. Whatever his job was, it certainly wasn't to tell anyone about the continuing leak so he kept very quiet about it.

In 2012, an alliance of environmental organizations sued Taylor Energy using the Clean Water Act for failing to halt the flow of oil. The Coast Guard had tried to estimate the amount of oil spilled since 2004, but as one of their representatives said "The key weakness in our estimates is they are based on the reporting from the company [Taylor]." Taylor claimed a leak of between one and 55 barrels per day, or between .86M and 3.9M gallons of oil leaked. The Department of Justice

commissioned an estimate based on satellite imagery instead which found oil leakage up to 700 barrels per day, or about 49.6M gallons. For reference, BP's Deepwater Horizon debacle flushed 176.4M gallons into the Gulf.

Taylor Energy unsurprisingly tried, and surprisingly failed to have the case thrown out so they reached a settlement with the plaintiffs in 2015. The company agreed to release "information about the spill since it started in 2004 and open public access to information on an ongoing basis". All refusals to make data public will be reviewed by a Magistrate Judge, who will decide whether Taylor will have to comply with the request. They also agreed to contribute \$400,000 to study and mitigate oil pollution in the Gulf of Mexico, but as one plaintiff noted, the requirement for transparency is likely a more significant win for the public.

As of today, the spill is still continuing. According to Greenpeace the tapped reserves have enough oil for the spill to continue for the next 100 years.

## Digging Deeper...

[The Gulf of Mexico's decade-long oil leak](#), by Chris Lo in Offshore Technology, Oct 2015

[Veil of Secrecy Finally Lifted on Taylor Energy's Decade Long Oil Leak](#), Louisiana Environmental Action Network, Sep 2015

[Oil spill you've never heard of has been leaking into gulf of mexico for a decade](#), Zoe Schlanger in Newsweek, Apr 2015

[Taylor Energy oil platform, destroyed in 2004 during Hurricane Ivan, is still leaking in Gulf](#), Mark Schleifstein on NOLA.com, Jul 2013

[A 14-year-long oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico verges on becoming one of the worst in U.S. history](#), Darryl Fears in Washington Post, Oct 2018

[Apalachicola Riverkeeper v Taylor Energy Company](#), case filing May 2015. Includes specific lies of Taylor Energy next to the specific truths they hid for eleven years.

[An oil spill you've never heard of could become one of the biggest environmental disasters in the US](#), AJ Willingham on CNN, Oct 2018

[The Largest U.S. Oil Spill You've Probably Never Heard of Is Still Leaking After 14 Years](#), Jorraine Chow on EcoWatch, Oct 2018

[Word of the Day: Chutzpah](#), Marc Yaggi on Waterkeeper.org, Jan 2016

[Taylor Energy: Still Leaking Oil and Still Secretive](#), Larissa Liebmann on Waterkeeper Alliance, Sep 2016

[Judge Finds Taylor Energy Improperly Limited Third-Party Review of Information Surrounding Ongoing Oil Spill](#), Waterkeeper Alliance, Sep 2016

[Taylor Energy executive blames decade-old oil leak on "act of God"](#), Associated Press on Fuel Fix, Jan 2016

[An Act of God: Taylor Energy's Fatalistic Fairytale](#), Larissa Liebmann on Waterkeeper Alliance, Jan 2016

['Act Of God' Blamed By Energy Company For Decade-Old Oil Spill](#), Debbie Elliott on NPR, Jan 2016

[Gulf oil leak caused by Hurricane Ivan spills much more than thought, federal lawyers say](#), Amy and Kunzelman on Pensacola News Journal, Sep 2018

[Why is a spill that started in 2004 still leaking oil in the Gulf of Mexico?](#), Noel KirkPatrick, on Mother Nature News, Oct 2018

[This Oil Leak Could Last for 100 Years — and the Company Involved Refuses to Fix It](#), Tim Donaghy on GreenPeace.org, Feb 2016

[Playing favorites to big political donor over old oil leak?](#), Tucker and Kunzelman on CapitolHillBlue, Jul 2015

[Secrecy shrouds decade-old oil spill](#), Michael Kunzelman in JapanTimes, Apr 2015

[Taylor Energy Website](#). The site reads in full... "Taylor Energy Company LLC sold its oil and gas assets in 2008 and ceased all drilling and production operations. The legacy of its namesake lives on through the work of the Patrick F. Taylor Foundation, which was established in 1985 as a charitable extension of the company."

## **Digging Deeper into Dwyer**

For some reason, oil spills seem to make us particularly Furious and we've done quite a few articles on them in our own media. Here's some of our 'favorites'...

[The BP Atrocity](#), Tom Dwyer, Tom's Tidbits, Oct 2010

[News To Make You Furious- The Nigerian Delta](#), Tom Dwyer in Your Car Matters, Jul 2010

[News To Make You Furious- BP learned from the Valdez. Did we?](#)  
Tom Dwyer in Your Car Matters, Feb 2011

[The BP Armageddon Anniversary- Current Status of the Spill](#), Tom Dwyer in Your Car Matters, Apr 2012

[News To Make You Furious- The BP Armageddon turns four](#), Tom Dwyer in Your Car Matters, May 2014

[News To Make You Furious – 20th anniversary of the Exxon Valdez](#), Your Car Matters Nov 2010. Lifted verbatim from Greg Palast at [gregpalast.com](http://gregpalast.com)

