



“Your Car Matters”

Tom Dwyer Automotive Services Monthly Newsletter for December, 2019



Holiday Shopping Extravaganza

Gonzo gifts for the mechanics you love, and maybe even other folks.



Looking back at 2019

The last year seen through the lens of our Feature articles



Meet our first \$1000 Yearly Winner

Referral Reward voting brought big surprises this year!



How much Popcorn can you eat in a year? Here's how much we served up in 2019!

Our Monthly Columns

Tom's Tidbits- Something's been on my mind...

Health Notes- A Healthy 2019

What NOW?! Toons Tucker's Toons for 2019

Book Spotlight- Reading our way through 2019

Shop Talk- Hangin' out at the Shop

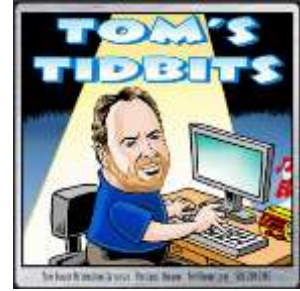
Humorousness- Funnier than a dissected frog

Drew's Kitchen- 2019's full menu

News To Make You Furious- 2019's Buffet of Bile

Tom's Tidbits

Something's been on my mind...



Greetings,

Something's been on my mind for years, and fortunately, I've had the opportunity to talk about it. Since our days advertising on KPOJ I've injected my opinions on the issues of the day into our company's marketing. I've done it for many reasons.

First, auto maintenance can get pretty boring, and you'd rapidly tune us out if we just talked about brakes.

Second, I think there are deep issues of ethics and intent in virtually every political decision, so if you get a look at my priorities in these venues you'll get a taste of how we'll treat you as a client of Tom Dwyer.

Finally, I don't think *my* opinion matters, but that *everyone's* opinion matters! Yours. Mine. Ours. Theirs. America is made of 350 million voices, and each matters as much as the next. We've always had this obligation, but the times we're in have sharpened it even more... it's up to each of us to speak out about the things we care about, the things that affect our families, friends, and people we don't even know, the things that will shape human life in big ways and small for decades and centuries to come.

Yes, something's been on my mind for a while now, and I try to share it with you in Tidbits. I deeply appreciate, and am deeply honored by, your attention through the years. Thank you. And there's no better way to tell you what to expect in 2020 than to show you what we talked about in 2019. Fasten your seatbelts! It's gonna be a bumpy ride...

Make a great day,

January- [Emergency. Emergency! EMERGENCY!](#)

[No.](#)

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 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...

[read more...](#)

February- [Tom's Tidbits- Who are we? Who do we WANT to be?](#)

In 1992, Ross Perot's running mate Admiral James Stockdale became famous for two questions... "Who am I?" and "Why am I here?" Stockdale asked as self-deprecating humor, but I wonder if every political campaign shouldn't start with exactly those two questions. People often think they have answers to both, but that's frequently because they're not really trying to answer. Deep, considered answers to 'Who are we?' and 'Why are we here?' as a country have consequences. The answers immediately beg the question "Who would we rather be?" and only after answering that

can we ask the fundamental political question... "How do we get there from here?" [read more...](#)

March- [Tom's Tidbits- The goose is cooked while the gander goes free](#)

Crime and punishment have dominated the news the past two years, but pick the past two decades, centuries, or millennia... the questions of what crime is, who should be punished, or what 'appropriate punishment' means are as old as humanity. We might aspire to a world where punishment fits the crime and Justice is blind, but we don't live there yet. From the poorest illegal migrant worker to the richest Plymouth-rock corporate raider, we know the eyes of Justice see money, race, sex, and politics all too clearly. Politicians offer platitudes of how lucky we are to live under the Rule Of Law, but laws that don't serve people oppress them. As corruption attacks our Justice system we're quickly sliding from the Rule OF Law to the Rule BY law, and there's a fundamental difference. In one, the laws serve us while in the other, we serve the laws... [read more...](#)

April- [Tom's Tidbits- The Mueller Report is finally here](#)

A redacted version of the Mueller Report is finally here, and I'm slowly finding out with the rest of America what it actually says. Few have read the full 448 pages so far and

many who have read it won't understand it, so we should probably allow a while longer for thoughtful analysis. We all know the Mueller Report is the center of a political and media circus but it's not ONLY that... it's the result of a serious investigation into some of the most serious allegations ever brought against a representative of our government. The content of the report won't matter for some people but for the vast majority of Americans I think it will. The Mueller Report isn't the end of anything, but I think there are already lessons to be learned. And unfortunately, I think we'll have opportunities to use them many more times in the Trump years... *read more...*

May- [I can't believe it... Trump is right.](#)

So Trump and Barr are gleefully going to "investigate the investigators". Ya know what? Good! I'm not under any illusions... I understand it's just the lowest sort of political payback that would embarrass the worst banana republic and a waste of money on baseless charges to distract from legitimate ones. Trump himself is barely pretending otherwise! But there's only a small overlap between the real world and whatever goes on in Trump's brain. Sure, he thinks he's winning because he's getting what he asked for by having an investigation at all, but I think he'll find it's a far, far cry from what he wanted... *read more...*

June- [Tom's Tidbits- We've waited forever for Mueller. Good. Very good.](#)

We've waited a long time to read Mueller's Report and to hear from The Man himself, and Wednesday's subpoena means the wait is almost over. It's been a painful time for those of us who want the stain laundered from the Oval Office and the pain is far from over. But Mueller's grim and silent resolve have been more than a pointless frustration, they have been and remain a last hope for a crumbling American system. In Trumpworld unspoken norms are for losers, laws are either obeyed for convenience or used as bludgeons, and even basic standards of humanity are teetering. But the power of a single individual's reputation still has value as it always has, and it may even be enough to save us now... *read more...*

July- [Tom's Tidbits- It's time for you... YOU... to Judge](#)

Whether you were born here or naturalized, no matter your political beliefs, regardless of your age, race, income, gender identity, or natural origin... if you're a Citizen of the United States of America then a huge obligation just dropped in your lap. The Special Counsel's report was delivered months ago, and now we've finally heard Mueller's testimony on it. No new information will be coming out. We've got all we're gonna get. So what's the obligation of every Citizen now? To Decide. To Judge. *read more...*

August- [Tom's Tidbits- You make everything we do possible.](#)

This month marks a major milestone in our Referral Reward Program. We've donated to hundreds of non-profit groups so far, and our donation total just passed an amazing

\$27,000! I say "we've donated", but it's really "you've donated" because it's you, our clients, who make the Referral Reward Program and everything else we do possible. Some of our newer clients may not be aware of some of those other things, so this month I wanted to point out just a few of the things we're involved in beyond fixing cars. I'm very proud of each of these but I want you to feel that same pride and more, because WITHOUT YOU, NONE OF IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE! *read more...*

September- [Tom's Tidbits- "...and a little child shall lead them"](#)

You may not have listened to her, but you've certainly heard of her by now... Greta Thunberg is emerging as a voice for a generation whose future depends on OUR generation's response to man-made Climate Change. If you're not familiar with Greta the most obvious thing about her isn't her achievements in environmental science (she has none), nor her political power (she's not a politician), nor her stunning ability to avoid BS when talking to politicians (though that's frequently commented on). The first stand-out thing about Greta Thunberg is that at 16 years old, she has 100% clarity on the climate threats present and growing and represents her generation and acts. World leaders ignore the elephant in the room; human and global extinction, and while Greta wants leaders to act for change, she doesn't want them to listen to her... she wants them to act on what 99.9% of scientists have proven is real, urgent, and could cause our extinction along with thousands and thousands of innocent species. *read more...*

October- [Tom's Tidbits- Reality... deal with it!](#)

There was a time I thought Donald Trump was nothing more than a poster boy for the greed and decline of America, a fatuous egomaniac with novelty hair. He was an irrelevancy. When he ran for president I figured it was joke... just another PR deal, just more attention. I was shocked at the American public's receptivity to his mental illness and desecration of truth. Since he "took over America", I've watched him assault every foundation of the country I love, pervert every impulse of human decency, and even twist the idea of reality itself. Donald Trump was never capable of filling the role of president. He is deeply disturbed mentally and his actions make him the clearest possible case of a domestic enemy. *read more...*

November- [Tom's Tidbits- Impeachment meditation](#)

Our country is tired of impeachment and there's a long way left to go... one way or another. I worry that adding my thoughts to the pile will be boring and that you'll just stop reading now. If you did, you might be happier! But while the thoughts of politicians and pundits matter, in a democracy the opinion and judgement of citizens matters too. I can't help it, I feel like it's my obligation to speak out on the government theoretically operating in my name. I hope you can make room for one more opinion from a fellow citizen watching the circus with you from out here in the cheap seats. *read more...*

What NOW?!! Toons

Keith Tucker's What NOW?!! Toons for 2019



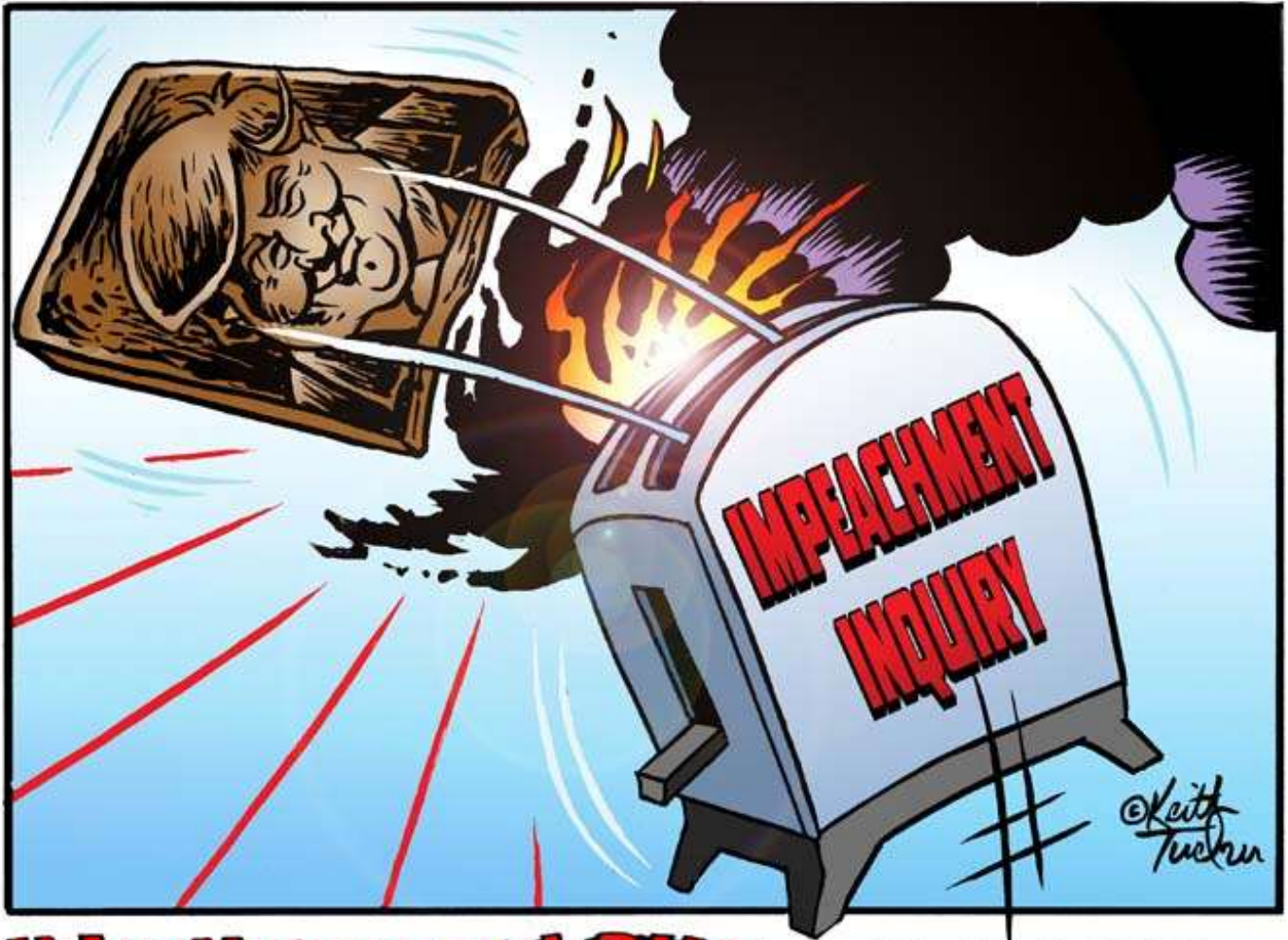
Keith's Toon for December, 2019...



"WHAT NOW?!!!"

© KEITH TUCKER
WWW.WHATNOWTOONS.COM

...and a gallery of all his Toons for 2019!



"WHAT NOW?!!!"

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Holiday Shopping Extravaganza

When gifts really matter, go big or go home



Amid the bustle and rush of Holiday shopping it's too easy to forget the most important people on your gift list... your mechanics! After all, what have your spouse or kids done for you lately? Bet they weren't out there crawling around under your hood throughout the year, keeping your vehicles safe, breakdown-free, and operating at their best! If you've waited till the last minute, we're here to help with some wonderful gift ideas. From islands in Belize to personal helicopters to jeweled Christmas Crackers, something on this list is sure to please any mechanic in your life... other people might even like them as well! Dig in and enjoy, because even if you don't get one of these gifts for someone

you love, we think you'll get a grin from the window shopping...

DudeIWantThat.com is where we go to start our Holiday dreaming. They dream with us, because [many of their offerings like ninja yachts](#), exotic hovercraft, and single seat helicopters are concepts rather than actual products. However, [their full guide includes gifts for everyone](#) by category such as these [10 Coolest Motorcycle Helmets](#).



Who doesn't like exotic islands? Sites like Islands.com and PrivatelandsOnline.com have islands for sale all around the world, and some are surprisingly affordable. [Take this one, Isla Paloma in Panama...](#) ¾ acre, self-powered, two bedroom home, party shack, private beach, boathouse, and swim dock, all for \$380,000. That's less than a Portland home! [There's even four islands for sale in Oregon](#), and if you want to cheap out a little there are [12 private islands you can actually afford](#).



If neither of those sources is for you, then Neiman Marcus always has great last-minute gifts. Forbes has some selections from the [Neiman Marcus Christmas Catalog: Extravagant Fantasy Gifts for 2019](#) and the [full catalog is here](#), but to save you time you might consider Travel the World by Private Jet to Five Cool Destinations (\$575,000), Luxury Dog House by Rockstar Puppy and Denise Richards (\$70,000), or a Versace Punching Bag (\$1,550).



If you still haven't found something to your liking, try [Over-The-Top Christmas Gift Ideas From Pursuist](#). The Barney's Feather backgammon set (\$6995) would look great in our waiting room, the 24-piece advent house from Harrods for (\$19,000) would certainly fit somewhere in the lobby, and a Neiman Marcus Peacock Sculpture (\$65,000) would bring a whole new attitude to our gravel parking lot.



[101 Best Luxury Gifts: The Ultimate List](#) may be a great source for your stocking stuffers. The 65" LG Series Smart OLED TV is nice for \$2096.99, the Zero Gravity Full-Body Kahuna Massage Recliner is a steal at \$1,999.99, and even if we can't use the Stuart Weitzman Nudistrong Dress Sandals (at just \$350!) ourselves, we probably know someone who can.



"Christmas Crackers" don't really exist in the US, but they're big in England. Usually, they're small stocking stuffers wrapped in paper with little firecrackers inside. [EliteTraveler has a couple others you might like](#), like like this \$4,900,000 set including an Aston Martin Coupe and a Cartier Diamond necklace.



Some of you (and we're not naming names) will still have money left over for your families after buying your priority gifts for your mechanics. Don't worry, there's still a couple sites we can recommend, along with our favorite gift from each...



[42 Hilarious Gag Gifts That Will Make Them ROFL](#)

"People of Walmart" Coloring book

[36 Funny Gifts That Will Get the Biggest Laughs This Christmas](#)

Fake belly fanny pack

[40 Of The Best White Elephant Gifts Under \\$20](#)

Mini Inflatable tube guy



[15 Ridiculous Gifts To Give This Christmas](#)

Toe Tunes Slipper Speakers- "It's like having a DJ in your slippers!"



Now you've got a head start on your shopping... get out there and conquer the Holidays!

Looking back at 2019

“Your Car Matters”... but so did a lot of other things this year!

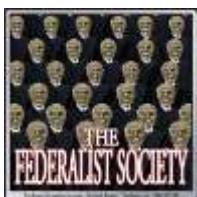


When we say our newsletter is “not like any other you’ve ever read”, it’s usually our Feature articles we’re talking about. Yes, sometimes they’re about cars, and we certainly try to make those are valuable, but how often would you open the newsletter if that’s ALL we wrote about? In our Features we try to look at all sorts of issues from all sorts of perspectives, and dive deep on them when we can. Our clients are more than their cars, so our newsletter is designed to interest the parts of you our Service Advisors can’t help with. You never know what may be on our plate for Features, so the best way to show you what to expect is to give you a look at what we’ve covered throughout 2019...



We started the year by announcing that we were stopping the Quarterly Awards in our Referral Reward Program, but increasing the Yearly Award to \$1000. Our clients have been voting for the Yearly Winner for the past month, and now we can announce the winner of that first big check! We also

reminded everyone about the major earthquake overdue to hit Portland and how to prepare for it, as well as taking a look back at 2018



In just three years, the Trump administration and the Republican Senate have confirmed a slough of judges to lifetime Federal positions. Since it’s absolutely no accident that the overwhelming majority have come from The Federalist Society, we thought it was important to see what the Federalist Society is and what they believe. We also addressed a common (but inaccurate) perception that we’re too

expensive by pointing out exactly what you’re paying for... and the most valuable thing we sell may be nothing at all!



We’re very proud of our team of Technicians and March gave us a chance to brag on one who doesn’t just fix your cars, but is shaping the next generations of Techs to come. Have you heard of the Two Santa Claus theory? Few have, but it’s been an animating force behind Republican political/economic thought

since 1976. We finished up with a look at memes, and some of the ones we’ve either created or stolen.



We're big backers of Single Payer Healthcare so we've been sponsors of Portland's Inner City Blues Festival in support of HCAO (Healthcare for All Oregon) since its revival. (Don't waste your time with the crowds and expense of the Blues Fest downtown... check out 5 hours of Blues sponsors of the Inner to hit Portland and how to prepare for it, as well as taking a look back at 2018



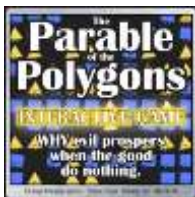
As Summer hit, we directed you to 53 things to do to take advantage of everything Portland has to offer. We also had one of our rare automotive articles explaining exactly how preparation protects your Summer and how to get Dwyer service during our busiest times. Finally, we told you about Genesis

Quishpe, the child we've 'adopted' through Children International. Tom's been sending aid to Genesis since she was 6, and we told you about her plans as she graduated the Children International program.



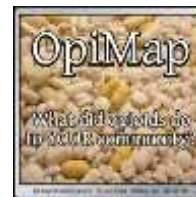
One of our biggest values to our clients is the absolute assurance that we don't sell things they don't need. That's not just a promise, so we took this opportunity to explain exactly how our business is structured to back it up. Then we moved onto our Fearless Leader, and how his actions aren't just

corrupt but an attack on truth and reality itself. We wrapped it up by getting even more local with our Summer suggestions and telling you some big events right here in our Sellwood neighborhood.



The Parable of the Polygons is an interactive game that explains why some changes comes slowly and others not at all. It shows why it's not enough to just be OK with change... we have to lean in the direction we want to go. Another semi-automotive article explained one of our biggest bones of contention;

why we don't take on NEW clients with 15-years-old-or-newer vehicles. 2018 year was our first year to participate in Lovett Deconstruction's Dropbox Derby, and we used one of our Features to appeal for team members for 2019. No one took us up on it, but the Derby managed to continue without us.



Every company these days touts their commitment to the environment, but how many of them are just greenwashing? We explained exactly how our environmental commitment affects our service and the advice we give. We followed that with another automotive article, but this time less on the car and

more about the driver as we looked at the ethical problems of driverless cars. And the OpiMap showed exactly how devastating the opioid crisis has been across the country.



All too often, we look at medical care through the wrong lens. Serious, expensive illnesses not covered by a profit-based insurance system aren't necessarily a problem. They can be opportunities, so we seized this opportunity to tell you about the growing field of Medical Tourism. And as America comes to terms with centuries of slavery and discrimination some ugly stories are coming to light. We told you

about one of them, the Tulsa Riot, an abomination that was intentionally kept quiet but which is one of the deadliest riots in US history.



As far as we know the Tom Dwyer Carbon Neutral Program (CNP) is the only one of its kind, but we're making it even bigger by committing to COVER ALL OUR CLIENTS by 2025. We announced it in this article but don't worry... we'll tell you much more about it as we work toward this ambitious goal. We

pivoted from cleaning up the environment to cleaning up our minds with an in depth, original Feature on the science behind why we (meaning *all* of us) are wrong about almost everything we think. Finally, the trees throughout Portland had one of the most glorious Falls in many years, and the colors in Sellwood were stunning. We sent our man with a camera out to capture the beauty for our neighbors.



November brought the chance to talk about new and old events in Sellwood. On the new side, Sellwood Cycle Repair had been trying to bring Cyclocross to the city for a long time and succeeded in 2019. They brought BridgeCityCX to Oaks Park for a spectacular day of racing... the first of many years to come. We

also introduced you to Hygiene4All, a tiny new charity in Portland trying to provide basic shower and toilet facilities to our homeless population. On the old side, we've had our Referral Reward program for about six years, and gave you the list of groups in the running for this year's Yearly Award. Who won? The answer is waiting for you elsewhere in this month's newsletter!



...which brings us to today, and our final issue of 2019. Right now you're reading up on everything you missed throughout the year (you can catch up on any article you missed all the way back to 2010 in our Newsletter Archive)! You're also just a click away from finding out who won that Yearly Award (c'mon,

admit it... you're curious!) and with the Big December Holiday on the way you may want to check out our Buying Guide... just in case there's a Mechanic in your life you're still shopping for.

Whether you read our newsletter cover-to-cover, check out an occasional article, or just haven't gotten around unsubscribing, THANK YOU to everyone who takes the time to read this newsletter! We work very hard to make it useful, interesting, and worthy of your time. We hope you'll continue to stick with us through 2020 and beyond... we feel pretty certain there'll be much more to talk about!

Meet our \$1000 Referral Reward Winner

Hold article pending winner



For the past month we've asked you to vote for our 2019 Referral Reward Program's Yearly Award Winner. 54 groups were in the running, chosen from the groups our clients selected throughout the year. Well, the votes are in and counted now so we can officially tell you who won...

The winner of our first ever \$1000 Yearly Award, our 2019 Referral Reward Yearly Winner is...



Before we tell you about the Pongo Fund and the wonderful work they do, we have a behind-the-scenes story to tell you...

Real quickly, if you're not familiar with our Referral Reward program, it's how we say 'thanks' when you refer a new client to our shop. When a new client comes in and gives your name as a referrer, we call you and make a donation (in your name) to any non-profit group you choose. We collect those names, and at the end of the year we ask our clients to vote for ONE of them to receive \$1000.

Now, we do encourage a little 'gaming' of the system. If YOU work with a non-profit and want the Referral Rewards to fall towards your group, PLEASE tell your members and have them send new clients our way! We get the new people our company needs to prosper, they'll get the top-of-the-line automotive service they need and deserve, and your non-profit gets a monetary boost and a little more exposure. It's a win for everyone, and is exactly how Referral Reward is supposed to work.

We think voting coordination is fine for our big awards as well. If your favorite non-profit is on our list, it's a prime opportunity to mobilize your members to vote! Voting for our Yearly Award (and in the past, our Quarterly Awards) is typically pretty close, with the winner winning by less than 10 votes, but that's because no group has taken advantage of mass voting. Until this year. Until Larry Chusid of Pongo Fund.

Larry actually checked with us first to make sure this was OK, but when he found Pongo Fund was eligible for \$1000 he put out the call to his people. We'd had a good voting response up to then; about 25 groups had received votes and three were tied for first with 3 votes each. It was well within the usual voting pattern. But then Larry's call hit and everything changed. A stunning 247 people emailed to vote for Pongo Fund, blasting them to victory with the largest margin we'd ever recorded... or even imagined!

We drop big groups like the Red Cross from our big awards voting because we think \$1000 matters more to smaller groups trying to fulfill their mission on a shoestring. We think the Pongo Fund has shown us this year's award went to exactly who we're looking for. Their mission to feed the pets of homeless people touches us all, and we're pleased, proud, and privileged to help in any way. But the amazing way the Pongoians came together to support the cause shows us how important it is to them. Larry led a rally, yes, but he rallied the love and caring of 247 people who will be there for the mission for years to come. The \$1000 will help a little for a little while, but the network of people gathered around Pongo will ensure its growth and success for many years to come.

Our deep congratulations to Pongo Fund, our first \$1000 Yearly Winner. Now, let's hear what they're all about...

The Pongo Fund



-From the Pongo Fund Website

The Pongo Fund is Oregon's only full-time charity fighting animal hunger. Because hungry people have hungry pets. We work tirelessly to reduce shelter populations and keep families together by providing emergency pet food assistance to those struggling to keep their own pets fed, protecting beloved family pets from the suffering, starvation, surrender, abandonment or worse, when a lack of food, but not a lack of love, is their only enemy.

Begun during the deep recession of 2009, our award winning and volunteer driven group has provided more than 15,000,000 healthy meals for 155,000 hungry pets belonging to over 60,000 families throughout Oregon and Southwest Washington. People who love their pets just like you do. People who might even be your friends and your neighbors. Proud people. People struggling to keep both themselves and their animals fed.

Because at times like that the food box filled with people food suddenly becomes pet food. The cans of tuna and carton of eggs become cat food; the package of ground beef and cans of chili become dog food. Same for the cans of macaroni and cheese, soup, oatmeal, rice, pasta and more. Food that is not a healthy diet for hungry pets. But it is food that is desperately needed for hungry people. People that continue to go hungry because feeding their pets is more important than feeding themselves. Because pets are family too.

But thanks to The Pongo Fund things have gotten a lot better in Oregon and Southwest Washington. Because with our help thousands of people with thousands of pets are still together. Thousands of beloved dogs and cats still at home and not in shelters.

And that's because The Pongo Fund's emergency pet food distribution network was there to help when help was needed. Help that we provided for more than 100

human focused food banks and food pantries, shelters and government agencies in 28 Oregon & Southwest Washington counties that depend on us as a trusted food and referral resource to help their own clients.

Respected groups including Oregon Food Bank, Oregon Department of Human Services, Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs, Oregon Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence, Portland Adventist Community Services, 211, Human Solutions, Meals on Wheels, Oregon Humane Society, West Columbia Gorge Humane Society, Snowcap Charities, Salvation Army, Pear, St. Vincent dePaul, Neighborhood House, West Women and Children's Shelter, Clackamas Women's Services, Bradley Angle House, Rose Haven, Union Gospel Mission, Potluck in the Park, Marion-Polk Food Share, Willamette Humane Society, Curry County Animal Shelter, Kenton Women's Village, Dignity Village, Catholic Charities, Clackamas Service Center, Estacada Food Pantry, Cannon Beach Food Pantry and many more all count on The Pongo Fund.

The Kibble Report
Meals Served: More than 15,000,000
Animals Helped: More than 155,000
Vital Veterinary Care: Yes we do
Spay & Neuter: We do that too
Lives Saved: Beyond Measure!

But maybe the best way to appreciate our work is to hear what others say.

Judy Alley, Executive Director of SnowCap Community Charities, one of Oregon's largest food charities, said it well when she said: *"We partner with many organizations to accomplish our mission, but The Pongo Fund is one of the best. They alone are seeking to assure good quality nutrition for the pets in our lives. And they enable us to provide what low income pet owners need and deserve—the ability to feed everyone around the table."*



Best Friends Animals Society is one of America's most admired organizations. This is what they said about The Pongo Fund: *"The best way to reduce shelter populations is to keep animals out of the shelters to begin with. The Pongo Fund has developed that very program. They're doing something innovative in Portland that's making a huge difference."*

The Pongo Fund was established in honor and memory of our dear friend Pongo, an almost 19-year-old canine gourmet who lived his years with zest and enjoyed making each and every meal a culinary adventure. The photo above is Pongo on his 18th birthday. In his memory, The Pongo Fund gives a chance to animals that might not otherwise have a chance and gives hope to families that might have little else to be hopeful for.



Shop Talk

Hangin' out at the Shop

Shop Talk is our column to... um, it's where we... you can... OK, we really don't have a clear definition of what Shop Talk's about. It's where we keep you up on things that are happening right here in the Fortress of Dwyer, but other things work their way in as well. We've been covering Comment of the Month where we answer one client's response on our [Post Service Comment Cards](#) in-depth, but we also talk about our [Referral Reward Program](#), coupons or special offers, shop features or additions, and some fairly odd mechanical issues. It's not our most popular column but it could be the most valuable! Take a look at what we've covered in 2019...

[Tom Dwyer goes viral](#)

[Trick-or-Treat with Tom](#)

[New Shipment of Bumper Stickers](#)

[A milestone for our Referral Reward Program](#)

[Should you refrigerate your car keys?](#)

[Carwash Coupon Season is BACK!](#)

[Goodbye to Marty's Saturn](#)

[Who actually LIKES our newspaper ads?](#)

[Shop Talk for March, 2019](#)

[Business and Politics? Us?](#)

[Construction Project #1... FINISHED!](#)



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 our \$1,000 Yearly Award as well. It couldn't be easier!

We announced the winner of our [First \\$1000 Yearly Award](#)... congratulations to [The Pongo Fund](#) not just for winning, but for running a spectacular campaign to do it! We also made **10 donations for \$339** since our last count; a total of **661 donations totaling \$28,233** since the program began! Here's who our clients chose to help in December...

[Planned Parenthood of Col/Wil](#) by Judith B.

[Meals on Wheels](#) by Rhoda E. [Raphael House](#) by Karen B.

[OPB](#) by Michelle M. and TWICE by Mark T. [Shadow Project](#) by Robert H.

[Southern Poverty Law Center](#) by Regina L. [Generation Serve](#) by Charli K.

[National End-of-Life Doula Alliance](#) by Victoria Q.

Our Current Special Offers



[Save 20% on Labor Charges on existing service recommendations](#)

We don't force repairs on our clients... we'll tell you if something needs to be done immediately or if it can be put off for a while. But those things that can be put off for a while can't be put off forever! If there's a service recommendation in your file and you've been putting it off, now's the time to take care of it at a hefty discount!

Offer expires 12/31/19

Offer applies ONLY to service recommendations in your Tom Dwyer file before 11/22/19

Maximum value \$250

You must tell us you want this offer WHEN YOU SCHEDULE YOUR SERVICE

Offer is VOID AFTER SERVICE IS COMPLETE



SPECIAL CNP MEMBERSHIP OFFER!

We're building a 100% Carbon Neutral Vehicle Fleet, so we want YOU to sign up right now! This isn't some cynical ploy to use Climate Change to benefit our company. WE DON'T MAKE ANY MONEY FROM THIS PROJECT; ALL YOUR MEMBERSHIP FEE GOES TO BONNEVILLE ENVIRONMENTAL FOUNDATION TO PURCHASE YOUR CARBON OFFSETS. In fact, though we're very glad to do it, we lose money on each membership... that 10%-discount-on-Labor-Charges comes straight out of our pocket for the whole year of your membership! So come on, hurt us but help the planet... join our CNP TODAY!

Sippers (hybrids, electrics, etc)- Normally \$30- NOW \$20

Drinkers (most types of cars)- Normally \$50- NOW \$40

Guzzlers (SUVs, land yachts, etc)- Normally \$90- NOW \$60

We also have a couple ongoing offers you might find valuable...



Carbon Neutral Program- Our company's commitment to the environment led us to partner with Bonneville Environmental Foundation to create our Carbon Neutral Program in 2007. **Client members offset the carbon production of their vehicles for one year AND save 10% on Labor Charges here at the shop!** It's a win for you AND our environment and it's been very successful... since we instituted the program our members have prevented over 1.9 MILLION POUNDS of carbon from being dumped into our air!



Referral Reward Program- Year after year, referrals from our existing clients are our greatest source of new clients, so we've tried hard to think of some way to appropriately reward people for their referrals. Our solution is our Referral Reward Program, where **we make donations to the non-profit group of your choice to say 'thanks' for your generous referrals.** Here's how it works...

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

Ten years' archive of recipes



You've seen Drew Pearson behind the desk as one of our longest-serving Service Advisors, but you may not know that he's been the 'Drew' behind 'Drew's Kitchen' since our newsletter began about 15 years ago. Many of his older recipes are lost in the mists of time, but for our 2019 wrapup we've brought you not just the recipes from 2019, but all Drew's recipes for the last 10 years! It's an impressive recipe box, and we hope you enjoy it!



2019's Menu

Click any of the links below and your server will be right out with a link to the recipe...

Broccoli and Cheese Soup with Gnocchi
Halloweenies

Sweet Hawaiian Ham Sliders

Cilantro Lime Marinade

Loaded Alfredo Pasta with Vegetables

Salmon and Lettuce Toss

Dill Pickle Pasta Salad

Creamy Salmon Linguine

Cheeseburger Soup

Parmesan Baked Cod

Chef Lampe's Herbed-up Prime Rib

[Drew's Kitchen for 2018](#)

[Drew's Kitchen for 2017](#)

[Drew's Kitchen for 2016](#)

[Drew's Kitchen for 2015](#)

[Drew's Kitchen for 2014](#)

[Drew's Kitchen for 2013](#)

[Drew's Kitchen for 2012](#)

[Drew's Kitchen for 2011](#)

[Drew's Kitchen for 2010](#)

Health Notes

A healthy 2019...



“Health” is a huge field covering everything from ancient diet and exercise to cutting-edge modern technology. We aren’t qualified to tell you anything about Health, but we can pass on advice from qualified people on fascinating subjects like these...

[**You can cut your cancer risk by eating organic**](#)

[**Cure for cancer? Hooray! Maybe? Maybe not.**](#)

[**Your money or your life**](#)

[**Want to live to 90? There’s different advice for men and women**](#)

[**Want to lose weight? Skip the exercise**](#)

[**How your looks shape your personality**](#)

[**Our best Health advice? Don’t do any of these**](#)

[**New SuperBugs evolving from Western diet**](#)

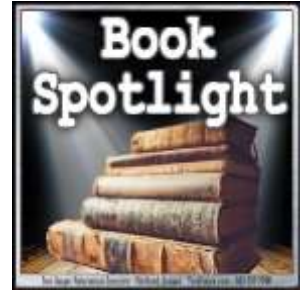
[**Why aren’t glasses and dental care included in insurance?**](#)

[**Why fractures are problematic for older people**](#)

[**A cure for Breast Cancer? Not QUITE...**](#)

Book Spotlight

Reading our way through 2019



Our Book and Bumper Sticker Library is one of our most popular shop features. The bumper stickers are magnetic (so they won't damage your car) and you can have one free on each visit. If you see a book you like in our lobby, ask the Service Advisor and you can check it out until your next visit. MOST of the books that appear in our Book Spotlight find a way onto our shelves, so look for these books from 2019 on our shelves today...

[“The Vanishing Middle Class” by Peter Temin](#)

[“The Threat” by Andrew McCabe](#)

[“The New Rules Of War” by Sean McFate](#)

[“How To Hide An Empire” by Daniel Immerwahr](#)

[“Winner-Take-All Politics” by Jacob Hacker](#)

[“The Folly Of Fools” by Robert Trivers](#)

[“The End Of Ice” by Dahr Jamail](#)

[“Humans- A Brief History Of How We F**d It All Up” by Tom Phillips](#)**

[“On Fire- The Burning Case For A Green New Deal” by Naomi Klein](#)

[Philosophy from a client](#)

[Impeachment library](#)

Humorousness

Funnier than a dissected frog



Mark Twain is reputed to have said “Jokes are like frogs. You can dissect them both, but they tend to suffer in the process.” Humor is a subjective, delicate thing and not everything we share in Humorousness will be funny to everyone, so we just bring you the jokes... the dissection is up to you. Here’s what we laughed about in 2019...

[Welcome to the Flat Earth](#)

[Step up your game for business meetings](#)

[Advice that works for toddlers and drunks](#)

[Florida Man is coming for you](#)

[Sex. Because nothing is as funny as sex.](#)

[The joy of the artful insult](#)

[Ironically perfect pictures](#)

[These are the yokes, folks!](#)

[Karma strikes idiots who can’t park](#)

[Yearbook pictures more embarrassing than yours](#)

[Creative Resignation Letters](#)

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 necessarily 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!



[Pee Wee's Big Adventure begins in Portland](#)



Bicycle theft. Those two words strike terror into us all, but in 1985 an oddball comedian decided to fight back. When the big man-child bully of the neighborhood (in retrospect, a quite Trumpian villain) takes a beloved bicycle, it launches Pee Wee Herman on a nonsensical and hilarious quest to get it back. Now, 35 years after the quest ended, [Paul Reubens is bringing Pee Wee back for the anniversary and he's launching his tour in \(where else?\) Portland, Oregon](#). Paul and Pee Wee will take over the Newmark Theatre on Feb 14, 2020, but if you want to be part of the fun you'd better hurry... and be rich. Tickets sold out within an hour, and are now online for \$206-\$424.

[New Seasons Market sells to South Korea](#)



New Season Market was born in Portland in 1999 and had grown to 15 stores and 3000 employees by 2013. Also in 2013, New Seasons became the first grocery store in the world to be certified as a 'B Corp' for-profit company meeting social sustainability, environmental performance, accountability, and transparency standards. The Sellwood store, just a few blocks from our shop, was only New Season's second store! All that changed in December, when [New Seasons was bought by South Korea's Good Food Holdings for an undisclosed sum](#). They say that New Seasons will be free to continue operations as they have, but read what else they're saying in this Willamette Week article...

[Keeping the peace at your Holiday feast](#)



Don't know about you, but we made it through Thanksgiving without losing any friends or family over politics. Barely. Given the prominence and importance of today's political events there's almost no way to avoid political talk and possible discomfort at the Holiday table, yet there are few better places to have the national conversations we need about our country. If you find yourself in a political discussion and you know... you just KNOW... your partner is wrong, here is some [advice from the folks at PolitiFact on how to fact-check your family at the Holiday table](#). They have some good basic tips on how to now just say something but how to be heard.

[What's the best US state!](#)



from US News & World Report- The Best States ranking of U.S. states draws on thousands of data points [to measure how well states are performing for their citizens](#). In addition to health care and education, the metrics take into account a state's economy, its roads, bridges, internet and other infrastructure, its public safety, the fiscal stability of state government, and the opportunity it affords its residents. More weight was accorded to some state measures than others, based on a survey of what matters most to people. Health care and education were weighted most heavily. Then came state economies, infrastructure, and the opportunity states offer their citizens. Fiscal stability followed closely in weighting, followed

by measures of crime & corrections and a state's natural environment.

...and here's our full bucket of Popcorn from 2019!

 <p>The Dumbing Down of Italy America</p> <p>The Daily Information Service - Portland, Oregon - 10/23/2019</p>	 <p>Now hackers can get your info by just the SOUND of your typing.</p> <p>The Daily Information Service - Portland, Oregon - 10/23/2019</p>	 <p>MOON TRIVIA</p> <p>To celebrate the 50th anniversary of Apollo 11</p> <p>The Daily Information Service - Portland, Oregon - 10/23/2019</p>	 <p>Lessons from three mis-matched Ghosts of History</p> <p>The Daily Information Service - Portland, Oregon - 10/23/2019</p>
 <p>THE SELLWOOD COMMUNITY CENTER... IT'S OURS NOW!</p> <p>The Daily Information Service - Portland, Oregon - 10/23/2019</p>	 <p>Scenes from the "Adult" Soapbox Derby</p> <p>The Daily Information Service - Portland, Oregon - 10/23/2019</p>	 <p>The bombings we've forgotten</p> <p>The Daily Information Service - Portland, Oregon - 10/23/2019</p>	 <p>Campers of your twisted dreams</p> <p>The Daily Information Service - Portland, Oregon - 10/23/2019</p>
 <p>NAVY CONFIRMS UFO'S ARE REAL! (NO, SERIOUSLY!)</p> <p>The Daily Information Service - Portland, Oregon - 10/23/2019</p>	 <p>BOW DOWN BEFORE THE CONSUMMATE CRAFTSMAN</p> <p>The Daily Information Service - Portland, Oregon - 10/23/2019</p>	 <p>The "Far Side" is coming back!</p> <p>The Daily Information Service - Portland, Oregon - 10/23/2019</p>	 <p>\$13 MILLION PER PRISONER</p> <p>The Daily Information Service - Portland, Oregon - 10/23/2019</p>
 <p>End Clickbait Forever! With this one simple trick...</p> <p>The Daily Information Service - Portland, Oregon - 10/23/2019</p>	 <p>4 Days to Prep for the BIG ONE!</p> <p>The Daily Information Service - Portland, Oregon - 10/23/2019</p>	 <p>Less than 1% of people own almost 44% of the world's wealth.</p> <p>The Daily Information Service - Portland, Oregon - 10/23/2019</p>	 <p>NEW HOPE AFTER THE COLUMBIA RIVER GORGE FIRE</p> <p>The Daily Information Service - Portland, Oregon - 10/23/2019</p>
 <p>Why we believe lies... even when we know better.</p> <p>The Daily Information Service - Portland, Oregon - 10/23/2019</p>	 <p>Help make your dog... (and others!) live longer!</p> <p>The Daily Information Service - Portland, Oregon - 10/23/2019</p>	 <p>The 50 most beautiful places in Oregon</p> <p>The Daily Information Service - Portland, Oregon - 10/23/2019</p>	 <p>Oregon gained over 400,000 people in the last decade.</p> <p>The Daily Information Service - Portland, Oregon - 10/23/2019</p>

China takes Humanity to the Dark Side of the Moon

The Daily News Service Portland, Oregon | 10/12/15

78% of US workers live paycheck to paycheck

The Daily News Service Portland, Oregon | 10/12/15

Watch the world burn. Share it with your friends.

The Daily News Service Portland, Oregon | 10/12/15

Age predicts who shares FAKE NEWS

The Daily News Service Portland, Oregon | 10/12/15

What's the difference between a Socialist and a Democratic Socialist?

The Daily News Service Portland, Oregon | 10/12/15

Time's up for the insects

The Daily News Service Portland, Oregon | 10/12/15

SNOW DAY at the Oregon Zoo

The Daily News Service Portland, Oregon | 10/12/15

Life... over the edge

The Daily News Service Portland, Oregon | 10/12/15

Holiday Inn makes your retirement dreams come true!

The Daily News Service Portland, Oregon | 10/12/15

They Polluted. We're Paying.

The Daily News Service Portland, Oregon | 10/12/15

6 Trillion dollars. 500,000 lives. Gone.

The Daily News Service Portland, Oregon | 10/12/15

Amazing sculptures from around the world

The Daily News Service Portland, Oregon | 10/12/15

The Moreland Farmers' Market

More than you could ever expect!

The Daily News Service Portland, Oregon | 10/12/15

Five Campsites You Can Bike to From Portland Without Suffering

The Daily News Service Portland, Oregon | 10/12/15

Where did your tax dollars just go?

The Daily News Service Portland, Oregon | 10/12/15

XRAYFM 107.1

You can help them do more... much, much more.

The Daily News Service Portland, Oregon | 10/12/15

20th Annual McMinnville UFO Festival

The Daily News Service Portland, Oregon | 10/12/15

35% can change the world. But only non-violently.

The Daily News Service Portland, Oregon | 10/12/15

Bible Classes ...coming soon to a public school near you!

The Daily News Service Portland, Oregon | 10/12/15

Just another day in Sellwood...

The Daily News Service Portland, Oregon | 10/12/15

43%

Are YOU Ready?

The Daily News Service Portland, Oregon | 10/12/15

PLEDGE

The Public Radio Fund Drive

Pledge drives are agonizing, but the story behind them is amazing!

The Daily News Service Portland, Oregon | 10/12/15

The Stonewall Riots

The Daily News Service Portland, Oregon | 10/12/15

History Repeats Itself

Japanese Concentration Camp photographs of Dorothea Lange

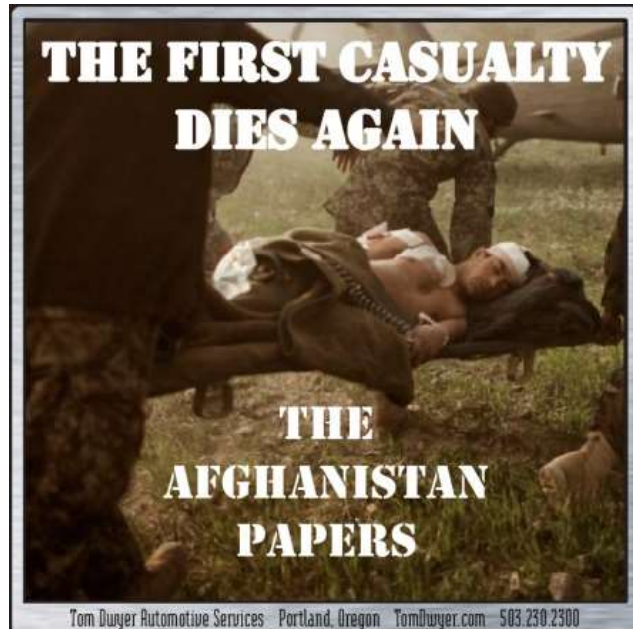
The Daily News Service Portland, Oregon | 10/12/15

News To Make You Furious

When Trump wasn't enough in 2019, we were there



We started our News To Make You Furious column in simpler times. 2010 brought the 20th Anniversary of the Exxon Valdez disaster, and investigative reporter Greg Palast seemed ready to recognize the event even if the rest of the Media ignored it. We agreed, and ran Greg's article in its entirety under the title "News To Make You Furious". But the next month there was more Furious news, and the month after that, and it seems there's always been some new abomination to talk about. We try to focus on issues that aren't getting the appropriate media play, but sometimes it's a deep dig on an issue that's all over the airwaves. No matter; you can be assured that News To Make You Furious will always be here to bring your heart rate up. Wanna taste? Check out our infuriating piece (actually, Washington Post's infuriating piece) on the lies surrounding our 18 years then rage through the covered in 2019. If you you'll be back next month!



in Afghanistan, and other issues we like the taste of bile,

